

**Marriage Preparation 2026 Schedule**

January 7 – March 11

April 1<sup>st</sup> – June 3<sup>rd</sup>

September 2<sup>nd</sup> to November 4<sup>th</sup>

For more information kindly contact the office of Family life @ 322-8919. Mrs. Eulie Elliott.

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Collection envelopes for 2026 are now available in the courtyard. Because of wastage envelopes have been reduced and numbers beyond 250 have been reassigned.

**Marriage Renewal Weekend**

*"A Weekend to Remember .... An experience you will never forget.."* February 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, at Emmaus Centre. Registration Fees: Early Bird \$200.00, Regular \$250.00. Contact Joseph & Terez Curry for more information.

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**History of Gaudete Sunday**

Gaudete Sunday, celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent, holds a significant place in the liturgical calendar, marking a joyful midpoint in the season of anticipation before Christmas. The term "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon for the day, which begins with the words "Gaudete in Domino semper" or "Rejoice in the Lord always." The history of Gaudete Sunday is deeply rooted in Christian tradition. The observance dates back to the medieval period when the church recognized the need to balance the penitential nature of Advent with moments of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more somber aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child. The liturgical color for Gaudete Sunday is rose or pink, symbolizing joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation. This distinctive color choice is a visual cue to the faithful that a shift toward celebration and gladness is underway. Gaudete Sunday is also marked by the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath, often known as the "Gaudete Candle" or the "Candle of Joy." This candle represents the joy that Christians experience as they draw closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. In essence, Gaudete Sunday encapsulates the dual nature of Advent – a time for reflection and repentance, balanced with anticipation and rejoicing in the promise of redemption. It serves as a reminder that, even in the midst of our preparations, there is joy to be found in the expectation of the Savior's arrival.

**Prayer of the Week**

Lord, I thank You for a brand-new week. Fill me with the courage to begin again, the energy to work faithfully, and the patience to trust Your process. Renew my heart, O Lord, and let this Monday be a day of victory. Help me overcome fear, fatigue, and discouragement. Guide my steps and let Your joy be my strength throughout this day and the days ahead. Amen.

**Advent Wreath**

Q J A P T F N T N E V D A E E K J  
Z H T H J X E U U C W Z M I Q M F  
S W G B S U P L D W H M H M G R G  
D I V K N U A T D N A R H O C C L  
L U E B E O W Z R N O Z I Q P R P  
C I Z K E L D F U E A O P S E E B  
H M I F R D Q E A P S C D E T E N  
R Z Y V G D L S O N G H A I A S I  
I C W M R B E T H L E H E M D V C  
S R Y M E O E L E S U S E J N R E  
T O A E V N S E R A P E R P E C L  
M I D S E F S N A S A A J O E X E  
A V N S W R E A T H N V V U R S B  
S A U I B O J V G G N Z N T G O R  
V S S A W V K E E D V Z A Z B L A  
F V X H R K C L C I Y L P G O D T  
I H M T B Y U V K G U L F H O Z E

evergreens bethlehem celebrate christmas emmanuel  
messiah prepare candle wreath sunday  
savior christ isaiah advent jesse  
angel light green jesus hope  
god

# ST. ANSELM'S PARISH

BERNARD ROAD, FOX HILL / P.O. Box FH 14389, Nassau, Bahamas. / TEL (242) 324-1325 E-mail address: [st.anselmromanchurch@gmail.com](mailto:st.anselmromanchurch@gmail.com); Website address: [stanselmbahamas.org](http://stanselmbahamas.org); Youtube channel: StanselmsBahamas



*St. Anselm is a Catholic faith community centered in the Eucharist, seeking to live the love of God through worship, word and service.*

*"My messenger will prepare the way before you."*

*"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." (Philippians 4:4-5)*

**December 14th, 2025**

**Third Sunday of Advent/**

**Gaudete Sunday**

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Resp Ps: 146: 6-7, 8-9, 9-10

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

**Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11**

**December 21st, 2025**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Resp Ps: 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24**



Most Rev. Patrick C. Pinder, S.T.D., C.M.G. KC\*HS  
Archbishop of Nassau.  
Fr. Noël Clarke, Parish Priest  
Rev. Mr. Ricardo Demeritte, Deacon

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

SUNDAYS: 7.00am & 9.00am

WEEKDAYS: 6.15 am

Wednesdays - Adoration at

5.30pm followed by Mass

HOLIDAYS: 8.00 a.m.

Bible Study Monday 6.15pm

CONFESSIONS:

SUNDAY: by appointment

**BAPTISMS:**

Call Parish Office to arrange

***A WARM AND LOVING WELCOME TO ALL OUR VISITORS!***

*Please come again and if you would like to become a member, our contacts are listed above.*

*To our members, We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers!*

# Let us Pray

Father, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness or disease, realize that they are chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. Amen.

**Darren Antonio Sr., Stafford Armbrister, Leonard Bain, Shimonte Bain, Guy-Philip Bain, Paul Barnett Sr., Angnist Burrows, Uthan Cornish, Laurie Curtis, Carol & Sylvia Edgcombe, Michael Farrington, Arnold Ferguson, Clarence Ferguson, Brian Fernander, Salvacion Foody, Patricia Higgs, Monique Johnson, Creola Kelly, Daphne Kerr, Annette Knowles, Patricia Knowles, Terrance Knowles, Ida Major, Dellareese McPhee, Supt. Buchanan Moncur, Christina Moss, Drucilla Moss, Sainталus Paul, Tanya Pinder-Carey, Agatha Pratt, Valgo Shannon, Jayde Smith, Juanita Symonette, Jacinta White, Nancy Wilmott, Anastina Wilson, the imprisoned, the homebound, the hospitalized and persons in the Geriatrics Hospital. (If you or a member of your family is ill, kindly contact the Parish Office.)**

## Daily Readings

**15 December 2025 – Monday**

*1st Reading: Numbers 24: 2-7, 15-17*

*Resp Ps: 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9*

*Gospel: Matthew 21: 23-27*

**16 December 2025 – Tuesday**

*1st Reading: Zephaniah 3: 1-2, 9-13*

*Resp Ps: 34: 2-3, 6-7, 17-18, 19 and 23*

*Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32*

**17 December 2025 – Wednesday**

*1st Reading: Genesis 49: 2, 8-10*

*Resp Ps: 72: 1-2, 3-4ab, 7-8, 17*

*Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-17*

**18 December 2025 – Thursday**

*First Reading: Jeremiah 23: 5-8*

*Resp Ps: 72: 1-2, 12-13, 18-19*

*Gospel: Matthew 1: 18-25*

**19 December 2025 – Friday**

*1st Reading: Judges 13: 2-7, 24-25a*

*Resp Ps: 71: 3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17*

*Gospel: Luke 1: 5-25*

**20 December 2025 – Saturday**

*1st Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-14*

*Resp Ps: 24: 1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6*

*Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38*



## Happy Birthday Greetings to

*Richelle Demeritte, Bettina Duncombe (Today)*

*Serenity Moss, Elizabeth Wilmott-Fox, Shenice Smith*

*(Mon) Kai Demeritte, Bonita Mackey, Jamine Clarke*

*(Tues) Keith Ellis (Wed) Eleanor Clarke, Frederick White,*

*Decadia Fernander, Dominique Moss, Stanley White,*

*Theresa Saunders (Thurs) Tejo Rolle, Samantha Fox,*

*Ethan Chea, Simone Cambridge, Cheryl Albury (Fri)*

*Aaron Robins, Justin Higgs, Dion Miller (Sat), and to*

**all celebrating this week!**

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## LECTORS/COMMENTATORS

**3rd Sunday of Advent/Gaudete Sunday—14th December 2025**

**7am**

1st Reader—Barbara Turnquest

2nd Reader/Commentator – Arthur Seymour

**9am**

1st Reader - Latoya Brown-Williams

2nd Reader/Commentator - Anthony Butler

**4th Sunday of Advent - 21st December 2025**

**7am**

1st Reader—Chante Beneby

2nd Reader/Commentator—Letitia Ellis

**9am**

1st Reader—YOUTH

2nd Reader/Commentator—YOUTH

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## St Anselm's Gift Day 2025!

**Gift Day 2025** is extended until

December 31st, Envelopes are available at the Parish Office or at the back of the Church. We Thank you to all who have contributed so far. All funds will go towards the future projects of the Church.

## He Who Is To Come

From his cell in prison John the Baptist had heard stories about Jesus, and he sent some of his followers to find out if Jesus is the Messiah. Are you 'He who is to come' or do we look for another? they asked Jesus.

Jesus had to reply in such a way that John would have no doubt about the genuineness of his messianic activity, and the message he sent back to John was about the blind receiving their sight, the lame walking, the lepers being cleansed, the deaf hearing, the dead being raised, and the poor having good news brought to them. He did not say a word about people praying more or going to the synagogue or making God the center of their lives: the age of the Messiah, as expressed in this report, does not concern "religion" in the traditional sense of the word. One knows that the messiah has come because a real change has taken place in society, a change that involves the liberation of those who have always been cut off from the "main branch" of society.

Jesus is the Messiah because those who are blind, crippled, diseased, and poor have been liberated from the things which make them the victims of injustice. We can turn the statement around to say that if the dregs of society do not experience liberation, then Jesus is not the Messiah. But Jesus is the Messiah, and so the dead have come to life: those who have been unable to 'live' in a society that has written them off, are now alive with hope. The Gospel has truly been a leaven of liberty and progress in human history, even in its temporal sphere, and always proves itself a leaven of brotherhood, of unity, and of peace. Therefore, not without cause is Christ hailed by the faithful as 'the expected of the nations, and their Savior' (Antiphon O for Dec. 23).

**Vatican II, Decree on the Missionary Activity of the Church, section 8 Gerald Darring.**

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## Happy Wedding Anniversary

*Kimani & Dominique Braithwaite celebrating 15 years on Thursday 18th*

*Brandon & Terronique Demeritte celebrating 4 years on Thursday 18th*

*Lester & Delina Gittens celebrating 27 years on Friday 19th*

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## Catechumens and Candidates

Let us pray for our Candidates: Duval Davis, Logan Forbes, Giovanni Knowles and Catechumens: Vanria Gibson and Paige Souffrant, as they begin their journey to Full Communion in the Church.

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## Registration for admission to Catholic Schools

Registration for CATHOLIC PRE-KINDERGARTEN and KINDERGARTEN children wishing to enter Catholic schools in New Providence will be held from MONDAY, JANUARY 5th to FRIDAY, JANUARY 16th, 2016 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Students entering PRE-KINDERGARTEN MUST BE 3 YEARS OLD BY MARCH 31, 2026 and students entering KINDERGARTEN MUST BE 4 YEARS OLD BY MARCH 31, 2026. Parents/Guardians MUST present a copy of the birth AND baptismal certificates before receiving a registration form. Thank you for your cooperation.

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## Liturgical Schedule 2025

December 24th (Wednesday) **Christmas Eve** - 9:30pm

December 25th Mass at 9am. (Thursday)

December 26th - **Boxing Day** Mass at 8am. (Friday)

December 28th - **Feast of the Holy Family** 7am & 9am.

December 31st - **New Year's Eve** - Holy Hour 10pm, Mass at 11pm **Mary Mother of God.** (Wednesday)

January 1st (**New Year's Day**) 8am (Thursday)