

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!
MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

5:00PM 7:30 AM 10:00AM

PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO SERVE WHENEVER POSSIBLE

CANTORS: Allan Harrigan	Dr. Gloria Callwood	CCD Choir
	Felicinne Marcillin	
LECTORS: Chris Doute	Bridget Toussaint	CCD Student
Val Doute	Rita Brady-Bermudez	CCD Student
EUCH MIN: Olga McBean	Danna Knight	Lola Warrington
	Allison Callwood	

Thank you for serving !!!

Please pray for the members of our body who are sick or suffering. . .

HOSPITAL: Rita Thompson.
OFF ISLAND: Defy Francoise, Bertina Lestrade, Altagracia Padilla, Emile Joseph, Joseph Archer, Clementina Abraham, Bishop Thomas, Theresa Felix, Isabel Dublin, Francis John.
AT HOME: Rita Ledee, Rose Celestine, Margarita Feliciano, Martina Lewis, Olivia Gumbs, Ann Bedminster, Medina Scatliffe, Bernice Knight, Philomen Baron, Claudy Brutus, McLean Fontain (Sparrow), Vernelle Gumbs, Evelyn Simon, Mary Lewis, Veronica Sealey, Gerard Henry, Ruthine Johnson, Grace Thompson, Baby Elizabeth Dolphin, Andrea Victorine, Josephine James.

SEAVIEW:
MASSAC:
LUCINDA MILLIN:
EBENEZER HOME: Cleota Hill.
And all the sick and suffering in our community!



PLEASE REMEMBER TO PRAY for the repose of the souls of loved ones who have been called home by our Savior. *If you or your loved one is going into the hospital, please contact the office so that you/they may receive the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.*

You are practicing Joyfulness when you ...

- *Look inside for happiness.*
- *Enjoy whatever you are doing.*
- *Feel good about doing what is right.*
- *Find creative ways to enjoy your time.*
- *Have a good sense of humor.*
- *Feel an inner peace even when things are tough.*

Affirmation:

I am thankful for the joy I feel inside. I enjoy my work and my play. I appreciate the gifts this day holds for me.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS

**HOLIDAY MASS TIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT**

8:00 P.M.
11:00 P.M.
**CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00 A.M.**
**OLD YEAR'S NIGHT
HOLY HOUR - 7:00 P.M.**
MASS - 8:00 AND 11:00 P.M.

**NEW YEARS' DAY
9:00 A.M.**



TOYOTA OF ST. THOMAS
Estate 10 #3 New Quarter
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Cell: (340) 514-5927
PH: (340) 715-3132
Fax: (340) 715-3161

VICTOR A. BENOIT
Sales Associate

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God our Father, all the elements of nature obey Your commands. We praise and thank You for Your protection during the hurricane season. We ask You again to guide us through a new year free of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. Bless our families and bring peace to all nations. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. **O God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love you, and I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you. Amen.**

FUNERAL MASSES

Funeral Masses at Holy Family Church are held on the designated day at 9:00 a.m. If you would like a different time please contact the pastor. Tributes and solos are done before the Mass. Please keep your prelude activities to the minimum. **Funerals are NOT held on Wednesdays and on weekends (Saturdays and Sundays). Lectors of Holy Family Church will do the readings. Thank you for your cooperation.**

**HOLY FAMILY
PARISH COUNCIL**

Monthly meeting is normally held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Eubald René (Chairman)
Yasmine Haynes (Secretary)
Bridget Toussaint
Jennifer Johnson
Christian Doute
Mona Bedminster
Felicia Felix
Fr. Neil Scantlebury (Pastor)
Fr. Kerly François (Assoc. Pastor)

Thank you for serving !!!

**Le Bleu
ULTRA PURE BOTTLED WATER**

Chi-Co's Distributing, Inc
Lindberg Bay #18
P.O Box 302250
St. Thomas, VI 00803
340-776-5894 / Fax: 340-776-5854



**PARISH CELEBRATION
Birthdays**

Emperor Leerdam, Isaiah Cazaubon, Dominik Burman, Areini Griffith, Bria Bruney, Renisha Clyne, Ka'Reema Moses, Akeem Joseph, Evelina Rene, Andre Smith, Akim Commodore, Jamila Lettsome, Gerard Castor, Jr., Jo-Anne Winston, Donavan Isaac, Juliana Charles, Moses Birmingham.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

*Rolland & Alicia George - Dec. 17
Moses & Kishma Birmingham - Dec. 18
Julian & Rosebud Labadie - Dec. 18
Adriana & Riviere Casimir - Dec. 21
Steven & Daphne Mayers - Dec. 23
Andre & Suzette Smith - Dec. 23*



Lord, bless our parishioners who celebrate their special day this week. Amen!

**Holy Family Catholic Church
Welcomes You!**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 17, 2017

P.O. Box 502218, St. Thomas,
U.S. Virgin Islands 00805
Tel: (340) 775-1650
Fax: (340) 775-1750
E-mail: holyfamilyvi@msn.com
Website: www.holyfamilystt.com
Facebook: Holy Familyvi
**EMERGENCY CONTACT
(340) 513-8262**



MISSION STATEMENT

The Church of the Holy Family exists to Nurture and advance Christ's Eucharistic Unconditional Love to all, through Love of God and neighbor.

Pastor
Reverend Neil Scantlebury

Associate Pastor
Reverend Kerly François

Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Allison Callwood

Sacristan
Mr. Ryan John

Musicians
Mr. Francis Callwood
Mr. Verne Callwood
Mr. Desmond Simmonds
Mr. Ade Warrington

Volunteers
Ms. Jennifer Johnson
Mr. Richard Callwood, III

CHANCERY: BISHOP'S OFFICE

(340) 774-3166

Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Catholic Chapel

4B-B Estate Bovoni
St. Thomas VI 00802

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM &
4:00 PM Creole Mass

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday: 7:00 AM
Tuesday - Thursday: 7:00 AM
Wednesday: OLPH Novena before the
7:00 AM Mass
Friday: Mass at 7:00 AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 3:15 PM to 3:45 PM

**Readings for the Week
of December 17, 2017**

Mon.: Jer. 23: 5 - 8; Matthew 1:18 - 25
Tue.: Judges 13:2-7, 24 - 25a; Luke 1:5 - 25
Wed.: Isaiah 7:10 - 14; Luke 1:26 - 38
Thur.: Songs 2:8 - 14; Luke 1:39- 45
Fri.: 1 Samuel 1:24 - 28; Luke 1:46 - 56
Sat.: Malachi 3:1- 4, 23 - 24; Luke 1:57 - 66

**NEXT SUNDAY:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

2 Samuel 7:1 - 5, 8b - 12, 14a - 16
Romans 16:25 - 27
Luke 1:26 - 38

**When you enter THE CHURCH talk to GOD;
when you leave - talk to each other!**

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:1 - 2a, 10 - 11

The Spirit of the Lord God enabled Isaiah to proclaim good news to the poor, healing to the brokenhearted, liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 24

Paul exhorted the faithful of Thessalonica to "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."

GOSPEL READING: John 1:6 - 8, 19 - 28

John the Baptizer was not the light but testified to it. He declared himself "the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."

Some very important people in scripture give testimony today. First, Isaiah testifies that God called him to share good news to those in need. Then St. Paul testifies to the expectations he has of the Thessalonians as he wraps up his letter to them. Finally, John the Evangelist writes that John the Baptist was sent to testify to the greatest news of all, the coming of Jesus, so that all may believe.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Birthday blessings and God's continued guidance and protection for Lindon Charles.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Philip Marcillin (deceased) rb A parishioner.

10:00 AM: Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit rb Lola Warrington.

Thanksgiving to God for graces and blessings received
rb Claudy and Yvonne Brutus.

4:00 PM: God's continued blessings for the Haitian community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Dec. 18, 7:00 AM: **Blessed Anna Rosa Cattorno**
Happy 13th birthday blessings to Dominik Burman rb Poppops and Grandma Freeman.

Tues. Dec. 19, 7:00 AM: **Blessed Urban V**
Kathy Farro (deceased) rb Estelle Farro.

Wed. Dec. 20, 7:00 AM: **St. Dominic of Silos**
God's healing for Francis John.

Thurs. Dec. 21, 7:00 AM: **St. Peter Canisius**
God's continued blessings for Linda Digges.

Fri. Dec. 22, 7:00 AM: **St. Marguerite d'Youville**
Alfonso Wells (deceased) rb Alma Wells.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards the **Bishop's Appeal**. Next week's second collection will go towards the **Bishop's Appeal**. As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning **for God's guidance and protection for Oner Renal requested by his mother**. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

OFFERTORY ENVELOPES: Thank you for your generous contribution for the 2017 calendar year. Please pick up your Offertory envelopes for 2018 at the entrance of the church. **If you do not have an envelope, please register at the church office in order to obtain your box. PLEASE DO NOT TAKE UP ENVELOPES THAT ARE ALREADY ASSIGNED TO SOMEONE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING. GOD BLESS.**

ADVENT SEASON: The Advent season is here. Please note that during the Advent season there will be **NO FLOWERS** in the church and **NO COMMUNION HYMN**. Please be guided accordingly. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: The church is once again kindly asking for donations for poinsettias for decoration during the holiday season. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING: **Thursday, December 21, 2017**, has been set aside for the cleaning of our church for the Christmas season **from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.** Please come out in full number and let us give our church a good cleaning to welcome the baby Jesus. "**Many hands make light work.**" Also hands and help are needed every weekend for the cleaning of the church. Thank you in advance.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Religious Education Program will be hosting a Christmas concert this **Sunday, December 17, 2017**, at 2:00 p.m. in the church. Please save this date and support our children.

CONFESSIONS: Holy Family Church will have confessions on **Wednesday, December 20, 2017**, from **4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Please be guided accordingly.

FOOD FOR THE POOR: Next weekend we will collect non-perishable items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters within our community. As always, we thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless you and your family abundantly. Once again, thank you.

HURRICANE ASSISTANCE: The Diocese of St. Thomas has asked for a list of persons who have had severe house damage or have lost their jobs due to Hurricanes Irma and Maria. If you have been affected, please fill out the form at the entrance of the church for **possible** assistance from the Diocese. Thank you.

HOLY FAMILY FEAST DAY: The Feast of the Holy Family is **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017. PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR HOLY FAMILY T-SHIRT/POLO SHIRT (if you have one) TO MASS THAT WEEKEND TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.**

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Catholic Charities is looking for two Case Managers, a Security Officer and a part time Driver. Also if you need assistance with FEMA application or appeal process, please also contact Catholic Charities for more information at **340-642-4787** or **340-998-3809** or visit the Catholic Charities office at 42 Kronprindsens Gade.

LITURGY AND WORD

The book of Isaiah is actually a collection of three books whose authors are identified as Isaiah, Second Isaiah and Third Isaiah. Third Isaiah is the name given by scholars to the author of the last eleven chapters of the book of Isaiah (56-66). The content of Third Isaiah is similar to Second Isaiah (40-56) but reflects a slightly later period when the restoration of Jerusalem was underway. Essentially, Third Isaiah envisions God creating new heavens and new earth and giving people a chance once more to live in righteousness, justice and peace. The great vision of Isaiah 61:1-4 (1st Reading) about liberty to captives, binding up the broken hearted and good news to the oppressed must have been well received by the Jewish exiles as they went home from Babylon to restore their lives. The First Reading contains two songs: (1) The song of the Lord's Anointed and (2) The song of the justified. As far as the first song is concerned, Jesus quotes this poem in his inaugural speech in the synagogue of Nazareth and announces that the messianic era has come (Lk 4:16-21). Each phrase of this song is rich in biblical tradition. The spirit of which the prophet speaks had been promised to the messianic king (Isa 11:1-2) and later was assured to all the messianic people (Joel 3; Zech 12:10). The word anointed is linked with preaching and hearing; it designates an interior enlightening to know God's word and a strengthening to follow it. The poem also speaks of prisoners being led out of dark dungeons to the brightness of daylight. Throughout this poem the author looks to the total salvation of God's people - bodily and spiritually, individually and socially. The second song (vv 10-11) depicts the nuptial joy of Zion clothed with salvation and righteousness and becoming a holy "shoot" before all the nations. In this song the author likens salvation to the growth of plants in the garden which are cultivated and tended.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: **373**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$4,592.55

SECOND COLLECTION:

Ret. Fund for Religious: \$1,056.51

Our Bishop's Appeal contribution now amounts to \$28,693.00, 72% of our goal of \$40,000.00. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

In the Second Reading Paul exhorts the Thessalonians to pray for an abiding attitude of joy, prayerfulness and thanksgiving. Spiritual gifts and especially prophecy are not to be suppressed in the community, but to be discerned. The exhortation concludes with a prayer for the total sanctification of the Thessalonians so that they may be wholly blameless at the second coming of Christ. Paul says that God himself is personally concerned for them. He is the source of the spiritual blessings, and therefore it is right to pray that he may enable those who are called "saints" to become more and more saintly in their whole being. Paul is thinking of an ongoing process and expects that when the Lord returns he will find his people completely blameless.

