

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!
MINISTERS' SCHEDULE

6:00PM 7:30AM 10:00AM

CANTORS: Allan Harrigan	Dr. Gloria Callwood Felicinne Marcillin	Melita Etienne
LECTORS: Valerie Doute Chris Doute	Noreen Joseph Alma Wells	Suzanne Adrien Julia Johnson
EUCH MIN: Dolores Velazquez	Rose Labadie Bridget Toussaint	Mona Bedminster

Thank you for sewing !!!

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

HOSPITAL:

OFF ISLAND: Defy Francoise, Bertina Lestrade, Altagracia Padilla, Emile Joseph, Joseph Archer, Clementina Abraham, Lorna Greig, Rita Brady Bermudez, Maggie Dolphin, Bishop Thomas, Eleanor Jackson-Thomas.

AT HOME: Rita Ledee, Rose Celestine, Margarita Feliciano, Martina Lewis, Olivia Gumbs, Ann Bedminster, John Joseph, Marie Santana, Medina Scatliffe, Lilian Francis, Bernice Knight, Philomen Baron, Joyce McPherson, Claudy Brutus, Grace Thompson, McLean Fontain (Sparrow), Vernelle Gumbs, Berecia Reid, Evelyn Simon, Mary Lewis, Veronica Sealey, Isabel Dublin, Gerard Henry, Theresa Felix, Mary Antoine.

SEAVIEW:

MASSAC: Margarita Knight.
LUCINDA MILLIN: Rita Thompson.
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 Patience when you ...

- *Calmly tolerate a delay or confusion.*
- *Are willing to wait for things you want.*
- *Set goals and persevere until they are met.*
- *Do something now that will help you in the future.*
- *Accept things you cannot change with humor and grace.*
- *Are tolerant when mistakes are made.*

Affirmation:

I am patient. I am gentle with others and myself when we make mistakes. I wait calmly. I trust that things will turn our right.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS

OFFICE HOURS

**Mondays - 10:00 AM
to 4:00 PM**

Tuesday - Friday

7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

HOLY FAMILY FINANCE COUNCIL

Alicia Douté	Yasmine Haynes
Jean Dragin	Anneta Heyliger
Claudia Winston	Dan Hurley
John T. Williams	
Rev. Neil Scantlebury (Pastor)	

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 Douté
Mona Bedminster
Felicia Felix
Fr. Neil Scantlebury (Pastor)
Fr. Kerly François (Assoc. Pastor)

NEXT MEETING

**Wednesday, January 18, 2017
at 6:30 pm in Lower Columban Hall.**

**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

D'Moi Industrious, Chris Matthew, Nicholas Stevenson, Brent Biscoe, Robert Smith, Ty'Ron Wills, Tomy Romero-Seas, Bri Bruney, Kernizean Casey, Ka'Reema Moses, Tevin Peters, Kenlon Angol, Anthony Lewis, Lola Pierre, Dieudonne Sanon, Sherian Francis, Morris Lionel, Brenday Leonard, Wayne Serieux, Brabara Sonny, Julia Frederick, Ilma Gumbs, Beverly Blyden, Shirlin Browne, Veronica Casimir, June Gloria Giff, Allan Harrigan, Enid Blyden.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
Sean & Tamika Williams - Dec. 11
Rolland & Alicia Geogre - Dec. 17



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

**Holy Family Catholic Church
Welcomes You!**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 11, 2016

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
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
Ms. Allison Charles

Sacristan
Mr. Ryan John

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

Volunteers
Mrs. 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

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.
- (Spanish)
6:00 p.m. - (Creole)
Thursday: 6:00 p.m.
(Creole)

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

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday: 6:00 PM
**Sunday: 7:30 AM, 10:00 AM &
6:00 PM Creole Mass**

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday: 6:00 PM
Tuesday - Thursday: 7:00 AM
**Wednesday: OLPH Novena before the
7:00 AM Mass followed by
Adoration after the mass to 5:30 PM**
Friday: Holy Hour - 6:00 PM
Mass at 7:00 PM
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 5:15 PM - 5:45 PM
or by appointment.

**Readings for the Week
of December 11, 2016**

Mon.: Zech. 2:14 - 17; Luke 1:26 - 38
Tue.: Zeph. 3:1-2, 9-13; Matthew 21:28 - 32
Wed.: Isaiah 45:6c - 8, 18, 21c - 25;
Luke 7:18b - 23
Thur.: Isaiah 54:1 - 10; Luke 7:24 - 30
Fri.: Isaiah 56:1 - 3a, 6 - 8; John 5:33 - 36
Sat.: Genesis 49:2, 8 - 10; Matthew 1:1 - 17

**NEXT SUNDAY:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Isaiah 7:10 - 14
Romans 1:1 - 7
Matthew 1:18 - 24

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:1 - 6a, 10

The deserts exult and burst into flower. The hills ring with joyful song. The feeble grow strong; the frightened take courage. The Lord comes to save us.

SECOND READING: James 5:7 - 10

“Be patient until the coming of the Lord,” said the author of the letter of James. “The Judge is standing before the gates.” Take the prophets as your models in facing hardship. They spoke in the Lord’s name.

GOSPEL: Matthew 11:2- 11

John sent his disciples to ask Jesus, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?” Jesus answered them affirmatively, pointing to the blind who see, the lame who walk, the lepers who are cured, the poor who hear from him good news of hope. Our beautiful reading from Isaiah today continues the theme of the messianic kingdom that we heard about last week. The coming of the Lord is cause for joy and gladness. St. James takes up the theme and tells us that we must have patience, just like the farmer who waits for the fruit of the earth. In the Gospel we hear Jesus affirm John’s message of repentance before the reign of God. Let us listen to these holy scriptures and rejoice in the coming of our God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: Rose and Richard Cook (Deceased) rb Estelle Farro.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God’s blessings, healing and deliverance for Fr. Stash.

10:00 AM: Eugene and Kathleen Farro (Deceased) rb Estelle Farro.

6:00 PM: God’s continued blessings for the Haitian Community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Dec. 12, 6:00 PM: *Our Lady of Guadalupe*
God’s healing for the Shut-ins of Holy Family Church.

Tues. Dec. 13, 7:00 AM: *St. Lucy*
Birthday blessings for Tevin Peters rb His family.

Wed. Dec. 14, 7:00 AM: *St. John of the Cross*
Birthday blessings for June Gloria Giffit rb The Giffit, Browne and
Violet families.

Thurs. Dec. 15, 7:00 AM: *St. Mary di Rosa*
God’s healing for Holy Family parishioners who are Off Island.

Fri. Dec. 16, 7:00 PM: *St. Adelaide*
Birthday blessings and God’s guidance and protection for Lindon Charles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week’s second collection goes towards the *Retired Fund for Religious*. Next week’s second collection will go towards the *Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC*. As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *Brian Jn Charles*. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones’ birthdays or any special occasions.

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.

CONFESSIONS: Holy Family church will have confessions on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, from **5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Please be guided accordingly.

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

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Religious Education Program will be hosting a **FREE** Christmas concert next Sunday, December 18, 2016, at 5:00 p.m. in Upper Columban Hall. Refreshments will be on sale. Please save this date and parents and guardians are kindly asked to support our children. Thank you.

SPECIAL THANK YOU: *Has anyone noticed that Mr. Zephaniah Jean-Jacques is no longer our Sacristan? Or did you figure it out because the position was announced as being vacant? After so many years of Mr. Jacques’ presence here as the Sacristan, Holy Family, is not going to seem the same without him. That’s why it’s important that we take this moment to say thank you so very much. We sincerely appreciate all your hard work and dedication. We wish you well on your retirement and we will keep you in our prayers, always. Once again, our heartfelt “Thank you”.*

NEW YEAR’S LUNCH: The Haitian adult choir will be serving soup at the chapel in Bovoni on Sunday, January 1, 2017, from 12:00 noon.

HOLY FAMILY FEAST DAY: The Feast of the Holy Family is Friday, December 30, 2016. **PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO WEAR THEIR HOLY FAMILY T-SHIRT/POLO SHIRT (if you have one) TO MASS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016 TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY.** Our Feast Day fun day will be held on Sunday, January 15, 2017 at UVI Golf Course. Please save the date.

2017 KEYS AND SWORD AWARD BENEFIT!!!! Join us for the 8th Annual Keys and Sword Award Benefit on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the Marriott Frenchman’s Reef Grand Ballroom. We look forward to welcoming you. The honorees are *The Knights and Dames of Malta*. **SAVE THE DATE. Tickets can be bought from Jennifer Johnson, Vincia St. Jean, Jean Dragin and the church office.**

“The Joy of Love experienced by families is also the joy of the Church. I am grateful for the many contributions that helped me to appreciate more fully the problems faced by families throughout the world.”

– Pope Francis, (Amoris Laetitia)

LITURGY AND WORD

John who was sent by God to prepare the way for the Messiah had faithfully accomplished his mission, and people of different walks of life, except the religious and political leaders, had come to him repentant and asking for the baptism of repentance. He experienced the joy of seeing these people return to God. His joy knew no bounds when he heard the Heavenly Father speaking at the baptism of Jesus: “This is my Son, the beloved, my favor rests with him” (Mt 3:17). But then John is arrested and put in prison by Herod, and in his loneliness and suffering in prison he is troubled with doubts and faced a crisis of faith. He was wondering why Jesus was delaying what he himself had announced about him, all the more because his days were counted. So he sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is really the Messiah. Jesus in answer to John’s question says, as we heard in today’s Gospel, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk...” which is the fulfillment of what Prophet Isaiah had foretold as we heard in the first reading of today (Isa 35:5-6). From this it would be clear to John that it is Jesus Himself for whom he prepared the way. So now John is happy and he feels that he can patiently wait for the day to depart from this world, and his disciples will have Jesus as their Master and Savior. Advent is a time for us Christians to prepare ourselves to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. Let us also then, like the people of Israel who heeded to the call of John to repent, be sorry for our sins and return to the Lord by making use of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and rejoice at the fact that the Lord has come and liberated us from the clutches of the devil and made us one with Him so that we are God’s own beloved children. Therefore, with grateful hearts we can celebrate Jesus’ birthday and be certain of the eternal bliss that awaits us after our life here on earth when the Lord will come again. Meanwhile we too, as in the 2nd reading, may patiently wait for the second coming of Christ, like the farmer waits for the harvest, accepting with faith the sufferings that God permits in our lives.

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: **514**

Last Weekend’s collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,874.25

SECOND COLLECTION:

Renovation Fund: \$1,330.43

Our Bishop’s Appeal contribution amounted to \$42,948.00, 107% 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.

ADVENT TODAY

Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. (Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year.)

Advent symbolizes the present situation of the church in these “last days” (Acts 2:17, Hebrews 1:2), as God’s people wait for the return of Christ in glory to consummate his eternal kingdom. The church is in a similar situation to Israel at the end of the Old Testament: in exile, waiting and hoping in prayerful expectation for the coming of the Messiah. Israel looked back to God’s past gracious actions on their behalf in leading them out of Egypt in the Exodus, and on this basis they called for God once again to act for them. In the same way, the church, during Advent, looks back upon Christ’s coming in celebration while at the same time looking forward in eager anticipation to the coming of Christ’s kingdom when he returns for his people. In this light, the Advent hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” perfectly represents the church’s cry during the Advent season: O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel. While Israel would have sung the song in expectation of Christ’s first coming, the church now sings the song in commemoration of that first coming and in expectation of the second coming in the future.