

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SERVING YOU!  
**MINISTERS' SCHEDULE**

9:00PM                      7:30AM                      10:00AM

<b>CANTORS:</b> Allan Harrigan	Dr. Gloria Callwood Felicinne Marcillin	CCD CHOIR
<b>LECTORS:</b> Helena Enrique Keith Steele	Bridget Toussaint Agnes Nicholas	CCD STUDENT CCD STUDENT
<b>EUCH MIN:</b> Olga McBean	Lauren Thomas Allison Charles	Annette Daly

*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, 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, Ruthine Johnson.

**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 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**

**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**

Emperor Leerdam, Isaiah Cazaubon, Dominik Burman, Areini Griffith, Renisha Clyne, Akeem Joseph, Evelina Rene, Andre Smith, Akim Commodore, Jamila Thomas, Gerard Castor, Jr., Jo-Anne Winston, Donovan Isaac, Juliana Charles, Moses Birmingham, Cleo Hamilton.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**

Moses & Kishma Birmingham - Dec. 18  
Julian & Rosebud Labadie - Dec. 18  
Riviere & Adriana Casimir - Dec. 21  
Steven & Daphne Mayers - Dec. 23  
Andre & Suzette Smith - Dec. 23  
Urdley & Margarita Smith - Dec. 23

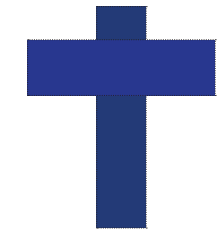


*Lord, bless our parishioners who celebrate their special day this week. Amen!*

**Holy Family Catholic Church  
Welcomes You!**

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 18, 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 18, 2016**

Mon.: Judges 13:2-7, 24-25a; Luke 1:5 - 25

Tue.: Isaiah 7:10 - 14; Luke 1:26 - 38

Wed.: Songs 2:8 - 14; Luke 1:39 - 45

Thur.: 1 Samuel 1:24 - 28; Luke 1:46 - 56

Fri.: Malachi 3:1-4, 23 - 24; Luke 1:57 - 66

Sat.: 2 Samuel 7:1 - 5, 8b - 12, 14a, 16;  
Luke 1:67 - 79

**NEXT SUNDAY:  
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

Isaiah 52:7 - 10  
Hebrews 1:1 - 6  
John 1:1 - 18

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10 - 14

The Lord offered Ahaz a sign. Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Nevertheless, the Lord gave a sign: "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel."

#### SECOND READING: Romans 1:1 - 7

Paul told the Romans he was called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel of God about Christ Jesus. He said to them, "We have received the grace of apostleship" that we may spread the name and bring to faith all those called to belong to Jesus Christ.

#### GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18 - 24

Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they wed, Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph decided to break the engagement. He changed his mind when an angel in a dream told him to receive Mary as his wife. Today's readings are about signs: God's sign to Ahaz, the angel's appearance to Joseph. As we hear God's holy word proclaimed today, what signs in your life point to God about to do wonderful new things? How can you respond like Joseph?

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: God's blessings and guidance for Fr. Kerly Francois and Fr. Neil Scantlebury.

#### Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Anniversary blessings for Julian and Rose Labadie rb Their family.

10:00 AM: Birthday blessings for Meraldo Gonzales Jr. rb His parents, Jane and Meraldo Gonzales.

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

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. Dec. 19, 6:00 PM: **Blessed Urban V**  
Birthday blessings for Akim Commodore, Bre Commodore and Devante Brown rb Andrea Victorine.

Tues. Dec. 20, 7:00 AM: **St. Dominic of Silos**  
Carmen Hernandez rb Silva C. Munoz.

Wed. Dec. 21, 7:00 AM: **St. Peter Canisius**  
Guidance and protection for Nicholas Jn Charles rb His mother.

Thurs. Dec. 22, 7:00 AM: **St. Marguerite d'Youville**  
Good health for Patricia Ptucha rb Estelle Farro.

Fri. Dec. 23, 7:00 PM: **St. John of Kanty**  
God's blessings, protection and guidance for Curvel James rb His mother.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week's second collection goes towards the *Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC*. Next week's Christmas second collection will go towards *assisting the poor and those in need*. As always we thank you for your generosity.

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *birthday blessings for Khalid Merchant requested by his family*. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** The Religious Education Program will be hosting a Christmas concert this **Sunday, December 18, 2016**, at 5:00 p.m. in Upper Columban Hall. Please save this date and support our children.

**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.

**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.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Please note that the church office will be closed from **Friday, December 23, 2016, to Monday, December 26, 2016, ALL DAY**. The church office will reopen on **Tuesday, December 27, 2016**. Please be guided accordingly.

**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 OR THEIR 40TH ANNIVERSARY SHIRT (if you have one) TO MASS ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M. 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.**

### LITURGY AND WORD

God does not interfere with human freedom but intervenes in our life at important moments so that we do his will. As we approach the Nativity of Our Lord the Mother Church recalls some important 'events' which help us to recognize the divine intervention in our life and prepare the way for the first coming of the Lord. Today's readings enumerate at least three stages of this preparation: the prophecy, the fulfilment and the new life of grace and peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

a) In and through his prophetic word the Lord prepares his people before his arrival: The kingdom of Israel, also known as Ephraim, joined forces of Syria against Assyria in the battle called the Syro-Ephraimite War (fought in 735-733 BCE). Both Ephraim and Syria asked Ahaz, the king of Judah, to join them against Assyria. But he refused and asked Assyria for the help. In 733 BCE Samaria, the capital of Israel was captured. Ahaz, the king of Judah, had to remain in Jerusalem as an Assyrian subject. Ahaz preferred to remain a subject to an earthly king than to ask for a prophetic sign from God which is recorded in today's First Reading (Isaiah 7:10-14). This sign marks the beginning of a new era in the salvation history of Israel. But the king did not take the sign seriously and met a tragic end. God promises a new beginning but man compromises with an old past which can lead him to doom and destruction.

b) Fulfilment of Prophecy precedes Divine Intervention: In today's Gospel (Matthew 1:18-24) Joseph seems to be unaware of the work of the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus in the womb of Mary. The angel of the Lord intervenes in Joseph's way of thinking. The evangelist tells us that this happened in order to fulfil the prophecy of Isaiah: "a virgin shall be with child..." Later Joseph could name the child Jesus because of this intervention. Without divine intervention fulfilment of a prophecy can remain a mystery. Many of God's promises remain unfulfilled in our life because we do not take the divine intervention seriously in our life and change our way of thinking.

c) The new life of Grace and Peace invites the faithful to humble oneself: In today's Second Reading (Romans 1:1-7) St Paul makes the Romans aware of their calling to be saints. He himself is aware of his apostleship and God's grace at work in him. All these divine gifts are meant to humble a person in the eyes of God, acknowledging God's grace rather than relying solely on human efforts and intellect. In what way does the Lord intervene in my life? In what way the prophetic word of God and the grace of Our Lord Jesus are helping me to prepare for the coming of the Lord?

### 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: **432**

Last Weekend's collections

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,059.20**

**SECOND COLLECTION:**

**Retirement Fund for Religious: \$1,597.16**

**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.**

The Bible is full of families, births, love stories and family crises. This is true from its very first page, with the appearance of Adam and Eve's family with all its burden of violence but also its enduring strength (cf. Gen 4) to its very last page, where we behold the wedding feast of the Bride and the Lamb (Rev 21:2,9). Jesus' description of the two houses, one built on rock and the other on sand (cf. Mt 7:24-27), symbolizes any number of family situations shaped by the exercise of their members' freedom, for, as the poet says, "every home is a lampstand." Let us now enter one of those houses, led by the psalmist with a song that even today resounds in both Jewish and Christian wedding liturgies: "Blessed is every one who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands; you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots round your table. Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!" (Ps 128:1-6).

— Pope Francis, (Amoris Laetitia)

#### **A PRAYER FOR YOU**

May your guardian angels watch over and protect you today. May the Lord fill you with new strength to face any trial you may be going through.

Always remember the Lord is right by your side. You are loved.