



## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

#### FIRST READING: Leviticus 19:1 - 2, 17 - 18

Moses urges the Israelites to holiness. They must bear no hatred in their hearts. Rather, they must follow this law: love your neighbor as yourself.

#### SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 3:16 - 23

We are all temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such belong to God. We must never think that we are self-sufficient, or that we alone rule our lives. We must beware the wisdom of the world, which is not of God. We belong to Christ, and therefore must live in Christ and depend on Christ.

#### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 5:38 - 48

Jesus tells us that we must return good for evil and love for hate. We must go the extra mile and love our enemies. We must strive to be perfect, just as God is perfect. This will prove that we belong to the Father. Notice in today's readings that even though Jesus quotes common sayings about revenge and hatred for one's enemies, inviting his disciples to live contrary to those aphorisms, the first reading says exactly the same as Jesus. "You shall not bear hatred for your brother or sister in your heart." What a joy to know that our God of love has always invited us to show love for one another, and to overcome our fear and hatred!

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: Birthday blessings and God's continued guidance and protection for Mark Charles.

Birthday blessings for Grace Mason rb Grace Mason.

#### Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God's healing and deliverance for Lincoln & Georgette Jules rb Georgette Jules.

10:00 AM: Maria Martin (deceased) rb Cuthbert Bellot.

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

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. Feb. 20, 6:00 PM: **St. Margaret of Cortona**  
Mary Boyce (d) & David Boyce Jr., (d).

Tues. Feb. 21, 7:00 AM: **St. Peter Damian**  
Birthday blessings for Phillip Bellot rb Francesca Bellot.

Wed. Feb. 22, 7:00 AM: **The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle**  
Birthday blessings and God's healing for Victor Benoit.

Thurs. Feb. 23, 7:00 AM: **St. Polycarp**  
Birthday blessings for Eve Ogiste rb Eve Ogiste.

Fri. Feb. 24, 7:00 PM: **Blessed Josefa Naval Girbes**  
Alicia Thomas (d) rb Alma Wells.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week's second collection goes towards *Priests' Pension Fund*. Next week's second collection will go towards *Catholic Education*. As always we thank you for your generosity.

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *God's guidance and protection for Tevin Peters*. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Please be informed that the church office will be closed ALL day on **Monday, February 20, 2017**, in observance of Presidents' Day. Please be guided accordingly.

**FELLOWSHIP BOAT RIDE:** Sts. Peter & Paul fundraising committee presents a fellowship boat ride on **Friday, February 24, 2017**, from **7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** on the Kon Tiki Party Raft. Tickets: \$25.00 and are available at Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral Church office, committee members and Deacon Bernard Gibs. Music will be by Sammy Watts. There will be complimentary hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar available.

**BREAKFAST SALE:** The Dominica Association of St. Thomas will host a breakfast sale in Holy Family parking lot on **Saturday, February 25, 2017**. This event is scheduled to commence at 7:00 a.m. and end at noon. Thanks in anticipation of your kind support.

**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.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2017:** The World Day of Prayer will take place on **Friday, March 3, 2017**, at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation located at Anna's Retreat. Praise and worship begins at 6:45 p.m. and the service begins at 7:00 p.m. The country of recognition this year is the Philippines. As many Catholics as possible are asked to attend to represent our Church. Ladies are asked to wear white with a yellow scarf, yellow stole or ribbon. Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

**FOOD SALE:** St. Joseph Workers of Holy Family Church will host a food sale on **Saturday, March 4, 2017**, at Holy Family parking lot from **11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** **MEATS: Roast Pork, Baked Chicken, Barbecued Chicken, Pigtail Soupe and Fish. STARCHES: Peas & Rice, Macaroni & Cheese, Potato Stuffing and Potato Salad. VEGGIES: Tossed Salad and Hot Vegetables.** Drinks will be on sale. **Price \$12.00 and Fish Plate - \$15.00.**

**ANNUAL YOUTH LENTEN RETREAT:** Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church is hosting a youth retreat to take place on **Saturday, March 11, 2017**, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church from 8:00 am to 3:00 p.m. The guest speaker is Fr. James Holland from Transfiguration Roman Catholic Church. This retreat is for students from 6th to 12th grade. Lunch will be provided. Parents are welcome to join.

**JESUS EXPLOSION NUMBER 1:** The Diocese of St. Thomas of the Virgin Islands presents Jesus Explosion Number One, which will take place at Columban Hall at Holy Family Church, from **Friday, March 31 to Sunday, April 2, 2017**. The main speaker will be **Fr. Ian Taylor of Trinidad & Tobago**. The theme for the weekend is "God's Love" - John 3:16. **The fee is \$20.00 for ages 10 to 21 which includes registration, material, weekend meals and a polo shirt. Adults: 22 and older, registration is \$35.00. Meals and polo shirts are sold separately.** Registration forms are available at all Catholic churches. Accommodations are needed for visitors from Trinidad, Virgin Gorda, Tortola and St. Croix. Volunteers please contact Yvonne Freeman at 340-642-6377.

### LITURGY AND WORD

Today's gospel is a very challenging one. Jesus asks his followers to do things that are apparently impossible or at least very hard. Jesus tells us, "Do not resist an evildoer," "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," and finally "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." These are not mere recommendations to Jesus' followers but they are definite teachings that are to be accepted and lived in our lives. A follower of Jesus is consistently challenged and exhorted to come away from "You have heard that it was said" kind of attitude, practice, living to Jesus' kind of attitudes and standards. A true follower of Jesus never stops to change and grow and he is called to become a new creation by living the values of Jesus.

Jesus does not only ask us to change but he also shows us how to change and accept his teachings. He in his Sermon on the Mount gave us the means to become holy through the living of the Beatitudes. He taught us "Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the meek, blessed are they that mourn, blessed are they that hunger and thirst after justice, blessed are the merciful, blessed are the pure of heart, blessed are the peacemakers, blessed are they that suffer persecution for justice sake." The beatitudes teach us what holiness is and the rest of the sermon teaches us how to attain holiness in our lives. In other words, the beatitudes are where we want to go and the rest of the sermon is about how to get there. Each follower of Jesus is invited to listen to his voice and recognize him in our lives so that living according to his standards will help us to participate in the perfection of the Father. Mahatma Gandhi studied Christianity in England but he never became a Christian because he claimed Christianity didn't seem to work for Christians. Although he wasn't impressed by the Christians he met, he was very impressed with Jesus, especially His teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. Gandhiji tried to incorporate Jesus' wisdom into his own life. If Gandhiji could seek to live out the Sermon on the Mount the way he did, how much more we his followers should believe in Jesus Christ and live his teachings? The call of every Christian is to become holy and the only way to become holy is to radically live the commandments of Jesus. No human beings ever provided means that can make us holy but only a stringent following of the

### 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: **340**

#### Last Weekend's collections

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,370.63**

**SECOND COLLECTION:**

**Black & Indian Mission: \$1,852.83**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS.**

### LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

beatitudes can help us to participate in the holiness of God. When we totally conform ourselves to Jesus through his grace we become holy as he is holy. The saints became so conformed to Jesus and living his commandments enabled them to be sharers of his holiness. Jesus taught us, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles" The extra mile expands our vision. Without going that mile, we may not become a new creation. Without making second-mile sacrifices, we may not become what we are intended to be in the plan of God. When we go the extra mile, we demonstrate God's grace. "Love your enemies" sounds like an impossible demand, but with the Holy Spirit's help we can go the extra mile because the Lord went the extra mile for us. When we were at odds with God, he loved and saved us (Rom 5:1-11). When we are able to go beyond what is ordinary we participate in Jesus' vision "to be perfect," and we rediscover the true purpose of our life and vocation. So, let us pray that we may be fulfilled in our true purpose, as our heavenly Father is the culmination of all true purposes.

A Physician once said, "The best medicine for humans is love." Someone asked, "What if it doesn't work?" He smiled and said, "Increase the dose."

