





## 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

**FIRST READING: Exodus 22:20 - 26**

The faithful and gracious Lord said, "You shall not wrong any widow or orphan ... If you take your neighbor's cloak, ... return it before sunset. If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c - 10**

Paul commended the Christians of Thessalonica: "You became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with the joy from the Holy Spirit. So that you became a model for all believers ... the word of the Lord has sounded forth."

**GOSPEL READING: Matthew 22:34 - 40**

In response to a question from some Pharisees who wanted to trip him up, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart ... soul ... and mind. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." These are the two great commandments. In today's Gospel Jesus is challenged about the greatest commandment. Listen carefully to the language in today's first reading from Exodus, which prepares us to hear Jesus' answer. The first reading addresses some of the political situations in our own nation, in our world today. Jesus' simple reply, rooted in this Old Testament mandate, is a challenge to all of us. Love of God and love of neighbor have not changed in two thousand years.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

4:00 PM: Birthday blessings for John Milton Giff rb The family.

Birthday blessings for Caia Treherne rb Mona Bedminster.

#### Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God's blessings and guidance for all teachers and students.

10:00 AM: God's healing and blessings for Holy Family parishioners.

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

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. Oct. 30, 7:00 AM: **Blessed Angelo of Acri**  
God's blessings and healing for Juilette Commodore & family.

Tues. Oct. 31, 7:00 AM: **St. Alphonsus Rodriguez**  
God's blessings, healing and deliverance for Jamaul Charles.

**Wed. Nov. 1, 7:00 AM: ALL SAINTS - SOLEMINITY**  
Deacon Austin Medina **deceased** & Deacon Roy Bruney **deceased**.

**4:00 PM:** Deceased members of Holy Family Church.

Thurs. Nov. 2, 7:00 AM: **ALL SOULS - SOLEMINITY**  
God's blessings and healing for Pamela Charles & family.

Fri. Nov. 3, 7:00 AM: **St. Martin de Porres**  
Deceased priests of the Mountaineer Priests' Association.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be NO second collection taken up. If you have two envelopes please put them in at the time the collection is being taken up. As always we thank you for your generosity during this time.

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning *for God's guidance and blessings for Holy Family CCD teachers and volunteers.* You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** Please be reminded that the staff from Mental Health are available at Bethlehem House to administer medication and follow ups between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Anyone who needs assistance with purchasing school uniforms can come to Catholic Charities between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. They are also looking for volunteers to cook and to serve the food at the soup kitchen. Interested persons please contact Ms. Andrea Shillingford at 340-642-4787.

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:** Please note that **Wednesday, November 1, 2017**, is a holy day of obligation and masses will be celebrated at 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please be guided accordingly.

**SYMPATHY:** On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to **Petrona Stanislaus** and family on the passing of her husband, **Josephat Stanislaus**, who died on **Saturday, October 7, 2017**. The funeral mass for the late **Josephat Santislaus** will take place on **Friday, November 3, 2017**, at Holy Family church, at 10:00 a.m. Viewing will precede the mass at 9:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**SYMPATHY:** On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to **Richard Callwood, Jr, and Vern Callwood, Sr,** and family on the passing of their brother, **Keith Callwood, Sr.**, who died on **Saturday, September 30, 2017**. The funeral service for the late **Keith Callwood, Sr.**, took place on **Monday, October 23, 2017**. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** Volunteers are needed to help clean the church on Saturday mornings. **Thank you for your helping hands.**

**LAUNDRY:** Parishioners, please **DO NOT SIGN UP** for non-parishioners to come in to do laundry (WHICH HAS HAPPENED). The laundry was set up with you, the parishioners in mind. Thank you. Please also check all washers and dryers before leaving. We will not be responsible for any clothes left in the washing machines or dryers. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**KEYS AND SWORD:** Bishop Bevard has announced that the Keys & Sword Award Benefit has been cancelled for 2018. Please let us keep each other in prayer and may God bless you, our parishioners, our communities and the U S Virgin Islands and all the islands in the Caribbean affected by the hurricanes.

**MASS SCHEDULE:** As our Islands are being governed by a curfew, please note that the times for masses are as follows:

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Saturday: 4:00 PM (Sunday Observance)  
Sundays: 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM and Haitian Creole - 4:00 PM

**WEEKDAY MASSES**  
Monday to Friday - 7:00AM

### LITURGY AND WORD

Brilliance could be defined as the unique ability to excel at being genuine and authentic. Jesus proved to be brilliant in this sense when he silenced the Pharisees who intentionally came to trap him by questioning him about the greatest commandment. It is said that the rabbis would among themselves debate on this topic and so it is not surprising that they would pose this question to Jesus.

As a little background, the Old Testament contains 613 commands of which 248 positive precepts in the Torah presented a problem for those who took them to be the revelation of God's will for Israel. How could anyone keep track of all these precepts? Are some more important than others? One method to solve this problem was when a distinction was drawn between "heavy" or serious commandments like honouring one's parents (Deut 5:16) and "light" commandments like the law of the bird's nest (Deut 22:6-7). Both were to be taken seriously, and the reward for observing both was the same. The first reading gives us a sampling of the laws. We find that these laws are really humane. Jesus' summing up of the law into just two precepts is perfectly traditional and orthodox. In his answer Jesus combines the two positive commandments in the Torah: "You shall love the Lord your God" (Deut 6:5)... "your neighbour as yourself" (Lev 19:18). The two commandments are inseparable, for one cannot love God without loving every person as a child of God. These two commandments focus on a loving relationship as the basis for interpreting all law and the prophets (cf. 7:12). The originality in Jesus' answer lies in the combination of these two commandments. The combination of the command to love God and love neighbour is distinctive of the synoptic Jesus. Both Deut 6:5 and Lev 19:18 were often quoted in rabbinic ethical discussion, but to bring them together like this as a summary of all the law and the prophets was a brilliantly creative idea of Jesus. In focusing on the two halves of the Ten Commandments (duty to God and duty to our neighbour) it offers a foundation for all our living; and by summing up that duty as love, it goes beyond the specific requirements of the law to the God-like attitude which must underlie them. The two commandments are inseparable. For one cannot love God without loving every person as the child of God. These two command

### 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: **383**

**Last Weekend's collections**

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$8,664.35**

**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

ments focus on a loving relationship as the basis for interpreting all law and the prophets (7:12). Did Jesus' summary, mean that his followers could disregard the other 611 precepts of the Torah? At least Matthew did not take it that way. His claim that on these two commandments "hang the whole Law and the Prophets" (22:40) assumes that the whole Law remains in force. Jesus' love-commandment goes to the root of things and provides a coherent principle for appreciating and observing the other commandments. With the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple in A.D. 70 and the loss of Jewish political control in the land of Israel, the Torah became even more significant in Jewish life than ever before. Matthew saw the love-commandment as giving meaning and direction to the whole Law. He understood the commandment to love God and neighbour as providing a coherent perspective for observing the Law.

