

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 Marguerite Rene
LECTORS: Ruth Smith Jalila Thomas Young Vincentian
 Margarita Smith Allison Callwood Young Vincentian
EUCH MIN: Dolores Velazquez Lauren Thomas Michelle Stout
 Felicinne Marcillin

Thank you for sewing !!!

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 Love when you ...

- *Treat others as you want them to treat you.*
- *Say kind words and do loving things.*
- *Share your things and yourself.*
- *Love people just as they are.*
- *Take good care of the things you love.*
- *Do what you love and love what you do.*

Affirmation:

I am a loving person. I show my love with thoughtful acts, kind words and affection. I treat others the way I want to be treated.

WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS

**HOLIDAY MASS TIMES
CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT**

CAROLS - 7:00 P.M.
MASS - 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 & 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 Douté
Mona Bedminster
Felicia Felix
Fr. Neil Scantlebury (Pastor)
Fr. Kerly François (Assoc. Pastor)

Thank you for sewing !!!

**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**

Atherleah Bruno, Cedric Heyliger, Monet Petersen, Jah'Sheem Graham, Brandon Bryan, Roy Stout, II, Fernando Henley, Khalid Merchant, Eurose Conseeillant, Monique George, Eric Blake, Jr., Roberto Monsanto, Celestina Lapena, Cleo Hamilton, Delphina Mathurin, Meredith Johnson, Lillian Feliciano, Emanuel Jn-Baptiste, Joseph Toussaint, Sarah Jones, Marguerite Henderson, Jose Velazquez.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

*Atherley & Lorine Bruno - Dec. 27
Matthew & Carmen Laville - Dec. 27
Audi & Adelia Henneman - Dec. 28
Daryl & Sheryl Griffith - Dec. 29
Windel & Heidrun William - Dec. 29
Thomas & Ruthine Johnson - Dec. 29*



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

**Holy Family Catholic Church
Welcomes You!**

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Dec. 24, 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

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
- (Spanish)

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 24, 2017**

Mon.: Isaiah 52: 7 - 10; Hebrews 1:1 - 6; John 1:1 - 18
Tue.: Acts 6:8 - 10; 7:54-59; Matt. 10:17 - 22
Wed.: 1 John 1:1 - 4; John 20:1a, 2 - 8
Thur.: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Matthew 2:13- 18
Fri.: 1 John 2:3 - 11; Luke 2:22 - 35
Sat.: 1 John 2:12 - 17; Luke 2:36 - 40

**NEXT SUNDAY:
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Sirach 3:2 - 6, 12 - 14
Colossians 3:12 - 21
Luke 2:22 - 40

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 7:1 - 5, 8b - 12, 14a, 16

With help from the prophet Nathan, King David decided to build a house for the Lord to dwell in. "Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever."

SECOND READING: Romans 16:25 - 27

According to Paul, the gospel reveals the mystery hidden for long ages but now, at God's command, is made manifest in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:26 - 38

The angel addressed Mary, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." When Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord," she became a model for all. Today we hear the familiar story of the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she will conceive and bear the Son of God. What an unbelievable message this must have been! She was seemingly just an ordinary young woman, not even married, not even having relations with a man. As a Jew, she would have been praying for the coming of the Messiah; now she is told she would be giving birth to Him. But like David in the Old Testament, she accepts the role God has for her. "May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: God's blessings for Holy Family benefactors.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Lorraine Vialet rb The family.

Birthday blessings for Khalid Merchant rb Viola John & family.

10:00 AM: Birthday blessings and God's protection for Marie Renal

rb Marie Renal.

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

Merry Christmas

Daily Masses:

Mon. Dec. 25, 9:00 AM: *The Nativity of the Lord - Christmas Day*
Curtis Abraham (deceased) rb His mother.

Tues. Dec. 26 7:00 AM: *St. Stephen*

Birthday blessings for Vincent W. Rawlings, Jr. rb His grandmother.

Wed. Dec. 27, 7:00 AM: *St. John*

Richard and Rose Cook (deceased) rb Estelle Farro.

Thurs. Dec. 28, 7:00 AM: *The Holy Innocents*

God's blessings and guidance for Holy Family CCD students.

Fri. Dec. 29, 7:00 AM: *St. Thomas Becket*

God's blessings and guidance for the priests of our Diocese.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards the *Bishop's Appeal*. Next week's second collection will go towards *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 Marie Renal, requested by Marie Renal*. 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.**

FOOD FOR THE POOR: This 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.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: We extend sincere thanks to all who donated or contributed to the purchase of poinsettias this year. We also extend deepest gratitude to those who came out to clean and decorate the church for the Christmas season. May the infant child draw each of you closer to Him this Christmas and beyond.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS: Fr. Neil Scantlebury and Fr. Kerly Francois wish to extend Christmas wishes all. May God continue to bless you and your family and may the Christ child bring you into a deeper relationship with Him. Once again, Merry Christmas to you and yours.

OFFICE CLOSED: Please note that the church office will be closed on **Monday, December 25, 2017**, and **Tuesday, December 26, 2017, ALL DAY**. The church office will reopen on **Wednesday, December 27, 2017**. Please be guided accordingly.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extends sincere sympathy to Lauren Thomas and family on the passing of her brother, **Llewellyn Reed, Sr.**, who died on **Monday, November 20, 2017**. A memorial mass for the late **Llewellyn Reed, Sr.**, will take place on **Friday, December 29, 2017**, at Holy Family church at 10:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

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.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: CCD Classes will resume on **Saturday, January 13, 2018**. Thank you to all who attended the concert to support our youth.

Can the following persons please contact the church office as soon as possible. Thank you. **Viola M. John, Bernadette Gustave, Davina Abraham, Mahilia Abraham, Cerilla Abraham, Marylyn Beausooliel, Maria Pierre, Arden Henley, Phillipa Webb, Jean Baptiste Galeth, Joseph Butt, Burt Bellot, Josette Jules, Louis Mareave and Lucie Lewis.** If anyone knows these persons, please ask them

LITURGY AND WORD

Today is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent. Christmas has come very near, in fact, we will come together again within a few hours to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. There is no gap between the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas this year. On this Sunday the Liturgy of the Word invites us to reflect on two messages: a) God is great and, b) he wants to make his people great. The Liturgy of the Word revolves around two promises: promises made to David and to Mary. In the former, the initiative to build the Temple comes from David, but does not find acceptance by God. In the latter the initiative comes from God and Mary gives her full consent.

Both these promises have epoch-making consequences. David has been king for about thirty-eight years (1000-962 B.C.). Despite the failures of David, God promises that he will have a long reign and his dynasty will be firmly established, and that the Messiah will come from his dynasty. After a thousand years, the promise made to David was fulfilled.

The gospel of today depicts God sending his angel to Mary. Fear grips Mary and so the angel has to calm her down. The message is that the Child Mary will conceive is a descendant of David and his kingdom will have no end. On Mary's further query the angel reveals the most important part of the revelation that the child will be conceived in Mary by the power of God.

David proposes to build a Temple and the proposal is welcomed by the prophet Nathan. Through Nathan, however, God promptly turns the offer down. Instead God will build a house or dynasty for David. David's offspring will build the Temple. He may be punished, but he will not be rejected as Saul was. David's dynasty will be established forever (2 Sam 7:16). The passage discusses the future of the Jerusalem sanctuary and of the Davidic monarchy—the two institutions which are vital to the people of Israel for several centuries after David. Through the prophet Nathan, God makes firm promises to David about both these things.

All these promises, as God fulfills them, would make David's name great. Without question, David has been Israel's greatest king and his reputation stands for all time as one of the greatest men of history. However, his God-given greatness is not for his own benefit and glory, but for the benefit of the nation he rules. These plans depend on the fulfillment of God's promise to send a Son

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: **391**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$4,833.25

Bishop's Appeal: \$700.00

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

of David, the Messiah, who will be the one finally to bring God's people the security and peace they always need.

At this juncture we pose a question: what do we do to win God's favor? We need not go too far to find an answer for today's gospel provides it. The answer is found in the words the angel speaks to Mary: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." In order to be accepted by God we have to find his favor. David could not find favor because of his excessive warfare and human frailties. Mary, the humble maiden of Nazareth is pure and immaculate and remains as such throughout her life. Ever since she has said "Yes" to God she remains the unchallenged reservoir of God's grace for the millions of people who turn to her. By living our lives in close association with Mary we too can become the favored ones of God. As we are approaching the celebration of Christmas in which Mary plays the pivotal role, let us prepare ourselves to receive the Lord Jesus who comes to save us.

Happy 4th week of Advent!

