

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

5:00PM                      7:30 AM                      10:00AM

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO SERVE WHENEVER POSSIBLE**

<b>CANTORS:</b> Allan Harrigan	Dr. Gloria Callwood	Marguerite Rene
	Felicinne Marcillin	
<b>LECTORS:</b> Helena Enrique	Alma Wells	Families for Christ
Keith Steele	Jalila Thomas	Families for Christ
<b>EUCH MIN:</b> Olga McBean	Lauren Thomas	Yvonne Freeman
	Catherina Alexander	

*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 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 out right.*

**WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS**



Holy Family St. Vincent de Paul Society extends congratulations to 2nd Lieutenant Ruselle Henry on her achievements. May God continue to bless you abundantly. Thanks for being an inspiration to all the Vincentians you have met at home since 2009 and at World Youth Day 2011. Your relationship with us has helped you in choosing a minor in Leadership Studies. Thank you. We love you and God bless.

From all the Vincentians.



**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**

Darryl Hendrickson, Dylan Hendrickson, Dale Hendrickson, Jr., Aaron Clarke, Misterlyne Satine, Jai Jones, Jayden Francis, Jena Dieu, Jaleen Bedminster, Kindarly Mahauatiere, Dwayne Rene, Leander Poleon, Micarla Matthew, Edwin Dorval, Elroy Pickerling, Jr., Catherine Birmingham, Adius Dieu, Jacklyn LeBlanc, Vincia St. Jean, Julian Gumbs, Kent Meyers, Riviere Casimir, Horace Wallace, Velma Abramsen, Patricia Grell Simone James, Edmond Benjamin.



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

**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.**

**PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY**

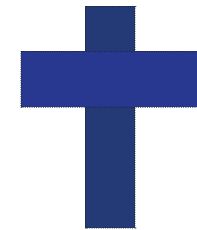
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us and grant us the grace to live in love and unity like you lived in the home of Nazareth. Answer the prayers we present to you this day (**for the renewal of our parish**). Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, assist us in all our needs, surround us with the protection of your love, and bring us to the joy of our eternal home in heaven. 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.**

**Holy Family Catholic Church Welcomes You!**

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph - Dec. 31, 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 31, 2017**

Mon.: Num. 6:22 - 27; Gal. 4:4 - 7; Luke 2:16 - 21  
Tue.: 1 John 2:22 - 28; John 1:19 - 28  
Wed.: 1 John 2:29 - 3:6; John 1:29 - 34  
Thur.: 1 John 3:7 - 10; John 1:35 - 42  
Fri.: 1 John 3:11 - 21; John 1:43 - 51  
Sat.: 1 John 5:5 - 13; Mark 1:7 - 11

**NEXT SUNDAY: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

Isaiah 60:1 - 6  
Ephesians 3:2 - 3a, 5 - 6  
Matthew 2:1 - 12

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



## HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1 - 6; 21:1 - 3**

Abram and Sarah put faith in the Lord, and gave the name Isaac to their son. Your descendants shall be as numerous as the stars in the heavens.

**SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:8, 11 - 12, 17 - 19**

The descendants of Abraham and Sarah are "as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore." Abraham's faith was tested.

**GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:22 - 40**

Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the temple to be consecrated. Simeon, a holy and pious man, took the child in his arms, and Anna, the prophetess, gave thanks to God. The feast of the Holy Family has a choice of readings. Sirach and St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians concentrate on the family and our calling to treat each other as believers in the Lord and as Christians. The alternative readings about Sarah and Abraham tell of God fulfilling the promise of Abraham that he would have descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky. The Gospel then portrays the devotion of Mary and Joseph, traveling to Jerusalem to present Jesus to God.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: God's protection, guidance and blessings for Fr. Neil and Fr. Kerly.

#### Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Benjamin Rawlings rb His grandmother.

10:00 AM: God's blessings and continued guidance for Holy Family parish.

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

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. Jan. 1, 9:00 AM: *Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*  
God's blessings, guidance and protection for Holy Family Parishioners.

Tues. Jan. 2, 7:00 AM: *Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen*  
Birthday blessings for Patsy Grell.

Wed. Jan. 3, 7:00 AM: *The Most Holy Name of Jesus*  
Deacon Keith & Myrna Scantlebury (deceased).

Thurs. Jan. 4, 7:00 AM: *St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*  
Anniversary blessings for Fr. Kerly Francois.

Fri. Jan. 5, 7:00 AM: *St. John Neumann*  
Birthday blessings and God's continued blessings, guidance and protection for Candace Charles rb Her family.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week's second collection goes towards the *Bishop's Appeal*. Next week's second collection will go towards *Renovation Fund*. As always we thank you for your generosity.

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning *for God's guidance and protection for Felix Renal requested by his mother*. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**THANK YOU:** Rev. Neil Scantlebury and Rev. Kerly Francois extend sincere thanks to all those who sent them cards and extended Christmas wishes. May God continue to bless you and your family and may the Christ child bring you into a deeper relationship with Him. Once again thank you and God's continued blessings.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS SCHEDULE:** Please note that on Sunday, December 31, 2017, mass will be celebrated at 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Holy hour will be at 7:00 p.m. New Year's day, Monday, January 1, 2018, mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1, and Tuesday, January 2, 2018. Please be guided accordingly.

**BAPTISM CLASS:** Baptism class will commence on Monday January 8, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Lower Columban Hall, and will continue every Monday in January. Application forms for Baptism can be collected from the church office and should be completed before the start of the program. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

**SYMPATHY:** On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly Francois and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to Richard Callwood, Jr. and family on the passing of his sister, *Doris Taylor*, who died on Tuesday, December 12, 2017. A memorial service for the late *Doris Taylor*, will be announced at a later date. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES:** Catholic Charities is looking for two Case Managers, a Security Officer and a part time Driver. Also if you need assistance with FEMA application or appeal process, please also contact Catholic Charities for more information at **340-642-4787** or **340-998-3809** or visit the Catholic Charities office at 42 Kronprindsens Gade.

**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, Maria Pierre, Joseph Butt, Burt Bellot, Josette Jules, Louis Mareave and Lucie Lewis*. If anyone knows these persons, please ask them to check with the church office. Thank you.

**NOTE:** *The reception of Holy Communion, in Catholic teaching, indicates an agreement of faith, on the recipient's part, with the Catholic doctrine of Jesus' real presence in this sacrament. Catholics observe a Eucharistic fast of one hour prior to receiving communion. Therefore, it is inappropriate to have any food, candy, gum, etc., in your mouth while in church. Thank you for your cooperation!*

**Having shared in the Eucharist, you are compelled to go and work for peace and justice, thereby building God's Kingdom now.**

### LITURGY AND WORD

The Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family by Pope Francis (Amoris Laetitia) is the Papal document on the family. The Pope offers exhortations on the various issues that trouble the families. Relevant paragraphs from chapter three of Amoris Laetitia that deal with family issues are presented below for our consideration.

This brief chapter summarizes the Church's teaching on marriage and the family. The Synod Fathers noted that Jesus, "in speaking of God's original plan for man and woman, reaffirmed the indissoluble union between them. The indissolubility of marriage – 'what God has joined together, let no man put asunder' (Mt 19:6) – should not be viewed as a 'yoke' imposed on humanity, but as a 'gift' granted to those who are joined in marriage. God's indulgent love always accompanies our human journey; through grace, it heals and transforms hardened hearts, leading them back to the beginning through the way of the cross. The Gospels clearly present the example of Jesus who proclaimed the meaning of marriage as the fullness of revelation that restores God's original plan. (cf. Mt 19:3)" Jesus began his public ministry with the miracle at the wedding feast of Cana (cf. Jn 2:1-11). He shared in everyday moments of friendship with the family of Lazarus and his sisters (cf. Lk 10:38) and with the family of Peter (cf. Mk 8:14). He sympathized with grieving parents and restored their children to life (cf. Mk 5:41; Lk 7:14-15). In this way he demonstrated the true meaning of mercy, which entails the restoration of the covenant. Marriage is a vocation, inasmuch as it is a response to a specific call to experience conjugal love as an imperfect sign of the love between Christ and the Church. Consequently, the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be the fruit of a process of vocational discernment.

Sexual union, lovingly experienced and sanctified by the sacrament, is in turn a path of growth in the life of grace for the couple. It is the "nuptial mystery." The meaning and value of their physical union is expressed in the words of consent, in which they accepted and offered themselves each to the other, in order to share their lives completely. Neither of the spouses will be alone in facing whatever challenges may come their way. Both are called to respond to God's gift with commitment, creativity, perseverance and daily effort. They can always invoke the assistance of

### 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: **341**

Last Weekend's collections

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$4,884.35**

**Bishop's Appeal: \$746.55**

*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 the Holy Spirit who consecrated their union, so that his grace may be felt in every new situation that they encounter. Marriage is firstly an "intimate partnership of life and love" which is a good for the spouses themselves, while sexuality is "ordered to the conjugal love of man and woman." It follows that "spouses to whom God has not granted children can have a conjugal life full of meaning, in both human and Christian terms." Nonetheless, the conjugal union is ordered to procreation "by its very nature." The child who is born "does not come from outside as something added on to the mutual love of the spouses, but springs from the very heart of that mutual giving, as its fruit and fulfilment." He or she does not appear at the end of a process, but is present from the beginning of love as an essential feature, one that cannot be denied without disfiguring that love itself.

Have a  
Blessed  
Sunday

