

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

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

***PLEASE BE FLEXIBLE AND VOLUNTEER TO SERVE WHENEVER POSSIBLE***

<b>CANTORS:</b> Allan Harrigan	Dr. Gloria Callwood Felicinne Marcillin	Marguerite Rene
<b>LECTORS:</b> Margarita Smith Chris Doute	Bridget Toussaint Agnes Nicholas	Young Vincentian Young Vincentian
<b>EUCH MIN:</b> Olga McBean	Felicinne Marcillin Lauren Thomas	Michelle Stout

*Thank you for sewing !!!*

*Please pray for the members of our body who are sick or suffering. . .*

**HOSPITAL:** Josephine Philbert.  
**OFF ISLAND:** Defy Francoise, Bertina Lestrade, Altagracia Padilla, Emile Joseph, Joseph Archer, Clementina Abraham, Bishop Thomas, Enid Blyden, Isabel Dublin, Mary Lewis, Philomen Baron, McLean Fontain (Sparrow), Thomas & Ruthine Johnson.

**AT HOME:** Rita Ledee, Rose Celestine, Margarita Feliciano, Martina Lewis, Olivia Gumbs, Ann Bedminster, Medina Scatliffe, Bernice Knight, Claudy Brutus, Vernelle Gumbs, Evelyn Simon, Veronica Sealey, Gerard Henry, Grace Thompson, Andrea Victorine, Josephine James, Stanislaus Livepool, Rosette Harley, Baby Elizabeth Dolphin, Meraldo C. Gonzales, Roserita Laparol, Cynthia Johnrose.

**SEAVIEW:**  
**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 Honor when you ...*

- \*Guide your life by your virtues.
- \*Can be trusted to keep your promises.
- \*Avoid doing things that make you feel ashamed.
- \*Respect the rules you want to live by.
- \*Do what you believe is right no matter what.
- \*Set a good example for others.

**Affirmation:**

*I am honorable. I keep my agreements and treat others with respect. I care about doing the right thing.*

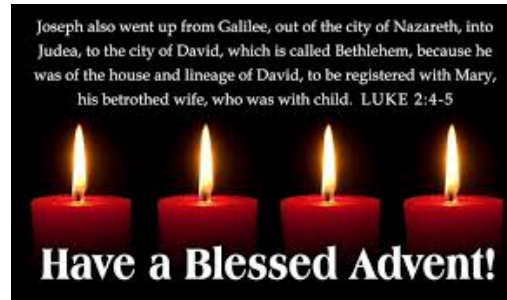
**WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS**

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Mondays - 10:00 AM  
to 4:00 PM**

**Tuesday - Friday**

**8:00 AM - 4:00 PM**



**Allison B. Callwood**  
Independent Beauty Consultant  
  
340-244-9047  
acallwood@marykay.com  
www.marykay.com/acallwood



God First, Family Second, Career Third

**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.**

**TOYOTA**  
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

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

**Wedding Anniversary**  
Steven & Daphne Mayers - Dec. 23  
Andre & Suzette Smith - Dec. 23  
Urdley & Margarita Smith - Dec. 23  
Kemon & Genet Henry - Dec. 26  
Atherley & Lorine Bruno - Dec. 27  
Matthew & Carmen Laville - Dec. 27  
Audi & Adelia Henneman - Dec. 28  
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. 23, 2018** *Happy 4th week of Advent!*

213 Anna's Retreat, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802  
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

**Deacon**  
Rev. Mr. Evans Doway

**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

**Masses:**  
Saturday 5:00 p.m. (Creole)  
and  
Every **LAST Thursday**  
at 5:00 p.m.

Online giving or donation can be made through our website at:  
[www.holyfamilystt.com](http://www.holyfamilystt.com)

**WEEKEND MASSES**

**Saturday: 5:00 PM**  
**Sunday: 7:30 AM; 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM Creole Mass**

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Monday: 7:00 AM  
Tuesday - Thursday: 7:00 AM  
Wednesday: OLPH Novena before the 7:00 AM Mass followed by Adoration after the mass to 5:00 p.m.  
Friday: Mass at 7:00 AM  
Holy Hour: 6PM - 7PM  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation**  
Saturday: 4:15 PM to 4:45 PM

**Readings for the Week of December 23, 2018**

Mon.: 2 Samuel 7:1 - 5, 8b - 12, 14a, 16; Luke 1:67 - 79  
Tue.: Isaiah 52: 7 - 10; Hebrews 1:1 - 6; John 1:1 - 18

Wed.: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Matt. 10:17 - 22

Thur.: 1 John 1:1 - 4; John 20:1a and 2 - 8

Fri.: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Matthew 2:13 - 18

Sat.: 1 John 2:3 - 11; Luke 2:22 - 35

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

1 Samuel 1:20 - 22, 24 - 28  
1 John 3:1 - 2, 21 - 24  
Luke 2:41 - 52



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

#### FIRST READING: Micah 5:1 - 4a

Out of tiny Bethlehem will come one who is to be ruler over all Israel. "He shall stand firm and shepherd His flock ... He shall be peace."

#### SECOND READING: Hebrews 10:5 - 10

God took no delight in holocausts and sin offerings, even those that fulfilled the law. Rather, God desired Christ. By death, Jesus took away the first covenant to set up the second.

#### GOSPEL READING: Luke 1:39 - 45

When Mary visited Zechariah's house, Elizabeth greeted her: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." When Elizabeth heard Mary's greetings, "the infant leaped in her womb." God's ways are not our ways. Today's readings point to the unlikely sources for the blessed event we are about to celebrate. Christ will be born in Bethlehem, a town unnoticed and forgotten. The son of God will be born to Mary, a seemingly insignificant teenage girl. John the Baptist will be born of Elizabeth, a woman supposedly past childbearing age. As we listen to the word of God, we are reminded of God's tendency to do the unexpected.

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Alfonso Wells (deceased) rb Alma Wells.

#### Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God's guidance and protection for Marie Renal rb Marie Renal.

10:00 AM: God's guidance and protection for Felix Renal rb His mother.

God's direction for Bryan Ptucha in making right decisions rb Estelle Farro.

5:00 PM: God's healing, deliverance and blessings for the Haitian community.

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. Dec. 24, 7:30 PM: *St. Peter Nolasco*

Birthdays blessings for Khalid Merchant rb His mother, Viola John and family.

11:00 PM: God's blessings for the Directors and members of Holy Family Church Youth and Adult choirs.

**Tues. Dec. 25, 9:00 AM: *The Nativity of the Lord - CHRISTMAS***

God's guidance and protection for Marie Renal rb Marie Renal.

Wed. Dec. 26, 7:00 AM: *St. Stephen*

Ena Richards (d) rb The Children of Mary.

Thurs. Dec. 27, 7:00 AM: *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

Dick Cook (d) rb Estelle Farro.

Gwendolyn Flood (d) rb The Children of Mary.

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

Birthdays blessings for Benjamin Rawlings rb Cleopha Rawlings.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SECOND COLLECTION:** This week's second collection goes towards *Bishop's Appeal*. 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 deliverance, blessings and protection for Marie Renal, requested by Marie Renal*. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**ONLINE GIVING:** Visit our website: [www.holyfamilystt.com](http://www.holyfamilystt.com) and select **online giving**. Holy Family offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone, using "**GIVE PLUS**" mobile App. Thanks to all those who are using online giving; may God continue to bless you richly.

**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 and Altar flowers 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 to 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 your family.

**CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE:** Please note that the masses for **CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT** will be at **7:30 P.M. and 11:00 P.M.** and on **CHRISTMAS DAY** mass will be celebrated at **9:00 A.M.** **CAROLS WILL BE SUNG BEFORE THE MASSES.**

**OFFICE CLOSED:** Please note that the church office will be closed on **Tuesday, December 25, 2018**, and **Wednesday, December 26, 2018, ALL DAY**. The church office will reopen on **Thursday, December 27, 2018**. Please be guided accordingly.

**SYMPATHY:** On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François, Deacon Doway and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to **Ilma Gumbs** and family on the passing of her mother, **Theresa St. Louis**, who died on **Friday, December 7, 2018, in Dominica**. The funeral service for the late **Theresa St. Louis** will take place on **Thursday, December 27, 2018**, in Dominica. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Thank you for your generous contribution for the 2018 calendar year. Please pick up your Offertory envelopes for 2019 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.**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS SCHEDULE:** **NEW YEAR'S EVE NIGHT 8:00 P.M. and 11:00 P.M. HOLY HOUR WILL BE AT 7:00 P.M.** On **NEW YEAR'S DAY** mass will be celebrated at **9:00 A.M.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** CCD Classes will resume on **Saturday, January 12, 2019**. Thank you to all who attended the concert to support our youth.

## LITURGY AND WORD

**1st READING: THE IMPORTANCE OF BETHLEHEM**

Micah makes a prophecy about the Messiah who will come. He points to Bethlehem, the city that David made the capital city of his empire, and says that from her will come the future Messiah. Micah makes this prophecy seven hundred years before the event actually takes place. The Messiah does come from Bethlehem, the city of David. God makes a fresh start by appointing Bethlehem again as the birthplace of the future king. Like David, the coming ruler hails from the insignificant town of Bethlehem. God prefers the humble and the lowly as a starting point for the realization of His salvific plan.

**2nd READING: THE SACRIFICE OF CHRIST**

This passage deals with the sacrifice of Christ. The author argues that Christ's sacrifice is superior to the earlier sacrifices because he offers personal obedience to replace the ritual sacrifices. The author uses a quotation from the Psalm (Ps 40:6-8) to express his thought. Read in the light of Christ, the quoted verses from Psalm 40 take on a prophetic meaning. They evoke the incarnation of the Son of God and his redemptive obedience. The author emphasizes that Christ abolishes the worship set by the law and replaces it with a different type of relationship with God. The first cult was ineffective. But the sacrifice of Christ in which he offers himself in perfect fulfilment of God's will has been fully efficacious for our sanctification.

**GOSPEL: MARY MEETS ELIZABETH**

The gospel of today places before us the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth. The encounter between these two highly favoured women is exemplary. The encounter takes place in a small town near Jerusalem identified as the hill country. The meeting between Mary and Elizabeth is extremely cordial for, the first thing that Mary does is to

## 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: **420**

**Last Weekend's collections**

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$5,900.00**

**Christmas Flowers: \$1,729.76**

**Our Bishop's Appeal contribution for 2018 amounted to \$38,075.00, 95% 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

greet Elizabeth. The Holy Spirit plays a major part in this encounter because Elizabeth bursts out in joyful praise. The working of the Spirit in Elizabeth is so strong that the baby in her womb recognizes Mary as the mother of God. Elizabeth is totally other-centred for everything that she says is about Mary and her highly favoured status. One of the characteristics of this encounter is the repeated theme of joy. Mary, Elizabeth and the child in her womb are all joyful. Joy is a distinguishing mark of a disciple of Christ. It is the Spirit that makes Christian lives joyful. Elizabeth's inspired exclamation honours Mary. She is declared blessed, first, because she has been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah. A woman could gain honour by being the mother of a great son. Mary deserves great honour for this reason, yet later in Luke this view will be qualified. More important than the blood relation of mother and son is hearing the Word of God and obeying it as a disciple (Lk 11:27-28). Mary is honoured for a second reason: she is "blessed" because she believed. Mary's "yes" to God was a great act of faith. It was important that Mary believed the promise that God would bring the Messiah to Israel through her and that she was willing to offer herself for this purpose. Mary's great act of faith is the beginning in the new era of salvation. The celebration of the birth of Jesus has come near. It is our turn to live our faith and proclaim it.