

Holy Family Catholic Church Welcomes You! 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time - March 3, 2019

213 Anna's Retreat, St. Thomas, P.O. Box 502218, St. Thomas, E-mail: holyfamilyvi@msn.com Website: www.holvfamilvstt.com





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.

Reverend <u>Pastor</u> Neil Scantlebury

<u>Associate Pastor</u> Reverend Kerly François

Deacon Rev. Mr. Cassius Mathurin

Administrative Assistant Mrs. Allison Callwood

<u>Sacristan</u> Mr. Ryan John

Musicians Mr. Francis Callwood Mr. Verne Callwood Mr. Desmond Simmonds Mr. Ade Warrington

<u>Volunteers</u> 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

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday - Friday: 7:00 AM Wednesday: OLPH Novena before the 7:00 AM Mass followed by Adoration after the mass to 5:00 p.m. Friday: Holy Hour: 6PM - 7PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday: 4:15 PM to 4:45 PM Fourth Wednesdays - 4:00PM to 6:30PM

Readings for the Week of March 3, 2019

Mon.: Sirach 17:20 - 24; Mark 10:17 - 27

Tue.: Sirach 35:1 - 12; Mark 10:28 - 31

Wed.: Joel 2:12 - 18; 2 Cor. 5:20 - 6:2; Matthew 6:1 - 6, 16 - 18

Thur.: Deut. 30:15 - 20; Luke 9:22 - 25

Fri.: Isaiah 58:1 - 9a; Matthew 9:14 - 15

Sat.: Isaiah 58:9b - 14; Luke 5:27 - 32

NEXT SUNDAY: 1st Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4 - 10 Romans 10:8 - 13 Luke 4:1 - 13

STH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Sirach 27:4 - 7

Praise no one before he speaks, for it is then that people are tested.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:54 - 58

•The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God •who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:39 - 45

People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, nor do they gather grapes from •brambles. From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

Wisdom literature is chock full of aphorisms - short, pithy statements of truth and the opening reading from Sirach is typical. Jesus shares some of His own with His disciples, and even the psalmist and St. Paul's letter include a few. These oft-heard sayings come from seldom-heard passages, however. Due to the variability of the liturgical seasons, these particular readings have not been proclaimed at Mass for over twenty years. Let us seize this opportunity to listen to these wise words.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK **Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):**

5:00 PM: Angelina Iwundi (deceased) rb Her daughter, Tina LaPenna.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Leonard G. Reed, Jr, (d); Llewlyn S. Reed, Sr. (d) and Jalauni Harrigan (d) rb Thomas family.

10:00 AM: God's help and deliverance for Ferlicia and Victoria Fergusson rb Victoria Fergusson.

5:00 PM: God's continued blessings for the Haitian community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Mar. 4, 7:00 AM: *St. Casimir* Rose & Richard Cook (d) rb Estelle Farro.

Tues. Mar. 5, 7:00 AM: St. John Joseph of the Cross In Honor of the Holy Face of Jesus rb Carolyn Peternel.

Wed. Mar. 6, 7:00 AM: St. Colette - ASH WEDNESDAY Birthday blessings for Barbara Ann Cherri rb Auntie Paula.

7:00 PM: God's blessings and guidance for Fr. Neil & Fr. Kerly.

Thurs. Mar. 7, 7:00 AM: St. John of God God's continued healing for Thomas and Ruthine Johnson.

Fri. Mar. 8, 7:00 AM: St. Frances of Rome Birthday greetings and God's blessings for Candida Lockey rb Her mom and the rest of the family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

BISHOP'S APPEAL: On March 6th, the Church throughout the world, will celebrate the beginning of the holy season of Lent with the Masses on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a special time when we repent of our sins by our contrition. It is a special time when we show our love for God by giving alms. Share your blessings this Lent with those who need your help by supporting the work of Catholic Charities through the annual Bishop's Appeal.

Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers and sisters, that vou do unto Me."

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.

ONLINE GIVING: Visit our website: 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.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François, Deacon Cassius Mathurin and Rev. Neil Scantlebury extend sincere sympathy to Cyril Abraham and family on the passing of his mother, *Clementina* Abraham, who died on *Tuesday, February 19, 2019*. The funeral mass for the late *Clementina Abraham* will take place at Holy Family Church on *Thursday*, March 14, 2019, 10:00 a.m. Viewing will precede the mass at 9:00 a.m. May her soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

LENT: Lent begins on *Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019*. Now is the time to plan spiritual and corporal works of mercy for Lent. There will be two masses on Ash Wednesday: 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please be guided accordingly.

LENTEN MISSION: Holy Family will host a Lenten mission from **Monday**, March 11 to Wednesday, March 13, 2019. The mission will be preached by Fr. Blessed from 7:00 p.m. nightly. He will also preach at the weekend masses prior to the start of the mission. Please save the dates.

LENT: *During Lent*:

- 1. Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross are on Fridays at 6:00 p.m.
- Those 18 to 59 years of age are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- 3. Those 14 years and older are to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays in Lent
- 4. Pray for peace in the world and in our families.
- 5. Pray for God's blessings and protection against the attacks of evil spirits for our parish and our diocese.
- There will be NO altar flowers, NO Gloria and NO Alleluia, NO recessional hvmn.
- We are encouraged to make a good Confession.
- 8. Give generously to the Bishop's Appeal.
- 9. Pray the novena of Our Lady the Undoer of Knots that Our Lady will undo the knots of Holy Family Parish, family and ourselves.
- 10. View daily "Best Lent ever" on www.dynamiccatholic.com or listen to
- Fr. Blessed's daily meditations on our web page: www.holyfamilystt.com

IST READING:

CULTIVATE GOOD THOUGHTS Speech is the principal criterion for evaluating a person. One uses different images to prove one's point. First, when we put powdered grain in the strainer and shake it the powder will fall while the husk and other things will remain in the strainer. In the same way we must filter our words before we speak them so that our words convey a good message. Second, a kiln is a furnace or oven used for burning, baking or drying. A potter forms a vessel out of clay and bakes it in a kiln so that it becomes strong. In the same way we must base our words and thoughts on sound reasoning. The third image is of the fruit and the tree. Jesus also uses this image when he says, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit" (Lk 6:43-44). Sirach uses this image to teach that if a man's mind is sound then his speech will also be sound.

2ND READING: JESUS HAS WON US VICTORY **OVER DEATH**

15:58 is the conclusion of Paul's presentation of his thesis on the resurrection. He asks the Corinthians to be steadfast and always abounding in the work of the Lord with the certainty of victory. Quoting an Old Testament prophecy of Hosea 13:14 Paul says that God will ransom his people from death. Paul also opines that sin is the cause of death. Through the law comes the realization of sin's overwhelming power. Christ has invaded death's domain and robbed it of its sting. This is the great victory for which God is to be thanked.

GOSPEL: GOOD TREE PRODUCES GOOD FRUIT

The gospel of today contains three short parables. The parable of the blind man who leads a blind man is in reality a proverb. A guide can lead only if he sees the way himself. The phrase 'blind guides' was originally used for the Pharisees, because refusing to acknowledge their sins and the need for God, they have remained blind to everything that surrounded them. From this we can understand that spiritual blindness is also the issue here. The blind one is he who has not recognized his own sinfulness and the love God has for him. Without this twofold enlightenment human beings remain blind and cannot guide others.

LITURGY AND WORD

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: 455 Last Weekend's collections FIRST COLLECTION: <u>\$4,806.50</u> Catholic Education: \$732.00

LITURGY AND WORD Cont'd

A hypocritical teacher who is blind to his own faults cannot try to reform his brother. The parable of the plank and the splinter forcefully highlights the foolishness of trying to correct others while ignoring one's own sinfulness. The evil we judge in our neighbor is only a speck compared to the evil in us, which, huge like a plank, is covering our eyes completely.

Only one who is aware of his own deep sinfulness and the mercy he has received from God can really correct others. It is also the basis of the new relationship where all enmity is overcome and unconditional love for one another made possible.

The third parable is about the tree and its fruit. Between the fruit and the tree there exists not only a relationship of quality, but of nature. A true disciple can be known from his actions, just as a tree is known from its fruits. The heart is the source from which the fruits, good or bad come. Only if God's Spirit dwells in the heart can the mouth utter godly things. Listening to the Word of God and putting it into practice transforms the heart and makes it a source of good words and actions. A bad tree cannot change into a good one, but a bad Christian can change and become a good one producing good actions. Those who wish to judge others set themselves up as guides to the blind, but they are actually blind themselves. There is a tendency in people to minimize their own faults and maximize the faults of others. The disciples must be able to see themselves clearly before they can point out the faults of others. Jesus makes his points using humor and exaggeration to drive them home. Good conduct can come only out of a good heart. It is as foolish to expect good fruit to be produced by bad tress as to expect good deeds from a bad person. Only the person whose heart is richly stored with goodness will bring forth good teaching.

