

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	Adult Choir	Marguerite Rene
<b>LECTORS:</b> Margarita Smith Helena Enrique	Allison Callwood Agnes Nicholas	Young Vincentian Young Vincentian
<b>EUCH MIN:</b> Olga McBean	Lauren Thomas Felicinne Marcellin	Michelle Stout

*Thank you for serving !!!*

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

**HOSPITAL:** Margarita Feliciano, Ophelia Bannis.  
**OFF ISLAND:** Bertina Lestrade, Altagracia Padilla, Emile Joseph, Enid Blyden, Isabel Dublin, Mary Lewis, Philomen Baron, Ruthine & Thomas, Johnson, Maggie Dolphin, Cryil Eugene, Joe Toussaint, Roserita Laparol, Eugenie England, Sonia Herbert.

**AT HOME:** Rita Ledee, Rose Celestine, Martina Lewis, Olivia Gumbs, Ann Bedminster, Bernice Knight, Claudy Brutus, Vernelle Gumbs, Evelyn Simon, Veronica Sealey, Gerard Henry, Grace Thompson, Andrea Victorine, Josephine James, Stanislaus Livepool, Meraldo C. Gonzales, Baby Elizabeth Dolphin, Cynthia Johnrose, Josephine Philbert, Iona Vanterpool, Josefina Donastorg, Owen Johnrose.

**SEAVIEW, MASSAC, LUCINDA MILLIN - NO ONE  
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 agree-  
ments and treat  
others with respect.  
I care about doing  
the right things.*

**WEEKLY ADVERTISEMENTS**

**HOLIDAY MASS TIMES  
CHRISTMAS EVE NIGHT**

**CAROLS - 8:00 P.M.  
MASS - 9:00 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY  
9:00 A.M.**

**OLD YEAR'S NIGHT**

**HOLY HOUR - 8:00 P.M.  
MASS - 9:00 P.M. AND 11:00 P.M.**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY  
9:00 A.M.**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**Tuesday - Friday**

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



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**  
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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 SERVICES/MASSES**

**Funeral Masses at Holy Family Church** are held on the designated day at 10:00 a.m. If you would like a different time please contact the pastor. Tributes and solos are done before the Mass at 9:00 a.m. 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.**

**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**

*Evelina Rene, J'Vante Harrigan, Cedric Heyliger, Mone Petersen, Jah'Sheem Graham, Renisha Clyne, Brandon Bryan, Khalid Merchant, Eurose Conseilleant, Juliana Charles, Monique George, Roberto Monsanto, Celestina Lapena, Meredith Johnson, Emanuel Jn Baptiste, Joseph Toussaint, Jose Velazquez.*

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**

*Steven & Daphne Mayers - Dec. 23  
Matthew & Carmen Laville - Dec. 27*

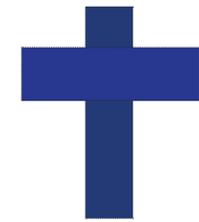


*Lord, bless our parishioners who celebrate their special day this week. Amen!*

**Holy Family Catholic Church  
Welcomes You!**

4th Sunday of Advent - Dec. 22, 2019

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

**In Residence**  
Rev. John Fewel

**Deacon**  
Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney  
Rev. Mr. Evans Doway

**Administrative Assistant**  
Mrs. Allison Callwood

**Sacristan**  
Mr. Ryan John

**Musicians**  
Mr. Francis Callwood  
Mr. Verne Callwood  
Mr. Desmond Simmonds

**Volunteers**  
Ms. Jennifer Johnson  
Mr. Richard Callwood, III

**CHANCERY: BISHOP'S OFFICE**

**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 PM  
Friday: Holy Hour 6PM - 7PM

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

**Readings for the Week  
of December 22, 2019**

Mon.: Malachi 3:1 - 4, 23 - 24;  
Luke 1:57 - 66

Tue.: 2 Sam. 7:1 - 5, 8b - 12, 14a, 16;  
Luke 1:67: - 79

Wed.: Isa. 52:7 - 10; Heb. 1:1-6; John.1:1-18

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

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

Sat.: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2; Matt. 2:13 - 18

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

Sirach 3:2 - 6, 12 - 14  
Colossians 3:12 - 21  
Matthew 2:13 - 15, 19 - 23

## 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

#### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10 - 14

The Lord offered Ahaz a sign. Ahaz answered, "I will not ask! I will not tempt the Lord!" Nevertheless, the Lord gave a sign; "The virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name Him Emmanuel."

#### SECOND READING: Romans 1:1 - 7

Paul told the Romans he was called to be an apostle and set apart to proclaim the gospel of God about Christ Jesus. He said to them, "We have received the grace of apostleship" that we may spread the name and bring to faith all those called to belong to Jesus Christ.

#### GOSPEL READING: Matthew 1:18 - 24

Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they wed, Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph decided to break the engagement. He changed his mind when an angel in a dream told him to receive Mary as his wife.

As we close in on an event that changed the course of history, we hear in the words of scripture how the birth of Jesus fulfilled prophecies from hundreds of years earlier. Isaiah tells the king that a virgin will bear a son, who will come from the house of David and be called Emmanuel, "God is with us." Mary, the Blessed Virgin Mother, and Joseph, of the house of David, willingly agree to God's plan. God is with us as we celebrate the final Sunday of Advent today.

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Jeanne Henderson (*deceased*) rb Marguerite Henderson.

#### Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Alana Joseph rb Victor Joseph.

10:00 AM: In thanksgiving to God for blessings rb Esther Henderson Mellow

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

#### Daily Masses:

Mon. Dec. 23, 7:00 AM: *St. John of Kanty*  
Clarissa and Emily Warrington (*deceased*) rb Lola Warrington.

Tues. Dec. 24, 9:00 PM: *St. Peter Nolasco*  
Birthday blessings for Khalid Merchant rb His family.

11:00 PM: Christmas blessings for Holy Family parishioners.

Wed. Dec. 25, 9:00 AM: **THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (CHRISTMAS)**  
Crescentia (Bezzo) Abraham (*deceased*) rb Her friend Signora Baron.

Thurs. Dec. 26, 7:00 AM: *St. Stephen, First Martyr - Feast*  
God's favor for Marian and John Antoine rb Mary Antoine.

Fri. Dec. 27, 7:00 AM: *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist - Feast*  
God's continued guidance and protection for Phil Mellow rb His mother.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

**ETERNAL CANDLE:** This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *Curtis Abraham (deceased), requested by Eve Ogiste*. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** CCD Classes will resume on **Saturday, January 11, 2020**. Thank you to all who attended the just concluded concert and brought items for the concession to support our youth. We pray God's continued blessings during this season and beyond. Once again, thank you.

**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 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 **9:00 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 **Wednesday, December 25, 2019**, and **Thursday, December 26, 2019, ALL DAY**. The church office will reopen on **Friday, December 27, 2019**. Please be guided

**HOLY FAMILY FEAST DAY:** The Feast of the Holy Family is next **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2019. 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.**

**YOUTH GROUP:** Youth ages 13 years to 19 years are encouraged to participate in a youth group with a difference, beginning on **Friday, January 3, 2020** in Lower Columban Hall, where you will encounter faith, fun and food. Parents are kindly asked to please encourage your young people to be a part of this youth group with a difference, by bringing them out.

**FUNERAL SERVICE/MASS:** Please note that effective **January 1, 2020**, the cost for funerals will be **\$300.00** for registered Holy Family members and **\$500.00** for persons who are not members of Holy Family Church. This price raise is in keeping with the other Catholic churches in St. Thomas. Please be guided accordingly.

**HOLY FAMILY REGISTRATION FORM:** Forms are available at the entrance of the church. Persons who are not registered members of Holy Family church and wish to register as members of Holy Family Church, please find registration forms at the entrance of the church. Thank you for your understanding.

**OFFERTORY ENVELOPES:** Thank you for your generous contribution for the 2019 calendar year. Please note that we have not received our 2020 Offertory envelopes. Kindly be patient with us. As soon as they are received we will put them out. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING. GOD BLESS.**

### LITURGY AND WORD

The first reading is taken from Isaiah 7:10-14. The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel' (Is 7:14). This well-known affirmation by the prophet Isaiah announces the coming of the Messiah into human history. It already gives us a taste of the proximity of that marvelous, stupendous day which will be the 'dies natalis' of Jesus. It was foretold by the prophets and proclaimed throughout the whole of Sacred Scriptures that He would be the One who would fulfil and bring them to completion. Our God will be incarnated and born due to the generous willingness of the 'Virgin' who, from the very beginning of time, was chosen to be the Mother of the Savior.

The second reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 1:1-7. St. Paul opens his letter to the Jewish and Gentile converts of Rome, the first generation of Christians in the capital city of the empire, by stating that he is an Apostle chosen by Christ to spread the good news of the Incarnation. He calls this news "the Gospel of God," for it is an account of that almost incredible act of God's love for us. God sent his divine Son, as man among us in this work, in order that we might be with the three divine Persons for all eternity in the next world.

The Gospel is from Matthew 1:18-24. "How unsearchable are the judgements of God and how inscrutable his ways!" as St. Paul says to the Romans (11 :33). If God had preserved the kingdom of Judah (which he could so easily have done), and if the Messiah, the son of David, were to be born in the royal palace in Jerusalem, it would be natural and we would almost say, more fitting the dignity of the Messiah. Instead, God allowed the kingly line, and the throne of Judah, to disappear, and he chose a humble carpenter of Nazareth, a true descendant of David but a lowly one, to be the foster-father of his divine Son, when he took human nature and came on earth to "dwell among us." But God's ways are not our ways. It is not by their social standing, nor by their bank-accounts, that God values men. Virtue is the scale he uses when weighing men. In God's eyes, no king sat on the throne of Judah, not even David himself, who was more acceptable to God as foster-father for his Son, than the carpenter of Nazareth.

### 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: **346**

#### Last Weekend's collections

**FIRST COLLECTION: \$4,257.00**

**Christmas Flowers: \$1,052.38**

**Our Bishop's Appeal contribution for 2019 amounted to \$36,488.00, 91% 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

This is the last Sunday of our preparation for Christmas, the anniversary of Christ's birth. Like Joseph, we can all feel unworthy of the honor of welcoming him into our hearts and our homes. We are indeed unworthy, not because we have little of this world's goods, but because we have so little humility, so little charity, so little faith and trust in God's goodness. Let us try to imitate Joseph and Mary, the humblest of the humble, the kindest of the kindly, and the greatest-ever believers in God's goodness and mercy. We can never hope to equal them, but we can follow them humbly, from afar.

The feast of Christmas should draw the hearts of every child of God towards the furnace of divine love. In the manger, the infinite love of God for us miserable sinners is dramatically and forcefully portrayed before our eyes. In that helpless Baby, represented by a statue, we know that the person, and the power, of the omnipotent Creator and sustainer of the universe lie hidden "He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" for us. He became a creature, like ourselves, so that he would make us sharers in his divine nature. He came on earth to bring us to heaven. He hid his divine nature so that he could cover us with it.

"Unsearchable indeed are the judgements of God, and inscrutable his ways." But though we are unworthy of his infinite love, it nevertheless stands out as clear as the noonday sun in the Incarnation. We realize that we can never make ourselves worthy of this infinite love, but let us imitate Joseph and accept the honor which God is giving us, as we trust that he will continue to make us daily less unworthy.