

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1 - 3

The Lord invites all who are thirsty to "Come to the water!" God asks the people to take heed, that they may drink wine and milk, eat well, and delight in the rich fare of the everlasting covenant.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:35, 37 - 39

Nothing, not even death, can separate the faithful from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 14:13 - 21

Huge crowds followed Jesus. He felt compassion for them and healed the sick. He saw that they were hungry and, rather than send them away empty, he gave them bread and fish in abundance.

"The hand of the Lord feeds us," we sing in today's responsorial psalm, and today's readings attest to this proclamation. In Isaiah, the Lord invites everyone to share in food and drink. In the Gospel, Jesus invites the crowds to stay and feeds thousands with five loaves and two fish. Neither hunger nor thirst, poverty nor want, famine nor distress can separate us from the love and generosity of the Lord. Let us listen to God's word knowing that we are invited to the feast as well.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Birthday blessings for Sherica Alfred rb Urelca Jn Baptiste.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Doreen Charles rb Her family.

10:00 AM: God's peace and healing for Joseph and Bridget Toussaint rb St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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

Daily Masses:

Tues. Aug. 4, 7:00 AM: **St. John Mary Vianney**
Authur Rene (*deceased*) rb The Rene family.

Wed. Aug. 5, 7:00 AM: **Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major**
Idelta Abraham (*deceased*) rb The Children of Mary.

Thurs. Aug. 6, 7:00 AM: **Transfiguration of the Lord - Feast**
God's healing and deliverance for John Udes George
rb his brothers & sisters and Derreck Davis and family.

Fri. Aug. 7, 5:00 PM: **St. Cajetan**
Anniversary blessings for Yvonne and Harry Freeman
rb Yvonne Freeman.

BE SAFE! WEAR A MASK! WASH YOUR HANDS!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO WEAR YOUR MASKS AT ALL TIMES AND SOCIAL DISTANCING IS STILL IN EFFECT.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning *for anniversary blessings for Yvonne and Harry Freeman, requested by Yvonne Freeman.* You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: This **Sunday, August 2, 2020**, First Communion will be at the 10:00 a.m. mass. All children and guardians should be in church by 9:30 a.m. Thank you to all parents, Ms. Marguerite Rene, Ms. Shirlin Brown, Ms. Kathleen Thompson and all volunteers for your cooperation during the 2019/2020 Liturgical year.

Congratulations to: **Kenia Dyer, Vashanti Francis, Amayah Hodge, Donovan Isaac, Chamia Jackson, Niara Johnson, Clayton McCleary, Josiah Rene, Darion Stanislaus, Berticia Toussaint, Cory Watkins and Walter Watkins.**

MASS CHANGES: Beginning **August 3, 2020**, there will be **NO MONDAY weekday masses** at Holy Family Church. Masses will be celebrated at **7:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.** However, on **Wednesdays, Holy Hour (1 hour) with Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the 7:00 a.m. mass.** On **Fridays** mass will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. followed with **Holy Hour with Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Please be guided accordingly.

DEATH OF DEACON NORBERT XAVIER: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Deacon Norbert Xavier**, who passed away on **Thursday, July 16, 2020.** Deacon Xavier served at St. Ann's Church, Kingshill, St. Croix. The funeral mass will take place on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020** at St. Ann's Church at 10:00 a.m. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and the Deacons, Rev. Msgr. Jerome Feudjio extends sincere sympathy to Francesca Alcendor and family on the passing of her brother, **Anthony Alcendor**, who died on **Monday, July 27, 2020, on the Mainland.** A funeral service is pending. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

ADORATION: There is adoration on **Wednesdays after the 7:00 a.m. mass** and on **Fridays, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Please be guided accordingly.

CASSI HILL: In lieu of our annual Cassi Hill procession and in observance of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on **Sunday, August 16, 2020**, devotion will take place **after the 7:30 a.m. mass and the 10:00 a.m. mass.** Please be guided accordingly. Our Lady of Cassi Hill, pray for us.

CONFIRMATION: Please be informed that the Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on **Sunday, September 13, 2020.** In the meantime, put your trust in the Lord and step out in faith to take your children to Mass and continue your instructions at home. Thank you and God bless!

FUNERAL SERVICE: In compliance with the Government's guidelines and the Department of Health, we must emphasize that funeral services here at Holy Family are for registered active parishioners only and their immediate family. We would, however, assist any family with the burial at the cemetery. Please be guided accordingly and thank you for your understanding.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands is committed to protecting children from all harm. If you have knowledge of any member of the clergy or other church worker who may have abused a minor, please contact the diocesan child protection coordinator, **Callista Julien** at 340-772-4214.

LITURGY AND WORD

Meditation: What can truly satisfy our deepest hunger and longing? Wherever Jesus went multitudes of people gathered to meet him - people from every part of society - rich and poor, professionals and laborers, even social outcasts and pagans. What drew them to Jesus? Were they simply curious or looking for a healing? Many were drawn to Jesus because they were hungry for God. Jesus' message of God's kingdom and the signs and wonders he performed stirred fresh hope and expectation that God was acting in a new and powerful way to set people free from sin and oppression and to bring them the blessings of his kingdom.

God never rests in caring for our needs
Jesus never disappointed those who earnestly sought him out. We see a marvelous example of this when Jesus and his twelve disciples got into the boat to seek out a lonely place for some rest along the lake of Galilee, only to discover a crowd of a few thousand people had already gathered in anticipation of their arrival! Did Jesus' disciples resent this intrusion on their plan to rest awhile? Jesus certainly didn't - he welcomed them with open-arms. His compassion showed the depths of God's love and care for his people. Jesus spoke the word of God to strengthen them in faith and he healed many who were sick.

God multiplies the little we have to bring great blessing to others

As evening approached the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away. Jesus, instead, commanded his disciples to feed the whole crowd. Why did Jesus expect his disciples to do what seemed impossible - to feed such a large and hungry crowd when there was no adequate provision in sight? Jesus very likely wanted to test their faith and to give them a sign of God's divine intervention and favor for his people. Jesus took the little they had - five loaves and two fish - and giving thanks to his heavenly Father, distributed to all until they were satisfied of their hunger. Twelve baskets full of fish and loaves that were leftover show the overflowing generosity of God's gifts to us - gifts that bring blessing, healing, strength, and refreshment.

Bread from heaven to sustain us on our journey

Jesus' feeding of the five thousand is the only miracle recorded in all four Gospel accounts (Luke 9:10-17, Mark 6:34-44, John 6:51-58, Matthew 14:13-21). What is the significance of this

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: **178**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$2,368.20

Thank you for your weekly contribution. We pray God's continued blessings upon you and your family. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

miracle? The miraculous feeding of such a great multitude recalled the miraculous provision of manna in the wilderness under Moses' leadership and intercession for his people (Exodus 16). The daily provision of food for the people of Israel during their forty years of journeying in the barren wilderness foreshadowed the true heavenly bread which Jesus would pass on to his disciples at his last supper meal on the eve of his sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus makes a claim which only God can make: He is the true bread of heaven that can satisfy the deepest hunger we experience (John 6:32-35). The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves, when Jesus said the blessing, broke and distributed the loaves through his disciples to feed the multitude, is a sign that prefigures the superabundance of the unique bread of the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper which sustains us on our journey to the kingdom of heaven.

God multiplies the little we have so we can bring his blessing to others

The feeding of the five thousand shows the remarkable generosity of God and his great kindness towards us. When God gives, he gives abundantly. He gives more than we need for ourselves that we may have something to share with others, especially those who lack what they need. God takes the little we have and multiplies it for the good of others. Do you trust in God's provision for you and do you share freely with others, especially those who lack?

"Lord Jesus Christ, you satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts and you feed us with the finest of wheat (Psalm 81:16). Fill me with gratitude for your blessings and give me a generous heart that I may freely share with others what you have given to me."