

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Isaiah 22:19 - 23

The Lord's servant will receive the key of the House of David. What the servant does, God confirms.

SECOND READING: Romans 11:33 - 36

The riches, wisdom, and knowledge of God are too deep for humans to fathom. God's judgments are inscrutable and unsearchable. All things come from God, through God and for God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:13 - 20

At Caesarea Philippi, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Then he gave to Peter the keys to heaven's reign. Finally, Jesus ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. Jesus poses a question to his disciples today: "Who do you say that I am?" Throughout our lives we have learned about Jesus from parents and teachers, from the word of God we hear proclaimed each week, from those in who we see the face of Christ in our world. Peter's answer is that Jesus is the Christ (literally, the Messiah), the Son of the living God. Let us contemplate our own answer as we listen to today's readings.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Diana Hermon (*deceased*) rb The Children of Mary.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Rudy Blanchard (*deceased*) rb The Children of Mary.

10:00 AM: God's healing for Roserita Laparol and Milue Casimir rb St. Vincent de Paul Society.

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

Daily Masses:

Tues. Aug. 25, 7:00 AM: **St. Louis and St. Joseph Calasanz**
Anthony Alcendor (*deceased*) and Lennox Timothy (*deceased*)
rb Francesca Alcendor.

Wed. Aug. 26, 7:00 AM: **St. Elizabeth Bichier**
Birthday blessings for Irene Morris rb The Delgado family.

Birthday blessings for Lizzette Anthoine rb Urelca Jn Baptiste.

Thurs. Aug. 27, 7:00 AM: **St. Monica**
Birthday blessings for Miranda Jones rb The Johnson family.

Fri. Aug. 28, 5:00 PM: **St. Augustine**
Kathleen Farro (*deceased*) rb Estelle Farro.

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 Mable Pierre (deceased) requested by her daughter-in-law, Mavis Pierre.* You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

PLEASE PRAY: Parishioners are kindly asked to please keep Bishop Herbert Bevard in prayers. He is hospitalized at Duke University Hospital in North Carolina.

CASSI HILL: Sincere thanks to the Children of Mary and the Legion of Mary members who led us in last Sunday's devotion after the 7:30 a.m. and the 10:00 a.m. masses respectively. We pray God's continue blessings and Our Lady of Cassi Hill protection. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS: Holy Family Church wishes to congratulate, **Reverend Mr. Michael Jackson, Sr.**, who was ordained to the Diaconate last **Sunday, August 16, 2020**, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. John. Once again, congratulations and all of God's continued blessings to **Deacon Michael Jackson, Sr.**, and his family.

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES: Please be reminded that blue and red globes are provided for you to place your candles. If the globes are all filled, please refrain from putting your candles on the shelf of our Blessed Mother and the shelf of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and the Deacons, Rev. Msgr. Jerome Feudjio extends sincere sympathy to Yvonne Brutus and family on the passing of her husband, **Claudy Brutus**, who died on **Saturday, August 1, 2020.** **Viewing will be held at Hurley's Funeral Home on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** The funeral service for the late **Claudy Brutus**, will take place on **Thursday, August 27, 2020**, at 10:00 a.m. **at Hurley's Funeral Home.** May his soul and the souls of 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 Jose Encarnacion, Sr. and family on the passing of his son **Jose Encarnacion, Jr.**, who died on **Tuesday, August 4, 2020.** The funeral service for the late **Jose Encarnacion, Jr.** will take place on **Friday, September 4, 2020**, at 10:00 a.m. **at Hurley's Funeral Home.** May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

FUNERAL SERVICE: To continue to adhere to the guidelines issued by the CDC and the Department of Health, and with that in mind, we must emphasize that our Funeral Services are for Registered Active parishioners only and is limited to **ten (10)** immediate family members. We would, however, assist any family with the burial at the cemetery. Please be guided accordingly.

2020-2021 SCHOOL REGISTRATION: Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School is accepting student registration for the 2020-2021 Academic Year. Please call 340-774-2199 to schedule testing or for additional information, space is limited.

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: At an opportune time Jesus tests his disciples with a crucial question: Who do men say that I am and who do you say that I am? He was widely recognized in Israel as a mighty man of God, even being compared with the greatest of the prophets, John the Baptist, Elijah, and Jeremiah. Peter, always quick to respond, exclaimed that he was the Christ, the Son of the living God. No mortal being could have revealed this to Peter; but only God.

Cyril of Alexandria (376-444 AD), an early church father comments on Peter's profession of faith in Jesus: Peter did not say "you are a Christ" or "a son of God" but "the Christ, the Son of God." For there are many christs [meaning anointed ones] by grace, who have attained the rank of adoption [as sons], but [there is] only one who is by nature the Son of God. Thus, using the definite article, he said, the Christ, the Son of God. And in calling him Son of the living God, Peter indicates that Christ himself is life and that death has no authority over him. And even if the flesh, for a short while, was weak and died, nevertheless it rose again, since the Word, who indwelt it, could not be held under the bonds of death. (FRAGMENT 190)

Jesus plays on Peter's name which is the same word for "rock" in both Aramaic and Greek. To call someone a "rock" is one of the greatest of compliments. The ancient rabbis had a saying that when God saw Abraham, he exclaimed: "I have discovered a rock to found the world upon". Through Abraham God established a nation for himself. Through faith Peter grasped who Jesus truly was. He was the first apostle to recognize Jesus as the Anointed One (Messiah and Christ) and the only begotten Son of God. The New Testament describes the church as a spiritual house or temple with each member joined together as living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5). Faith in Jesus Christ makes us into rocks or spiritual stones.

Jesus then confers on Peter authority to govern the church that Jesus would build, a church that no powers would overcome because it is founded on the rock which is Christ himself. Epiphanius, a 6th century Scripture scholar who also translated many early church commentaries from Greek into Latin, explains the significance of Jesus handing down the "keys of the kingdom":

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: **154**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$2,022.00

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

For Christ is a rock which is never disturbed or worn away. Therefore Peter gladly received his name from Christ to signify the established and unshaken faith of the church... The devil is the gateway of death who always hastens to stir up against the holy church calamities and temptations and persecutions. But the faith of the apostle, which was founded upon the rock of Christ, abides always unconquered and unshaken. And the very keys of the kingdom of the heavens have been handed down so that one whom he has bound on earth has been bound in heaven, and one whom he has set free on earth he has also set free in heaven. (INTERPRETATION OF THE GOSPELS 28)

The Lord Jesus offers us the gift of unshakeable faith, enduring hope, and unquenchable love - and the joyful boldness to proclaim him as the one true Savior who brings us the kingdom of God both now and forever. Who do you say he is to yourself and to your neighbor?

"Lord Jesus, I profess and believe that you are the Christ, the Son of the living God. You are my Lord and my Savior. Make my faith strong like Peter's and give me boldness to speak of you to others that they may come to know you personally as Lord and Savior and grow in the knowledge of your great love."

Keep Calm
my Friends
and Have
a Blessed
SUNDAY