

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7 - 9

Jeremiah only reluctantly spoke God's prophetic word. He tried to hold back, but the word burned like fire in his heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 12:1 - 2

Paul urged the Romans to offer their bodies to God as a living sacrifice and not to conform to this age but to be transformed by God.

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 16:21 - 27

Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."
When Jeremiah heard the word of the Lord, it burned so fiercely in his heart that he had to proclaim it, even though it bought him derision and reproach. We have the opportunity to hear the word of the Lord every time we celebrate the Eucharist. Does it burn a fire within our hearts? Does it leave us with no choice but to proclaim it? Does it transform our lives? Or have we forgotten it by the time Mass is over? Let us open our hearts today to the word of God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Bernice Galloway (*deceased*) rb The Children of Mary.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Jada George rb Cleopha Rawlings.

10:00 AM: God's protection and guidance for the Louis and Maynard families.

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

Daily Masses:

Tues. Sept. 1, 7:00 AM: *St. Giles*
Rene Doute (*deceased*) rb The Doute family.

Wed. Sept. 2, 7:00 AM: *Blessed John DuLau & the September Martyrs*
Violet Holder (*deceased*) rb The Children of Mary.

Thurs. Sept. 3, 7:00 AM: *St. Gregory the Great*
Rose and Richard Cook (*deceased*) rb Estelle Farro.

Fri. Sept. 4, 5:00 PM: *St. Rose of Viterbo*
Birthday blessings for Tyrone Roy Hodge rb Cleopha Rawlings.

#WASHYOURHANDS #SOCIALDISTANCING #WEARMASK #CRUSHCOVID19

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 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.

PLEASE PRAY: Parishioners are kindly asked to please keep Bishop Herbert Bevard in prayers and may God grant him the graces for a full recovery, the peace of His presence and the comfort of His love. Amen.
All personal cards of get well wishes and prayers to Bishop Bevard can be sent to the following address:

The Most Reverend Herbert A. Bevard
1801 Grace Street
Wilmington NC 28405-2751

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 Holy Family Church**. Viewing will precede the service at 9:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

ON LINE GIVING OR DONATION: Easy, Secure Giving

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings automated? Holy Family Church makes donating seamless by allowing your gifts to be made electronically from your bank account, debit or credit card.

Please consider setting up a recurring gift by visiting our website at: www.holyfamilystt.com Thank you!

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.

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.

MEDIA MINISTRY: We are seeking young interested volunteers to join the Media Ministry please contact Mr. Francis Callwood at 340-998-6403.

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 is the way to glory and victory in the kingdom of God? Jesus told his disciples that he must first suffer rejection, be crucified, and then rise again on the third day. In so many words he explained that there could be no victory and no glory without the cross. Jesus' prediction of his suffering and death on the cross caused his disciples great dismay and disbelief. Peter, who was often the first to react to whatever Jesus had to say, wanted to protect Jesus from any threat or harm. That is why he rebuked the very thought of Jesus having to face rejection, condemnation, and crucifixion.

"My way or God's way"

Why did Jesus use the word "Satan" when he addressed Peter? When Jesus went out into the wilderness to prepare for his public ministry, Satan came to tempt him to follow a different path than the one chosen by the Father in heaven. Now Jesus recognizes in Peter's response another temptation to seek a different and less costly path for accomplishing his mission than the way of the cross. The word "Satan" literally means "adversary" - one who stands in opposition. Jesus reminds Peter that his role is not to be an adversary but a disciple - one who gets behind his Master to follow with trust and obedience.

Victory and glory through the cross

Jesus knew that the cross was the only way he could ransom us from slavery to sin with the price of his blood which was shed for our freedom. Through his sacrificial death on the cross, Jesus defeated Satan who held us in bondage to sin and condemnation. And Jesus defeated the power of death and overcame the grave through his resurrection. Through his obedience to his heavenly Father's will, Jesus reversed the curse of Adam's disobedience. His death on the cross won pardon for the guilty, freedom for the oppressed, healing for the afflicted, and new life for those condemned to death. His death makes possible our freedom to live as the adopted sons and daughters of the merciful Father in heaven.

The paradox of God's economy

Jesus told his disciples that they, too, must be willing to lay down their lives in order to gain new everlasting life with the Father in his kingdom. There's a certain paradox in God's economy. We lose what we gain, and we gain what we lose. When we try to run our life our own way, we end up losing it to futility. Only God

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: **000**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: **\$0,000.00**

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

can free us from our ignorant and sinful ways. When we surrender our lives to God, he gives us new life in his Spirit and the pledge of eternal life. God wants us to be spiritually fit and ready to do his will at all times. When the human body is very weak or ill, we make every effort to nurse it back to health. How much more effort and attention should we give to the spiritual health of our hearts and minds!

The great exchange

What will you give to God in exchange for freedom and eternal life? Are you ready to part with anything that might keep you from following the Lord Jesus and his perfect plan for your life? Jesus poses these questions to challenge our assumptions about what is most profitable and worthwhile in life. In every decision of life we are making ourselves a certain kind of person. It is possible that some can gain all the things they have set their heart on, only to wake up suddenly and discover that they missed the most important thing of all. Of what value are material things if they don't help you gain what truly lasts for eternity. Neither money nor possessions can buy heaven, mend a broken heart, or cheer a lonely person.

Losing all to gain all with Jesus Christ

A true disciple gladly gives up all that he or she has in exchange for an unending life of joy and happiness with God. God gives without measure. The joy he offers no sadness or loss can diminish. The cross of Jesus Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death. What is the cross which Jesus Christ commands me to take up each day? When my will crosses with his will, then his will must be done. Are you ready to lose all for Jesus Christ in order to gain all with Jesus Christ?

"Take, Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and all my will, all that I have and possess. You have given them to me; to you, O Lord, I restore them; all things are yours, dispose of them according to your will. Give me your love and your grace, for this is enough for me." (Prayer of Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556)