

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:25 - 28

The Lord spoke through Ezekiel: "Hear now, house of Israel ... if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life."

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1 - 11

Paul quoted an ancient hymn: "Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every other name."

GOSPEL READING: Matthew 21:28 - 32

Jesus said that outcasts enter God's reign because of faith but not the righteous who lack repentance: "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." Ezekiel exhorts his audience to turn back to God, that in so doing they will save their lives. Jesus tells the chief priests and the elders that those who obey God will enter the kingdom of God. Paul suggests a model in Jesus, who humbled himself to do his Father's will. Let us listen to the word of God, asking for God's mercy for our failings and God's grace to change our minds and hearts.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: Kathleen Farro (*deceased*) rb Estelle Farro.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Fr. Neil Scantlebury
rb Maureen Petersen.

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

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

Daily Masses:

Tues. Sept. 29, 7:00 AM: *Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael*
God's blessings and healing for the children at St. Jude Hospital.

Wed. Sept. 30, 7:00 AM: *St. Jerome*
Birthday blessings for Bobby rb Paula and Bernadette.

Thurs. Oct. 1, 7:00 AM: *St. Therese of the Child Jesus*
Birthday blessings for Deborah Riviere rb Her mother.

Fri. Oct. 2, 5:00 PM: *The Holy Guardian Angels*
God's deliverance, healing and blessings for the staff and volunteers of Holy Family Church.

#WASHYOURHANDS #SOCIALDISTANCING #WEARAMASK #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 continued guidance and blessings for the Haitian community.* You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

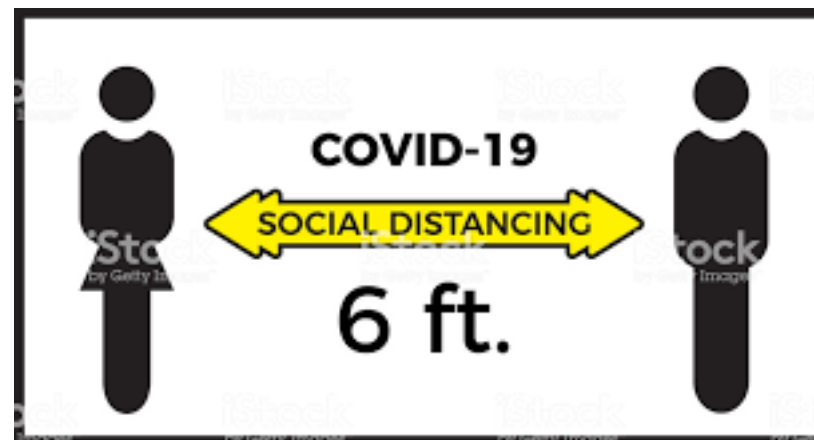
FOOD FOR THE POOR: This weekend we will collect non-perishable items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters within our community. As always, we thank you for your generosity, and may God continue to bless you and your family abundantly.

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!

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly François and the Deacons, Rev. Msgr. Jerome Feudjio extends sincere sympathy to Verne Callwood and family on the passing of his brother **Horace Callwood**, who died on **Friday, September 11, 2020.** The funeral service for the late **Horace Callwood**, will take place on **Wednesday, September 30, 2020**, at Holy Family church at 9:00 a.m. Viewing will precede the service at 8:00 a.m. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen. Social distancing and the wearing of masks must be observed.

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 are limited to **fifty (50)** persons. We would, however, assist any family with the burial at the cemetery. Please be guided accordingly.



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 kind of future are you preparing for? Jesus encourages us to think - to think about the consequences of our choices, especially the choices and decisions that will count not just for now but for eternity as well. The choices we make now will affect and shape our future, both our future on earth as well as in the life of the age to come.

Repaying a debt of gratitude and showing respect where it is due

Jesus tells a simple story of two imperfect sons to illustrate the way of God's kingdom. The father amply provided for his sons food, lodging, and everything they needed. Everything the father had belonged to them as well. The father also rewarded his sons with excellent work in his own vineyard. He expected them to show him gratitude, loyalty, and honor by doing their fair share of the daily work.

Converting both heart and will to do what is good and pleasing to God

The "rebellious" son told his father to his face that he would not work for him. But afterwards he changed his mind and did what his father commanded him. The "good" son said he would work for his father, but didn't follow through. He sought his own pleasure, contrary to his father's will. Now who was really the good son? Both sons disobeyed their father - but one repented and then did what the father told him. Jesus makes his point clear - Good intentions are not enough. And promises don't count unless they are performed.

A transformed heart filled with gratitude and respect

God wants to change our hearts so that we will show by our speech and by our actions that we respect his will and do it. God offers each one of us the greatest treasure possible - indestructible peace, joy, and friendship with him in his everlasting kingdom. We can lose that treasure if we refuse the grace - the free gift of God's blessing and strength - which the Lord Jesus has won for us through his victory on the cross. The Lord Jesus fills us with the gift of the Holy

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: \$2,604.00

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 CONT'D

Spirit who works in and through us for the glory of God. Do you seek to please God and respect his will and loving plan for your life? Allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with the peace, joy, and righteousness of God's kingdom (**Romans 14:17**).

"Lord Jesus, change my heart that I may only desire that which is pleasing to you. Help me to respect your will and give me the strength, joy and perseverance to carry it out wholeheartedly."

