



**Saint Thomas
Diocese**

Holy Family Catholic Church

394-213 Hidden Valley, St. Thomas
U.S. Virgin Islands 00802
Telephone: (340) 775-1650
Website: www.holyfamilystt.com
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**Holy Family
Church**



Mass Schedule

Monday No Mass
Tuesday – Friday.....7:00 a.m.
Saturday (**Vigil**).....6:00 p.m.
Sunday: 7:30 a.m & 10:00 a.m. English
5:00 p.m. Creole/French

Devotions

Holy Hour

Wednesday following Holy Mass

Novena Holy Mass to O.L.P.H.

Wednesday..... 7:00 a.m.

Novena Holy Mass to Sacred Heart

First Friday..... 7:00 a.m.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou
(340) 203-0607

Admin. Assistant: Ms. Carmen A. White

Accountant: Ms. Penrose Gardiner

Religious Ed. Director: Ms. M. René

Music Director: Mr. Francis Callwood

Sacristans

Ms. Francesca Alcendor Ms. Silia Erilis
Ms. Beulah Babulal Mr. Austin Walters
Mr. Julio Comperè

Office Hours:

Mon – Fri: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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.

Faith and Scripture

We are a Roman Catholic family united in the Grace and peace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and we are a parish who believe and live the word of God as the truth that shepherds us.

Family and Service

We believe family relationship is important and vow to do all we can to champion Christian family values.

Worship and Sacrifice

We build the Kingdom of God's Love by proclaiming His Words, spreading Catholic Devotions, celebrating the Sacraments, and sharing the Eucharist; we surrender our lives to Christ as a sacrifice of praise, laying down our lives as He did.

Summary

We promise to preach what we practice and practice what we preach:

"Love God and love your neighbor as yourself."

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

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WEEKLY REFLECTION

First Reading: Sirach 27:30—28:7

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

REFLECTION, By Father Modeste

Theme: Always forgive, always forgive

Beloved in Christ Jesus,

On this 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A, the Word of God, and more particularly today's gospel, prescribes mutual forgiveness and manifests God's mercy. This is a continuation of last Sunday's Gospel according to St. Matthew, which spoke of fraternal correction.

"How many times must I forgive him?"

Jesus answers, **"Up to 70 times seven."** He's telling us that we can always forgive. Forgiveness is a loving response to the evil we suffer. Until forgiveness is given, we suffer from resentment and hatred: "If you go to Mass and have something against your brother, go and be reconciled to him," says Jesus, Matthew 5:23. The devil haunts our thoughts of anger and vengeance, and sows confusion in our minds to the point of making us ill; but he is powerless before the power of forgiveness. Once we've tasted the joy and freedom that forgiveness brings, we don't hesitate for a moment.

"Shouldn't you, in turn, have had pity on your companion, as I had had pity on you?"

These words are mine. Christ has taken upon Himself all my faults. He has paid all my debts and "forgotten the evil I did to him" (Jeremiah 31:34), because He wants us to be like Him, pure and free in our hearts.

If we don't call Him, it's because we've forgotten what He's done for us, and we don't know what He can still do!

When resentment and sadness inhabit our human will, we must call for the reign of His divine will within us. Christ will make us like Him and give us His peace.

"The man who forgives or asks for forgiveness understands that there is a truth greater than himself." —Saint John Paul II

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God renews us in the grace of Baptism. We rediscover our place as children of God. Beyond sin, God repeats his tenderness. His forgiveness gives us a new heart and teaches us to love again. The risen Christ deposits his Spirit within us, restoring us to fraternity.

On this day, Lord, we entrust to you our desire for forgiveness.

Through your Eucharist, help us to overcome our fragility. Give us strength and courage to love as you do and forgive as you do. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY: (no Mass) 1 Tm 2:1-8
Lk 7:1-10

TUESDAY: 1 Tm 3:1-13
Lk 7:11-17

WEDNESDAY: 1 Tm 3:14-16
Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs Lk 7:31-35

THURSDAY: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Feast of St. Matthew, Apostle and evangelist Mt 9:9-13

FRIDAY: 1 Tm 6:2c-12
Lk 8:1-3

SATURDAY: 1 Tm 6:13-16
St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest Lk 8:4-15

NEXT SUNDAY: Is 55:6-9
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Phil 1:20c-24, 27a
Mt 20:1-16a

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, September 16

6:00 PM † **Holy Souls in Purgatory** → rb Denise La Place

SUNDAY, September 17

7:30 AM ♥ **Mr. & Mrs. Josette Baly** → 60th anniversary blessings rb the St. Joseph Workers

10:00 AM – **Tyria Stewart, MaKayla René, & Aegan René** → Birthday blessings rb the René family
– **Yvonne Freeman** → Birthday blessings rb her daughter, grandchildren, & husband

5:00 PM – **Jamineka Rafael** → Birthday blessings rb her father, Jacky
– **Lala Comperè** → Birthday blessings rb Silia Erilis

MONDAY, September 18 → NO MASS

TUESDAY, September 19

7:00 AM – **Marva Williams** → Birthday blessings rb her dad, Bobby Williams

WEDNESDAY, September 20

7:00 AM † **Olga Detoy & Alvera Roberts** → Repose of Souls rb the Rouse family

THURSDAY, September 21

7:00 AM † **Kathleen Thompson** → Repose of Soul
† **Cyril "Mezzo" Battiste** → Repose of Soul

FRIDAY, September 22

7:00 AM † **Mauritzer Gumbs** → Repose of Soul

SATURDAY, September 23

6:00 PM † **Anna Stridiron** → Repose of Soul rb the Johnson family

Announcements



Seven Days Sanctuary Lamp Devotion

The **Sanctuary Lamp** which burns in the Sanctuary of our church, the reminder of the Lord's Presence in the Most Holy Eucharist, will burn from **September 16th to September 22nd** for birthday blessings and God's continued guidance and protection for **Malik Foy**, requested by the home circle.

Altar Flowers: Parishioners are encouraged to assist in beautifying the church by sponsoring flowers for any special event. Please contact the office of your intent.

Women's Retreat: St. Anne's Parish is hosting a women's retreat **Saturday, September 23, 2023** from **10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. Get ready for a spiritually enriching experience with fellow women of faith. Confessions will start at **9:30 AM**.

CCD Program: The CCD Program for the calendar year 2023 – 2024 began on Saturday, September 16. The deadline to register a child for Sacramental preparation is **Saturday, September 30**; the Child Safety Workshop will be conducted. Parents are urged to return completed registration forms to the church office as soon as possible. The Baptismal certificate should be attached to the form if you are registering the child for the first time.

Holy Archangels Triduum: There will be a triduum prayer of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael following the 7:00 am Masses from **Wednesday, September 27** through **Friday, September 29, 2023**. There will also be a Mass at **6:00 PM** on **Friday, September 29**.

Life in the Spirit Seminar: Holy Family Church, in conjunction with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, will be conducting a 7 week Life in the Spirit Seminar to begin on **Monday, October 16, 2023** and end on **Monday, December 4, 2023**. The goal of this seminar is to introduce the Holy Spirit to those in the community who have not yet experienced his love and his power in their lives. The Lord is calling us into a deeper relationship with him. Come and experience his love. Forms can be obtained from the back of the church.

Non-Perishable Food Items: Non-perishable food items will be collected **next weekend** at each Holy Mass during offertory. Proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities and shut-ins of our Parish. We thank you for your generosity.

Liturgical Master Schedule for October: Leaders of Liturgical Ministries are requested to submit their respective schedules for October via the Church email by **Wednesday, September 20**. We thank you for your cooperation.

Necrologium: Holy Family Parish Community extends sincere sympathy to **Clemencia Jules** and family on the passing of her husband, **Claudius Benoit Jules**, who died on Saturday, September 2, 2023 at age 79. His funeral service will take place on **Thursday, September 21, 2023** at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Church. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Parish Information

Sacrament of Baptism

Fourth Sunday of each month. Please register your children at the Church Office. Present a copy of the child(ren)'s birth certificate(s). A minimum of 2 classes is required.

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) Classes

Classes are held every Saturday during the school year and begin with attendance and instruction in the lower level of Columban Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) Classes

RCIA is the journey of faith by which interested persons become members of the Roman Catholic Church. The program instructs adults to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church through Baptism and/or Confirmation and Holy Communion. To register, please call the church office at (340) 775-1650.

Sacrament of Penance

Confession is the sacrament that allows us to admit our faults and develop humility, but the most profound part is we get to experience Christ's gift of mercy.

Confession is available every day by appointment.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

Please call the church office at (340) 775-1650 whenever a family member or friend is seriously ill or hospitalized.

Funerals

All funeral services begin at 10:00 a.m. No funerals are held on weekends. Arrangements must be made with the Church before funeral arrangements with the funeral home. Viewing in church is now available. However, we encourage viewing at funeral home.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please make arrangements with the Pastor 6 months before your wedding by calling the church office.

Parish Registration

Parishioners who are 18 years and older are invited to register at the Church Office as well as become active and contributing members. We would like to maintain an up-to-date listing of all Holy Family parishioners. Registration also helps in providing quick services for the request and proof of miscellaneous church letters for individuals, Baptism, Confirmation, etc.

Necrologium, continued

Holy Family Parish Community extends sincere sympathy to **Kent Bellot** and family on the passing of his father, **Joseph Robinson Bellot**, who died on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at age 81 in Miami, Florida. His funeral service will take place on **Friday, September 29, 2023** at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Church. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Church announcements must be submitted to the Church Office via email by Tuesday.

Pray For the Sick & Shut-ins

OFF ISLAND: Helen Bruney, Eugenie England, Juliana George, Rose George, Olivia Gumbs, Thomas Johnson, Mary Lewis, Veronica Sealey, Joseph Toussaint

AT HOME: Carol Baron, Philomen Baron, James Bellot, Rose Celestine, Baby Elizabeth Dolphin, Maggie Dolphin, John George, Meraldo C. Gonzales, Vernelle Gumbs, Gerard Henry, Mercedes Hodge, Cynthia Johnrose, Owen Johnrose, Pauline Jolly, Bernice Knight, Rita Ledee, Cleopha Rawlings, Evelyn Simon, Keith Steele, Paquita Steele, Anthony Stridiron Sr., Iona Vanterpool.

EBENEZER HOME: Cleota Hill.

(Please call the Church Office to add or remove names to/from this list)

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Restoration Fund September 2-3
Monthly School Support September 9-10
Property Insurance September 16-17
Security Fence September 16-17
Capital Improvements September 23-24

Prayer During Hurricane Season

(To be said after Dismissal)

God our Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. Keep us safe from the danger of hurricanes and all the natural disasters. Let us always feel the presence of your love. May we be secure in your protection and turn our tears into praise of your goodness. Grant this through Christ our Lord. 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.

Church Attendance: 308 persons attended Holy Mass last weekend.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings

OFFERING: \$3,581.25

6:00 PM: \$667.00 7:30 AM: \$1,734.25

10:00 AM: \$982.00 5:00 PM: \$198.00

SECOND COLLECTION: \$1,118.00

CHILDREN'S COLLECTION: \$12.00

SECURITY FENCE TOTAL: \$45,745.80

Online giving can be made through our website at:

www.holyfamilystt.com

Thank you for your generosity!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me. Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me. Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me. O good Jesus, hear me.
Within Thy sacred wounds hide me. Suffer me not to be separated from Thee.
From the wicked enemy defend me. In the hour of my death call me and bid me come to Thee that with Thy Saints I may praise Thee forever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,
Where there is hatred, let me sow love, Where there is injury, pardon,
Where there is doubt, faith, Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is darkness, light, Where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life. **Amen.**

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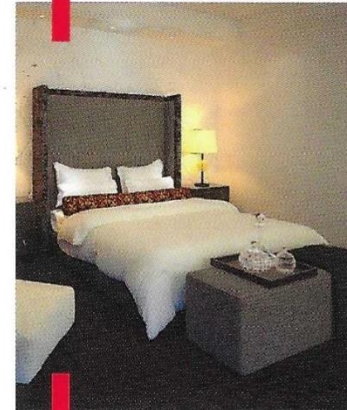
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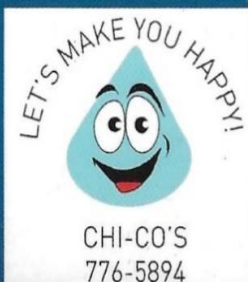
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