



**Saint Thomas  
Diocese**

# Holy Family Catholic Church

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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-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## SEPTEMBER 24, 2023

### WEEKLY REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Isaiah 55:6-9

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

**Second Reading:** Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

**Gospel:** Luke 8:4-15

#### ***Entry into God's gratuity is a gift of His love!***

Beloved Brothers and Sisters,

On this 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A, the Lord invites us to enter into the gratuitousness of his love.

In our today's Gospel text, the first comers have put themselves in a privileged position in relation to the last comers. But that's not what matters to Jesus. God's grace is freely given and freely received. Arguing with the Master of the vineyard about the wages given to the last comers puts the workers of the sixth hour in a position of pride that prevents them from receiving God's gift with joy and thanksgiving. They are arrogant and lacking in brotherly love. Lacking love for our brothers and sisters, whatever their social rank, places us in a position of inferiority in the Kingdom of God.

This parable is a good illustration of the kind of relationship the Lord is building with us. He invites all those who allow themselves to be met into his work. He never tires of rewarding those who set to work, regardless of age, condition or background. What counts is the present and the future.

With each and every one of us, according to who we are and what we can and know how to do, God is writing a unique and incomparable story. It's incredible, incomprehensible, and that's what bothers us.

If we read today's gospel in human terms, we risk calling God unjust. The Good News of this parable is this: ***God doesn't calculate. I don't deserve heaven; it's given to me freely.*** This is the boldness we are invited to believe in, not only for ourselves, but also for our neighbor. May the Good News of this parable flood us with such joy that we can do nothing but give thanks for God's gift to us.

#### ***Entering into God's gratuitousness is a gift of his love for our shrunken hearts!***

We risk reintroducing the rules of human work into the Kingdom, even though it is a gift from God. We ask him to order our work more in the perspective of the Kingdom of God. It's such a great joy to work on God's work!

This is how ***the last will be first and the first last***. The good "thief" on the Cross is "today," i.e. before all others, in the Kingdom with Jesus.

***By Rev Fr. Modeste Digwou***

### SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK

<b>MONDAY:</b> (no Mass)	Ezr 1:1-6 Lk 8:16-18
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20 Lk 8:19-21
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	Ezr 9:5-9 Saint Vincent de Paul, Priest Lk 9:1-6
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	Hg 1:1-8 Lk 9:7-9
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels Jn 1:47-51
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a Saint Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church Lk 9:43b-45
<b>NEXT SUNDAY:</b>	Ez 18:25-28 <i>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Phil 2:1-11 Mt 21:28-32

### MASS INTENTIONS

#### **SATURDAY, September 23**

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

#### **SUNDAY, September 24**

7:30 AM † **Octavia Joseph** → Repose of Soul rb the family

† **Nelislà Quiste** → Repose of Soul rb her daughter, Ursula Prosper

10:00 AM † **Hansley** → Repose of Soul rb the Louis family

– **Nicole Darcherville** → Safe travels, guidance, & protection rb Nicole

5:00 PM – **Melissa Piton** → Birthday blessings rb Adline Piton

MONDAY, September 25 → NO MASS

#### **TUESDAY, September 26**

7:00 AM ♥ **Josette & Victor Baly** → In thanksgiving on their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

#### **WEDNESDAY, September 27**

7:00 AM † **Souls in Purgatory** → rb Denis La Place

#### **THURSDAY, September 28**

7:00 AM – **Armecia Martin** → For a successful surgery rb her family

#### **FRIDAY, September 29**

7:00 AM – **Oliver "Bobby" Williams** → Birthday blessings rb his wife, Viola

– **Khalid Merchant** → Birthday blessings rb his mother, Viola & brother, Ryan

#### **SATURDAY, September 30**

6:00 PM **Bishop Jerome Feudjio** → God's continued blessings on his birthday

# 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 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup>** for God's blessings and protection for **Felix Renal**, requested by his mother, Marie Renal.

**Altar Flowers:** Today's Altar flowers are sponsored by "Bobby" and Marva Williams, on their birthday, and by the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Thank you for beautifying the church and may God continue to bless you.

**Hurricane Procession:** There will be a hurricane procession around the church **this Sunday, September 24, 2023**, following the 10:00 AM Mass.

**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**. Mass will be celebrated for the sick on **Friday, September 29, 2023** at **6:00 PM**. Parishioners are asked to bring their sacramentals (rosaries, water, oils, ornaments, etc.) to be blessed.

**CCD Program:** The CCD Program for the calendar year 2023 – 2024 has begun. The deadline to register a child for Sacramental preparation is **Saturday, September 30**; the Virtus Program Child Safety Workshop will be conducted. The Baptismal certificate should be attached to the form if you are registering the child for the first time.

**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**. Forms can be obtained from the back of the church.

**Baptism:** The next infant Baptism will take place **October 22, 2023**. Please contact the church office for additional information.

**Non-Perishable Food Items:** Non-perishable food items collected this weekend will benefit Catholic Charities and shut-ins of our Parish. We thank you for your generosity.

**Necrologium:** Holy Family Parish Community extends sincere sympathy to the families of:

**Maitland "Grace" Watley**, whose funeral Mass will take place on **Thursday, September 28, 2023** at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Church;

**Joseph Robinson Bellot**, whose funeral service will take place on **Friday, September 29, 2023** at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Church;

# Parish Information

## Sacrament of Infant 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, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of each month.

## 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. Confessions will be on Wednesdays after the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and on weekends 15 minutes before each Mass.

## 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

**Vanborne Rehalio Questel**, whose funeral service will take place on **Thursday, October 5, 2023** at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Church; and

**Elsie G. LaRonde**, whose funeral service will take place on **Friday, October 6, 2023** at 10:00 AM at Holy Family Church.

May their souls 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.

## 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.

Illustration credit: JESUS MAFA. *The Late-arriving Workers*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

## 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  
Restoration Fund ..... Sept. 30 – Oct. 1

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings

Offering: \$3,855.26

6:00 PM: \$971.00

10:00 AM: \$1,407.00

Children's Offering: \$53.00

Second Collection: \$1,043.00

Security Fence: \$2,142.00

Prayer Group: \$400.00

7:30 AM: \$1,313.26

5:00 PM: \$164.00

Total: \$47,887.80

Toilet: \$100.00

Holy Triduum: \$1008.57 ..... Cassi Hill Mass: \$901.00

Weekday Offerings: Assumption: \$147 August 30: \$36

September 13: \$32 September 15: \$46 September 20: \$31

Online giving can be made through our website at:

[www.holyfamilystt.com](http://www.holyfamilystt.com)

Thank you for your generosity!

**Church Attendance: 320** persons  
attended Holy Mass last weekend.

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

### 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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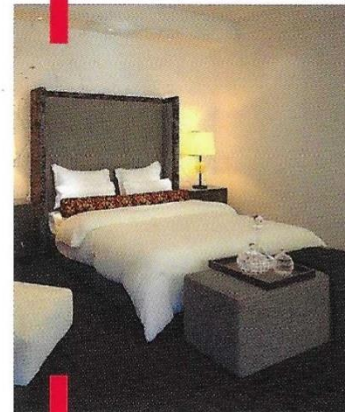
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