



**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
Email: holyfamilyusvi@gmail.com



**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

Emergency: (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-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 15, 2023

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WEEKLY REFLECTION

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The parable of the careless guest

Beloved brothers and sisters

God's plan for mankind is that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. God wants to pacify and unify all men and families under the banner of celebration and sharing. What God wants is for all men and women to be able to sit down at the same table, share the same meal and celebrate together. This Sunday's first reading and gospel speak of a feast and wedding banquet, a festive meal that God himself is organizing and inviting us all to partake in.

In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah makes no mistake: Israel's hope is expressed in a feast of succulent meats and decanted wines; a hope illustrated by the phrase: ***"Behold your God, in him we hoped, and he saved us."*** A feast that is already a sign of God's Kingdom and a definitive encounter with God.

In the Gospel, the King organizes his banquet; the meal is ready, but the guests are not. Men have often responded to the divine invitation with indifference, contempt, excuses of every kind, and even rejection of prophets and messengers. Yet the invitation to enter into the covenant remains, and the refusal of a few has made it possible to open up the invitation to a greater number of people.

This sums up the history of salvation, in which the prophets are mistreated and the disciples of Jesus are persecuted. But what is the deeper meaning of ***this Parable of the careless guest?***

- First of all, that there are no borders, no limits of language, sex, religion or skin color to participation in the feast of the Kingdom: everyone is invited. It's simply a question of choosing the Kingdom and preferring it to anything else.
- Secondly, to choose the Kingdom is to choose an encounter with God, and for some people, of whom we are often one, this is never the right moment. For some, there's a field, a business — in other words, a job, a situation, a family — that stand in the way of this choice. For another, the one not wearing the wedding garment, the feast is not his.
- At the end, adherence to the Kingdom requires a personal response and the donning of the wedding garment. The rejection of this poor wretch into the darkness may seem unjust: he hasn't asked anyone for anything, he's invited, he's let into the banquet hall, but as he doesn't have the appropriate garment, he's thrown out.

The rejection of the man who had not put on the wedding garments should warn us about our own attitude. What is my attitude when I attend mass? Is it as a participant or as a spectator? ***Here, the wedding garment is to be understood as a symbol of the works of our conversion.***

"Happy are we to be invited to the Lord's supper!" We're all familiar with the invitation the priest issues after the Lamb of God. This invitation concerns us all! Each of our Eucharistic celebrations is a foretaste, even an anticipation, of this great wedding feast. Our participation in the Eucharist is linked to the way we live our lives, as we weave the garment of our wedding feast with the Lord. Happy are we if we take part in the wedding feast of the Lamb. May God bless your Sunday.

By Rev Fr. Modeste Digwou

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY: (no Mass)	Rom 1:1-7 Lk 11:29-32
TUESDAY: <i>Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr</i>	Rom 1:16-25 Lk 11:37-41
WEDNESDAY: <i>Feast of Saint Luke, evangelist</i>	2 Tm 4:10-17b Lk 10:1-9
THURSDAY: <i>Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	Rom 3:21-30 Lk 11:47-54
FRIDAY:	Rom 4:1-8 Lk 12:1-7
SATURDAY:	Rom 4:13, 16-18 Lk 12:8-12
NEXT SUNDAY: <i>29th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Is 45:1, 4-6 1 Thes 1:1-5b Mt 22:15-21

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, October 14th

6:00 PM † **Deacon Roy Bruney** → Repose of Soul rb the Children of Mary

SUNDAY, October 15th

7:30 AM † **Damian Jude Lamotta** → Repose of Soul rb his mother, Dorothy Alexander & aunt, Valda Alexander

10:00 AM – **The Children at St. Jude Hospital** → God's continued blessings & healing rb the Louis family
5:00 PM – **Rosemene Poinson** → Birthday blessings rb Silia
– **Maxine Lundy** → Birthday blessings rb Angie

MONDAY, October 16th → NO MASS

TUESDAY, October 17th

7:00 AM † **Rev. Jerome Moody** → Repose of Soul rb the Children of Mary

WEDNESDAY, October 18th

7:00 AM † **Ashre Forde** → Repose of Soul rb the Giffit, Forde, & Martin families
† **Karlene J. Brooks** → Repose of Soul rb her daughter, Dr. Gloria B. Callwood

THURSDAY, October 19th

7:00 AM – **Geoffrey Renal** → God's Guidance & protection rb his mother, Marie Renal
– **Sonia Herbert** → Birthday blessings rb Sonia

FRIDAY, October 20th

7:00 AM – **K'Ian Joseph** → Birthday blessings & God's guidance & protection

SATURDAY, October 21st

6:00 PM † **Leal 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 **October 14th to October 20th** for birthday blessings for **Ruselle Henry**, requested by her mother, Veda Henry.

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are being sponsored by Viola Williams. Thank you for beautifying the church.

Pastoral Council: This is the schedule for the presentation of parish pastoral council members to the various communities:

- Sunday Mass, 10:00 AM: October 15, 2023
- Saturday Mass, 6:00 PM: October 21, 2023
- Sunday Mass 5:00 PM: October 29, 2023

All board members are requested to attend each Mass on the appointed day

Restoration:

- We invite all men to volunteer on Saturday, October 21, 2023, to paint the wall under construction.
- We continue with our contribution for the fence and bathrooms, two urgent projects in our parish. Let's redouble our efforts. Thank you for your generosity.
- Thank you to Catholic Charities for providing daily meals to the workers.

Life in the Spirit Seminar: Parishioners are reminded of the upcoming **7-Week Life in the Spirit Seminar** being held in conjunction with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, to begin on **Monday October 16, 2023** and end on Monday, **December 4, 2023**. If you have not already registered, please do so now. Registration forms are available in the rear of the Church.

Saint Vincent de Paul Youth Conference: The SVdP Youth conference provides an excellent organization in which young people can grow spiritually as well as give service. It is an opportunity for Youth to use their talents to make a difference in others' lives. We invite the young people of the parish to join the Society.

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 November: Leaders of Liturgical Ministries are requested to submit their respective schedules for November via the Church email by **Wednesday, October 18**. We thank you for your cooperation.

Necrologium: Holy Family Parish Community extends sincere sympathy to **Eubald René** and family on the passing of his brother, **Gifford René** of Dominica, whose funeral service will take place on **October 16, 2023** in Dominica. 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.

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.

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.

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 OCTOBER

Restoration Fund	Sept. 30 – Oct. 1
Bishop's Appeal	October 7-8
Property Insurance	October 14-15
Security Fence	October 14-15
World Mission Sunday	October 21-22
Capital Improvements	October 21-22
Restoration Fund	October 28-29

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: 317 persons attended Holy Mass last weekend.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings, October 7 – 8

OFFERING: \$4,274.25

6:00 PM: \$1,107.00 7:30 AM: \$1,805.00

10:00 AM: \$1,185.00 5:00 PM: \$177.25

CHILDREN'S OFFERING: \$26.00

SECOND COLLECTION: \$1,180.52

Weekday Offerings: \$112.00

10/6: \$43.00 10/13: \$69.00

Online giving can be made through our website at:

www.holyfamilystt.com

Thank you for your generosity!

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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Jawad Idheileh

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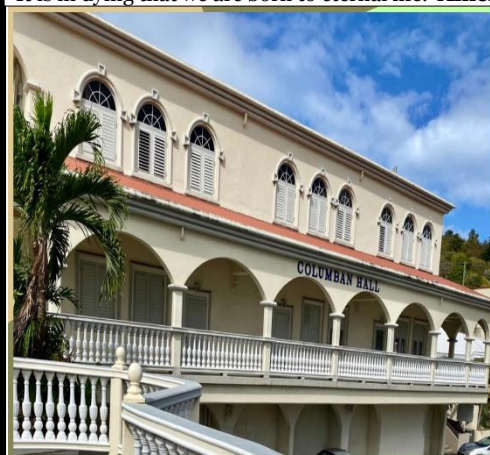
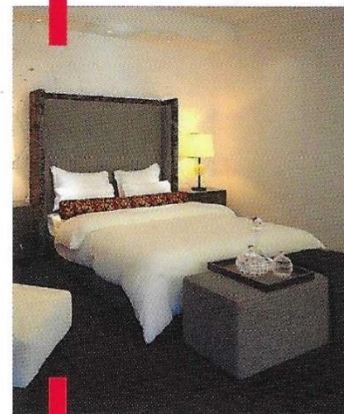
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*Perfect Banquet Hall
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**HOLY FAMILY
COLUMBAN HALL**

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