



**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-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
OCTOBER 22, 2023

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WEEKLY REFLECTION

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

Dear Beloved!

The words from today's Gospel, "repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," are a reminder of our struggle to integrate our lives as faithful citizens with our lives as faithful Catholics.

We are obligated to do both: to bring our faith and our values to all our responsibilities, including our civic ones.

In our first reading, Isaiah goes on to say that God called Cyrus the great Persian king, by name, anointed him, armed him, and gave him his title, even though Cyrus does not even know who God is. It doesn't matter. We ourselves may feel inadequate when it comes to knowing God or understanding God, but this should not worry us. The important thing is that God knows us. From the leader of the largest empire in history at the time to the tiniest sparrow who falls to earth, God knows every living being in creation.

In the second reading, the people of Thessalonica did not know Christ. But Paul asserts that the Holy Spirit brought him and the gospel to them.

In our Gospel, Some of the Pharisees seek to entrap Jesus, asking him a question designed to get him in trouble with either the religious or government authorities. But Jesus finds a clever way to answer sensibly and safely. Had Caesar heard his answer, he would have been pleased that Jesus' followers could be counted on to continue to pay the census tax.

But maybe we should ask: What did Caesar have that did not first come from God? All creation has its source in God, and so truly all creation belongs to God. Neither Cyrus nor Caesar likely realized it, but despite all their power and all their wealth, they stood in God's debt. Even more do we owe God for all we have been given, from what we have here in this world to our eventual destiny in the next.

Jesus proposes that we should repay to God what belongs to God. Whether we are conscious of it or not, all we have been given—including our very life—comes ultimately from God.

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

May God's word remind us that we too belong to God.

Cyrus, did not know God. But Isaiah maintains that God called him by name.

By Rev Fr. Modeste Digwou

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY: (no Mass) Rom 4:20-25
Lk 12:13-21

TUESDAY: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21
Lk 12:35-38

WEDNESDAY: Rom 6:12-18
Lk 12:39-48

THURSDAY: Rom 6:19-23
Lk 12:49-53

FRIDAY: Rom 7:18-25a
Lk 12:54-59

SATURDAY: Eph 2:19-22
Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles Lk 6:12-16

NEXT SUNDAY: Ex 22:20-26
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Thes 1:5c-10
Mt 22:34-40

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, October 21st

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

SUNDAY, October 22nd

7:30 AM – **Albert, DeMytrke, & Aaliyah Royer** → Birthday blessings rb the Royer & Toussaint families

10:00 AM – **Gerald "Balbo" Castor** → Birthday blessings & God's protection

5:00 PM † **Vilnert Denis** → Repose of Soul rb his son, Marck Denis

MONDAY, October 23rd → NO MASS

TUESDAY, October 24th

7:00 AM † **Bishop Elliott Thomas** → Repose of Soul rb The Children of Mary

WEDNESDAY, October 25th

7:00 AM – **Mildre Turbe** → Birthday blessings rb Ann Greaux & family

– **Reginald & Nekesha Tousaint** → Anniversary blessings

THURSDAY, October 26th

7:00 AM – **Efraymin Mosheh** → Birthday blessings rb the family

FRIDAY, October 27th

7:00 AM – **Chantele Casimir** → In thanksgiving for her birthday rb Chantele

SATURDAY, October 28th

6:00 PM † **John Milton Giffit** → Repose of Soul rb the family
† **Everad Joseph & Maria René** → Repose of Souls rb the René 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 21st to October 27th** for God's blessings and protection for **Geofrey Renal**, requested by his mother, Marie Renal.

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are in recognition of **Sonia Herbert** and **Stacey Clarke's** birthday. 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 5:00 PM: October 29, 2023

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

Catechesis for Adults and Youth Ages 12 and Up: Do you believe that God loves you as you are? Would you like to deepen your faith? Come and listen, **Tuesdays and Fridays**, beginning **October 24, 2023, 6 pm** at Columban Hall.

The Month of November is dedicated to praying for the souls in purgatory and the deceased. A register is available at the entrance to the church. Everyone can register their departed already, so let's not wait until the last minute.

- Among other things, we encourage everyone to register for a mass for the deceased on November 2 at a special rate of \$5. Just fill out the envelope and put your money in it and drop it off at the Church office or hand it to one of the sacristans.

Restoration:

- Thanks to everyone who came out on Saturday for the fence painting.
- The security fence account is now empty. We need your extra effort to put up the iron grids on the walls and the 3 gates.
- We are still waiting for those who have pledged to donate a toilet to complete the work of the bathroom. Please drop off your donation at the Church office or with the priest, Father Modeste.

Meeting: Father Modeste will meet all ushers and Eucharist ministers on Thursday, October 26 at 6:00 PM at Columban Hall.

Sacristy: A volunteer is needed to assist and reinforce the vestry team of the sacristy.

Job Vacancy: Catholic Charities of the VI has an opening for a Case Manager. Multilingual and knowledge of different resources available in the community is a plus. Please submit resume to info@catholiccharitiesvi.org, or call the main office at 340-777-8518.

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: The Funeral Service for **Nathan Ken Liverpool** will be held at Holy Family Church at 10:00 AM on **Friday, November 3, 2023**. Our sincere sympathy and condolences to his mother, **Sonia Etienne**, and family. Nathan died at the age of 22. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

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

AT HOME: Carol Baron, François 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: 301 persons attended Holy Mass last weekend.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings, October 14 – 15

OFFERING: \$3,784.00

6:00 PM: \$811.00 7:30 AM: \$1,192.00

10:00 AM: \$1,620.00 5:00 PM: \$161.00

CHILDREN'S OFFERING: \$103.00

SECOND COLLECTION: \$1,308.00

SECURITY OFFERING: \$1,244.00

Weekday Offerings: \$0.00

10/17: \$0.00 10/18: \$0.00 10/19: \$00.00

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.**

Carlos Owner

Jawad Idheileh

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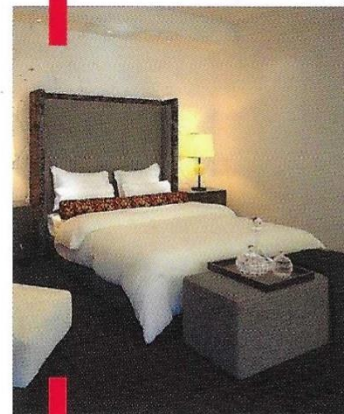
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*Perfect Banquet Hall
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**HOLY FAMILY
COLUMBAN HALL**

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