



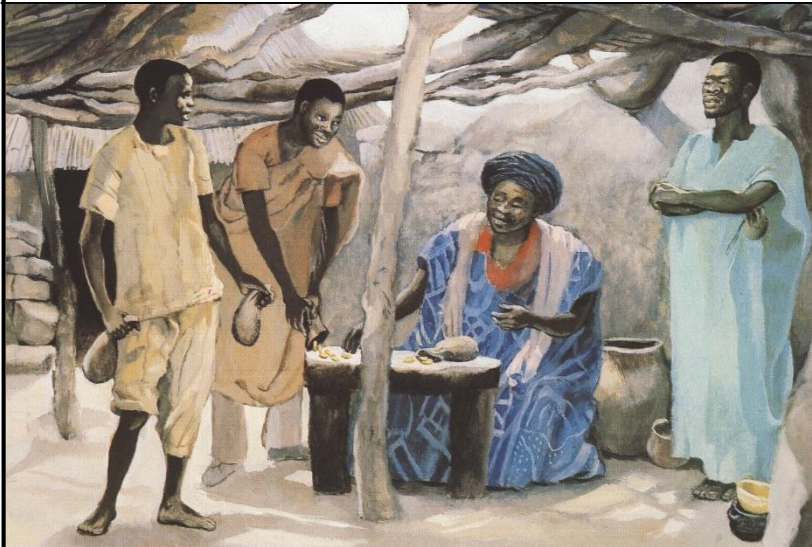
Saint Thomas  
Diocese

# Holy Family Catholic Church

394-213 Hidden Valley, St. Thomas  
U.S. Virgin Islands 00802  
Telephone: (340) 775-1650  
Website: [www.holyfamilystt.com](http://www.holyfamilystt.com)  
Email: [holyfamilyusvi@gmail.com](mailto: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.”

**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

# THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## NOVEMBER 19, 2023

### WEEKLY REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:14-30

Reflection by Rev Fr Modeste

**“The day of the Lord will come like a thief at night.”**

**Brethren!**

Throughout November, we continue to pray for our deceased. It's a way of rekindling our hope in the face of the mysterious reality of death. This prayer invites us to reflect on our lives and what makes them worthwhile. The only thing that will remain is our love for God and our brothers and sisters. As Pope John Paul II put it: *“Tell me what your love is, and I'll tell you who you are.”* For us Christians, death is a passage to the world of God.

On this Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, only two weeks before the beginning of a new liturgical year, today's readings bring us to thoughts about the fulfillment of the salvation story. We do not know when the time will come, whether it be for ourselves individually or for God's creation in totality, but if we have responded to the grace that is given us in life, we have nothing to fear from a good and gracious God.

One day, we'll have to give him an account of our lives.

The first reading is a biblical text from the Book of Proverbs. It portrays a perfect wife in terms of her faithfulness to daily tasks. It also shows us her qualities of heart before God and before the poor. This message is still relevant today: whatever our situation, we are all invited to respond to our present vocation. God himself entrusts us with this responsibility. The good works spoken of in this reading are our love for God and our commitment to the service of others.

In his letter to the Thessalonians, the apostle Paul asks us to stay awake in the hope of the Kingdom. He is addressing Christians who live in feverish anticipation of Christ's return. This *“day of the Lord will come”* like a thief at an unexpected time and day. Paul advises Christians not to live in impatience. Nor should they fall asleep. What we are asked to do is *to remain vigilant and not let ourselves be absorbed by worries that are too material.* The Lord is coming; he is there at the heart of our lives. He asks us to be attentive to the signs of his presence, and to give him first place in our lives.

The Gospel tells us the parable of the talents. We know this parable well. But there's one thing we often forget: we're not talking about talent in the sense of competence or ability; the talent in question is a unit of currency weighing thirty pound. For a person who works twelve hours a day, this is the salary of six thousand days' work. In telling us this parable, Christ wants to convey a message of the utmost importance.

*One day, we'll have to give an account of how we've managed the treasure entrusted to us.* The Lord is counting on us, and he trusts us. Our only guarantee is the Word of God. The curse on the third servant is not explained by the small sum he was given. What the Master reproaches him for is his laziness. This bad servant hides God's gift. Instead, he should have placed it on a table, as one would a lighted lamp to light the house.

Perhaps this is the message of this parable. We live in this in-between time still today, waiting for the master to return, and the worst thing we can do is sit around being lazy. What will you do to help advance the coming reign of God until its full glory will be revealed in the end time? No one is deprived of God's gifts. He gives to each according to his possibilities; he asks us to give the best of ourselves to use them in the service of others. We are all sent into the world to bear witness to the love that is in God. We live in a harsh and violent world. We are all invited to be sowers of peace, joy and love.

On this day, we can take up the Missal's prayer: *“Grant, O Lord, that we may find joy in our fidelity, for it is a deep and lasting happiness to serve constantly the Creator of all good.”* Amen.

### SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK

**MONDAY:** (no Mass) 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43

**TUESDAY:** *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*  
2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7; Lk 19:1-10

**WEDNESDAY:** *Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr*  
2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b & 15; Lk 19:11-28

**THURSDAY:** *Thanksgiving Day*  
Sir 50:22-24; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19

**FRIDAY:** *Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs*  
1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Lk 19:45-48

**SATURDAY:** 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-3, 4 & 6, 16 & 19; Lk 20:27-40

**NEXT SUNDAY:** *Solemnity of Christ the King, year A*  
Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

### MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM – **Larson Lewis, Kasidy Joseph, & Family** → God's help & protection rb Alleyne Thomas

**SUNDAY, November 19<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 AM † **Justina Johnrose** → Repose of Soul rb her mother, Nazarine Blaize

† **Ted Bast** → Repose of Soul rb his wife, Betty

10:00 AM – **Alleyne Thomas** → Birthday blessings

5:00 PM † **Philoma Zephir** → Repose of Soul rb Angie

MONDAY, November 20<sup>th</sup> → NO MASS

**TUESDAY, November 21<sup>st</sup>**

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

† **John Henley** → Repose of Soul

† **Cyril “Mezzo” Battiste Sr.** → Repose of Soul

† **Vanborne Questel** → Repose of Soul

**WEDNESDAY, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7:00 AM – **Alicia Douté** → Birthday blessings rb Viola & Bobby

**THURSDAY, November 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 AM – **Paula Andrew** → Birthday blessings rb Viola & Bobby

**FRIDAY, November 24<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM † **Elma Agnes Casimir** → Repose of Soul rb the Casimir & Eusebe families

**SATURDAY, November 25<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM † **Elma Agnes Casimir** → Repose of Soul rb the Casimir & Eusebe families

**The Month of November is dedicated to the deceased and the all the souls in Purgatory. Let us pray for them.**

# 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 **November 18<sup>th</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup>** for the Repose of Soul of **Ruthrine Johnson**, requested by her husband, Thomas Johnson.



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

**The Month of November** is dedicated to praying for the souls in purgatory and the deceased. Continue to register a Mass for your departed all this month of November for the special amount of \$5 in the week. Envelopes are available at the rear of the church.

**Restoration:** We are still waiting for those who have pledged to donate toilets and face basins to complete the work of the restrooms. Please drop your donation at the Church office or Father Modeste.

**Catechesis for Adults and Youth Ages 12 and Up:** Continues every Tuesday and Friday at 6 pm in the upper Columban Hall.

### **Ministry Meetings:**

- The Columban Hall Board's monthly meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 21, 2023** at **6 pm**, in the Lower Columban Hall..

**Thanksgiving Day:** There will be one bilingual Mass, **November 23** at **9 am**. Bring your offerings of can food items, fruits and vegetables for presentation.

### **November Dates to Remember:**

- Thursday, November 23: Thanksgiving Day.
- Sunday, November 26: feast day of Christ the King.

**1<sup>st</sup> Banns of Marriage:** There is a promise of marriage between **Brenda Lee Sutton** and **Khana Spencer Smith**. If you know of an impediment to this marriage, please contact the pastor. The celebration will take place on **Saturday, December 16, 2023**.

**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.

**Office Closures:** The church office will be closed all day on **Thursday, November 23, 2023**, in observance of Thanksgiving Day, and will close at **noon** on **Friday, November 24**.

**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, Iona Vanterpool

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

**EBENEZER HOME:** Cleota Hill.

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

### SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Restoration Fund .....	November 4-5
Monthly School Support .....	November 11-12
Property Insurance .....	November 18-19
Security Fence .....	November 18-19
Capital Improvements .....	November 25-26

Illustration credit: JESUS MAFA. *Parable of the Three Servants*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

## 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:** 505 persons attended Holy Mass last weekend.

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings, November 11 - 12

OFFERING: \$4,712.00

6:00 PM: \$916.00

7:30 AM: \$843.00

10:00 AM: \$599.00

12:00 PM: \$2,150.00

5:00 PM: \$204.00

SECOND COLLECTION: \$1,168.00

ALL SAINTS' DAY: \$402.00

ALL SOULS' DAY: \$48.00

Weekday Offerings: 11/15: \$41.00

Online giving can be made through our website at:

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

## PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

### Carlos Owner

Jawad Idheileh

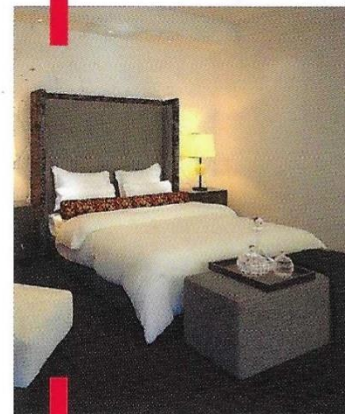
- 6207 Peter's Rest, St. Croix, USVI
- Tutu Park Mall, St. Thomas, USVI
- Anna's Retreat, St. Thomas, USVI

S: 340.693.0016 • C: 340.642.7926

Carlosusvi@yahoo.com

Scan to Visit the Website:

<https://www.CarlosFurnitureUSVI.com>



*Perfect Banquet Hall  
For Your Event*

### HOLY FAMILY COLUMBAN HALL

213 Anna's Retreat  
Saint Thomas, USVI 00802  
E-mail: [holyfamilyusvi@gmail.com](mailto:holyfamilyusvi@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.holyfamilystt.com](http://www.holyfamilystt.com)  
Phone: (340) 775-1650



CHI-CO'S DISTRIBUTING, INC.  
Frederick Larsen  
President

8525 Lindberg Bay, Suite 4  
St. Thomas, USVI 00802

Tel: (340)776-5894  
E-Mail: [chicos@vipowernet.net](mailto:chicos@vipowernet.net)



CHI-CO'S  
776-5894