



**Saint Thomas  
Diocese**

# Holy Family Catholic Church

394-213 Hidden Valley, St. Thomas  
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**Holy Family  
Church**

**“Whoever exalts himself  
shall be humbled;  
and whoever humbles  
himself shall be exalted.”**

**Matt 23:12**

## 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-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

# THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## NOVEMBER 5, 2023

### WEEKLY REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalms 131:1, 2, 3

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

**Gospel:** Matthew 23:1-12

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last Sunday, when asked by the Pharisees and Doctors of the Law what the greatest commandment was, Jesus replied that we must “love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.” Today’s first reading and Gospel invite us to celebrate God’s mercy. He is there to help us out of our sinful situation. These texts show us that everything good comes from God. Because God is love. He is the source of love, conversion and generosity. He is our Savior. He has no contempt for his creatures, even for the greatest sinners. Conversion is open to all.

The gospel of this 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time brings us to contemplate the chance encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus. Through Zacchaeus’ experience, we can rediscover God’s gaze upon us, and make our own experience of Jesus.

But who is this Jesus who seeks us out and comes to us by becoming a man? Who is this Jesus who looks at us as no one has ever looked at us before? Who is this Jesus who dares to come to us despite our mistakes, our betrayals, our disappointments, our faults?

The first reading, from the book of Wisdom, gives us an answer: “Lord, you have pity on all men, because you can do all things. You close your eyes to their sins, so that they may be converted...” (Wis 11:23-24).

And this is what Zacchaeus experienced in his encounter with Jesus. Zacchaeus was seen as he sought to see. His encounter with Jesus shows us that God is always looking for us, even before we look for him. But we have to look for him to realize it.

Zacchaeus had obstacles preventing him from seeing Jesus: he was small in stature, the crowd crushed him, he was a public sinner, he was unloved. However, he defied his obstacles and managed to climb a sycamore tree.

Today, Zacchaeus’ experience poses a question for us: What is our sycamore tree? What do we need to distance ourselves from? What is the door we open for God to enter our lives?

On this Sunday, let us pray that the God who loves us will give us the grace to truly encounter him in our lives. May each of us experience this encounter with Jesus, who said: “Today I must go and stay with you.”

**By Rev Fr. Modeste Digwou**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**MONDAY:** (no Mass) Rom 11:29-36; Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36; Lk 14:12-14

**TUESDAY:** Rom 12:5-16ab; Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3; Lk 14:15-24

**WEDNESDAY:** Rom 13:8-10; Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9; Lk 14:25-33

**THURSDAY:** *Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome*  
Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9;  
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22

**FRIDAY:** *Saint Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church*  
Rom 15:14-21; Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4; Lk 16:1-8

**SATURDAY:** *Saint Martin of Tours, Bishop*  
Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27; Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11;  
Lk 16:9-15

**NEXT SUNDAY:** *32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, year A*  
Wis 6:12-16; Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8;  
1 Thes 4:13-18; Mt 24:42a, 44

### MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, November 4<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM – **Pauline Ottley** → Birthday blessings rb the Rouse family

**SUNDAY, November 5<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 AM – **Orville Rouse** → Birthday blessings rb his family  
– **Eugenie England** → Birthday blessings rb the Rouse family

10:00 AM – **Maurice Foy** → Birthday blessings rb his mother  
– **Francis Callwood** → Birthday greetings rb the René family

5:00 PM – **Sandrine Joseph** → Birthday blessings rb Silia  
– **Opener St. Fort** → Healing & God’s blessings rb Angie

**MONDAY, November 6<sup>th</sup>** → NO MASS

**TUESDAY, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM † **Helen Joseph** → Repose of soul rb the René family  
† **John Henley** → Repose of soul

**WEDNESDAY, November 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM – **Shantel Alfred** → Birthday blessings rb the family  
– **Serge Rodney** → Deliverance, guidance, & protection rb his mother

**THURSDAY, November 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM – **Diane Speights** → Birthday blessings rb the Rouse family

**FRIDAY, November 10<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 AM – **Agnes Floyd** → Birthday blessings the Rouse family

**SATURDAY, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 PM – **Angelica Rogers** → Birthday blessings the Rouse family  
– **Anwar Christopher Gottlieb** → God’s help & protection & blessings rb Alleyne Thomas

**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 4<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>** for God's blessings and protection for **Maurice Foy** on his birthday, requested by his mother, Genuine.

**Altar Flowers:** Today's Altar Flowers are sponsored by **Pauline Ottley, Eugenie England, and Orville Rouse**. Thank you for beautifying the church.

**Bishop's Appeal:** His Excellency, Bishop Jerome Feudjio wishes to express his gratitude to all the dedicated clergy and generous donors for their unwavering commitment in supporting the annual Bishop's Appeal. As of October 23, 2023, the 2023 Bishop's Appeal received **\$139,368.88** in contributions. Representing a 22% increase compared to 2022. Donations to the 2023 Bishop's Appeal will officially close at the end of December 2023. Your continued contributions are crucial in sustaining our vital work in serving others and strengthening our faith community.

Holy Family's contribution was \$14,315.22, or 10% of the total.

**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. 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.

**Meeting:** There will be a meeting with the four presidents of the community on **Friday, November 10** at **6:00 PM** in the Pastor's office.

**Dominican Independence:** The Dominican Association of St Thomas will be celebrating Dominica's Independence with a service at Holy Family Catholic Church on **November 12, 2022**, at 12:00 pm. The celebrant will be Monsignor William John-Lewis.

**Restoration:** We are still waiting for those who have made pledges to complete the work of the restroom. Please drop off your donation at the Church office or with the priest, Father Modeste.

**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](mailto:info@catholiccharitiesvi.org), or call the main office at 340-777-8518.

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

## 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:

**255** persons attended Holy Mass last weekend;  
**89** persons attended Holy Mass on All Saints' Day;  
**104** persons attended Holy Mass on All Souls' Day.

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings, October 28 – 29

OFFERING: \$2,971.50

6:00 PM: \$582.00      7:30 AM: \$1,238.50

10:00 AM: \$969.00      5:00 PM: \$182.00

CHILDREN'S OFFERING: \$48.00

SECOND COLLECTION: \$868.00

Weekday Offerings: 11/3: \$65.00

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.**

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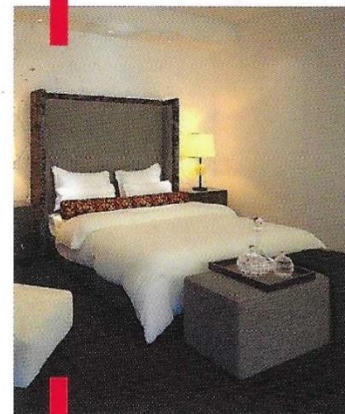
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