



**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.”

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 12, 2023

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WEEKLY REFLECTION

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel: Matthew 24:42a, 44

By Rev Fr. Modeste Digwou

32nd Sunday A

Wis 6:12-16; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

Reflection

Brothers and sisters,

Today's liturgy suggests that we are approaching the end of our liturgical year. Only two weeks to go, and we'll be celebrating Christ the King of the Universe, which marks the end of the liturgical year.

Today's liturgical texts speak of waiting. Who are we waiting for? Many speak of the end of time, and even assure us that they know the date.

But let's not be misled: God's time is not a matter of calculation or prophecy:

"You know neither the day nor the hour", says the Gospel (Mk 13:32).

"When it comes to the Lord's coming, you don't need to be told about deadlines or dates. You know very well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night" (1Th 5, 1), says Saint Paul.

To prepare is to persevere in love and Remaining vigilant

Take the young girls in today's parable. The foolish ones have put on their best finery and taken their lamps: a normal husband should be on time, if not early! Why reproach and punish them for the groom's tardiness? What's more, the refusal to share of the five wise virgins who remembered to take a supply of oil with them is shocking.

To think like this is to enter a blind alley. When we read a parable, let's not get lost in the secondary points, but - as is the case in African tales - let's look for the message! The main point of today's parable is that it's not enough to get off to a good start, but that we must also take the means to last, and be ready at all times to celebrate the one we love.

"I sleep, but my heart watches. I hear my beloved knocking. "Open to me, my sister, my friend, my dove, my perfect one! For my head is covered with dew, my curls with drops of the night" (Song of Songs 5:2), for the bridegroom who makes himself desired is none other than Christ, returned from the night of his passion.

The virgins represent our community-bride of God.

The oil is that of baptism, which has made us the King's children.

Sleep symbolizes all our lukewarmness, indifference, and death.

We go days without thinking for a second about God, without praying.

Our life becomes a material existence, reduced to work and pleasure.

Yet eternal life begins today. How can it be lived beyond if it is not here below? But if, faithful to prayer and fraternal charity, the small flame of our goodwill still shines in the night of trials, then we can already glimpse a few features of the face of Christ. Then, after the darkness of death, "we will see him as he is". (1Jn 3:2)

The foolish brides did not know how to be ready. They let God's desire die within them. The lamp in their hearts no longer gives off the slightest smoke. They are extinguished, dead. They have taken the foolish liberty of not entering the wedding feast. And when it comes to the decisive encounter with God, no one can love in their place. Let's not miss the rendezvous of love now. Let's not forget God, our betrothed. We must be vigilant in hope, desire and prayer.

SCRIPTURE READINGS OF THE WEEK

MONDAY: (no Mass) *Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin*
Wis 1:1-7; Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10; Lk 17:1-6

TUESDAY: Wis 2:23-3:9; Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19; Lk 17:7-10

WEDNESDAY: Wis 6:1-11; Ps 82:3-4, 6-7; Lk 17:11-19

THURSDAY: Wis 7:22b-8:1;

Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175; Lk 17:20-25

FRIDAY: *Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious*

SATURDAY: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9; 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43;
Lk 18:1-8

NEXT SUNDAY: *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, year A*

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31;

Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, November 11th

6:00 PM – **Angelica Rogers** → Birthday blessings the Rouse family

– **Anwar Christopher Gottlieb** → God's help & protection & blessings rb Alleyne Thomas

SUNDAY, November 12th

7:30 AM – **The children of Valda Alexander** → God's continued blessings & guidance

10:00 AM † **John Henley** → Repose of Soul

† **Kathleen Thompson** → Repose of Soul

† **Mauritzer Gumbs** → Repose of Soul

12:00 PM † **Alberta Foy & Robinson Bellot** → Repose of Soul
rb the Dominica Association

5:00 PM – **Fr. Kerly François** → Birthday blessings & God's continued guidance rb the Haitian community

MONDAY, November 13th → NO MASS

TUESDAY, November 14th

7:00 AM – **Meema Jilkes** → Birthday blessings

– **Jerry Jones** → God's blessings, good health, & employment rb Jerry

WEDNESDAY, November 15th

7:00 AM † **Ulric Forde** → Repose of Soul rb the Gifft, Forde, & Martin families

THURSDAY, November 16th

7:00 AM – **The Children of Nazarine Blaize** → God's guidance & protection

FRIDAY, November 17th

7:00 AM – **The grandchildren and great grandchildren of Nazarine Blaize** → God's guidance & protection

SATURDAY, November 18th

6:00 PM – **Larson Lewis, Kasidy Joseph, & family** → God's help & protection 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 11th to November 17th** for God's Blessings & protection for **Marie Renal**, requested by Marie Renal.

Altar Flowers: Today's Altar Flowers are sponsored by **Angie Lundy** on the occasion of Fr. Kerly's birthday and the Dominican Association in celebration of Dominica's Independence. Thank you for beautifying the church. May God continue to bless your family.

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 & face basins to complete the work of the restrooms. Please drop your donation at the Church office or Father Modeste.

Special Collection (Security): A special collection will be taken up for fencing the property **next weekend** at all Masses. Thank you for your generosity in helping to secure the property.

Catechesis for Adults and Youth Ages 12 and Up: Continues every Tuesdays and Fridays at 6pm in Columban Hall.

Liturgical Master Schedule for December: Leaders of Liturgical Ministries are requested to submit their respective schedules for December via the Church email by **Wednesday, November 15**. We thank you for your cooperation.

Acknowledgment: Father Collins conveys his greetings and gratitude for the warm welcome he received at Holy Family.

Ministry Meetings:

- The Columban Hall Board's monthly meeting will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, November 21, 2023, Lower Columban Hall.
- Young St. Vincent's will be meeting every Thursday in Lower Columban Hall, 6-8pm.
- November 18th, Father Modeste will be meeting with sacristans and alter serves in the church at 10am.

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

November Dates to Remember:

- November 18 at 10am meeting with sacristans and alter serves in the church.
- November 26, feast day Christ the King.

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 FundNovember 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: 286 persons attended Holy Mass last weekend.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Last Weekend's Offerings, November 4 – 5

OFFERING: \$4,986.61

6:00 PM: \$564.00 7:30 AM: \$1444.00

10:00 AM: \$1,271.61 5:00 PM: \$21000

SECOND COLLECTION: \$533.00

RESTORATION FUND: \$1,041

Weekday Offerings: 11/8: \$140 11/9: \$37

11/10: \$50.00

Online giving can be made through our website at:

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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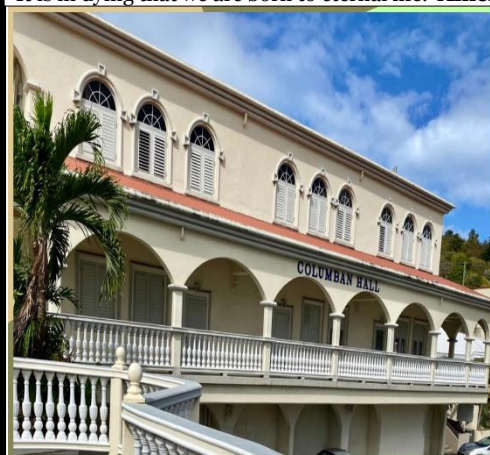
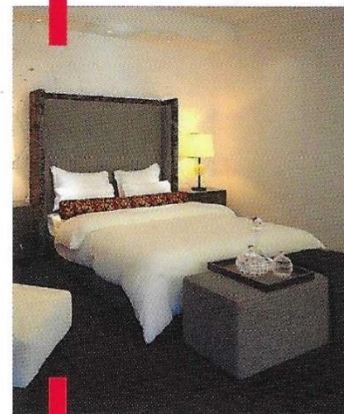
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