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SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen

(Saint Alphonsus Liguori)

Religious articles for SALE



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Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

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May 5, 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter

"Be Able to Lay Down Your Life for Your Friend"



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DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Wilfredo Acosta (Retired) Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney Rev. Mr. José Vázquez

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays - Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM **Saturday** 11:00 AM - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00AM - 2:00 p.m. TELEPHONE: 340-774-0201



Scan this QR Code to visit the

Diocesan Website and/or to donate to the Bishop's Appeal.

WEEKENDS

Saturday: 7:00AM, 4:30PM (Vigil Mass Sunday: 7:00AM, 8:30AM(Children's Mass), 10:00AM, and 12:15PM (Spanish)

> **WEEKDAYS** Monday to Friday: 7:00AM Wednesday: 12:15PM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Wednesday from 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday before Masses

MISSION STATEMENT To continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by:

Preaching the Good News to a Caribbean community according to the magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church. Furthering the faith of God's people with sound teaching and meaningful liturgies in keeping with the apostolic tradition Promoting and implementing inclusive strategies to meet the needs of the people of God who worship at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral.

CONFESSIONS Wednesday: 11:45AM - 12:10PM Saturday: 3:45PM - 4:25PM or by Request

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Every Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

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Sixth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48 Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 98: 1-4 **Second Reading:** 1 John 4: 7-10 **Gospel:** John 15: 9-17

REFLECTION

by: Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguele TOKO

"Be Able to Lay Down Your Life for Your Friend."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

claim to love. We even claim to love Jesus, but do we have to pay that cost if we really love our dear really know what it really means and what it implies? In ones. today's gospel, Jesus helps us understand what means to love Him and what love implies.

means to keep His commandments just as he has kept we are sorry for having refused to sacrifice his father's commandments. He therefore means that we ourselves for others out of love. May the Lord cannot say that we love God or that we love Jesus if we grant us the graces we need so as to love as He don't pray, if we tell lies, if we steal, if we kill people di- expects from us. rectly or indirectly, actively, or passively, if we do not keep the commandments of God. Many people say they love God and refuse to forgive those who sin against them or refuse to pray for their enemies or wish them well. Many claim to love God and refuse to be patient and forgiving with others, and yet they expect God's mercy and compassion. St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Corinthians, that "love is patient, kind, not jealous, nor boastful; it is not proud; it does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails ..." Who can now say he loves thus as St. Paul describes the characteristics of love? In fact, St. Paul helps us to understand what Jesus is telling us about love today, namely that love is oblative, that is sacrificial. You cannot claim to love if you do not accept to sacrifice a bit of something, a bit of your time for the good of the other person, a bit of your personality, your patience, of your pride, of your wealth, of your being for the good of the person you claim to love. This is usually difficult to accept because we cling unto the things of this world so much that we do not see how we can detach ourselves from them. For true, detachment from all these worldly things should be easier because Jesus asks us for more sacrifices than that, if we really want to love.

Reflection(continued)

He says in the gospel of John: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you...! In15: 12-19 Who can say he really loves as Jesus in asking us to do? How many times have we sacrificed ourselves or shed some blood for the good of those we claim to love? We usually want to love people without having a sacrifice to make or without hurt or suffering. Jesus would say "even the pagans do so!" We have to go beyond the ordinary to do extraordinary in terms of detachment from ourselves, from our goods and from our lives. It is not easy to do so. That is why love is always a risk to take. We may love without much We are used to saying "I Love You" to the people we pain, just as it may cost us a lot of pain; and we

Let us tell God that we are sorry for the many times the things of the world have pre-The first thing Jesus tells us is that to love Him vented us from loving as we should have done;



PRIESTLY ORDINATION

On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 11:00 a.m., everyone is invited to the Priestly Ordination of Deacon Ronan Sarmiento at the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral. Contributions in cash or kind will be greatly appreciated for the organization of this event. Let us keep Deacon Ronan in prayer as he prepares for the priesthood.

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Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral 250th Jubilee Gala & Dinner Dance **JUNE 29, 2024**

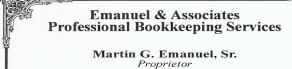
Tickets are now available for 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa Hotel Grand Ballroom on June 29, 2024 celebrating the 250th Jubilee Anniversary of Sts. Peter and Paul Ca-

The 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance begins with a Cocktail Reception and Photo Opportunity followed by an Opening Ceremony, Dinner Buffet, Bishop's Keynote Address, Live Entertainment and Dancing. Formal Attire is required.

Tickets are \$150.00 per person and are available from Parish Offices and members of the 250th Jubilee Committee. To sit at a reserved table, please call Ms. Gail Shulterbrandt (340) 775-7547. Sponsorship opportunities for the 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance and Ads and Patrons for the 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance Commemorative Booklet are available. For more information, please call Lita Daniel, (340) 244-2448.

So, get your tickets now for the 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance on June 29, 2024 at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa Hotel. We are looking forward to celebrating the 250th Jubilee Anniversary with you.

Pray without ceasing 1 Thessalonians 5:17



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JUBILEE YEAR PRAYER

In preparation for the 250th Anniversary of presence in this territory

Eternal Father, In this, the Jubilee Year of Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral, we praise you for all blessings we have received over the past 250 years of our existence. We bless you for the lives of all those who, throughout the centuries, have helped build this vibrant community of love and service. May they rest eternally in Your divine and merciful presence. We give you thanks for all the people who gather in this Cathedral to worship you, striving to turn away from sin and follow the teachings of the faithful disciples of your Son Jesus-Christ. May Your Holy Spirit continue to lead us on the path of faith, hope, and charity, so that in every aspect of our lives, and inspired by the example of our patron Saints Peter and Paul, we may always be joyous witnesses of Jesus Christ in the world. Amen

PASTORAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

Baptisms are generally held on the last Sunday of the month. Requests for a different date and time will be honored to the extent possible. Parents and sponsors who have not yet received the required baptismal instruction are expected to do so by attending our baptismal preparation program. Call the parish office well in advance so that class arrangements can be made.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

Anyone wishing to have his or her wedding celebrated at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral must contact the parish office 9-12 months prior to the celebration and talk to a priest for pre-wedding counseling. Please visit our website www.cathedralvi.org or call us at 340-774-0201. The Sacrament of Marriage is generally celebrated on a Saturday between the hours of 11:00AM and 2:00PM. Please contact the parish priest if you would like a different time for your wedding. (Note that Saturday mornings are reserved for cleaning and decorating the cathedral.)

VISITING AND ANNOINTING THE SICK:

If anyone in your family is sick or shut-in, please inform the parish office so that we can pray for them and arrange to visit them. Please note that the hospital does not notify us when Catholics are in the hospital. Please call the parish office to inform us of a Catholic in the hospital who needs to have a priest visit. Thank you!

FUNERAL MASSES:

Funeral Masses at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral are held on the designated day at 9:30AM. Please make arrangements with the Church office before the funeral home to assure availability of the date requested. The Funeral Program should read "Christian Burial" on the cover. If you would like a different time, please contact the parish priest. Viewings will not take place inside the cathedral. Funerals generally are not held on weekends (Saturday or Sunday). Thank you for your cooperation.



DAILY WEEKDAY READINGS

Monday, May 6, 2024 First Reading: Acts 16: 11-15 Gospel: John 15: 26—16: 4a

Tuesday, May 7, 2024First Reading: Acts 16: 22-34
Gospel: John 16: 5-11

Wednesday, May 8, 2024
First Reading: Acts: 17: 15, 22—18: 1
Gospel: John 16: 12-15

Thursday, May 9, 2024 First Reading: Acts 18: 1-8 Gospel: John 16: 16-20

Friday, May 10, 2024 St. John of Avila, Priest First Reading: Acts 18: 9-18 Gospel: John 16: 20-23a

Saturday, May 11, 2024 First Reading: Acts 18: 23-28 Gospel: John 16: 23b-28

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Please be aware that during the COVID-19 pandemic, we recommend the following practices:

1. Wear a face covering in the cathedral.

2. Sanitize your hands.

3. Attempt to maintain a social distance of six feet.

4. Consider receiving Holy Communion in hand.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

250th JUBILEE COMMITTEE MEETING

The 250th Jubilee Committee invites all Christians to a general meeting to be held at the Columban Hall at the Holy Family Church, on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

The mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Aracely Nicholson will be celebrated on May 7, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. here at the Cathedral. Let us pray for the repose of her soul and keep her family in prayer.

BISHOP'S APPEAL

There is still time to make your gift to the Bishop's Appeal 2024. Please support our Catholic Schools, the Bethlehem Houses on St. Thomas and St. Croix, our soup kitchens on all three islands, and the evangelization efforts that promote the mission of the local church. Please take a brochure, complete the form, and return it with your donation. Electronic contributions are also accepted. Thank you for your generosity.

MOTHER'S DAY DANCE

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Fundraising Committee is hosting a Mother's Day Dance on Saturday, May 11, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight in the Parish Hall. Music provided by Obsession Band. Tickets are on sale for \$20.00 and can be purchased from members of the committee.

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord will be observed on Sunday, May 12, 2024.

MASS SCHEDULE

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, the 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. mass will be combined at 11:00 a.m. as the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation will be administered. All other masses will be celebrated at the regular scheduled times.

UPCOMING CONCERT

Coming to our Cathedral on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. a Joyous Concert offered by Encore, a vocal group of older adults who perform worldwide. Their performance has been requested by our Bishop Jerome Feudjio, in celebration of the 250 years of our Church's existence. More information will be available shortly with tickets, posters, and inclusion also of a few of our own local artists.

SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHEDRAL 250th JUBILEE

Parishioners, please take a patron sheet that is available at the back of the Church in order to support the 250th Jubilee Gala and Dinner Dance. Sponsor sheets are also available. Tickets are on sale for \$150.00 per person and are available from Parish Offices and members of the 250th Jubilee Committee. Thank you for your support.



SATURDAY, May 4, 2024 7:00AM For God's Mercy - Rb. Liberny Jean

SUNDAY, May 5, 2024 7:00AM Special Intention - Rb. a parishioner

For God's Mercy - Rb. Liberny Jean

8:30AM Monica Charles Birthday Blessings

Elmirah Ferdinand - Rb. her mother

10:00AM Jeanne & Robert Brown's Anniversary Rb. Elma Francis

12:15PM † Luis "Kiki" Clemente German Francisco Rb. Luz Martinez Sanchez

MONDAY, May 6, 2024 7:00AM † Pete Ledee - Rb. his wife, Becky Ledee

For God's Mercy - Rb. Liberny Jean

TUESDAY, May 7, 2024 7:00AM For God's Mercy - Rb. Liberny Jean

WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2024 7:00AM Lita Daniel - Rb. Deacon Dan

12:15PM Reconciliation/Repentance - Rb. a parishioner

THURSDAY, May 9, 2024
7:00AM † Ann Boschulte - Rb. her family

† Teddy Larsen -Rb. Pearla Larsen & family

FRIDAY, May 10, 2024 7:00AM Dorian Special Intention - Rb. his family

SATURDAY, May 11, 2024 7:00AM

4:30 PM

6

Primera Lectura: Hechos 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Salmo responsorial: Salmo 98: 1-4 **Segunda Lectura:** 1 Juan 4: 7-10 Evangelio: Juan 15: 9-17

REFLEXÍON por: Padre Joseph Nguele TOKO

"Sé capaz de dar tu vida por tu amigo".

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

Estamos acostumbrados a decir "te amo" a las personas que decimos amar. Incluso afirmamos amar a Jesús, pero ¿sabemos realmente lo que realmente significa y lo que implica? En el evangelio de hoy, Jesús nos ayuda a comprender qué significa amarlo y qué implica el amor.

Lo primero que Jesús nos dice es que amarlo significa guardar Sus mandamientos tal como él guardó los mandamientos de su padre. Por lo tanto quiere decir que no podemos decir que amamos a Dios o que amamos a Jesús si no oramos, si decimos mentiras, si robamos, si matamos a la gente directa o indirectamente, activa o pasivamente, si no guardamos los mandamientos de Dios. Muchas personas dicen que aman a Dios y se niegan a perdonar a quienes pecan contra ellos o se niegan a orar por sus enemigos o desearles lo mejor. Muchos afirman amar a Dios y se niegan a ser pacientes y perdonar a los demás y, sin embargo, esperan la misericordia y la compasión de Dios. San Pablo nos dice en su carta a los Corintios, que "el amor es paciente, bondadoso, no celoso ni jactancioso; no es orgulloso; no deshonra a los demás, no es egoísta, no se enoja fácilmente, no guarda registro de sus errores. Él amor no se deleita en el mal sino que se regocija con la verdad. Siempre protege, siempre confía, siempre espera, siempre persevera. El amor nunca falla..."
¿Quién puede ahora decir que ama así como San Pablo describe las características del amor?

De hecho, San Pablo nos ayuda a comprender lo que Iesús nos dice hoy sobre el amor, es decir, que el amor es oblativo, es decir, sacrificial. No puedes pretender amar si no aceptas sacrificar un poco de algo, un poco de tu tiempo por el bien de la otra persona, un poco de tu personalidad, de tu paciencia, de tu orgullo, de tu riqueza, de tu ser. por el bien de la persona que dices amar. Esto suele ser difícil de aceptar porque nos aferramos tanto a las cosas de este mundo que no vemos cómo podemos desprendernos de ellas.

NUESTRA IGLESIA Y NUESTRA **ESCUELA SON AMBIENTES SEGUROS:**

Todos estamos comprometidos con la protección de los niños en nuestras instituciones.

Si nota algún comportamiento nocivo hacia nuestros hijos, no dude en ponerse en contacto con nosotros lo antes posible.

gracias.

REFLEXÍON continuada

En verdad, el desapego de todas estas cosas mundanas debería ser más fácil porque Jesús nos pide más sacrificios que eso, si realmente queremos amar. Dice en el evangelio de Juan: "Este es mi mandamiento: amaos unos a otros como yo os amo. Nadie tiene mayor amor que este: dar la vida por los amigos. ¡Ustedes son mis amigos si hacen lo que les mando...! In15: 12-19 ¿Quién puede decir que ama realmente como Jesús al pedirnos que hagamos? ¿Cuántas veces nos hemos sacrificado o derramado un poco de sangre por el bien de aquellos a quienes decimos amar? Generalmente queremos amar a las personas sin tener que hacer ningún sacrificio o sin herirnos o sufrir. Jesús diría "¡hasta los paganos lo hacen!" Tenemos que ir más allá de lo ordinario para hacer algo extraordinario en términos de desapego de nosotros mismos, de nuestros bienes y de nuestra vida. No es fácil hacerlo. Por eso el amor es siempre un riesgo a correr. Podemos amar sin mucho dolor, así como puede costarnos mucho dolor; y tenemos que pagar ese costo si realmente amamos a nuestros seres queridos.

Digamos a Dios que lamentamos las muchas veces que las cosas del mundo nos han impedido amar como deberíamos haberlo hecho; lamentamos habernos negado a sacrificarnos por los demás por amor. Que el Señor nos conceda las gracias que necesitamos para amar como Él espera de nosotros.

ANUNCIOS

LLAMAMIENTO DEL OBISPO

Todavía hay tiempo para hacer su donación a la Campaña del Obispo 2024. Apoye nuestras escuelas católicas, las Casas de Belén en St. Thomas y St. Croix, nuestros comedores populares en las tres islas y los esfuerzos de evangelización que promueven la misión de la Iglesia. Iglesia local. Por favor tome un folleto, complete el formulario y devuélvalo con su donación. También se aceptan contribuciones electrónicas. Gracias por

250° REUNIÓN DEL COMITÉ DEL JUBILEO

ElComitédelJubileo250 invita a todos los cristianos a una reunión general que se celebrará en el Salón Columbano de la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia, el martes 7 de mayo de 2024, a las 18:00 horas.

HORARIO DE MISA PARA 19 DE MAYO

El domingo 19 de mayo de 2024 (día de Pentecostes), a las 11.00 horas se celebrará una misa bilingüe donde se administrarán los sacramentos de las primeras comuniones y las con-

BAILE DEL DÍA DE LA MADRE

El Comité de Recaudación de Fondos de la Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Perpetuo Socorro organizará un baile del Día de la Madre el sábado 11 de mayo de 8:00 p.m. a las 12:00 de la noche en el Salón Parroquial. Los boletos están a la venta por \$20.00 y se pueden comprar a los miembros del comité.

PRÓXIMO CONCIERTO

Llegando a nuestra Catedral el domingo 19 de mayo de 2024, a las 15:00 horas. un Concierto Alegre ofrecido por Encore, un grupo vocal de adultos mayores que se presenta en todo el mundo. Su actuación ha sido solicitada por nuestro obispo Jerónimo Feudjio, en celebración de los 250 años de existencia de nuestra Iglesia. Habrá más información disponible en breve con entradas, carteles e inclusión también de algunos de nuestros artistas locales.

OUR CHURCH AND OUR SCHOOL ARE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS:

We are all committed to the protection of the children in our institutions. If you notice any harmful behavior toward our children, do not hesitate to contact us as soon as possible. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:

May 5 - Music Ministry May 12 - Catholic Communication Campaign



OFFERTORY / OFERTORIO LAST WEEK'S OFFERTORY AMOUNTED TO: LA OFRENDA DE LA SEMANA PASADA SUMÓ Thank

	APRIL 28, 2024		you for your
4:30PM 7:00AM 8:30 AM 10:00AM 12:15PM TOTAL	\$ 660.80 \$ 1131.00 \$ 1244.00 \$ 830.00 \$ 568.00 \$ 4,433.80	\$ 237.00 \$ 91.00 \$ 157.50 \$ 299.00 \$ 784.50	donation! Gracias por su

CATHEDRAL MAINTENANCE & ENHANCEMENT: APRIL 28: TOTAL \$ 1,112.00

WEDNEDSAY, APRIL 24: TOTAL \$ 216.05

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Regina Caeli Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia. R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(To be said during Easter)



PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR MAY

O most august and blessed Virgin Mary! Holy Mother of God! glorious Queen of heaven and earth! powerful protectress of those who love thee, and unfailing advocate of all who invoke thee! look down, I beseech thee, from thy throne of glory on thy devoted child; accept the solemn offering I present thee of this month, specially dedicated to thee, and receive my ardent, humble desire, that by my love and fervor I could worthily honor thee, who, next to God, art deserving of all honor. Receive me, 0 Mother of Mercy, among thy best beloved children; extend to me thy maternal tenderness and solicitude; obtain for me a place in the Heart of Jesus, and a special share in the gifts of His grace. 0 deign, I beseech thee, to recognize my claims on thy protection, to watch over my spiritual and temporal interests, as well as those of all who are dear to me; to infuse into my soul the spirit of Christ, and to teach me thyself to become meek, humble, charitable, patient, and submissive to the will of God.

May my heart burn with the love of thy Divine Son, and of thee, His blessed Mother, not for a month alone, but for time and eternity; may I thirst for the promotion of His honor and thine, and contribute, as far as I can, to its extension. Receive me, 0 Mary, the refuge of sinners! Grant me a Mother's blessing and a Mother's care, now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.