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April 30, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Easter



<p>PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL <i>Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou</i> <i>Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko</i></p> <p>DEACONS <i>Rev. Mr. Wilfredo Acosta (Retired)</i> <i>Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel</i> <i>Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney</i> <i>Rev. Mr. José Vázquez</i></p>	<p>WEEKENDS Saturday: 7:00AM, 4:30PM (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 6:30AM, 8:30AM, 10:30AM, and 12:15PM (Spanish)</p> <p>WEEKDAYS Monday to Friday: 6:45AM Wednesday: 12:15PM</p> <p>EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Wednesday from 7:30AM - 12:00PM</p> <p>Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday before Masses</p>	<p>CONFESSIONS Wednesday: 11:45AM - 12:10PM Saturday: 3:45PM - 4:25PM or by Request</p> <p>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Every Sunday beginning with the 8:30AM Mass</p> <p>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CONVENT 340-774-0201 ext. 23</p> <p><i>Sister Adèle Gatsi</i> <i>Sister Sylvérine Fola</i></p>
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<p>Scan this QR Code to visit the Diocesan Website and/or to donate to the Bishop's Appeal.</p>		<p>Scan this QR Code to visit the Cathedral Website and/or to make an online donation.</p>

Fourth Sunday of Easter

First Reading: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23: 1-6
Second Reading: 1 Peter 2: 20b-25
Gospel: John 10: 1-10

MEDITATION

FOURTH (4th) SUNDAY OF EASTER, YEAR A.
“GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY”
by Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou

Every year, on this 4th Sunday of Easter, the very famous parable of the Good Shepherd is read, in fragments. Contrary to certain mawkish and “bleating” representations, it does not evoke a peaceful pastoral scene: it is a weapon of combat. Jesus intended it for the Pharisees, his bitter opponents who accused him of being “possessed by Satan” (8:48) and who, together with the chief priests, were determined to have him killed as soon as possible. Jesus affirms the function that his Father has entrusted to him: to become the unique and definitive guide of men. And we must never forget that “the Pharisees” do not refer only to the group of Jewish adversaries of Jesus but to a mentality, a behavior, a hypocritical piety. And this dreadful drift can be found in any religion...including that of Jesus!

The only true guide of humanity

Jesus said to the Pharisees: “Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever enters the sheepfold and does not go through the gate, but climbs in through another place, he is a thief and a bandit. He who enters through the gate is the shepherd, the shepherd of the sheep. The doorkeeper opens it for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls each of them by name and leads them out. When he has driven out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. They will never follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

I make my voice heard: Jesus’ only weapon is his Word, the Good News that he never stopped proclaiming. In front of all audiences, in the city as well as in the villages, he speaks without guile, without intellectual pretension; he respects everyone, he does not violate consciences, he appeals to the freedom of each person. Besides, **He is the word, the logos, the meaning, the reason.**

I call my brewers, each by his name: Jesus does not enlist a mass, he does not hold any electoral speech to bait the crowd with random promises. His Word calls each one “by name”, that is to say in a personal way: such a disciple will find a family, such another will leave everything to follow him on a difficult road, such another will carry a heavy handicap. But each one, in his own way, feels called and has a vocation. Jesus does not boast of his own qualities: those who trust him are those whom the Father gives him (10:29; 17:2-6-9), he receives them as gifts from his Father. They are “his sheep”: his love for them is such that they are never alienated.

The Shepherd walks at their lead: Jesus is not a leader hiding in the back and sending his troops to the front. The Gospel shows him always walking at the head of his disciples, the first to be taunted, criticized, and insulted. And when danger threatens, he is the one who advances towards Judas and the troops who have come to arrest him. “I am the one; let these men go” (18:8). When it is a question of giving his life, it is he alone who offers himself.



Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou
Cathedral Administrator
(340) 203-0607

MEDITATION (continued)

The brewers follow him because they know his voice: the disciples are not pilgrims in the Holy Land looking for unlikely remnants of Jesus. To follow him means to listen to what he says and to obey his Will in all faithfulness. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we think we know the Scriptures, but we don’t. If the first Christians called themselves “disciples”, it was not because they accepted a “discipline” but because they wanted to “learn” better and better the message of a Voice that commanded radical refusals and forced them to distance themselves from their surroundings.

They never follow a stranger because they don’t know his voice. Bombarded by seductive messages, solicited by promises of happiness and fulfillment, the true disciple develops his instinct of faith which allows him to discern among all the Voice of his Lord. On the religious, social, and political levels, he flushes out the lies, he sniffs out the traps, he refuses to be led by the nose. For the disciple of Jesus is anything but “a sheep of Panurge”.

Jesus the door to freedom and life

Jesus used this parable to address them, but they did not understand what he was talking about. So Jesus spoke again: “Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. All those who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the door. If anyone enters through me, he will be saved: he will be able to go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal, slaughter, and destroy. I have come so that people may have life, life in abundance.

And today’s page ends with one of the most magnificent statements of Jesus, Shepherd and Gatekeeper:
“I have come that men may have life, life in superabundance”.



DAILY READINGS
EASTER WEEKDAYS

Monday, May 1, 2023

Saint Joseph the Worker

First Reading: Acts 11: 1-18

Gospel: John 10: 11-18

Tuesday, May 2, 2023

Saint Athanasius

First Reading: Acts 11: 19-26

Gospel: John 10: 22-30

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

Saints Philip and James

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-8

Gospel: John 14: 6-14

Thursday, May 4, 2023

First Reading: Acts 13: 13-25

Gospel: John 13: 16-20

Friday, May 5, 2023

First: Acts 13: 26-33

Gospel: John 14: 1-6

Saturday, May 6, 2023

First: Acts 13: 44-52

Gospel: John 14: 7-14

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Pray
without
ceasing

1 Thessalonians 5:17

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present
in all things and desire You in my soul. Since
I cannot now receive You in the Sacrament,
come spiritually into my heart. I embrace
You and unite myself wholly to You; do not
permit me ever to be separated from You.
Amen.

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori)



JULITA DE LEON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Tel 340.777.3340
Fax 800.853.4041
Email: jdeleon@antilleslaw.com
Web antilleslaw.com

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FOR VOCATIONS

Cardinal Joseph Bernardin

O Lord of the harvest, your Word finds a home in our hearts, calls us to community, and invites us to generous ser-vices of the human family. Bless with courage and spirit your priestly people, called to full participation in the Body of Christ. May many choose to respond in public service to your call offered in Jesus’ name. Amen



St. Michael the Archangel Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do Thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BISHOP’S APPEAL:

We are reminded of our call to be “good stewards” of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy and give an acceptable portion of our TIME, TALENT and TREASURE for the Kingdom of God. The Bishop’s Appeal 2023 is a practical opportunity for you to practice your Catholic faith by serving Christ and His poor and needy brothers and sisters, Bethlehem Houses, Soup Kitchens and Evangelization Efforts. For your convenience, you may choose to make a pledge now and spread your payments over several months. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check, credit card or direct online payments. Please fill out the form in the brochure and make your checks payable to “Diocese of St. Thomas”. Please see the brochure for further information. Thank You!

DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMAN:

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women in the Virgin Islands will host their first Convention, ‘An Afternoon with the Bishop and the Board’. All women and women’s organizations are invited to attend. The Bishop would like to meet with all women and women’s groups at the Convention, to dialogue with you and to bring awareness to the mission of the board. The St. Croix Meeting will be held at the St. Ann’s Church on Sunday May 21, 2023, from 3-5 pm (light refreshments will be served). The St. Thomas/ St. John meeting has been postponed to a later date to be announced. Please contact the Chancery at (340) 774 3166 ext. 104 or email usviccw@gmail.com.

MONTH OF MARY:

May is the month of Mary and we are all invited to join in praying the rosary here at the cathedral daily before each mass.

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

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

6:30AM † Mrs. Enid Niles Blyden
Rb Cleone J. Beverhoudt
† Knolly Beazer - Rb. Marie Hansen (sister)

8:30AM Keeon Connor - Rb. his mother and family

10:30AM Faye Francois & family for healing
Rb. Senior Choir

12:15PM People of the parish

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

6:45AM † Karen Sewer - Rb. Cleone Creque and family

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

6:45AM Deacons of the Diocese

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

6:45AM Priests of the Diocese
12:15PM † Arthur Beazer - Rb. Doreen B. Peters,
Dominic Beazer, & Pauline Beazer James

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

6:45 AM Addison Alfred for success and protection
Rb. himself

FRIDAY, MAY 5 2023

6:45 AM Elmirah Ferdinand’s birthday -Rb. her mother
† Dorvial Etienne - Rb. Vernelda Alexander

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

7:00AM Andrew & Brittany Wedding Anniversary -
Rb. their family

4:30PM Denise LaPlace - Rb. Serge LaPlace
Holy Souls in Purgatory - Rb. Marcial LaPlace

CATECHESIS

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK OR EXTREME
UNCTION: WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

by Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou

“We no longer say ‘extreme unction’ but ‘sacrament of the sick’”, we often hear in our parishes. But do these two expressions designate the same reality?

Formerly called ‘extreme unction’, it was the Second Vatican Council that redefined the sacrament of the sick. Today, the Church considers it to be a sacrament of life, to accompany those who are suffering, rather than the “last” of the sacraments, long associated with death. “The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC §1514) states: “The Anointing of the Sick is not only the sacrament of those who are at the end of their lives. It was the liturgical reform of 1972 that transformed the anointing into a sacrament of accompaniment, in response to the instruction received from St. James in his epistle:

