

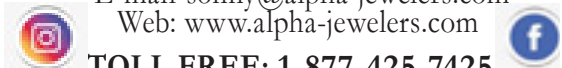
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1. Wear a face covering in the cathedral.
2. Sanitize your hands.
3. Attempt to maintain a social distance of six feet.
4. Consider receiving Holy Communion in hand.

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Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio

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

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August 25, 2024

Twenty - First Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"Do you also want to leave?" Jn 6: 67**



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Rev. Fr. Joseph Toko  
Rev. Fr. Marcel Gham  
Rev. Fr. Ronan Sarmiento

### DEACONS

Rev. Mr. Wilfredo Acosta (Retired)  
Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel  
Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney  
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### WEEKENDS

Saturday: 7:00AM, 4:30PM (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 7:00AM,  
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and 12:15PM (Spanish)

### WEEKDAYS

Monday to Friday: 7:00AM

Wednesday: 12:15PM

### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Wednesday from 7:30AM - 11:45AM

Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
Wednesday before Masses

### CONFESSIONS

Wednesday: 11:45AM - 12:10PM

Saturday: 3:45PM - 4:25PM  
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### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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Rev. Fr. Ronan Sarmiento

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### MISSION STATEMENT

To continue the ministry  
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*Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading:** Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 34: 2-3, 16-21  
**Second Reading:** Ephesians 5: 21-32 or 5: 2a, 25-32  
**Gospel:** John 6: 60-69



**MEDITATION**

**By: Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguele Toko**

**“Do you also want to leave?” Jn 6: 67**

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the world there are many ideologies and many opportunities so much so that we find ourselves always in a situation where we have to make a choice or take a decision. But before making a choice or taking a decision, we need to think well, and take into account not only the present or the future, but also the past experiences. This is also valid in the spiritual life.

In the first reading, we see that Joshua is gathering the people of Israel with all their leaders, their elders, their judges and their officers to ask them to make a choice between serving Yahweh and serving other gods. In fact, they have come to discover other peoples with other gods and other ways of thinking and of doing things. In modern terms, we will say that they have discovered other ideologies and other ways of life which have seduced them, drawing them gradually away from Yahweh their God who saved them from the slavery in Egypt. It is within this context where they are no longer faithful to Yahweh and His Word, even though they still claim to be the people of God, that Joshua invites them to make a decision to serve either Yahweh or other gods.

For true, we too should be asked to make a choice between God and the ideologies in the world and all those other things that seduce us. In the world today, they propose to us money, power, help of various kinds and a cheap happiness through sects and different devilish or malevolent associations. Whom do we choose to serve?

**Meditation** (continued)

What is interesting to take note of is that before the people expressed themselves on this question, he gave his own stand: “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” He was courageous enough not to allow himself be influenced by others, and to take a contrary position to the one of most people. At the same time his stand at that particular moment could be seen as an indirect way of influencing positively the decision of the people who finally reacted saying: ” Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.” Like Joshua, we should be able to influence people’s choices and decisions positively.

What is also worth mentioning is the reason that the people gave to justify their position: “For it was the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed.” This is the reason why they will not abandon Yahweh. When they looked back at their lives, they noticed that God had helped them a lot. This is the reason for their Faith, for not choosing a different god. What is our own reason? Very often we do not look back at our lives in order to read our history again and see how God was merciful to us , how He did show us his goodness and bounty sometimes. We should be able to refer to those moments in order to justify our faith also. It is the same thing in the gospel of today.

In fact, Jesus had said that unless they eat his body and drink his blood, they cannot have life. Not all the disciples accepted it; they were murmuring about it. Some thought that He was a cannibal and decided to abandon Jesus and return to their former way of life. It is within this context that Jesus asked the twelve: “Do you also want to leave?” Luckily, they did not allow themselves to be influenced by those who decided to leave. That is why Peter answered: “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe that and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” (Jn 6:67-69) They chose to be with Jesus out of conviction, after all that they had experienced in their life with him. It is the same way that we should proceed to choose to serve God. We should look back at our past experiences in order to find reasons for our faith, for our religious convictions. In this way, we will know why we believe and will remain steadfast in our faith despite everything.

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*Pray without ceasing*  
 1 Thessalonians 5:17

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**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](http://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, August 26, 2024**

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1: 1-5, 11-12  
Gospel: Matthew 23: 13-22

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

*Saint Monica*

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-3a, 14-17  
Gospel: Matthew 23: 23-26

**Wednesday, August 28, 2024**

*St. Augustine, Bishop, Doctor of the Church*

First Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-10, 16-18  
Gospel: Matthew 23: 27-32

**Thursday, August 29, 2024**

*The Passion of Saint John the Baptist*

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-9  
Gospel: Mark 6: 17-29

**Friday, August 30, 2024**

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 17-25  
Gospel: Matthew 25: 1-13

**Saturday, August 31, 2024**

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31  
Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

**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)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Classes have effectively resumed in Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School since last Monday, August 19. We are happy with the good beginning of the school year with the new administration, staff, and students. We thank all the priests, seminarians and religious involved in the life of our school. If you are interested in registering your child/children at the school, please contact the school office at 340-774-2199 or send an email to [info@spps.edu.vi](mailto:info@spps.edu.vi).

**LECTORS**

Any parishioner interested in joining the Lectors ministry please contact the Church office or Father Joseph Toko.

**RESPECT & CLEANLINESS**

Please let us keep our Church and surroundings clean. Do not eat in Church and please watch over your children. Remove all wrappers, tissues, water bottles, etc. when you leave the pews. Remember that this is the house of Our Lord, Let us be RESPECTFUL!

**MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL**

The mass of Christian Burial for Mrs. Rita D. Duncan will be held at Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral on Tuesday, August 27, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. May her soul and the soul of all the faithful departed rest in eternal peace.

**CONDOLENCES**

We would like to offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Pearla Larsen. Mrs. Larsen was an active and faithful parishioner of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral where she was involved in many ministries and donated selflessly to the Church and events within the Church. Her daily presence at the 7:00 a.m. masses and other celebrations will be truly missed. May her soul rest in eternal peace and may God comfort and strengthen her family at this time. Please pray for the repose of her soul and for her family.

**HURRICANE PRAYER**

God, All-powerful Father, Christ, Our Savior, Spirit of Love, You reveal yourself in the depths of our being, drawing us to share in Your life and love. Be near to the people formed in Your image, close to the world Your love brings to life. Save us from all harm, draw us ever closer to You as we confidently seek Your protection from the destructive force of all storms which frighten us. Let every hurricane or natural threat of disaster serve only to blow us ever more securely into Your loving, merciful embrace. We ask this, Father, with the intercession of the Virgin Mother, Mary, Lady of all Nations, through your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen

**ORACIÓN DEL HURACÁN**

Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Cristo, Salvador nuestro, Espíritu de amor, Tú te revelas en lo más profundo de nuestro ser, atrayéndonos a compartir tu vida y tu amor. Este cerca de las personas formadas a Tu imagen, cerca del mundo que Tu amor trae a la vida. Sálvanos de todo daño, acércate cada vez más hacia nosotros mientras buscamos con confianza Tu protección de la fuerza destructiva de todas las tormentas que nos asustan. Que cada huracán o amenaza natural de desastre sirva sólo para llevarnos cada vez más seguros a Tu abrazo amoroso y misericordioso. Esto te lo pedimos, Padre, con la intercesión de la Virgen Madre, María, Señora de todos los Pueblos, por tu Hijo, Jesucristo, y el Espíritu Santo, un solo Dios, por los siglos de los siglos. Amén

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, August 24, 2024**

7:00AM Cynthia Charles, sons, & brothers for protection and deliverance - Rb. Cynthia Charles  
4:30PM

**SUNDAY, August 25, 2024**

7:00AM Healing of Walter Ells - Rb. Carl Corea

8:30AM † Maria Jules - Rb. her children

† Maria Griffin - Rb. family and friends

10:00AM Dr. Sor Cruz Birthday Blessings - Rb. Pinky, Aurea, and Becky  
Innocent Joseph - Rb. himself

12:15PM

**MONDAY, August 26, 2024**

7:00AM † Magda Bonelli - Rb. family and friends

Marie Thomas, husband, & sons - Rb. Marie Thomas

**TUESDAY, August 27, 2024**

7:00AM Cynthia Charles, sons, & brothers for protection and deliverance - Rb. Cynthia Charles

Lillian Jn Baptiste & Ronald Jn Baptiste for protection - Rb. their mother

**WEDNESDAY, August 28, 2024**

7:00AM Vernon and Kate Edmee for deliverance, healing & protection - Rb. their family

12:15PM

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2024**

7:00AM Everic Edmee & sons, deliverance & healing - Rb their family

**FRIDAY, August 30, 2024**

7:00AM † Magda Bonelli - Rb. family and friends

Kantia, Kenthia & children for deliverance & healing - Rb. their parents

**SATURDAY, August 31, 2024**

7:00AM Jun's Birthday Blessings - Rb. Gilbuena family

4:30PM

*XXI Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

**Primera lectura:** Josué 24, 1-2a, 15-17, 18b  
**Salmo responsorial:** Salmo 34, 2-3, 16-21  
**Segunda lectura:** Efesios 5, 21-32 o 5, 2a, 25-32  
**Evangelio:** Juan 6, 60-69

**Meditación**

por: Padre Joseph Nguete Toko

“¿También vosotros queréis marcharos?” Jn 6, 67

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

En el mundo hay muchas ideologías y muchas posibilidades, hasta el punto de que siempre nos encontramos en una situación en la que tenemos que hacer una elección o tomar una decisión. Pero antes de hacer una elección o tomar una decisión, es necesario pensar bien, y tener en cuenta no sólo el presente o el futuro, sino también las experiencias pasadas. Esto vale también en la vida espiritual.

En la primera lectura, vemos que Josué reúne al pueblo de Israel con todos sus jefes, sus ancianos, sus jueces y sus oficiales para pedirles que hagan una elección entre servir a Yahvé o servir a otros dioses. De hecho, han descubierto otros pueblos con otros dioses y otros modos de pensar y de hacer las cosas. En términos modernos, diríamos que han descubierto otras ideologías y otros modos de vida que los han seducido, alejándolos poco a poco de Yahvé su Dios que los salvó de la esclavitud de Egipto. En este contexto, en el que ya no son fieles a Yahvé y a su Palabra, aunque todavía se declaren pueblo de Dios, Josué los invita a tomar una decisión: servir a Yahvé o a otros dioses.

Porque es cierto que también a nosotros se nos debería pedir que tomemos una decisión entre Dios y las ideologías del mundo y todas esas otras cosas que nos seducen. En el mundo de hoy nos proponen dinero, poder, ayudas de todo tipo y una felicidad barata a través de sectas y diferentes asociaciones diabólicas o malévolas. ¿A quién elegimos servir?

Lo que es interesante notar es que antes de que el pueblo se expresara sobre esta cuestión, él dio su propia posición: “En cuanto a mí y mi casa, serviremos al Señor”. Tuvo el coraje de no dejarse influenciar por los demás y de tomar una posición contraria a la de la mayoría de la gente. Al mismo tiempo, su postura en ese momento concreto puede ser vista como una forma indirecta de influir positivamente en la decisión del pueblo, que finalmente reaccionó diciendo: “Lejos de nosotros abandonar al Señor por el servicio a otros dioses”. Al igual que Josué, debemos ser capaces de influir positivamente en las elecciones y decisiones de las personas.

**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.

**meditación continua**

También vale la pena mencionar la razón que dio el pueblo para justificar su posición: “Porque fue el Señor nuestro Dios quien nos sacó a nosotros y a nuestros padres de la tierra de Egipto, de un estado de esclavitud. Hizo grandes milagros ante nuestros ojos y nos protegió a lo largo de todo nuestro camino y entre los pueblos por entre los que pasamos”. Esta es la razón por la que no abandonarán a Yahvé. Cuando miraron atrás, se dieron cuenta de que Dios los había ayudado mucho. Esta es la razón de su fe, de no elegir un dios diferente. ¿Cuál es nuestra propia razón? Muchas veces no miramos atrás para leer nuestra historia y ver cómo Dios fue misericordioso con nosotros, cómo nos mostró su bondad y su generosidad en ocasiones. Deberíamos poder referirnos a esos momentos para justificar también nuestra fe. Lo mismo sucede en el evangelio de hoy.

De hecho, Jesús había dicho que si no comían su cuerpo y bebían su sangre, no podían tener vida. No todos los discípulos lo aceptaron, murmuraban al respecto. Algunos pensaron que era un canibal y decidieron abandonar a Jesús y volver a su antigua forma de vida. Es en este contexto que Jesús preguntó a los doce: “¿También ustedes quieren irse?” Afortunadamente, ellos no se dejaron influenciar por aquellos que decidieron irse. Por eso Pedro respondió: “Maestro, ¿a quién iremos? Tú tienes palabras de vida eterna. Nosotros lo hemos creído y estamos convencidos de que tú eres el Santo de Dios” (Jn 6,67-69). Eligieron estar con Jesús por convicción, después de todo lo que habían experimentado en su vida con él. De la misma manera debemos proceder para elegir servir a Dios. Debemos mirar atrás, a nuestras experiencias pasadas, para encontrar razones de nuestra fe, de nuestras convicciones religiosas. De esta manera, sabremos por qué creemos y permaneceremos firmes en nuestra fe a pesar de todo.

**ANUNCIOS**

**MISA DE ENTIERRO CRISTIANO**

La misa de entierro cristiano de la Sra. Rita D. Duncan se llevará a cabo en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo el martes 27 de agosto de 2024 a las 9:30 a.m. Que su alma y el alma de todos los fieles depravados descansen en paz eterna.

**CONDOLENCIAS**

Nos gustaría ofrecer nuestras condolencias a la familia de la Sra. Pearla Larsen. La Sra. Larsen era una feligresa activa y fiel de la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo, donde participó en muchos ministerios y donó desinteresadamente a la Iglesia y a los eventos dentro de la Iglesia. Su presencia diaria en las misas de las 7:00 a.m. y otras celebraciones se extrañará mucho. Que su alma descanse en paz eterna y que Dios consuele y fortalezca a su familia en este momento. Por favor, oren por el descanso de su alma y por su familia.

**RESPETO Y LIMPIEZA**

Por favor, mantengamos limpia nuestra Iglesia y sus alrededores. No coman en la Iglesia y vigilen a sus hijos. Retiren todos los envoltorios, pañuelos, botellas de agua, etc. cuando abandonen los bancos. Recuerden que esta es la casa de Nuestro Señor. ¡Seamos RESPETUOSOS!

**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:**

August 25 - Solidarity for Church in Africa  
 September 1 - Music Ministry  
 September 8 - Catholic Education

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

AUGUST 18, 2024		
4:30PM	\$ 383.00	\$ 217.00
7:00AM	\$ 640.00	\$ 241.00
8:30AM	\$ 1011.00	\$ 303.00
10:00AM	\$ 1617.00	\$ 291.00
12:15PM	\$ 454.00	\$ 184.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,236.00</b>

*Thank you for your donation!*

*Gracias por su donación.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 6:30 PM \$ 193.00  
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15  
 7:00 AM: \$ 67.90, 12:15PM \$ 481.00, 6:30 PM: \$ 105.00  
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**E-GIVING:**

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 \* your Checking/Saving account. \* your PayPal account.

**KEEP OUR SICK & SHUT-INS IN PRAYER**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS:**

**HOME OR NURSING HOME**

LENO ABRAHAM  
 ALICIA ALLEN  
 JENVILLE ANDREWS  
 EDWIN ARROYO  
 MONICA BERKELEY  
 EDRISS CALLWOOD  
 AUSSELITA DE FREITAS  
 DELTA DELAGARDE  
 PRISCA DAVIS  
 DARIL EVANS  
 MICHAEL FARRINGTON  
 JOKATA GARCIA  
 MERCEDES GARCIA  
 WILFRED GARDIER  
 ETLA V. GASKIN  
 ERIC GRAF  
 GIRLIE HEYWOOD  
 MILDRED HODGE  
 KEITH JAMES  
 ROSE MARIE JOSEPH  
 EDITH LEBLANC  
 BERECIA LEWIS  
 GRACIELA MILLIN  
 GWYNNETH MOOLENAAR  
 HUGO MOULON  
 JOSEPH MORRELL  
 LEIDA PIZARRO  
 SONIA PIZARRO  
 WALTON RAVARIERE  
 PHYLLIS RODNEY  
 CYRUS SAMPSON  
 PETRONA STANISLAUS  
 CECILIA HILL-THOMAS  
 LESTEL TURBE  
 CHARLES VANTERPOOL  
 JOHN H. VENZEN  
 RUTH WALCOTT

**ROY SCHNEIDER HOSPITAL**

*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!*



**OFF-ISLAND**

BISHOP HERBERT A. BEVARD  
 FR. SIMON PETER OPIRA  
 FR. JOHN SOLOMON  
 RENEL BREDY  
 JOYCE CORREA  
 CELESTINE DAVIS  
 FITZROY CYRIL EUGENE  
 LAVERNE FRANCIS  
 MILLICENT GAGLIANI  
 DELTA GEORGE  
 LOUISE HASSELL ARMSTRONG  
 DR. ALFRED O. HEATH  
 JOSEPH HODGE  
 WINIFRED HODGE  
 RITA KING  
 STEPHANY LOUZAN  
 JOSEPHINE NOCH  
 FELIX O'NEAL  
 RAMÓN ORTIZ  
 MIRIAM GARCIA RIJO  
 LOURDEN T. RIVERA  
 ROSE ROBERTS  
 VENIA SAKHRANI  
 CARLOS SANCHEZ  
 CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO  
 LIAN VÁZQUEZ



**PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

Heavenly Father,

As we embark on this new school year at Sts. Peter and Paul School, we come before You with hearts full of gratitude and anticipation. We thank You for the gift of education and the opportunity to learn and grow together in faith, knowledge, and love.

Bless our students, teachers, staff, and families. Grant us the wisdom and patience to face the challenges and joys that lie ahead. May Your Holy Spirit guide us in our studies, our teaching, and our interactions with one another.

Help our students to be diligent in their studies, respectful to their teachers, and kind to their classmates. May they grow not only in knowledge but also in virtue, becoming the compassionate and responsible leaders of tomorrow.

Bless our teachers with the wisdom to inspire the compassion to nurture. May they see the potential in every student and help them to reach it. Give them the strength and patience they need to guide our students through this academic year.

Bless our staff with the dedication and support they need to keep our school running smoothly. May their efforts be recognized and appreciated by all.

Bless our families with the peace and cooperation that will foster a supportive and loving environment at home and at school. May they be active partners in the education and faith formation of their children.

As we begin this new year, may we always remember that we are one community, united in faith and love. Let us strive to live out the teachings of Sts. Peter and Paul, spreading Your love and light in all we do.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.