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~ Hebrews 13:16

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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)

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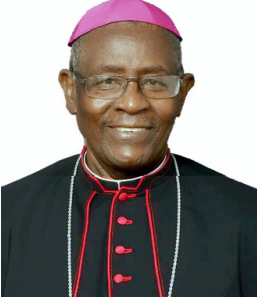
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# Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

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Log on to our Webpage at [www.cathedralvi.org](http://www.cathedralvi.org) and click on **video streaming**.

## February 25, 2024

### Second Sunday of Lent, Liturgical Year B

**May God grant us the sense of sacrifice for Him and for our brothers and sisters**



<p><b>PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL</b> Rev. Fr. Joseph Toko Rev. Fr. Marcel Gham Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko</p> <p><b>DEACONS</b> Rev. Mr. Wilfredo Acosta (Retired) Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney Rev. Mr. José Vázquez</p> <p><b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM Saturday 11:00 AM - 6:00 p.m. Sunday 8:00AM - 2:00 p.m. <b>TELEPHONE: 340-774-0201</b></p>	<p><b>WEEKENDS</b> Saturday: 7:00AM, 4:30PM (Vigil Mass) <b>Sunday:</b> 7:00AM, 8:30AM(Children's Mass), 10:00AM, and 12:15PM (Spanish)</p> <p><b>WEEKDAYS</b> Monday to Friday: 7:00AM Wednesday: 12:15PM</p> <p><b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b> Wednesday from 7:30AM - 11:45AM Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday before Masses</p> <p><b>MISSION STATEMENT</b> <i>To continue the ministry of Jesus Christ by:</i> 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.</p>	<p><b>CONFESSIONS</b> Wednesday: 11:45AM - 12:10PM Saturday: 3:45PM - 4:25PM or by Request</p> <p><b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b> Every Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.</p> <p><b>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CONVENT</b> 340-774-0201 ext. 23 Sister Adèle Gatsi Sister Sylverine Fola</p> <p><b>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL (JK-12)</b> <b>PRINCIPAL</b> Mrs. Maria Jules-Daniel, MLIS <b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday to Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM 340-774-2199 or 340-774-5662</p>
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**Please patronize these sponsors. It is through their generous support that this cathedral bulletin is provided to the parish.**

*Second Sunday of Lent  
Liturgical Year B*

**First Reading:** Genesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 119: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8  
**Second Reading:** Romans 8: 31b-34  
**Gospel:** Mark 9: 2-10

**REFLECTION**  
by: Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguete TOKO

**May God grant us the sense of sacrifice for Him and  
for our brothers and sisters**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the first reading the experience that Abraham has lived sheds some light on the experiences we sometimes go through in our own spiritual journey with God. In fact Abraham had not yet known much about God in the sense that he had not yet experienced God in his life directly as God was manifesting Himself to him in a sensible manner. God had promised him a son in his old age and actually fulfilled his promise. This only child of his gives him joy all the more as he will be his successor to whom he will leave the heritage. But behold, this only child, the most precious gift that God gave him is the one that God is asking as sacrifice. This demand is too much and weighs down on Abraham. It would be interesting to see what could be his psychological state at that time. He was completely downcast. This was a test of faith. I do not know how we would have reacted in the place of Abraham. May be many of us would have refused to answer God's request.

It is in that same way that God puts us to the test very often in our lives. He gives us many things, some of which are precious. He also asks us from time to time to make a bit of sacrifice for Him out of what He has given us, but we do refuse. Let us see the value of what we offer Him in Church as our own sacrifice during offertory. Is it worthwhile compared to what God has given us?

Sometimes God puts in our way some people who need our help in kind or in cash, or even in time as well. But are we sensitive to their needs? We are not usually sensitive to the needs of the poorer ones nor of those brothers and sisters who need our help. In the gospel of Matthew, let us not forget that Jesus reminds us that in so far as you did good to anyone hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, in prison, a stranger, .... you did it to Him, and because of that you will not lose anything; on the contrary, you will be rewarded beyond comparison. It is a matter of faith. Do we believe it? I don't think so!

**Reflection**(continued)

Even the apostles did not believe that the reward that awaits them who make sacrifices for God will be great and beyond comparison on earth. That is why Jesus had to take Peter, James, and John up a high mountain in order to be transfigured before them and make them have a foretaste of what they will have as reward after the sacrifices and sufferings of this world in His name. The experience of the transfiguration was so marvelous, sublime and unique that Peter had to say: "Rabbi, it is good that we are here! Let us make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." It was so good being there, that they no longer wanted to come down the mountain to live their ordinary life. When they came down, they became different. They became faithful followers of Jesus. What about us? You cannot see God or experience God's love and remain the same; but we do often remain the same, refusing to change, refusing to show love in turn to others whereas we have been beneficiaries of God's love and bounty. When we do experience God's love in our lives, we must be able to remain united to Him and charitable as well towards our brothers and sisters. That is what will show our faith in God.

During our mass, let us tell God that we are sorry for the many times that we have not readily accepted to make some sacrifices for Him, or in His name, for our brothers and sisters. May He grant us the sense of sacrifice for Him and for others! Amen!

Heavenly Father, during  
this Lenten season, give me  
a new and expanded vision for  
my life. Help me to live full of  
faith. Teach me to find hope  
in the face of adversity.



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**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 29, 2024**  
**JUBILEE GALA DINNER DANCE**

*The Diocese of St Thomas in the US Virgin Islands is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral with a Jubilee Gala Dinner Dance on June 29, 2024, at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa Hotel at Frenchman's Reef. Additional information about the 250th Jubilee Gala Dinner Dance will be forthcoming soon! Again, SAVE THE DATE for this not to be missed spectacular anniversary celebration*

*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](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, February 26, 2024**  
First Reading: Deuteronomy 9: 4b-10  
Gospel: Luke 6: 36-38

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**  
*Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot Doctor of the Church*  
First Reading: Isaiah 1: 10, 16-20  
Gospel: Matthew 23: 1-12

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**  
First Reading: Jeremiah 18: 18-20  
Gospel: Matthew 20: 17-28

**Thursday, February 29, 2024**  
First Reading: Jeremiah 17: 5-10  
Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31

**Friday, March 1, 2024**  
First Reading: Genesis 37: 3-4, 12-13a  
Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43, 45-46

**Saturday, March 2, 2024**  
First Reading: Malachi 7: 14-15, 18-20  
Gospel: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

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

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**  
As a reminder the Stations of the Cross takes place every Friday in English at 5:00 p.m. and in Spanish at 6:00 p.m. Please make an effort to attend.

**TAX LETTERS**  
Any parishioner who would like a tax letter please submit your request to the Church office.

**BISHOP’S APPEAL 2024**  
Please pick up one of the Bishop’s Appeal brochures to support the pastoral needs of our Diocese. Your contribution will aid in teaching and preaching the Gospel, supporting our Sacraments and Catholic Education, charitable services through Catholic Charities, nurturing new vocations, maintaining sacred spaces, evangelization of the faith, and reaching our communities via social media, television, and our Catholic Islander magazine. You can choose to pledge and distribute your payments monthly or make one-time donations in the form of cash, check, credit card, or direct online payments. Thank you for your generosity.

**LENTEN MISSION**  
St. Anne Parish invites all Parishioners to be part of its Lenten mission which will take place on March 18 and 19, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The theme of this mission is: “Jesus Son of David, have Mercy on me” (Luke 18:38). The preacher will be Father Anthony Abraham, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, St. John, Virgin Island.

**CONDOLENCES**  
We would like to offer our condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Odette M. Andrew who was a parishioner and choir member of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Ms. Andrew’s Mass of Christian Burial is scheduled for March 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral. Let us pray for the repose of her soul and for the family at this time of mourning.

**JUNE 29, 2024 JUBILEE GALA DINNER DANCE-- SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
The Diocese of St Thomas in the US Virgin Islands is celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral with a Jubilee Gala Dinner Dance on June 29, 2024, at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa Hotel at Frenchman’s Reef. Additional information about the 250th Jubilee Gala Dinner Dance will be forthcoming soon! Again, **SAVE THE DATE** for this not to be missed spectacular anniversary celebration.



On June 5th, 2024  
Deacon Ronan Sarmiento  
will be ordained to the priesthood  
at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral.  
Please save the date as additional  
information will be provided at a later time.  
Please keep Deacon Ronan in your prayers as he  
prepares for the  
priesthood.



**SATURDAY, February 24, 2024**  
7:00AM Humphrey, Hendricks, Larsen families  
Rb. Pearla Larsen & family

4:30PM People of the Parish

**SUNDAY, February 25, 2024**  
7:00AM Cynthia Charles, sons, & brothers  
Rb Cynthia Charles

8:30 AM Valarie Danet - Rb. Chantal Overbeek

10:00AM Marva Viran for healing Rb. Julie  
†Keith James, former choir member  
Rb. SPPC Senior Choir

12:15PM People of the Parish

**MONDAY, February 26, 2024**  
7:00AM Verne Edmee Rb. his parents

**TUESDAY, February 27, 2024**  
7:00AM Kevin Stridiron Birthday Blessings  
Rb. JC Lynch

**WEDNESDAY, February 28, 2024**  
7:00AM Cynthia Charles, sons, & brothers  
Rb Cynthia Charles

12:15 PM †Teddy Larsen Rb. Pearla Larsen & family

**THURSDAY, February 29, 2024**  
7:00AM Verne Edmee - Rb. his parents

**FRIDAY, March 1, 2024**  
7:00AM Elmirah and LeeTroy - Rb. their mother

**SATURDAY, March 2, 2024**  
7:00AM People of the Parish  
4:30PM †Eugene Broisin - Rb. Chantal Overbeek

*Segundo domingo de Cuaresma*  
*Año Litúrgico B*

**Primera Lectura:** Génesis 22: 1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18  
**Salmo responsorial:** Salmo 119: 1-2, 4-5, 7-8  
**Segunda Lectura:** Romanos 8: 31b-34  
**Evangelio:** Marcos 9: 2-10

**REFLEXIÓN**  
por: Padre Joseph Nguele TOKO

**Que Dios nos conceda el sentido de sacrificio por Él y por nuestros hermanos y hermanas.**

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo,

En la primera lectura, la experiencia que vivió Abraham arroja algo de luz sobre las experiencias que a veces pasamos en nuestro propio camino espiritual con Dios. De hecho, Abraham todavía no había sabido mucho acerca de Dios en el sentido de que todavía no había experimentado a Dios en su vida directamente mientras Dios se manifestaba a él de una manera sensible. Dios le había prometido un hijo en su vejez y efectivamente cumplió su promesa. Este hijo único le da aún más alegría porque será su sucesor a quien dejará la herencia. Pero he aquí a este hijo único, el don más precioso que Dios le dio es el que Dios le pide como sacrificio. Esta exigencia es demasiada y pesa sobre Abraham. Sería interesante ver cuál podría ser su estado psicológico en ese momento. Estaba completamente abatido. Esta fue una prueba de fe. No sé cómo hubiéramos reaccionado nosotros en el lugar de Abraham. Quizás muchos de nosotros nos hubiéramos negado a responder a la petición de Dios.

Es de esa misma manera que Dios nos pone a prueba muy a menudo en nuestra vida. Nos da muchas cosas, algunas de las cuales son preciosas. También nos pide de vez en cuando que hagamos un poco de sacrificio por Él de lo que nos ha dado, pero nosotros nos negamos. Veamos el valor de lo que le ofrecemos en la Iglesia como nuestro propio sacrificio durante el ofertorio. ¿Vale la pena comparado con lo que Dios nos ha dado?

A veces Dios pone en nuestro camino algunas personas que necesitan nuestra ayuda en especie o en efectivo, o incluso en tiempo también. ¿Pero somos sensibles a sus necesidades? Generalmente no somos sensibles a las necesidades de los más pobres ni de aquellos hermanos y hermanas que necesitan nuestra ayuda. En el evangelio de Mateo, no olvidemos que Jesús nos recuerda que en cuanto hicisteis el bien a alguien hambriento, sediento, desnudo, enfermo, en la cárcel, a un extraño,...a Él se lo hicisteis, y porque de eso no perderéis nada; al contrario, serás recompensado sin comparación. Es una cuestión de fe. ¿Lo creemos? ¡No me parece!

Ni siquiera los apóstoles creían que la recompensa que les espera a quienes hacen sacrificios por Dios sería grande e incomparable en la tierra. Por eso Jesús tuvo que llevar a Pedro, Santiago y Juan a un monte alto para transfigurarse delante de ellos y hacerles tener un anticipo de lo que tendrán como recompensa después de los sacrificios y sufrimientos de este mundo en Su nombre. La experiencia de la transfiguración fue tan maravillosa, sublime y única que Pedro tuvo que decir:

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gracias.

REFLEXIÓN continuada

“¡Rabí, qué bueno que estemos aquí! Hagamos tres tiendas: una para ti, otra para Moisés y otra para Elías”. Era tan bueno estar allí que ya no querían bajar de la montaña para vivir su vida normal. Cuando bajaron, se volvieron diferentes. Se convirtieron en fieles seguidores de Jesús. ¿Qué pasa con nosotros? No puedes ver a Dios ni experimentar el amor de Dios y permanecer igual; pero a menudo seguimos siendo los mismos, negándonos a cambiar, negándonos a mostrar amor a los demás, mientras que hemos sido beneficiarios del amor y la generosidad de Dios. Cuando experimentamos el amor de Dios en nuestras vidas, debemos poder permanecer unidos a Él y también caritativos hacia nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Eso es lo que mostrará nuestra fe en Dios.

Durante nuestra misa, digámosle a Dios que lamentamos las muchas veces que no hemos aceptado fácilmente hacer algunos sacrificios por Él, o en Su nombre, por nuestros hermanos y hermanas. ¡Que Él nos conceda el sentido de sacrificio por Él y por los demás! ¡Amén!

ANUNCIOS

**ESTACIONES DE LA CRUZ**  
Como recordatorio, el Vía Crucis se llevará a cabo todos los viernes en inglés a las 5:00 p.m. y en español a las 6:00 p.m.

**CARTAS DE IMPUESTOS**  
Cualquier feligrés que desee una carta de impuestos, envíe su solicitud a la oficina de la Iglesia.


**LLAMADO DEL OBISPO 2024**  
Por favor recoja uno de los folletos de la Campaña del Obispo para apoyar las necesidades pastorales de nuestra Diócesis. Su contribución ayudará a enseñar y predicar el Evangelio, apoyar nuestros Sacramentos y la Educación Católica, servicios caritativos a través de Caridades Católicas, fomentar nuevas vocaciones, mantener espacios sagrados, evangelizar la fe y llegar a nuestras comunidades a través de las redes sociales, la televisión y nuestra Iglesia Católica. Revista isleña. Puede optar por prometer y distribuir sus pagos mensualmente o hacer donaciones únicas en forma de efectivo, cheque, tarjeta de crédito o pagos directos en línea. Gracias por tu generosidad.

**MISIÓN DE CUARESMA**  
La Parroquia St. Anne invita a sus feligreses a ser parte de su misión de Cuaresma que se llevará a cabo los días 18 y 19 de marzo de 2024 a las 6:00 p.m. El tema de esta misión es: “Jesús, Hijo de David, ten misericordia de mí” (Lucas 18:38). El predicador de esta misión es el Padre Anthony Abraham, párroco de la Parroquia Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, Isla Virgen de San Juan. Por favor vengán mientras avanzamos juntos hacia nuestro viaje de Cuaresma.

**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:**

February 25 - **Priests’ Retirement Fund**  
March 3 - **Music Ministry**



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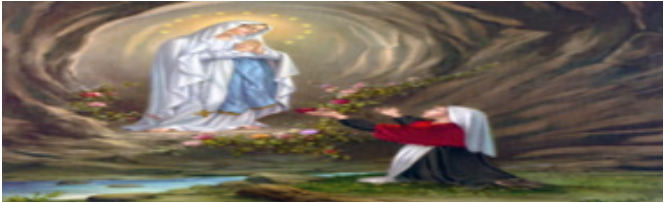
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KEEP OUR SICK & SHUT-INS IN PRAYER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS:

HOME OR NURSING HOME	ROY SCHNEIDER HOSPITAL
LENO ABRAHAM JENVILLE ANDREWS EDWIN ARROYO MONICA BERKELEY EDRIS CALLWOOD AUSSELITA DE FREITAS DELITA DELAGARDE PRISCA DAVIS RITA DUNCAN DARIEL EVANS MICHAEL FARRINGTON JOKATA GARCÍA MERCEDES GARCÍA WILFRED GARDIER ETLA V. GASKIN ERIC GRAF MARIA GRIFFIN GIRLIE HEYWOOD MILDRED HODGE KEITH JAMES ROSE MARIE JOSEPH EDITH LEBLANC BERECIA LEWIS GRACIELA MILLIN HUGO MOULON JOSEPH MORRELL ARACELY NICHOLSON LEIDA PIZARRO SONIA PIZARRO WALTON RAVARIERE PHYLLIS RODNEY CYRUS SAMPSON RAFAELA SANES PETRONA STANISLAUS CECILIA HILL-THOMAS LESTEL TURBE CHARLES VANTERPOOL JOHN H. VENZEN ULRICA VIALET RUTH WALCOTT	<i>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!</i>  <b>OFF-ISLAND</b> BISHOP HERBERT A. BEVARD FR. SIMON PETER OPIRA FR. JOHN SOLOMON RENEL BREDY JOYCE CORREA CELESTINE DAVIS FITZROY CYRIL EUGENE LAVERNE FRANCIS DELTA GEORGE LOUISE HASSELL ARMSTRONG DR. ALFRED O. HEATH JOSEPH HODGE WINIFRED HODGE RITA KING STEPHANY LOUZAN GWYNNETH MOOLEAAR JOSEPHINE NOCH FELIX O'NEAL RAMÓN ORTIZ MIRIAM GARCÍA RIJO ROSE ROBERTS VENIA SAKHRANI CARLOS SÁNCHEZ CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO LIAN VÁZQUEZ



Novena Program & Feasts in February

**This Month is Consecrated to Our Lady of Lourdes.**

**Recommended Virtue: Hope**

**Saint of the Month: Bernadette Soubirous (Feast day February 18)**

**February 2nd:** Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple.

**February 3rd:** Beginning of the Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes.

**February 4th:** Beginning of the Novena to the Holy Face of Jesus.

**February 11:** Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes World Day of the Sick

**February 13th:** Beginning of Special Novena of the month for spiritual protection and liberation.

**February 14th:** Ash Wednesday and beginning of Lent. St. Cyril and Methodius

**February 18th:** Memoria of St. Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes

**February 22nd:** The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle

*Have a nice month of hope.*