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

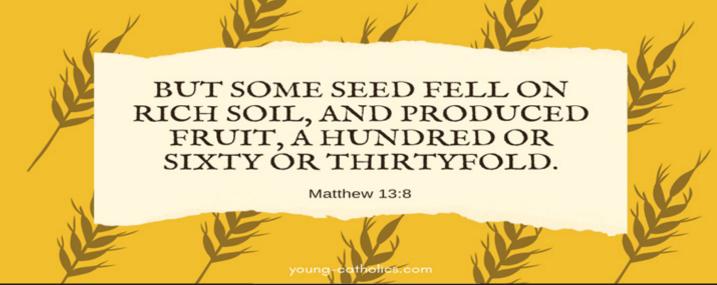
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July 16, 2023

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL

Rev. Fr. Marcel Gham Rev. Fr. Andrew Lesko

DEACONS

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM

Saturday 11:00 AM - 6:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:00AM - 2:00 p.m.

TELEPHONE: 340-774-0201

WEEKENDS

Saturday: 7:00AM, 4:30PM (Vigil Mass) Sunday: 6:30AM, 8:30AM, 10:30AM, and 12:15PM (Spanish)

WEEKDAYS

Monday to Friday: 6:45AM Wednesday: 12:15PM

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Wednesday from 7:30AM - 12:00PM

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 beginning with the 8:30AM Mass

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PRINCIPAL *Mrs. Maria Jules-Daniel, MLIS* **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday to Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM 340-774-2199 or 340-774-5662

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First Reading: Isaiah 55: 10-11 Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 65: 10-14 Second Reading: Romans 8: 18-23

Gospel: Matthew 13: 1-23

MEDITATION

by: Rev. Fr. Marcel Gham

Which kind of soil am I?

The liturgy of this Sunday invites us to reflect on the communication that God wants to establish with us through his word and on how our relationship with Him could help us grow, and bear fruit in our lives. To do this, the biblical texts of today's readings use two very expressive images, taken from the natural world: the rain and the seed. In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah tells us that the Word of God is like the rain that penetrates the earth, fertilizes it and is a source of life. The Second Reading reminds us of the new creation this is expected to bring. And in the gospel Jesus tells us of the parable of the Sower and explains that our hearts must be ready to receive the Word of God.

We may consider the parable of the Sower as one that talks about the seed and what happens to it. But it is also a parable about the different types of soils. We give Jesus many titles: we say he is the Lord and Saviour, he is the good shepherd, he is the way to the Father, he is the way, he is the lamb of God...He is the son of God. Today he is the Sower who comes to sow generously the seed, the Word of God, the seed of love in our hearts.

There are many seeds that Jesus sows into our lives and all of them are meant to land on good soil and to produce abundant fruit. But, as a farmer, he knows that some seeds are going to fall on places where they will simply not thrive, and knowing this, it does not prevent the farmer from sowing his seed and from expecting a good crop.

Jesus is the best Sower. The seed, God's word and love, are excellent and effective. We, the receivers, we, the soils, may be the problem. And the questions we have to answer are: What kind of soil am I? What kind of ground do I provide for God's seed? Am I the pathway? Am I rocky ground? Am I a soil full of thorns? Am I a rich soil?

Throughout our life we may be all types of soils at different times due to human nature. Only people who are hard towards God, who never show up in church, those who think that Jesus is a waste of time and just a nice story for kids, only people with no faith are, in theory, bad soil, but remember this, God continues to sow his seeds regardless of the type of ground we are.

Meditation (continued)

A woman went into a store one day and found God behind the counter. God asked her what she wanted and she said: "I want to buy a little joy and prosperity and a lot of peace, not just for myself, but for everyone". God replied: "WE don't sell those fruits here, we just sell the seeds". Once you get the seeds, you have the power to produce the fruits yourself.

The church is where Jesus continuously sows his seeds into our hearts by means of his word and sacrament. Here, every Sunday, we get the seeds of love, peace, joy, forgiveness, and community. Outside, when we leave the church, Jesus, the farmer, demands that we sow those seeds to better our families and our neighbourhood. May we all become the good soil and produces fruits, a hundred, or sixty or thirtyfold.



PRAYER FOR PRIESTS
(courtesy USCCB)

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Inspire them with the vision of your Kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of your divine grace. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest.

Amen.

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.

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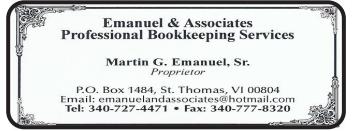
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Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands July 16, 2023 Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands July 16, 2023

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 READINGS FIFTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

Monday, July 17, 2023 First Reading: Exodus 1: 8-14, 22 Gospel: Matthew 10: 34–11:1

Tuesday, July 18, 2023 Saint Camillus de Lellis, Priest First Reading: Exodus 2: 1-15a Gospel: Matthew 11: 20-24

Wednesday, July 19, 2023 First Reading: Exodus 3: 1-6, 9-12 Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-27

Thursday, July 20, 2023
Saint Apollinaris, Bishop, Martyr
First Reading: Exodus 3: 13-20

Gospel: Matthew 11: 25-2711: 28-30

Friday, July 21, 2023

Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest, Doctor of the Church First Reading: Exodus 11: 10—12: 14 Gospel: Matthew 12: 1-8

Saturday, July 22, 2023

Saint Mary Magdalene
First Reading: Song of Solomon 3: 1-4a
Gospel: John 20: 1-2, 11-18

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

SAINTS PETER & PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School is now accepting applications for the 2023-2024 academic school year for grades Pre-K to 12th. Please make contact via email at info@spps.edu.vi for further information.

TEACHERS-SAINTS PETER & PAUL SCHOOL:

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School is now recruiting teachers for the 2023-2024 academic school year. If interested, please send your resume to info@spps.edu.vi.

OFFETORY ENVELOPES:

The Parish Offertory envelopes can be picked up from the Church Office. New Parishioners are welcome to register with the Church office. Thank you for your support.

OUR LADY OF CASSI HILL:

Holy Family Church will celebrate their 76th Annual Pilgrimage and Patronal Feast of Our Lady of Cassi Hill on Sunday, August 13, 2023. Parishioners will gather at the Four Winds Plaza Parking Lot at 2:00 p.m. and the Pilgrimage will commence at 2:30 p.m. The procession will lead to the Cassi Hill Shrine, loacted next to Holy Family Church, for prayers and benediction. Thereafter, parishioners will proceed to the Church for Holy Mass to conclude the annual celebration. Light refreshments will be served after the mass in the Upper Columban Hall. The faithful from all parishes on St. Thomas and St. John are invited to join in this celebration.

MASS INTENTIONS:

We encourage parishioners to continue to pray and offer mass intentions for their family members, friends, themselves, or deceased loved ones. Please feel free to go to the church office to register your intentions.

Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral

Summer Mass Schedule from Sunday, July 30, 2023

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

Sunday: 7:00 AM 10:00 AM 12:15 PM (Spanish/Español)

Weekday Masses 7:00AM

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, July 15, 2023

7:00AM Holy Souls in Purgatory - Rb. Overbeek

4:30PM † Mercedes Sprauve Lynch & Harold Lynch Sr. Rb. The Lynch & Sprauve families

SUNDAY, July 16, 2023

6:30AM Bernadine Barnes Rb. Herself

8:30AM Special Intention - Rb. Denise LaPlace **10:30AM** † Dr. Fidel Brigino- Repose of the Soul

Rb. Dr. Sor Cruz & Aurora Martin

12:15PM Denise LaPlace - Rb. Serge LaPlace

MONDAY, July 17, 2023

6:45AM Hans Overbeek in Thanksgiving for his life Rb. C. Overbeek

TUESDAY, July 18, 2023 6:45AM

WEDNESDAY, July 19, 2023

6:45AM Holy Souls in Purgatory - Rb. Denise LaPlace

12:15PM Special Intentions for DJ - Rb. his family

Eva Pemberton -Rb. Mary Pemberton

THURSDAY, July 20, 2023 6:45AM

FRIDAY, July 21, 2023

6:45AM † Lionel T. Boschulte - Rb. the Boschulte family

† Brian Hairston - Rb. the family

SATURDAY, July 22, 2023

7:00AM Humphrey, Hendricks, and Larsen Families Rb. Pearla Larsen and family

Priests of the Diocese - Rb. C. Overbeek

4:30PM Special Intention - Rb. C. Overbeek

Gabriel Jugo - Rb. Maria Gapay & Chris Jugo

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 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

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Decimoquinto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Primera lectura: Isaías 55:10-11 Salmo responsorial: Salmo 65: 10-14 Segunda lectura: Romanos 8:18-23 Evangelio: Mateo 13:1-23

Meditación por: Rev. P. Marcel Gham

¿Qué tipo de suelo soy?

La liturgia de este domingo nos invita a reflexionar sobre la comunicación que Dios quiere establecer con posotros a través de su palabra y de cómo nuestra relación con Él nos ayuda a crecer, lo que a su vez permite que nuestras vidas den fruto. Para ello, los textos bíblicos de las lecturas de hoy utilizan dos imágenes muy expresivas, tomadas del mundo natural: la lluvia y la semilla. En la primera lectura, el profeta Isaías nos dice que la Palabra de Dios es como la lluvia que penetra la tierra, la fecunda y es fuente de vida. La segunda lectura nos recuerda de la nueva creación que se espera que traiga. Y en el evange-lio Jesús nos habla de la parábola del Sembrador y explica que nuestros corazones deben estar listos para recibir el Palabra de

Podemos considerar que la parábola del Sembrador habla de la semilla y de lo que le sucede. Pero también es una parábola sobre los diferentes tipos de tierra. A Jesús le llamamos con muchos títulos; decimos que es el Señor y Salvador, que es el buen pastor, que es el camino al Padre, que es la puerta, que es el cordero de Dios... Él es el hijo de Dios. Hoy lo podemos llamar el Sembrador que viene a sembrar generosamente la semilla, la Palabra de Dios, la semilla del amor en nuestros corazones.

Hay muchas semillas que Jesús siembra en nuestras vidas y todas ellas están destinadas a aterrizar en buena tierra y a producir fruto abundante. Pero, como agricultor, sabe que algunas semillas van a caer en lugares donde simplemente no prosperarán, y sabiendo esto, no lo impide que el agricultor sembrar su semilla y esperar una buena cosecha.

Jesús es el mejor Sembrador. La semilla, la palabra y el amor de Dios, son excelentes y eficaces. Nosotros, los receptores, nosotros, las tierras, podemos ser el problema. Y las preguntas que tenemos que responder son: ¿Qué tipo de tierra soy? ¿Qué clase de terreno proveo para la semilla de Dios? ¿Soy yo el camino? ¿Soy terreno rocoso? ¿Soy una tierra llena de espinas? ¿Soy una tierra rica?

A lo largo de nuestra vida podemos ser todo tipo de tierras en diferentes momentos debido a la naturaleza humana. Solo las personas que son duras con Dios, que nunca aparecen en la iglesia, aquellos que piensan que Jesús es una pérdida de tiempo y solo una buena historia para niños, solo las personas sin fe son, en teoría, mala tierra, pero recuerde esto, Dios continúa sembrando sus semillas sin importar el tipo de tierra que estemos.

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 continuado

Una mujer entró en una tienda un día y encontró a Dios detrás del mostrador. Dios le preguntó qué quería y ella dijo: "Quiero comprar un poco de alegría y prosperidad y mucha paz, no solo para mí, sino para todos". Dios respondió: "NOSOTROS no vendemos esas frutas aquí, solo vendemos las semillas". Una vez que obtienes las semillas, tienes el poder de producir los frutos tú mismo.

La iglesia es donde Jesús siembra continuamente sus semillas en nuestros corazones por medio de su palabra y sacramento. Aquí, todos los domingos, recibimos las semillas del amor, la paz, la alegría, el perdón y la comunidad. Afuera, cuando salimos de la iglesia, Jesús, el agricultor, exige que sembremos esas semillas para mejorar nuestras familias y nuestro vecindario. Que todos nos convirtamos en la buena tierra y produzcamos frutos, cien, sesenta o treinta veces.

ANUNCIOS

ESCUELA CATÓLICA SAN PEDRO Y PABLO:

La Escuela Católica Saints Peter and Paul ahora está aceptando solicitudes para el año escolar académico 2023-2024 para los grados Pre-K a 12. Por favor, póngase en contacto por correo electrónico en info@spps.edu.vi para obtener más

MAESTROS – ESCUELA SAINTS PETER & DAUL:

La Escuela Católica Santos Pedro y Pablo ahora está reclutando maestros para el año escolar académico 2023-2024. Si está interesado, envíe su currículum a info@spps.edu.vi.

SOBRES OFFETORY:

Los sobres del Ofertorio Parroquial se pueden recoger en la Oficina de la Iglesia. Los nuevos feligreses son bienvenidos a regis-

la oficina de la Iglesia. Gracias por su apoyo.

NUESTRA SEÑORA DEL CERRO CASSI:

La Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia celebrará su 76ª Peregrinación Anual y Fiesta Patronal de Nuestra Señora de Cassi Hill el domingo 13 de agosto de 2023. Los feligreses se reunirán en el estacionamiento de Four Winds Plaza a las 2:00 p.m. y la peregrinación comenzará a las 2:30 p.m. La procesión conducirá al Santuario Cassi Hill, ubicado junto a la Iglesia de la Sagrada Familia, para oraciones y bendiciones. A partir de entonces, los feligreses se dirigirán a la Iglesia para la Santa Misa para concluir la celebración anual. Se servirán refrigerios ligeros después de la misa en el Salón Columbano Superior. Los fieles de todas las parroquias de Santo Tomás y San Juan están invitados a unirse a esta celebración.

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:

July 16 - Music Ministry July 23 - Cathedral Maintenance & Enhancement July 30 - Youth Ministry

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

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	Collection:	\$1	9,793.69	Parish Life & Worsh	nip: \$ 22,395.		
	Other Income:	\$	6,570.72	Utilities(WAPA, Teleph	one, Internet) \$ 7,410		
	Donation/Contribution:	\$	101.00	Total Expenses:	\$ 29,812		
	Youth Ministry:	\$	1,416.35	•			
	Fundraising:	\$	(3,725.00)	Total Income:	\$ 28,834.19		
l	Building Fund:	\$	4,677.43	Total Expenses:	\$ 29,812.36		
•	Building Fund: Total Income	\$	28,834.19	-	(978.17)		

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CATECHESIS

A brief Introduction to the Sacraments

- * **Definition:** From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1131), Sacraments are efficacious signs of grace (that is, sense perceptible signs causing grace), instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us (that is, for the sanctification of God's people). Efficacious means that something is successful in producing a desired or intended result; it's effective because in them Christ himself is at work (CCC 1127). Sacraments are accompanied by special signs or symbols that produce what they signify. These are the external, sensibly perceptible signs. "...instituted by Christ" (CCC 1117). No human power could attach an inward grace to an outward sign, only God could do that. During his public ministry, Jesus instituted the seven sacraments. The Church cannot institute new sacraments and there can never be more or less than seven. By Christ's will, the Church oversees the celebration of the sacraments. The sacraments give sanctifying grace which is the sharing in God's own life that is the result of God's love, the Holy Spirit, indwelling in the soul. Sanctifying grace is not the only grace God wants to give us. Each sacrament also gives the sacramental grace of that particular sacra-
- * The sacramental principle- This is the idea that God engages both our body and soul (sense and intellect) to affect our salvation in order to sanctify the whole person. The sacramental principle affirms the goodness of the material world and of matter in general.
- * Matter and Form: Matter- what is perceptible to the senses, it is either a physical substance or a perceptible action. Form – refers to the words that are spoken in prayer of the sacrament. Both the matter and the form of the sacraments come from Christ and the apostles; because of this divine origin, the Church teaches that if either matter or form is lacking there is no true sacra-
- * Validity and Invalidity: To say a sacrament is valid is to say that is has truly and really been brought about. Besides matter and form, a valid sacrament needs two additional elements: a validly ordained minister (there is one exception to this, but I don't want to give it away, you'll have to listen for it in the coming weeks) and the intent to do what the Church does when administering a sacrament. When a sacrament is invalid, there is no real sacrament. Invalidity can be brought about in several ways: defect of form, defect of matter, lack of the properly ordained minister, or the lack of intent.
- * Purposes of the Sacraments- from the Catechism (CCC 1123) is to sanctify the recipient (conferring of grace), to build up the Church, the Body of Christ (gives sanctification to the Church to help carry on Christ's work on earth and to give worship to the Father (all we do should bring us to closer relationship with God and should bring Him glory)
- *Three groups of sacraments- Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist); Sacraments of Healing (Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick); Sacraments of Service (Matrimony, Holy Orders). The sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders are received only once. This is because they imprint a specific character on the soul. It is an individual mark that God puts on the soul, a permanent quality with lasts forever.