

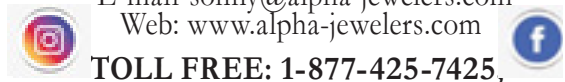
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~ Hebrews 13:16



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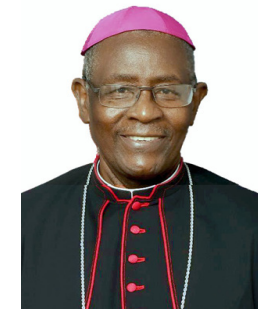


## RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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.

Please patronize these sponsors. It is through their generous support that this cathedral bulletin is provided to the parish.



Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio

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

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January 5, 2025

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

"They...offered Him gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh." Matthew 2:11



## PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL

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  
Rev. Mr. José Vázquez

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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

**EUCCHARISTIC 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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**Meditation** continued

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Psalm: 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13  
 Second Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6  
 Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12



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

“They...offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” Mt 2:11

Dear Brothers and sisters in Christ,

We celebrated with great solemnity the birth of Jesus our Savior last Christmas. The Maggi called Him “the new born King”; some people referred to Him as “Emmanuel”; some others called Him “Son of God”. Nobody would have known that such a great personality was born or was existing if there were no Epiphany, as Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem with nobody to really take note of Him or to recognize Him for who He is actually. That is why I consider the feast of Epiphany as a great feast that gives meaning to Christmas.

In fact, the feast of Epiphany is commonly known as “Three Kings Day” in the United States because it celebrates the three wise men’s visit to baby Jesus. But we also remember that it is the day that God revealed Jesus to the whole world through the magi with a star. Had the magi not seen the star and followed it, that they would not have known that something happened, that Jesus was born, that He is King. It is thanks to the revelation made by God thus that the whole world acknowledged the birth of Jesus.

What is particularly striking on this day is that although the Jews were expecting the coming of the Messiah,, it is not to them that God chose to reveal Him, even though they were the people of God, the chosen people. He did so to signify that the Messiah is not coming for them alone. He is not their “private property” or “private Savior.” He is for all the people of the world. In an indirect way, the universality of salvation is thus affirmed, i.e. Jesus is coming to save all men and women in the world. That is why St Paul will say later to the Galatians that “There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. You are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are His heirs, and God’s promise to Abraham belongs to you.” (Gal3:28-29)

The Jews cannot therefore claim ownership of the Messiah; even the pagans are called to the same salvation, the same promise of God. That is why the Church is Catholic, i.e. universal, open to all people. The Church is not the property of anyone; we are all children of God with full rights in the Church whether we come from anywhere, or whether we be of any origin, or, whether we be White or Black. But unfortunately, some people still do not understand what the Church means, and what is the identity and dignity of a Christian. Nobody is foreign or stranger in the Church anywhere.

That is why there is no checking at the entrance of the Church; No Police! Sometimes, we hear some people say “this is my Church” as if they own a Church or as if others were just strangers in “their Church”. Some others complain that the strangers cannot come and assume a responsibility in their Church to command them. Brothers and Sisters, that is not the way to look at others in the Church.. We are all Brothers and Sisters in Christ, each being called to bring his or her talents to the service of God through the Church. That is what we are called to become.

The other thing to consider in the Gospel of today is the attitude of the Magi. They who had no relation with Jesus, they who did not even know Jesus, nor his family, acknowledged Him to be the Lord, thanks to the sign God gave them, the star. They reacted adequately towards Him by paying homage to Him and offering Him the most precious things they had: gold, frankincense and myrrh. God still speaks to us today through signs, but we do not pay attention to Him. When we do pay attention to Him, we do not react promptly and adequately like the Magi. Do we give a bit of our time to God in adoration in order to do Him homage? Do we also offer Him what is precious in our sight or what is of less value to us?

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Let us acknowledge our lack of attention to our Lord when He makes some signs to us, our lack of time to do Him homage or to adore Him like the magi. Let us beg God to grant us the grace to do so and to consider everyone as our Brother or Sister in Christ because God has come through Jesus for the salvation of all men and women in the world.

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**MARCH 2, 2025**  
 for a  
**SPPC BOAT RIDE**  
 on the  
**KON TIKI PARTY RAFT**

*Pray without ceasing*  
 1 Thessalonians 5:17

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**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, January 6, 2025**

*Memorial of St. André Bessette*

First Reading: 1 John 3:22-4:6 or  
1 Kings 19:4-9a, 11-15a

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17, 23-25 or Luke 9:57-62

**Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

*Memorial of St. Raymond of Penyafort*

First Reading: 1 John 4:7-10 or 2 Corinthians 5:14-20

Gospel: Mark 6:34-44 or Luke 12: 35-40

**Wednesday, January 8, 2025**

First Reading: 1 John 4:11-18

Gospel: Mark 6:45-52

**Thursday, January 9, 2025**

First Reading: 1 John 4:19- 5:4

Gospel: Luke 4:14-22

**Friday, January 10, 2025**

First Reading: 1 John 5:5-13

Gospel: Luke 5:12-16

**Saturday, January 11, 2025**

First Reading: 1 John 5:14-21

Gospel: John 3:22-30

**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)



**SATURDAY, January 4, 2025**

7:00AM For the Souls in Purgatory

4:30PM For the Souls in Purgatory  
Rb. a parishioner

**SUNDAY, January 5, 2025**

7:00AM For the Souls in Purgatory Rb. a parishioner

8:30AM Shemar Destin -  
Rb. his family  
The Auguste family, & friends  
Rb. Geoffrey Auguste Sr.

10:00AM For the Souls in Purgatory Rb. a parishioner

12:15PM † William J. Demetre -  
Rb. Mileydy Ovalles

**MONDAY, January 6, 2025**

7:00AM Dahlia Daniel  
Rb. Aunty Avis

**TUESDAY, January 7, 2025**  
7:00AM Fr. Albert Lamote CSSR.  
Rb. Avis Jules

**WEDNESDAY, January 8, 2025**  
7:00AM For the Souls in Purgatory Rb. a parishioner

12:15PM

**THURSDAY, January 9, 2025**  
7:00AM

**FRIDAY, January 10, 2025**  
7:00AM

**SATURDAY, January 11, 2025**  
7:00AM Paula Norkatis  
Birthday Blessings  
Rb. her family

4:30PM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Re: Transfers and Appointments in the Diocese of St. Thomas U.S.V.I. Merry Christmas and God's blessings for the season!

In the light of the pastoral needs of our diocese, I would like to inform you of the following transfers and appointments of clergy and personnel to various parishes and institutions, which I kindly request that you bring to the attention of your parishioners.

Name of Priest	Responsibility
Rev. Andrea Fili ucci	Vicar General
Rev. Marcel Gham	Chancellor & Moderator of the Curia
Rev. Anthon Abraham	Vicar for Clergy & Religious
Rev. Louis Kemayou	Vocations Director
Rev. Robert Kenfack	Coordinator of Safe Environment

**Saints Thomas - Saint John Deanery**

Name of Priest	Parish of Assignment	Responsibility	Effective
Rev. Mathais Njong	Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral	Rector	January 15, 2025
Rev. Marcel Gham	Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral	Parochial Vicar	Ipsa facto
Rev. Modeste Digwou	Holy Family, Tutu	Administrator	January 15, 2025
Rev. Yacob Lonfo Fopa	Holy Family, Tutu	Parochial Vicar	January 15, 2025
Rev. Joseph Nguete Toko	Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mafolie	Administrator	January 15, 2025
Rev. Anthony Abraham	Our Lady of Mount Caramel, St. John	Pastor	Ipsa facto
Rev. Godfrey Chandya	Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. John	Parochial Vicar	January 15, 2025
Rev. Ronan Sarmiento	Sainte Anne, French-town	Adminstrator	January 15, 2025

Name of Priest	Apostolate/ Ministry	Function	Effective
Rev. Ronan Sarmiento	Diocesan Youth Ministry	Coordinator	January 15, 2025
Rev. Louis Kemayou	Diocesan building & facilities (St. Croix)	Director	January 15, 2025
Rev. Modeste Digwou	Diocesan Building & facilities (St. Thomas-St. John Deanery )	Director	January 15, 2025
Rev. Yacob Lonfo Fopa	Apostleship of the Sea & Cruiseship	Coordinator	January 15, 2025
Rev. Marcel Gham	Hispanic Ministry	Coordinator	Ipsa facto
Name	School	Function	Effective
Sister Edith Itoe	Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School	Principal	Ipsa facto
Rev. Ronan Sarmiento	Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School	Vice Principal	Ipsa facto
Mr. Modestus Ugo Diyke	Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic School	Master of Discipline	Ipsa facto

**Primera lectura:** Isaías 60, 1-6  
**Salmo:** 71, 2.7-8.10-11.12-13  
**Segunda lectura:** Efesios 3, 2-3. 5-6  
**Evangelio:** Mateo 2, 1-12

**MEDITACIÓN EN LA SOLEMNIDAD DE LA EPIFANÍA**

**“Ellos... le ofrecieron regalos de oro, incienso y mirra”. Mateo 2:11**

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo: Celebramos con gran solemnidad el nacimiento de Jesús, nuestro Salvador, la Navidad pasada. Los Maggi lo llamaban “el Rey recién nacido”; algunas personas se referían a Él como “Emmanuel”; otros lo llamaban “Hijo de Dios”. Nadie habría sabido que una personalidad tan grande había nacido o existido si no hubiera habido Epifanía, como Jesús nació en un pesebre en Belén sin nadie que realmente se fijara en Él o lo reconociera por lo que realmente es. Por eso considero la fiesta de la Epifanía como una gran fiesta que da sentido a la Navidad. De hecho, la fiesta de la Epifanía se conoce comúnmente como el “Día de los Reyes Magos” en los Estados Unidos porque celebra la visita de los tres reyes magos al niño Jesús. Pero también recordamos que es el día en que Dios reveló a Jesús al mundo entero a través de los magos con una estrella. Si los magos no hubieran visto la estrella y la hubieran seguido, no habrían sabido que algo sucedió, que Jesús había nacido, que Él es el Rey. Es gracias a la revelación hecha por Dios que el mundo entero reconoció el nacimiento de Jesús. Lo que es particularmente sorprendente en este día es que, aunque los judíos esperaban la venida del Mesías, no es a ellos a quienes Dios eligió revelarlo, a pesar de que eran el pueblo de Dios, el pueblo elegido. Lo hizo para significar que el Mesías no viene solo por ellos. Él no es su “propiedad privada” o “Salvador privado”. Él es para todos los pueblos del mundo. De modo indirecto, se afirma así la universalidad de la salvación, es decir, Jesús viene a salvar a todos los hombres y mujeres del mundo. Por eso san Pablo dirá más tarde a los Gálatas: «Ya no hay judío ni gentil, esclavo ni libre, hombre y mujer. Porque todos vosotros sois uno en Cristo Jesús. Y ahora que ustedes pertenecen a Cristo, ustedes son los verdaderos hijos de Abraham. Ustedes son sus herederos, y la promesa de Dios a Abraham les pertenece a ustedes”. (Gálatas 3:28-29.) Por lo tanto, los judíos no pueden reclamar la propiedad del Mesías; incluso los paganos están llamados a la misma salvación, a la misma promesa de Dios. Por eso la Iglesia es católica, es decir, universal, abierta a todas las personas. La Iglesia no es propiedad de nadie; todos somos hijos de Dios con plenos derechos en la Iglesia, ya sea que venamos de cualquier parte, o que seamos de cualquier origen, o que seamos blancos o negros. Pero, por desgracia, algunas personas todavía no entienden lo que significa la Iglesia y cuál es la identidad y la dignidad de un cristiano.

Nadie es extranjero o extraño en la Iglesia en ninguna parte. Es por eso que no hay control en la entrada de la Iglesia; ¡No a la policía! A veces, escuchamos a algunas personas decir "esta es mi Iglesia" como si fueran dueños de una Iglesia o como si otros fueran simplemente extraños en "su Iglesia". Algunos otros se quejan de que los extranjeros no pueden venir y asumir la responsabilidad en su Iglesia de mandarlos. Hermanos y hermanas, esa no es la manera de mirar a los demás en la Iglesia. Todos somos hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, cada uno llamado a poner sus talentos al servicio de Dios a través de la Iglesia. Eso es lo que estamos llamados a llegar a ser. La otra cosa a considerar en el Evangelio de hoy es la actitud de los Reyes Magos. Ellos, que no tenían ninguna relación con Jesús, que ni siquiera conocían a Jesús, ni a su familia, lo reconocieron como el Señor, gracias a la señal que Dios les dio, la estrella. Reaccionaron adecuadamente ante Él rindiéndole homenaje y ofreciéndole las cosas más preciosas que tenían: oro, incienso y mirra. Dios todavía nos habla hoy a través de señales, pero no le prestamos atención. Cuando le prestamos atención, no reaccionamos pronta y adecuadamente como los Reyes Magos. ¿Le damos un poco de nuestro tiempo a Dios en adoración para rendirle homenaje? ¿Le ofrecemos también lo que es precioso a nuestros ojos o lo que es de menor valor para nosotros? Queridos hermanos y hermanas: Reconozcamos nuestra falta de atención a nuestro Señor cuando nos hace algunas señales, nuestra falta de tiempo para rendirle homenaje o adorarlo como los Magos. Pidamos a Dios que nos conceda la gracia de hacerlo y de considerar a todos como nuestro Hermano o Hermana en Cristo, porque Dios ha venido a través de Jesús para la salvación de todos los hombres y mujeres del mundo.

**ANUNCIOS**

**MISA DE LOS MARTES**

Se inicia este martes 7 de enero, a las 6.30PM la misa de todos los martes en la capilla.

**FIESTA EN HONOR A LA VIRGEN DE ALTAGEACIA**

Este año la Fiesta en honor a la Virgen de Altigracia se celebrará el domingo **19 de enero de 2025**. Habrá procesión, misa y compartir. Como siempre, ya podemos comenzar a planificar la celebración.



Felicidades a Emilio David por su bautismo el 1 de enero de 2025

**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.

**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.

**SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE TAKEN AS FOLLOWS:**  
 January 5 - Cathedral Maintenance & Enhancement  
 January 12 - Catholic Education  
 January 19 - Permanent Diaconate Ministry

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

DECEMBER 29, 2024

4:30PM	\$ 667.00	\$ 132.00
7:00AM	\$ 653.00	\$ 126.00
8:30AM	\$ 909.00	\$ 324.00
10:00AM	\$ 832.00	\$ 248.91
12:15PM	\$ 295.64	\$ 149.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$ 3,356.64	\$ 979.91

*Thank you for your donation!*

*Gracias por su donación.*

**CHRISTMAS EVE:** \$1,038.00, \$259.00  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 8:00AM \$794.00, \$158.00  
 10:00AM \$1,415.00, \$407.00  
 12:15PM \$312.00, \$61.00

**E-GIVING:**

Please fill out the E-Giving Enrollment Form at the parish office, if you prefer to send your offertory donations using automatic payments from:  
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- 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
- DELTA GEORGE
- LOUISE HASSELL ARMSTRONG
- DR. ALFRED O. HEATH
- JOSEPH HODGE
- WINIFRED HODGE
- ROSE MARIE JOSEPH
- RITA KING
- STEPHANY LOUZAN
- ALDA MONSANTO
- JOSEPHINE NOCH
- FELIX O'NEAL
- RAMÓN ORTIZ
- MIRIAM GARCIA RIJO
- LOURDEN T. RIVERA
- ROSE ROBERTS
- VENIA SAKHRANI
- CARLOS SANCHEZ
- CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO
- LIÁN VÁZQUEZ

**PILGRIMS OF HOPE FOR THE HOLY YEAR 2025**

**Pope Francis urges Catholics to seek Jesus during the Holy Year 2025. For those coming to Rome, he asked that they remember it should be a journey, with the goal of encountering and listening to Jesus, who brings real joy and peace.**

**Prayer for the Nation**

*Adapted from the Book of common Prayer*

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly ask you that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable endeavor, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way.

Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought here out of many nations and tongues. Endow with the spirit of wisdom those to whom, in your name, we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, do not allow our trust in you to fail.

We ask all of this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**FOR STUDENTS**

*2 Peter 3:18*

May they grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Glory be to him now and to the day of eternity! **Amen.**