



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

Post Office Box 301767, Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803, Tel: 340-774-0201  
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June 16, 2024

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**"Let us allow ourselves to be ruled by God."**



### PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL

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

### DEACONS

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

### OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays - Friday  
8:00AM - 4:00PM  
Saturday  
11:00 AM - 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday  
8:00AM - 2:00 p.m.  
TELEPHONE: 340-774-0201



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### 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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Rev. Fr. Ronan Sarmiento  
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E-mail: [dan\\_daniel@us.aflac.com](mailto:dan_daniel@us.aflac.com)

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."  
~ Hebrews 13:16



### 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)

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

*Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 17: 22-24  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 92: 2-3, 13-16  
**Second Reading:** 2 Chronicles 5: 6-10  
**Gospel:** Mark 4: 26-34

**MEDITATION**

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

**“Let us allow ourselves to be ruled by God.”**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We all do talk about the Kingdom of God. We all will wish to enter God’s Kingdom in the end of our lives. When we do recite the ‘Our Father’ every day, we say: “... your kingdom come...” But what is the Kingdom of God? Where is it? For the crowd following Jesus, these were difficult questions to answer. For us today, they are still difficult questions to answer because the Kingdom of God is not a tangible reality. We cannot say “this is it” or “that is it” or “it is here”. Even Jesus does not answer those questions in a direct and simple way.

In fact, in trying to help the crowd understand the reality of the Kingdom of God, Jesus instead uses a parable. He compares it with a mustard seed that when it is sown in the ground, although the smallest of all the seeds on the earth, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade. This parable has to be interpreted in order to understand and have meaning for our spiritual life.

For true the Kingdom of God is not a place, it is God Himself. If we do have God (seed) planted in the ground (in us or in our soul), no matter how small we may think, then He will spring up and become the largest of plants and bear fruits in us not only for our good, but also for the good of others as well. But for this operation to be possible, we should be open to God and allow Him to enter and establish in us to guide us, to rule us. If we allow ourselves to be ruled by God in us, then things will change in us because we will no longer be looking at things with our eyes, but with the eyes of God; we will no longer be doing only what we want, but rather what God wants.

**Meditation** (continued)

We will no longer be speaking with our own words, but with the words of God; in brief we will allow God to live in us and act through us in such a way that we will be able to say like St. Paul: “It is no longer I who live, it is Christ who lives in me.” (Galatians 2: 20) To speak again like St. Paul, we are supposed to be “the Temple of the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19) God’s dwelling place. That is also why he says to the Romans “if God is with us, who can be against us? If we allow God to live in us and to guide our lives, we will become instruments of His grace for others who will be coming to us like the birds of the sky to the tree with large branches for its shade.

The parable of today invites us therefore to dispose ourselves, our souls and body to God for Him to establish in us and use us. He is the one who works in us and makes the seed grow. But we should be a good soil to welcome Him and grow the seeds that He plants in us. Because He is Holy, God cannot live in a dirty environment or stained by sin. That is why it is important that we do clean our souls or our soil for God to establish there, otherwise we will be living our lives without God and be wondering why things do not move well with us? Why does God not also come to us to guide and protect us or show us the way to go?

Brothers and sisters, let us open our hearts to God for Him to establish in there. Let us tell Him that we are sorry for the many times that we have been leading our lives without Him, closing our hearts to Him. May He come and use our minds, our hands, our legs and all our being as instrument of His grace for all the world. Thus we will deserve to share His life for ever and ever. Amen!



*This week’s Tabernacle Light is lit for Deceased Winthrop T. Elskoe Requested by his family*

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**Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral**  
**250th Jubilee Gala & Dinner Dance**

The Catholic Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands invites you to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral with a Jubilee Dinner Dance on **Saturday, June 29th, 2024, at the Westin Hotel and Spa at Frenchman’s Reef.**

The gala begins at 6:00 pm with a Cocktail Reception and Photo Opportunities, followed by a Buffet Dinner, Bishop’s Keynote Address, and Dancing with live music provided by Lady Ena and Friends. **Special Dignitaries in attendance include the Papal Nuncio, (the Pope’s Ambassador to the United States), and several other visiting Catholic Bishops who are traveling from the mainland and elsewhere to celebrate the Cathedral’s 250th Anniversary with us.**

Formal or cocktail attire is required. Shuttle Service will be provided to the Westin from the Main Gate at West Indian Company Dock. **Tickets are \$150.00 and can be purchased from Parish Offices and members of the Jubilee Committee.** To reserve and pre-pay a table, please contact Gail Shulterbrandt at (340)775-7547.

So, come join the celebration at the Cathedral’s 250th Anniversary Jubilee Dinner Dance at the Westin Hotel and Spa on June 29, 2024.

*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 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, June 17, 2024**

First Reading: 1 Kings 21: 1-16

Gospel: Matthew 5: 38-42

**Tuesday, June 18, 2024**

First Reading: 1 Kings 21: 17-29

Gospel: Matthew 5: 43-48

**Wednesday, June 19, 2024**

*Saint Romuald, Abbot*

*Juneteenth*

First Reading: 2 Kings 2: 1, 6-14

Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

**Thursday, June 20, 2024**

First Reading: Sirach 48: 1-14

Gospel: Matthew 6: 7-15

**Friday, June 21, 2024**

*Saint Aloysius Gonzaga*

First Reading: 2 Kings 11: 1-4, 9-18, 20

Gospel: Matthew 6: 19-23

**Saturday, June 22, 2024**

*Saint Paulinus of Nola, Saints John Fisher & Thomas Moore*

First Reading: 2 Chronicles 24 :17-25

Gospel: Matthew 6: 24-34

**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**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

We would like to congratulate Rev. Fr. Ronan Sarmiento who was appointed as the Parochial Vicar of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral and the Assistant Principal of the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School. Let us keep Fr. Ronan in prayer as he assumes his new assignments.

**250th JUBILEE COMMITTEE**

The 250th Jubilee Committee invites all Christians to a general meeting to be held at the Hospitality Lounge on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 5:30 p.m.

**MEETING**

In preparation of the 250th Jubilee Anniversary Mass, all members of the various Liturgical Ministries are asked to attend a meeting on June 18, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Hospitality Lounge.

**250th JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE**

There are two weeks left before the 250th Jubilee Anniversary Dinner Dance, that takes place on Saturday, June 29, 2024. If you have not purchased your ticket, please do so now from any member of the 250th Jubilee Committee or your parish office. You would not want to miss this spectacular event.

**PARISH CHOIR**

Any parishioner who interested in joining the parish choir, you are invited by Rev. Fr. Ronan Sarmiento to a meeting on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Cathedral after the 12:15 p.m. Spanish mass. This would be in preparation for the upcoming 250th Jubilee Anniversary celebration.

**MASSES**

On Saturday, June 29, 2024, the 4:30 p.m. Vigil Mass will be celebrated as scheduled. On Sunday, June 30, 2024, there will be no 7:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 12:15 p.m. masses. There will be a bilingual mass celebrated at 10:00 a.m. for the 250th Jubilee Anniversary. Parishioners are invited to bring offerings in kind to partake in the offertory procession. Masses will resume to the regular scheduled times on Sunday, July 7, 2024.

**CONDOLENCES**

We express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Ms. Mary Griffin. Let us pray for the repose of her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed. We pray that God will comfort her family at this time. Funeral arrangements will be provided on a later date.

**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, June 15, 2024**

7:00AM † Marissa, Luisa, Polo, Reily, and Lourdes Saycon  
Rb. the Saycon family

4:30PM

**SUNDAY, June 16, 2024**

7:00AM † Derek Blaize - Rb. Josephine & Frederick Cuffy

8:30AM Fathers of the Parish

10:00AM

12:15PM † Antonio Perez - Rb. Luz Perez and family

**MONDAY, June 17, 2024**

7:00AM † Pete Ledee - Rb. Marie Pascale Duplan

**TUESDAY, June 18, 2024**

7:00AM Cynthia Charles, sons, & brothers for Protection  
& Deliverance - Rb. Cynthia Charles

**WEDNESDAY, June 19, 2024**

7:00AM

12:15PM

**THURSDAY, June 20, 2024**

7:00AM

**FRIDAY, June 21, 2024**

7:00AM Cynthia Charles, sons, & brothers, for Protection  
& Deliverance - Rb. Cynthia Charles

† Teddy Larsen - Rb. Pearla Larsen & family

**SATURDAY, June 22, 2024**

7:00AM † Noberto Flores & Raynato Saycon, David Jr. & David Saycon - Rb. the Flores & Saycon family

4:30 PM †Creseta Carty -

Rb. the Carty, Sturdivant & Farrington families

**Meditación** continuada

*Undécimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

**Primera Lectura:** Ezequiel 17, 22-24  
**Salmo responsorial:** Salmo 92, 2-3, 13-16  
**Segunda Lectura:** 2 Crónicas 5, 6-10  
**Evangelio:** Marcos 4, 26-34

**Meditación**

por: Padre Joseph Nguete Toko

**“Dejémonos gobernar por Dios”.**

Queridos hermanos y hermanas,  
 Todos hablamos del Reino de Dios. Todos deseamos entrar en el Reino de Dios al final de nuestras vidas. Cuando recitamos el “Padre Nuestro” todos los días, decimos: “...venga tu reino...” Pero ¿qué es el Reino de Dios? ¿Dónde está? Para la multitud que seguía a Jesús, estas eran preguntas difíciles de responder. Para nosotros hoy, siguen siendo preguntas difíciles de responder porque el Reino de Dios no es una realidad tangible. No podemos decir “esto es”, “esto es” o “está aquí”. Ni siquiera Jesús responde a esas preguntas de una manera directa y sencilla.

De hecho, al tratar de ayudar a la multitud a comprender la realidad del Reino de Dios, Jesús utiliza una parábola. Lo compara con una semilla de mostaza que cuando se siembra en la tierra, aunque es la más pequeña de todas las semillas de la tierra, brota y se convierte en la más grande de las plantas y echa grandes ramas para que puedan habitar las aves del cielo. a su sombra. Esta parábola tiene que ser interpretada para comprender y tener significado para nuestra vida espiritual.

En verdad el Reino de Dios no es un lugar, es Dios mismo. Si tenemos a Dios (la semilla) plantada en la tierra (en nosotros o en nuestra alma), no importa cuán pequeño podamos pensar, entonces Él brotará y se convertirá en la más grande de las plantas y dará frutos en nosotros no solo para nuestro bien. , pero también por el bien de los demás. Pero para que esta operación sea posible, debemos estar abiertos a Dios y permitirle entrar y establecerse en nosotros para guiarnos, para gobernarnos. Si nos dejamos gobernar por Dios en nosotros, entonces las cosas cambiarán en nosotros porque ya no estaremos mirando las cosas con nuestros ojos, sino con los ojos de Dios; ya no estaremos haciendo sólo lo que queremos, sino lo que Dios quiere. Ya no estaremos hablando con nuestras propias palabras, sino con las palabras de Dios; en resumen, dejaremos que Dios viva en nosotros y actúe a través de nosotros de tal manera que podamos decir como San Pablo: “Ya no soy yo quien vive, es Cristo quien vive en mí”. (Gálatas 2: 20) Para hablar nuevamente como San Pablo, se supone que somos “el Templo del Espíritu Santo” (1 Corintios 6:19), la morada de Dios. Por eso también les dice a los romanos “si Dios está con nosotros, ¿quién contra nosotros? Si permitimos que Dios viva en nosotros y guíe nuestras vidas, seremos instrumentos de su gracia para otros que vendrán a nosotros como los pájaros del cielo al árbol con grandes ramas para darle sombra.

**NUESTRA IGLESIA Y NUESTRA ESCUELA SON AMBIENTES SEGUROS:**

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**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:**

June 16 - Music Ministry  
 June 23 - Diocesan Seminarians  
 June 30 - Peter's Pence



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

JUNE 9, 2024

|              |             |             |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 4:30PM       | \$ 526.00   | \$ 197.00   |
| 7:00AM       | \$ 1088.00  | \$ 393.00   |
| 8:30 AM      | \$ 751.00   | \$ 358.00   |
| 10:00AM      | \$ 1355.00  | \$ 408.00   |
| 12:15PM      | \$ 419.00   | \$ 148.00   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | \$ 4,139.00 | \$ 1,504.00 |

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 7:00 AM: \$ 79.00  
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- MIRIAM GARCIA RIJO
- LOURDEN T. RIVERA
- ROSE ROBERTS
- VENIA SAKHRANI
- CARLOS SANCHEZ
- CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO
- LIAN VÁZQUEZ



**JUNE 2024**  
*Upcoming Events & Feast Days*

**June 16**

*Father's Day*

**June 19**

*St. Romuald Abbot Juneteenth*

**June 21**

*St. Aloysius Gonzaga*

**June 22**

*St. Paulinus of Mola Sts. John Fisher & Thomas More*

**June 24**

*The Nativity of St. John the Baptist*

**June 27**

*St. Cyril of Alexandria*

**June 28**

*St. Irenaeus*

**June 29**

*Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul*

*250th Jubilee Anniversary Dinner Dance*

**June 30**

*Solemn 250th Jubilee Anniversary Mass*

