

Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio

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

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May 12, 2024

The Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord

You will be my witnesses" (Acts 1:8)



PRIESTS OF THE CATHEDRAL

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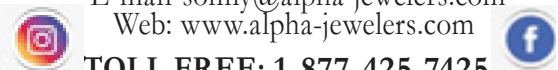
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"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
~ Hebrews 13:16

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.

The Ascension of the Lord

First Reading: Acts 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 103: 1-2, 11-12
Second Reading: 1 John 4: 11-16
Gospel: John 17: 11b - 19

MEDITATION
By: Rev. Fr. Marcel Gham

“You will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8)

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. It is easy to be tempted to interpret the Ascension of the Lord as a farewell. But we would be mistaken if we interpret the feelings of the disciples of Jesus in terms of nostalgia for their loved one who is going away for good. On the contrary, the feelings that they express have to do with their future, that is, the mission which they must accomplish: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Therefore, we can say that the Apostles are not sad. They do not feel abandoned by their Master. For the Lord does not leave them. Rather, he inaugurates a new mode of presence within them. In other words, he leaves the Apostles in order to be more present to them through the Holy Spirit. Given the limitedness of our human language, we are tempted to interpret the Ascension as a farewell, but from point of view of faith, we understand that there is no such thing as farewell of the Lord. For enlightened interiorly by the paschal experience, the Apostles welcome joyfully the mission assigned to them knowing that the Risen Lord is present among them.

The hope in the power of the Lord invisibly present, gave the Apostles courage and strength to go out to the world as true witnesses of Risen Lord. Indeed, it was hope that gave the church a new impulse all through its history, to begin anew even now, to confront difficulties and problems with courage, to be optimistic and solve many problems and challenges.

Meditation (continued)

The Ascension then reminds us of the following:

- That Jesus is the source of our strength and encouragement. By his Ascension, Christ has not deserted us but has made it possible for the Holy Spirit to be present in our lives. We can discover Christ’s presence at every turn of our life’s journey.
- That Jesus is present to us in his Words. We must make his words as real in our lives.
- That we must be messengers of Christ’s glory. As members of the church, we have the tasks of preaching and teaching: “Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature”. To be Christian means, to be a proclaimer and an evangelizer. There is a difference between preaching and proclaiming; we preach with words, but we proclaim with our lives. And this is called witnessing.
- That Jesus is the Lord of heaven and earth. Nothing happens without him. Therefore, we must trust him. For he is always with us.

May the celebration of this Solemnity of Ascension confirm us in the faith and strengthen our commitment to proclaim Jesus in words and actions. “You will be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8).



PRIESTLY ORDINATION

On **Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.**, everyone is invited to the Priestly Ordination of Deacon Ronan Sarmiento at the Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral. Contributions in cash or kind will be greatly appreciated for the organization of this event. Let us keep Deacon Ronan in prayer as he prepares for the priesthood.

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Saints Peter & Paul Cathedral
250th Jubilee Gala & Dinner Dance
JUNE 29, 2024

Tickets are now available for 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa Hotel Grand Ballroom on June 29, 2024 celebrating the 250th Jubilee Anniversary of Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

The 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance begins with a Cocktail Reception and Photo Opportunity followed by an Opening Ceremony, Dinner Buffet, Bishop’s Keynote Address, Live Entertainment and Dancing. Formal Attire is required.

Tickets are \$150.00 per person and are available from Parish Offices and members of the 250th Jubilee Committee. To sit at a reserved table, please call Ms. Gail Shulterbrandt (340) 775-7547. Sponsorship opportunities for the 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance and Ads and Patrons for the 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance Commemorative Booklet are available. For more information, please call Lita Daniel, (340) 244-2448.

So, get your tickets now for the 250th Jubilee Dinner Dance on June 29, 2024 at the Westin Beach Resort and Spa Hotel. We are looking forward to celebrating the 250th Jubilee Anniversary with you.

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, May 13, 2024

Our Lady of Fatima
First Reading: Acts 19: 1-8
Gospel: John 16: 29-33

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

Saint Matthias, Apostle
First Reading: Acts 1: 15-17, 20-26
Gospel: John 15: 9-17

Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Saint Isidore
First Reading: Acts 20: 28-38
Gospel: John 17: 11b-19

Thursday, May 16, 2024

First Reading: Acts 22: 30; 23: 6-11
Gospel: John 17: 20-26

Friday, May 17, 2024

First Reading: Acts 25: 13b - 21
Gospel: John 21: 15-19

Saturday, May 18, 2024

St. John I, Pope, and Martyr
First Reading: Acts 28: 16-20, 30-31
Gospel: John 21: 20-25

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

BISHOP'S APPEAL

There is still time to make your gift to the Bishop's Appeal 2024. Please support our Catholic Schools, the Bethlehem Houses on St. Thomas and St. Croix, our soup kitchens on all three islands, and the evangelization efforts that promote the mission of the local church. Please take a brochure, complete the form, and return it with your donation. Electronic contributions are also accepted. Thank you for your generosity.

DAY OF PRAYER

As we approach the 2024 Hurricane Season, there will be a Day of Prayer sponsored by Senator Dwayne DeGraff, tomorrow, Monday, May 13, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to Noon in the Emancipation Garden. Our Church is participating to pray for all the sick and homebound on St. Thomas. Parishioners are invited to attend this day of prayer as we ask for God's blessings and protection.

250th JUBILEE COMMITTEE MEETING

The 250th Jubilee Committee invites all Christians to a general meeting to be held at the Hospitality Lounge on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

CONDOLENCES

We would like to offer our condolences to Fr. John Mark on the passing of his father, Deacon Joseph T. Mark. The funeral and burial of Deacon Joseph will take place at St. Anne's Parish, in Barren Spot, St. Croix on May 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. We would also like to offer our condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Verna Dagou, and Ms. Ulrica Violet. Please pray for the repose of their souls and for their families at this time of bereavement.

MASS SCHEDULE

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, the 10:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. mass will be combined at 11:00 a.m. as the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation will be administered. All other masses will be celebrated at the regular scheduled times.

UPCOMING CONCERT

On Sunday, May 19, 2024, beginning at 4:00 p.m., in celebration of the 250 years of our Church's existence, there will be a Joyous Concert offered by Encore, a vocal group of older adults who perform worldwide. With performances also by local artists. Tickets are on sale for \$30.00 and can be purchased from the Church office, and members of the Senior Choir.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY, May 11, 2024

7:00AM

4:30PM Nicholas J. Olive, Dominique Olive & Father Marcel Gham for God's Blessings - Rb. Dominique Olive

SUNDAY, May 12, 2024

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

8:30AM Mothers of the Parish

10:00AM Marie Magras for healing - Rb. her family & friends

12:15PM † Luis Clemente German Francisco - Rb. Carmen

MONDAY, May 13, 2024

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

TUESDAY, May 14, 2024

7:00AM † Verna Dagou - Rb. C. Edwards

WEDNESDAY, May 15, 2024

7:00AM Saints Peter & Paul Catholic School - Rb. a parishioner

12:15PM

THURSDAY, May 16, 2024

7:00AM Veronica Gabriel for God's Blessings - Rb. herself

FRIDAY, May 17, 2024

7:00AM

SATURDAY, May 18, 2024

7:00AM Rachel & Jun's Wedding Anniversary - Rb. Rachel & Jun

4:30 PM Marie Magras for healing - Rb. family & friends



This week's Tabernacle Light is lit for Murtle Thomas & family. Requested by The Thomas Family

La Ascensión del Señor

Primera Lectura: Hechos 1: 15-17, 20a, 20c-26
Salmo responsorial: Salmo 103: 1-2, 11-12
Segunda Lectura: 1 Juan 4: 11-16
Evangelio: Juan 17: 11b - 19

Meditación
 por: Padre Marcel Gham

“Ustedes serán mis testigos” (Hechos 1:8)

Hoy celebramos la Solemnidad de la Ascensión del Señor. Es fácil caer en la tentación de interpretar la Ascensión del Señor como una despedida. Pero nos equivocáramos si interpretamos los sentimientos de los discípulos de Jesús en términos de nostalgia por el ser querido que se va para siempre. Al contrario, los sentimientos que expresan tienen que ver con su futuro, es decir, con la misión que deben cumplir: “Recibiréis poder, cuando venga el Espíritu Santo, y seréis mis testigos en Jerusalén, en Judea, en Samaria y en hasta los confines de la tierra” (Hechos 1:8).

Por tanto, podemos decir que los Apóstoles no están tristes. No se sienten abandonados por su Maestro. Porque el Señor no los deja. Más bien, inaugura un nuevo modo de presencia dentro de ellos. En otras palabras, deja a los Apóstoles para estar más presente a ellos a través del Espíritu Santo. Dada la limitación de nuestro lenguaje humano, estamos tentados a interpretar la Ascensión como una despedida, pero desde el punto de vista de la fe, entendemos que no existe una despedida del Señor. Porque iluminados interiormente por la experiencia pascual, los Apóstoles acogen con alegría la misión que les ha sido asignada, sabiendo que el Señor Resucitado está presente entre ellos.

La esperanza en el poder del Señor invisiblemente presente, dio a los Apóstoles valor y fuerza para salir al mundo como verdaderos testigos del Señor Resucitado. De hecho, fue la esperanza la que dio a la Iglesia un nuevo impulso a lo largo de su historia, para empezar de nuevo ahora, para afrontar las dificultades y los problemas con valentía, para ser optimista y resolver muchos problemas y desafíos.

La Ascensión luego nos recuerda lo siguiente:

- Que Jesús es la fuente de nuestra fortaleza y aliento. Con su Ascensión, Cristo no nos ha abandonado sino que ha hecho posible que el Espíritu Santo esté presente en nuestras vidas. Podemos descubrir la presencia de Cristo en cada paso del camino de nuestra vida.

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 continuada

- Que Jesús está presente en nosotros en sus Palabras. Debemos hacer que sus palabras sean tan reales en nuestras vidas.

- Que debemos ser mensajeros de la gloria de Cristo. Como miembros de la iglesia, tenemos la tarea de predicar y enseñar: “Id por todo el mundo y proclamad el Evangelio a toda criatura”. Ser cristiano significa ser anunciador y evangelizador. Hay una diferencia entre predicar y proclamar: predicamos con palabras, pero proclamamos con la vida. Y esto se llama testificar.

- Que Jesús es el Señor del cielo y de la tierra. Nada sucede sin él. Por tanto, debemos confiar en él. Porque él siempre está con nosotros.

Que la celebración de esta Solemnidad de la Ascensión nos confirme en la fe y fortalezca nuestro compromiso de anunciar a Jesús con palabras y acciones. “Ustedes serán mis testigos” (Hechos 1:8).

ANUNCIOS

LLAMAMIENTO DEL OBISPO

Todavía hay tiempo para hacer su donación a la Campaña del Obispo 2024. Apoye nuestras escuelas católicas, las Casas de Belén en St. Thomas y St. Croix, nuestros comedores populares en las tres islas y los esfuerzos de evangelización que promueven la misión de la Iglesia. Iglesia local. Por favor tome un folleto, complete el formulario y devuélvalo con su donación. También se aceptan contribuciones electrónicas. Gracias por tu generosidad.

DÍA DE ORACIÓN

A medida que nos acercamos a la temporada de huracanes de 2024, habrá un Día de Oración patrocinado por el Senador Dwayne DeGraff mañana lunes 13 de mayo de 2024, de 10:00 a. m. al mediodía en el Jardín de la Emancipación. Los feligreses están invitados a asistir a este día de oración mientras pedimos las bendiciones y protección de Dios.

PRÓXIMO CONCIERTO

El domingo 19 de mayo de 2024, a partir de las 4:00 p. m., en celebración de los 250 años de existencia de nuestra Iglesia, habrá un Concierto Gozoso ofrecido por Encore, un grupo vocal de adultos mayores que se presenta en todo el mundo. Con actuaciones también de artistas locales. Los boletos están a la venta por \$30.00 y se pueden comprar en la oficina de la Iglesia y en los miembros del Coro Mayor.

HORARIO DE MISA PARA 19 DE MAYO

El domingo 19 de mayo de 2024 (día de Pentecostes), a las 11.00 horas se celebrará una misa bilingüe donde se administrarán los sacramentos de las primeras comuniones y las confirmaciones.

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:

May 12 - Catholic Communication Campaign



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Gracias por su

MAY 5, 2024

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7:00AM	\$ 1388.00	\$ 410.00
8:30 AM	\$ 399.00	\$ 134.00
10:00AM	\$ 1115.00	\$ 433.00
12:15PM	\$ 498.00	\$ 167.00
TOTAL	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 1114.00

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1: TOTAL \$ 178.00

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Regina Caeli
Queen of Heaven

- V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
- R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
- V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.
- R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
- V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
- R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

(To be said during Easter)



PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR MAY

O most august and blessed Virgin Mary! Holy Mother of God! glorious Queen of heaven and earth! powerful protectress of those who love thee, and unfailing advocate of all who invoke thee! look down, I beseech thee, from thy throne of glory on thy devoted child; accept the solemn offering I present thee of this month, specially dedicated to thee, and receive my ardent, humble desire, that by my love and fervor I could worthily honor thee, who, next to God, art deserving of all honor. Receive me, O Mother of Mercy, among thy best beloved children; extend to me thy maternal tenderness and solicitude; obtain for me a place in the Heart of Jesus, and a special share in the gifts of His grace. O deign, I beseech thee, to recognize my claims on thy protection, to watch over my spiritual and temporal interests, as well as those of all who are dear to me; to infuse into my soul the spirit of Christ, and to teach me thyself to become meek, humble, charitable, patient, and submissive to the will of God.

May my heart burn with the love of thy Divine Son, and of thee, His blessed Mother, not for a month alone, but for time and eternity; may I thirst for the promotion of His honor and thine, and contribute, as far as I can, to its extension. Receive me, O Mary, the refuge of sinners! Grant me a Mother's blessing and a Mother's care, now, and at the hour of my death. Amen.