

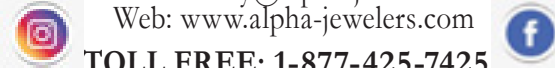


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Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio  
 BISHOP

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February 19, 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time



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	<b>WEEKDAYS</b> Monday to Friday: 6:45AM Wednesday: 12:15PM	<b>RELIGIOUS EDUCATION</b> Every Sunday beginning with the 8:30AM Mass
<b>DEACONS</b> <i>Rev. Mr. Wilfredo Acosta (Retired)</i> <i>Rev. Mr. Dan Daniel</i> <i>Rev. Mr. Frank Kearney</i> <i>Rev. Mr. José Vázquez</i>	<b>EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION</b> Wednesday from 7:30AM - 12:00PM Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Wednesday before Masses	<b>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CONVENT</b> 340-774-0201 ext. 23 <i>Sister Adèle Gatsi</i> <i>Sister Sylvérine Fola</i>
<b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday - Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM Sunday 8:00AM - 12:00PM <b>TELEPHONE: 340-774-0201</b>	<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.	<b>SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CATHOLIC SCHOOL (JK-12)</b> <b>PRINCIPAL</b> <i>Mrs. Maria Jules-Daniel, MLIS</i> <b>OFFICE HOURS</b> Monday to Friday 8:00AM - 4:00PM 340-774-2199 or 340-774-5662
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*Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

**First Reading:** Leveiticus 19: 1-2, 17-18  
**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 103: 1-4, 8, 10-11  
**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 3: 16-23  
**Gospel:** Matthew 5: 38-48

**MEDITATION**

Theme: Love even our enemies

Like all parents, God dreams bigger for his children. He trusts us and he has set the bar high for us, as he points it out in the book of the Levites: "Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." Jesus also wants our behavior to be model on that of God. You will be perfect as your heavenly father is perfect. Is that too much to ask of us?

Here we are immersed in the heart of the debate which opposes in us the ideal and the reality. The ideal of perfection that Jesus proposes to us is that of love of God and neighbor. But for Christ, the neighbor, is all humans, even our enemies and the people who cause us harm. It is true that it is already difficult to love your neighbor, how then to love our enemies as Jesus wishes? In fact, Jesus does not ask us to make our enemies our friends. What matters to him is that we manage to overcome the wall of hatred that separates us from them. That we learn to see them differently, that we should recognize that they are like us, that they are his holy temple. They too need divine mercy and love.

The love of enemies is a specificity of Christianity. But forgiving trespasses, in our families, at work, and in our communities, and praying for those who foment evil against us is not easy. However, the Spirit disposes us so that we can be more like the Father. As baptized, we are called to bear witness to the power of universal love. To love one's enemies, never to despair of them, never to cease reaching out; it is to get out of the spiral of revenge and violence.

Always allow others to know that there is an opening, that another world is possible, despite everything, is to promote the rapprochement of peoples and nations. May God give us the strength to recognize him and to love like him.

Reverend Father Modeste Digwou



**DAILY READINGS  
SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Monday, February 20, 2023**

First Reading: Sirach 1: 1-10  
 Gospel: Mark 9-14-29

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

*Saint Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*

First Reading: Sirach 2: 1-11  
 Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37

**Wednesday, February 22, 2023**

*Ash Wednesday*

First Reading: Joel 2: 12-18  
 Psalm: 51: 3-6B, 12-14, 17  
 Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2  
 Gospel: Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-18

**Thursday, February 23, 2023**

*Saint Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr*

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30: 15-20  
 Gospel: Luke 9: 22-25

**Friday, February 24, 2023**

First: Isaiah 58: 1-9a  
 Gospel: Matthew 9: 14-15

**Saturday, February 25, 2023**

First Reading: Isaiah 58: 9b-14  
 Gospel: 5: 27-32

*"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Matthew 5:43-45*



**Rev. Fr. Modeste Digwou**  
Cathedral Administrator  
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**Rev. Fr. Julio Cesar Faes**  
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Director of Diocesan Office of Family Life  
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*Pray without ceasing*  
1 Thessalonians 5:17

**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.  
(St. Alphonsus de Liguori)

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**A PRAYER FOR ASH WEDNESDAY**

*Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless the journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. As we remember our mortality and seek penitence today, we know you to be a God who is rich in forgiveness and abounding in steadfast love, love that culminates in eternal life with you. Guide our steps in Lent, so that we might find greater fulfillment in your promises and better serve others with a heart that's reflective of you. Amen*

**2022 BISHOP'S APPEAL CONTRIBUTIONS:**

<u>Organization Name:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Diocese of St. Thomas in the VI	\$ 31,369.00
Holy Family Catholic Church, St. Thomas, VI	\$ 7,921.00
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, St. John, VI	\$ 7,670.45
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, St. Thomas, VI	\$ 20,050.00
St. Anne Chapel, St. Thomas, VI	\$ 1,620.00
Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas, VI	\$ 14,840.00
Holy Cross Church, St. Croix, VI	\$ 25,136.00
St. Ann Church, St. Croix, VI	\$ 18,254.00
St. Joseph Church, St. Croix, VI	\$ 5,105.00
St. Patrick, St. Croix, VI	\$ 4,750.00
<b>TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>\$ 136,715.45</b>

On behalf of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the VI, we would like to thank you to all who contributed to the 2022 Bishop's appeal. God bless you!

**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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Bishop's Appeal:**

Bishop Jerome Feudjio wishes to thank all parishes and their respective donors, for their generosity in contributing to the 2022 Bishop's Appeal. The Appeal has raised \$136,715.45, reflecting a decline in contributions as compared with previous years donations. This is mainly due to the negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, we thank you for your sacrifices, in contributing to the assistance of the needy in our community. May God Bless you and be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

**Mass Intentions:**

We encourage you to register masses for your deceased, for yourself and for your family members especially during this Lenten season.

**Hospitality:**

We would appreciate any support that you can contribute to our Hospitality Lounge as we continue our fellowship after all masses. Thank You for your continuous support.

**Tax Letter Request:**

Email your request for tax letters to [cathedralvi@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralvi@gmail.com) Please, include your NAME, ADDRESS, and ENVELOPE NUMBER. Everyone who has requested letters, can pick them up at the church office. Thank you for your continued support.

**Pastoral Mission:**

Father Serapio Lopez Cruz has received his new assignment as vicar at Holy Cross Christiansted Parish. His Excellency Jerome Feudjio asks that the people of God pray for him and for a fruitful ministry at Holy Cross.

**Ash Wednesday:**

This Wednesday, February 22, 2023, will be Ash Wednesday, three masses are scheduled for ashes. 6.45 a.m., 12.00noon., and 5.30 p.m. (Bilingual). We are all invited to attend one of these masses to your convenience. The sick will receive their ashes on Friday after Ash Wednesday when the priest visits with them.

**Lenten Season:**

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday. Wednesday of Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting. Fridays during the Lenten Season are days of fasting and penance.

**The Way of the Cross**

During Lent, we will have the Stations of the Cross every day at 5:30 a.m. before Morning Mass, and on Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. before the Mass. On Fridays at 4:00 p.m. in English followed with mass and 5:00 p.m. in Spanish followed by mass. Leaders for each day will be designated.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2023**

**7:00 AM** - Sister Elizabeth Dzemfe - Rb. a parishioner  
**4:30 PM** - Father Modeste Digwou - Rb. a parishioner

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2023**

**6:30 AM**- Alberta Foy (Healing) Rb. Bernadine  
**8:30 AM** - Gregory Jules - Rb. Avis and the entire family  
**10:30 AM**- Winthrop Elskoe- Rb. friends and family  
**12:15 PM** -

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023**

**6:45 AM** - Lana Trotman - Rb. herself

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023**

**6:45 AM** – Fr. Cyprian Tatah - Rb. a friend

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2023 - Ash Wednesday**

**6:45 AM** – People of the Parish  
**12:15 PM**- People of the Parish

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023**

**6:45 AM** - Jennifer Lynch- Birthday blessings - Rb. herself

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023**

**6:45AM** - † Joan Aubain Sibilly - Rb. family and friends

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023**

**7:00 AM** - Humphrey, Hendricks, & Larsen families- Rb. Pearla Larsen and family  
**4:30 PM** -

*Coming Events:*

**Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten Season**

*February 22, 2023*

*Mass times: 6:45 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. & 5:30pm*

**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



*Séptimo Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario*

Primera lectura: Levítico 19: 1-2, 17-18  
 Salmo responsorial: Salmo 103: 1-4, 8, 10-11  
 Segunda lectura: 1 Corintios 3:16-23  
 Evangelio: Mateo 5: 38-48

**MEDITACIÓN**

Tema: Oincluso nuestros enemigos.

Como todos los padres, Dios sueña más grande para sus hijos. El confía en nosotros y ha puesto el listón alto para nosotros, como lo señala en el libro de los levitas: "Sed santos, porque yo, el Señor vuestro Dios, soy santo". Jesús también quiere que nuestro comportamiento sea modelo en el de Dios. Serás perfecto como tu Padre celestial es perfecto. ¿Esmucho pedirnos? Aquí estamos inmersos en el corazón del debate que opone en nosotros el ideal y la realidad. El ideal de perfección que Jesús nos propone es el del amor a Dios y al prójimo. Pero para Cristo, el prójimo, son todos los seres humanos, incluso nuestros enemigos y las personas que nos causan daño. Es verdad que ya es difícil amar al prójimo, ¿cómo amar entonces a nuestros enemigos como Jesús quiere? De hecho, Jesús no nos pide que hagamos de nuestros enemigos nuestros amigos. Lo que le importa es que logremos superar el muro de odio que nos separa de ellos. Que aprendamos a verlos de manera diferente, que reconozcamos que son como nosotros, que son su santo templo. Ellos también necesitan misericordia y amor divinos. El amor a los enemigos es una especificidad del cristianismo. Pero perdonar las ofensas, en nuestras familias, en el trabajo y en nuestras comunidades, y orar por aquellos que fomentan el mal contra nosotros no es fácil. Sin embargo, el Espíritu nos dispone para que podamos ser más como el Padre. Como bautizados, estamos llamados a dar testimonio del poder del amor universal. Amar a los enemigos, nunca desesperarse de ellos, nunca dejar de tender la mano; Es salir de la espiral de venganza y violencia. Permitir siempre que los demás sepan que hay una apertura, que otro mundo es posible, a pesar de todo, es promover el acercamiento de los pueblos y las naciones. Que Dios nos dé la fuerza para reconocerlo y amar como él.

Reverendo Padre Modeste Digwou

**ANUNCIOS**

**Apelación del obispo:**

El obispo Jerome Feudjio desea agradecer a todas las parroquias y a sus respectivos donantes, por su generosidad al contribuir a la Campaña del Obispo 2022. El llamamiento ha recaudado 136.715,45 dólares, lo que refleja una disminución de las contribuciones en comparación con las donaciones de años anteriores. Esto se debe principalmente al impacto negativo de la pandemia de Covid-19. Sin embargo, le agradecemos por sus sacrificios, al contribuir a la asistencia de los necesitados en nuestra comunidad. Que Dios los bendiga y tenga la seguridad de mis oraciones por ustedes y su familia.

**Taller Bíblico:**

Continuamos con el taller de Biblia los martes a las 5:30pm. Todos están invitados. Los lectores es parte fundamental de su formación, por tanto todos deben asistir.

**Coro:**

Se está formando el coro, por favor únete al grupo el martes a las 7:00pm. Si alguien toca la guitarra, por favor venga al ensayo.

**Grupo de oración:**

El grupo de oración se reúne los jueves a las 7:00pm. No olviden participar. La oración nos lleva al compromiso de ser más fieles a Dios.

**Intenciones masivas:**

Le animamos a registrar misas para sus difuntos, para usted y para los miembros de su familia, especialmente durante este tiempo de Cuaresma.

**Misión Pastoral:**

El Padre Serapio López Cruz ha recibido su nueva asignación como vicario en la Parroquia Holy Cross Christiansted. Su Excelencia Jerome Feudjio pide que el pueblo de Dios ore por él y por un ministerio fructífero en Santa Cruz.

**Miércoles de ceniza:**

Este miércoles 22 de febrero de 2023 será el Miércoles de Ceniza, tres misas están programadas para la imposición de cenizas. 6.45 horas, 12.15 y 17.30 horas (bilingüe). Todos estamos invitados a asistir a una de las misas a su conveniencia. Los enfermos recibirán sus cenizas el viernes después del Miércoles de Ceniza cuando el sacerdote los visite.

**Temporada de Cuaresma:**

La temporada de Cuaresma comienza el Miércoles de Ceniza. Los miércoles y viernes son días de ayuno y penitencia.

**El Vía Crucis**

Durante la Cuaresma, tendremos las Estaciones de la Cruz todos los días a las 5:30 a.m. antes de la Misa, y los miércoles a las 5:30 a.m. y 11:00 a.m. Los viernes a las 4:00 p.m. en inglés seguido de misa y 5:00 p.m. en español seguido de misa. Se designarán líderes para cada día.

**Título**

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

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**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 19, 2023 - Operation Rice Bowl  
 February 26, 2023 - Youth Ministry



**OFFERTORY / OFERTORIO**

Last week's offertory amounted to:  
 La ofrenda de la semana pasada sumó a:

February 12, 2023		
4:30 PM	\$ 673.00	\$ 196.00
6:30 AM	\$ 716.00	\$ 234.00
8:30 AM	\$ 1,729.00	\$ 495.50
10:30 AM	\$ 915.00	\$ 255.00
12:15 PM	\$ 579.00	\$ 157.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,612.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,337.50</b>

*Thank you for your donation!*

*Gracias por su donación.*

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, Masses - \$94.00

**MONTH OF JANUARY 2023**

INCOME		EXPENSES	
COLLECTION:	\$ 6198.45	PARISH LIFE & WORSHIP:	\$ 19,551.72
OTHER INCOME:	\$ 5760.28	UTILITIES	\$ 7661.85
DONATION/CONTRIBUTION:	\$ 1709.00	(WAPA, TELEPHONE, INTERNET)	\$ 27213.57
FUNDRAISING	\$ (545.00)		
	\$ 13122.73		

INCOME-EXPENSE -(\$14090.84)

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISHIONERS:**

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- HUGO MOULON
- JOSEPH MORRELL
- ARACELY NICHOLSON
- JAMIE PEREZ
- LEIDA PIZARRO
- SONIA PIZARRO
- WALTON RAVARIERE
- PHYLLIS RODNEY
- CYRUS SAMPSON
- RAFAELA SANES
- PETRONA STANISLAUS
- CECILIA HILL-THOMAS
- LESTEL TURBE
- ALFREDO VENZEN
- JOHN H. VENZEN
- ULRICA VIALET
- 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
- JANET BENSON
- RENEL BREDY
- JOYCE CORREA
- CELESTINE DAVIS
- PRISCA DAVIS
- ALBERTA FOY
- LAVERNE FRANCIS
- DELTA GEORGE
- MAURITZER Y. GUMBS
- JOSEPH HODGE
- WINIFRED HODGE
- RITA KING
- DOREEN PIERRE LOUIS
- STEPHANY LOUZAN
- GWYNNETH MOOLEAAR
- JOSEPHINE NOCH
- FELIX O'NEAL
- RAMÓN ORTIZ
- MIRIAM GARCIA RIJO
- ROSE ROBERTS
- VENIA SAKHRANI
- CHARLOS SÁNCHEZ
- CÉSAR JULIO TIRADO
- LIAN VÁZQUEZ



**CATECHESIS**

**Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday will be celebrated this week. Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God and marks the beginning of the penitential Lenten season. Ashes are placed on the foreheads of worshipers as a reminder of our mortality and sinfulness. The person who imposes the ashes quotes something like what God once said to Adam after he had sinned: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19). This is the bad news of our sinfulness that prepares us to receive the good news of forgiveness in Christ. Let us look at the symbolic meaning of the gesture specific to this day which inaugurates, in reference to the forty days spent by Jesus in the desert, a period of spiritual preparation for Easter celebrations.

Ashes have two complementary meanings from the Old Testament. The first is taken up directly in one of the two formulas proposed at the time of their imposition: "dust you are, and to dust you will return" (Gn 3, 19). This affirmation is of course an invitation to humility about our mortal condition and its limitations. Addressed by God to Adam after he had eaten the forbidden fruit, these words also include a call to recognize our state of sin. This strong link between ashes and penance appears in several places in the Old Testament, in the words of Queen Esther, who "sought refuge with the Lord. She took off her ceremonial clothes and put on clothes of mourning and affliction." (Esther 4, 17) It is this gesture that we take up again for the beginning of Lent. With that gesture, we are imploring God to look upon us with his gaze of tenderness and pity, as expressed by the other formula, the one that is the most frequently used today: "Be converted" - literally- "Return to God and believe in the good news "and the mercy of He who "so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (Jn 3:16). We wish that you properly enter into this time of grace. A good and fruitful Lent to all.

Reverend Father Modeste Digwou

**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:  
 \* your Checking/Saving account. \* your PayPal account.  
 \* your Credit or Debit card. \* a Bank-to-Bank transfer.

**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 the hand.