

THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER

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A PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. THOMAS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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DEDICATION SET FOR A NEW CHURCH ON ST. JOHN



Most Rev. George V. Murry, SJ, Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, will dedicate the new Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on Sunday, December 11, at 1:30 p.m.

A small band of parishioners are working feverishly outside and inside every Saturday to prepare for the consecration of the church. Built on the plot where the original church was dedicated in 1962, the new church has been under construction for three years, first under Fr. Neil Scantlebury and then Fr. Charles Crespo.

Pictured left, parishioners applied a primer to the exterior walls of the church on November 19 and 26.

STUDENTS ENACT THE STORY OF THANKSGIVING



First and second grade students of Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas presented their annual Thanksgiving Pageant on November 16 in the school cafeteria. Parents of students in all grades were invited to share a pre-Thanksgiving lunch with their children on that day.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from
THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER*

CARING FOR THE NEEDY AT THANKSGIVING



Several church group members gave of themselves for Thanksgiving.

On St. Croix, the Missionaries of Charity and volunteers at Holy Cross Church prepared and distributed hundreds of meals to the needy on Thanksgiving Day.

On St. John, nearly 100 parishioners, tourists, homeless and neighborhood workers came to a Thanksgiving Day luncheon at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church.

Pictured above, members of Magnificat served their annual pre-Thanksgiving meal at Bethlehem Shelter on St. Thomas on November 19. Alvin Henley, District Manager for Catholic Charities, helped with the set-up.



Notes from the Bishop's Desk

*The Most Reverend George V. Murry, SJ
Bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands*

BISHOP MURRY'S DECEMBER 2005

PUBLIC SCHEDULE

Tuesday, December 6, 10:00 a.m., St. Thomas/St. John Deanery Meeting, St. Anne Club House, St. Thomas

Wednesday, December 7, 10:00 a.m., St. Croix Deanery Meeting, St. Joseph Church Hospitality Lounge, St. Croix

Sunday, December 11, 1:30 p.m., Dedication of the new Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, St. John

Wednesday, December 14, 6:00 p.m., Ss. Peter and Paul School Board Meeting, Bishop's Residence, St. Thomas

Thursday, December 15, Noon, Address to St. Thomas Rotary on Catholic Relief Services, Marriott Frenchman's Reef Hotel, St. Thomas

Saturday, December 17, 5:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Cross Church, St. Croix

Sunday, December 18, 7:00 and 10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph Church, St. Croix

Thursday, December 22, 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council and Consulters Meeting, Bishop's Residence, St. Thomas

Thursday, December 22, 1:00 p.m., Priests Christmas Party, Bishop's Residence, St. Thomas

Saturday, December 24-25, Midnight Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas

Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m., Mass, Water Island

Saturday, December 31, 11:00 p.m., Old Year's Night Mass, Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral, St. Thomas

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR

"On behalf of the priests, the deacons and their wives, and the chancery staff, I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a peaceful new year." -Bishop George Murry, SJ

NEW DIOCESAN SEMINARIAN

Bishop George Murry, SJ, has accepted Ernesto Rodriguez as a seminarian for the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands and has appointed him to studies at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, beginning January 2. Mr. Rodriguez had served as Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John for most of 2005.

The diocese's other seminarian, Anthony Abraham, continues his studies at St. John Vianney and the Ugandan Martyrs Regional Seminary in Tunapuna, Trinidad.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

December 30 is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

Bishop George Murry, SJ, will celebrate Holy Family Church's patronal feast on Sunday, January 1, at 7:00 and 10:00 a.m. The Mass will also commemorate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

St. Ann Church on St. Croix will add an extra Mass to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family on Friday, December 30. In addition to the regular 6:30 a.m. Mass, a 5:30 p.m. Mass will be celebrated.

BISHOP TEACHES ON HOLY ORDERS



Bishop George Murry, SJ, taught on Holy Orders in the Mt. Carmel College of Evangelization's course on the Sacraments of the Church on November 1. The seven-week course was held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John.

V.I. DEACON ASSISTS NAVAJOS

Deacon William Summer of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on St. Thomas and three Associate Brothers of the Sacred Heart labored for two weeks helping to improve the living conditions of a Native American reservation at St. Anne's Mission in Ganado, Arizona. Their tasks included plastering a Navajo house made of bales of straw, repairing leaky roofs, digging trenches, repairing security lights and wall outlets, delivering meals to shut-ins and building a sheep-gate.

NEW PASTORAL ASSOCIATE



Nigel Noel of Trinidad joined the staff of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John as Pastoral Associate on November 5. He will assist Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor, in the operation of the parish.

CHILDREN CHOIR REUNION

The St. Joseph Church Children Choir will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a reunion and a week of events.

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated at St. Joseph Church on St. Croix on Saturday, December 17, at 5:00 p.m. The choir will minister in song at the Mass.

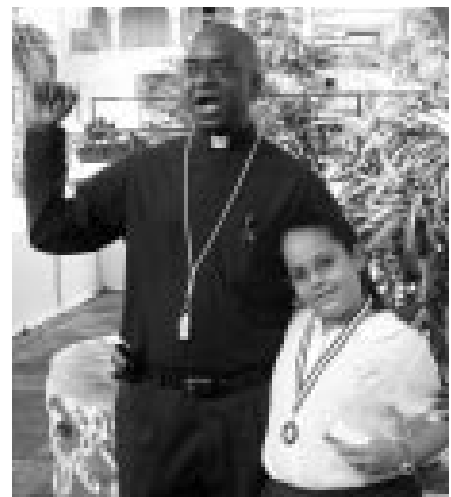
The Mass will be followed by a recognition dinner in the parish's Hospitality Lounge beginning at 6:30 p.m. Although not all will be able to attend the dinner, the honorees will be John Bethelmie, videographer of the choir's activities; Fr. Serapio Lopez Cruz, the former pastor who started the choir; Joanna Santana, Assistant Choir Leader; Edwin Thomas, the music director since the choir's inception; Sr. Clara Toebat, whose idea it was to start a Children Choir; plus the thirteen members of the original Children Choir. Tickets are available for \$15 for adults and \$7 for children.

In addition, past and present choir members will come together for a Family Fun/Beach Day at Dorsch Beach on Sunday, December 18, an evening of reflection on Wednesday, December 21, and a concert featuring the Ebenezer Methodist Church Steel Orchestra along with the Children Choir on Friday, December 23.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

Mirna Mielis of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas and Georgina Inks of Holy Cross Church on St. Croix completed training and were certified on November 20 to teach the Billings Ovulation Method. They will work with those interested in practicing natural family planning. Their practicum will be supervised by Sr. Louis Marie Bryan, SC.

MUSIC AWARD



Aboris DeJesus, a fourth grader at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas, participated in the Caribbean Music Competition at the Puerto Rico Conservatory of Music on Puerto Rico during the Veterans Day weekend and won the second prize trophy in piano. In addition, she was awarded a medal of honor for playing a danza at the event.

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P.O. Box 301825, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, 00803-1825 <http://www.catholicislander.com>

Telephone: (340) 776-6339

Fax: (340) 693-7685

E-mail: editor@catholicislander.com

Publisher

The Most Reverend George V. Murry, SJ

Editor-in-Chief

Fr. Charles Crespo

Spanish Editor

Ernesto Rodriguez

Copy Editor

Madeleine Anduze

Staff Photographer

Faye Abdullah-Boschulte

Webmaster

Br. James Petrait, OSFS

Circulation

Deacon Emith Fludd

ADVENT MISSIONS

Fr. Roberto Cortez Campos of Washington, DC, will lead a Spanish Advent Mission at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on December 6-8 at 6:30 p.m. The closing night will include a Mass in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

Fr. James Cascione, CSsR, will lead two missions at Holy Cross Church on St. Croix. The Spanish mission will be on December 7-10 and the English mission will be on December 11-14. He will be assisted by two lay missionaries. The theme will be "Jesus, the Redeemer." All events begin at 7:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. George Franklin, Principal of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, will lead an English Advent Mission at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St John on Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9, at 7:00 p.m., and conclude the mission at the weekend Masses on Saturday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.

Fr. Arnold Francis of Trinidad will lead an English Advent Triduum at St. Joseph Church on St. Croix on December 13-15 at 7:00 p.m.

AGUINALDOS AND POSADAS

Hispanics in the Virgin Islands will celebrate two Advent traditions, *aguinaldo* Masses and *posadas*, in preparation for Christmas.

Aguinaldo Masses are known in Latin America, many English and French-speaking Caribbean countries, and the Philippines. For the nine days leading up to Christmas, communities come together before sunrise for Eucharistic celebrations accompanied by festive singing and refreshments.

Posadas are a Mexican tradition in which a procession of pilgrims knock on the doors of several homes seeking shelter for Joseph and Mary in time for the birth of the baby Jesus. The pilgrims are rejected several times before they finally find a household that will allow them entrance. There, festive holiday songs are sung and food is served.

Aguinaldo Masses will be celebrated in Spanish at four Virgin Islands churches on December 16-24, followed by a light breakfast.

On St. Thomas, the Masses will be at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. (Sunday at 12:30 p.m.).

On St. Croix, the Masses will be at St. Joseph Church at 5:45 a.m. (Saturday at 7:30 a.m., Sunday at 10:00 a.m.) and at Holy Cross Church at 6:30 a.m. (Sunday at 7:15 a.m.).

On St. John, the Masses will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at 5:45 a.m. (Sunday at 5:00 p.m.). On Friday, December 24, a bilingual Christmas Vigil Mass will begin with a *posada* at 6:00 p.m.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary on Thursday, December 8, is a holy day of obligation in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Check with your local parish for additional Mass times.

SCHOOLS PRESENT

CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS

St. Mary School on St. Croix will have its Christmas procession, tree lighting and pageant on Wednesday, December 7, beginning at 5:30 p.m. A candlelit Nativity procession from Market Square to the school will emulate the announcement to Mary that she would give birth, the travel to Bethlehem, and the birth of Christ. The students then will present a Christmas pageant with song and dance in the school courtyard.

St. Patrick School on St. Croix will have its Christmas program at St. Patrick Church on Saturday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m. The program includes the school's steel pan orchestra, a musical under the direction of music teacher Tina Thompson, and a play directed by third grade teacher Elizabeth Jacobs.

Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas will have its Christmas pageant at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Saturday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Prayers, Hymns and Praise Steel Orchestra of Holy Family Church on St. Thomas will headline a pre-Christmas concert at Columban Hall on Sunday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. The Golden Miracles Steel Orchestra, the Youth Choir and the Wind Ensemble from St. Andrew Episcopal Church will also minister. Tickets are available for \$10.

TREE DECORATING

AND CAROLING

The Youth Group at St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas will host tree decorating and Christmas caroling throughout Frenchtown on Saturday, December 24. All will meet at the chapel's Club House at 3:00 p.m. to begin decorating the tree and at 4:00 p.m. carol through Frenchtown. Afterwards, refreshments will be served at the Chapel Hall.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas is promoting a Christmas raffle. Prizes include tickets to Puerto Rico, St. Martin and other prizes. The drawing will take place on Monday, December 26, in the chapel's Club House. Tickets are \$1 each or \$10 for a book.

¡BUENAS NOTICIAS!

MISIÓN HISPANA DE ADVIENTO

El P. Roberto Cortez Campos de Washington, DC, facilitará una misión en español en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás el 6-8 de diciembre a las 6.30 p.m. La clausura incluye Misa en honor de la Inmaculada Concepción.

El P. James Cascione, Csr., facilitará una misión en español en la Iglesia Holy Cross en Sta. Cruz el 7-10 de diciembre a las 7.00 p.m. El tema será "Jesús, Redentor."

MISAS DE AGUINALDO/POSADAS

Las tradicionales Misas de aguinaldo se celebrarán el 16 a 24 de diciembre en cuatro parroquias en las Islas Vírgenes. Un desayuno provisto se servirá después.

En Sto. Tomás, el P. John Mark las celebrará en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo a las 6.00 a.m. (domingo a las 12.30 p.m.).

En Sta. Cruz, el P. Cecil Corneille las celebrará en la Iglesia San José a las 5.45 a.m. (sábado a las 7.30 a.m., domingo a las 10.00 a.m.). En la Iglesia Holy Cross, el P. Pat Lynch, Csr., las celebrará a las 6.30 a.m. (domingo a las 7.15 a.m.).

En St. John, el P. Charles Crespo las celebrará en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen a las 5.45 a.m. (domingo a las 5.00 p.m.). En noche buena, 24 de diciembre, una Misa bilingüe comenzará con posada a las 6.00 p.m.

MISAS DE NAVIDAD Y AÑO NUEVO

En Sto. Tomás, habrá Misa en español en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo el día de navidad, 25 de diciembre, y el día de año nuevo a las 12.30 p.m.

En Sta. Cruz, habrá Misa en español en la Iglesia Holy Cross el día de navidad y el día de año nuevo a las 7.15 a.m. En la Iglesia San José, habrá Misa en español el día de navidad y el día de año nuevo a las 10.00 a.m.

En St. John, habrá misa bilingüe con posada en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en noche buena, 24 de diciembre, a las 7.30 p.m. y Misa en español el día de navidad y el día de año nuevo a las 5.00 p.m.

PREPARANDO PARA ADVIENTO



Un comité de feligreses hispanos de la Iglesia Holy Cross en Sta. Cruz preparó para la misión de adviento el 7-10 de diciembre con el P. James Cascione, Csr.

LA DEDICACIÓN DE LA NUEVA IGLESIA

El Obispo George Murry, S.J., consagrará la nueva Iglesia de Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John con Misa el domingo 11 de diciembre a la 1.30 p.m.

NUEVO SEMINARISTA DIOCESANO

El Obispo George Murry, S.J., ha aceptado a Ernesto Rodríguez como seminarista para la Diócesis de Sto. Tomás en las Islas Vírgenes y lo ha apuntado a estudios en el Seminario San Vicente en Latrobe, Pennsylvania, comenzando el 2 de enero. El Sr. Rodríguez sirvió de Asistente al Párroco en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John por la mayoría de 2005.

PROGRAMAS ESCOLARES DE NAVIDAD

La Escuela Sta. Maria en Sta. Cruz tendrá una procesión, encenderá su árbol de navidad y presentará su espectáculo el miércoles 7 de diciembre a las 5.30 p.m., comenzando en Market Square.

La Escuela San Patricio en Sta. Cruz presentará su programa de navidad en la Iglesia San Patricio el sábado 11 de diciembre a las 3.00 p.m.

La Escuela San Pedro y San Pablo en Sto. Tomás presentará su programa de navidad en la Catedral San Pedro y San Pablo el sábado 11 de diciembre a las 4.00 p.m.

CLASES DE INGLES

Clases de ingles se ofrecen gratuitamente en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John los viernes a las 5.00 p.m.

DESAYUNO CON EL PÁRROCO

El 2 de diciembre y el primer viernes de cada mes se comparte un Desayuno con el Párroco en la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John después de la Misa de las 7.00 a.m.

MISA HISPANA EN TELEVISIÓN

Misas en español desde la Iglesia Nuestra Señora del Carmen en St. John se ven en Sto. Tomás y St. John en el canal 16 los sábados a las 2.00 p.m.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH CELEBRATES 30 YEARS



Holy Family Church on St. Thomas celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of the dedication of the present church building with a candlelight procession from the church to a Mass and Benediction at the adjacent Our Lady of Cassi Hill Shrine on October 30.

PRAYER GROUP LEADERS WORKSHOP AND RETREAT



Prayer group leaders from St. Croix and St. Thomas attended a retreat at the Marian Hall at St. Ann Church on St. Croix on November 19. Mary Baptiste of the Zion Community in Trinidad, Msgr. Michael Kosak, Deacon Hyacinthe George and Sr. Patricia Alexander, WIF, offered talks focused on the call and the challenges of leadership.

Many of the retreat participants returned the following day for the annual Christ the King Day Praise and Worship Rally. The theme of the rally was John 10:10: "I have come to give you life and give it in abundance." Over 200 people attended.

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION



Parishioners of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas participated in a candlelight procession celebrating the end of the Year of the Eucharist on October 29. Participants prayed the rosary as Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, Deacon Wilfredo Acosta, and the Knights of Columbus led the procession to and from the Romeo Malone Center. A fifteen-minute prayer service was held outside the center.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



The Charismatic Prayer Group at St. Patrick Church on St. Croix presented its fifth annual women's conference at the Light of Christ Retreat Center on October 21-23. Deborah de Rosia of Trinidad and Sr. Germaine Convery, OSF, presented a theme based on Galatians 5:22-23, "Women Living the Fruit of the Spirit, Part II: Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control."

The mission of the conference was "to bring about spiritual camaraderie, growth and oneness with our God," and "deepening our spirituality and enhancing collaboration" among the St. Croix parishes, according to the leadership team, which consisted of Claudia Brown, Vertilee Daniel, Anastasia Doward, Iris Richards and Gloria Smith. Fr. John McLoughlin, Pastor, is also the spiritual director of the team.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES RESPONDS TO EARTHQUAKE



Bishop Murry and Sean Callahan, Vice President of CRS, surveyed the rubble of a school destroyed by the earthquake.



Residents of northern Pakistan lined up to receive relief supplies from CRS.



CRS distributed hundreds of tarpaulins to help victims of the earthquake construct temporary shelters.

One week after a devastating earthquake hit Pakistan, Bishop George Murry, a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Service (CRS), was asked to travel to Pakistan to meet with the CRS staff, visit the earthquake sites, and assure local national and Church leaders that CRS would stand in solidarity with them.

CRS has been in Pakistan for fifty years. The agency responded to the natural disaster within hours, establishing field offices in and around the epicenter of the earthquake. To date, CRS has allocated \$50 million to the relief efforts.

According to Bishop Murry, the most important immediate need of the people is for winterized tents. "This is the harvest season in Pakistan, and consequently, there is a great deal of food growing in the fields, but winter is approaching quickly," he said.

In areas of northeastern Pakistan, which were hardest hit by the earthquake, entire towns and villages were reduced to rubble. One town visited by Bishop Murry, Muzaffarabad, at the foot of the Himalayan mountains, was completely destroyed. Roofs collapsed into people inside of their houses. Bishop Murry visited a school where seventy-five children died as a result of a collapsed roof.

"Once again, we can be proud of our Church and the way it extends a hand of help to those who are in need," Bishop Murry told *The Catholic Islander*.



In Muzaffarabad, Bishop Murry helped in distributing blankets, water containers, and tents.

Catholic Education

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTION

Students at St. Joseph High School on St. Croix were inducted into the National Honor Society in a ceremony after Mass at St. Joseph Church on October 26.

The new members of the society are pictured right on the front steps of the church.

Pictured left to right, back row: Camille Paul, Christina Clement, Luanda Garcia, Laila Khaled, Tyrell Martin.

Row 3: Zina Dore, Amberky Lynch, Laurene McIntosh.

Row 2: Rudi Schulerbrandt, Edward Modeste, Patrice Petersen, Dominique James.

Front Row: Bianca Acevedo, Michaela Cooke, Victoria Sylvester, Kenya Troutman.



ALUMNI HELP FUND NEW LIBRARY



More than 140 alumni and friends pledged \$5,505 for a new library at Ss. Peter and Paul School on St. Thomas through an alumni fundraiser at the Petite Pump Room on November 18.

“Alumni Reconnect” raised additional funds through a silent auction, which featured antique items including artwork, vases, and other decorative pieces. Other sought-after auction items included a five-liter bottle of specialty wine, restaurant dinners, plant and flower arrangements, beauty packages and items for the home. A framed poster designed by Ss. Peter and Paul School students fetched \$200 from alumnus George Parrott and his wife Annett, who donated the poster back to the school to be displayed in the new library.

Pictured above, Rev. Dr. George Franklin, Principal of the school, picked the door prize winners by lottery, assisted by Cathy Cavin and Amalie Parrott.

ST. MARY SCHOOL STUDENTS DANCE AT KIDS FAIR



The performance by the Dance Team of St. Mary School on St. Croix at the Blessing of the Pets on October 1 was received so well that they were asked to dance at the Kids Fair hosted by the St. Croix Foundation on October 15. They proudly displayed their Caribbean costumes as they danced to “Fly” by Destra.

The team is comprised of girls in grades 6 to 8 whose academics are in good standing. The dancers are raising money to travel to and perform at Walt Disney World next June.

Catholic Education

CRAFT FUN DAY

The Youth Group at St. Anne Chapel on St. Thomas hosts a Craft Fun Day in the chapel's Club House on Sunday, December 18, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be crafts for all ages. Lunch and drinks will be provided.

PRINCIPAL'S DAY

St. Patrick School on St. Croix celebrated Principal's Day on November 17 with breakfast, lunch and after school dessert. According to Pamela Tinsley-Moors, Principal, the students made her feel extra special that day.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT

Ss. Peter and Paul faculty and staff participated in a Faculty Development Day on November 10 with three workshops. Beth Marshall taught on Managing Children with Attention Deficits in the Classroom; Cira Burke taught on Classroom Management; and Dr. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar taught on Meeting Academic Standards in Classrooms of Under- and Over-Achievers.

The day began with a presentation by Rev. Dr. George Franklin, President/Principal, that described the vision for the school as one in which students are nurtured to achieve their potential. He spoke of teachers as facilitators of student development and characterized the culture of the school as one of empowerment for the students. He reminded everyone that student behavior at school is impacted by the home environment.



YOUTH SAY NO TO DRUGS

St. Mary School on St. Croix held a march against drugs through Christiansted on October 26. The march is an annual outreach by the students to the community, encouraging their neighbors to stay away from narcotic drugs. To prepare for the event, the students created posters, participated in an essay contest and wrote slogans to be chanted. This year's chant was "Don't smoke it high, don't smoke it low, drugs ain't fly, they've got to go!" The eighth graders, who wrote the chant, also drummed the beat.

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DANISH AND CRUCIAN STUDENTS SHARE IN A CULTURAL EXCHANGE



Teen-agers shared a cross-cultural experience when twenty-six students and two teachers from the Oregard Gymnasium in Denmark visited St. Joseph High School on St. Croix on November 8.

The nine seniors in the physics class, led by Michaela Cooke, organized the Danish students into six groups and led them to the various classrooms.

The Crucian students are considering making a trip to the Denmark school in future years.

Pictured above, Danish students and the physics class of the St. Joseph High School on St. Croix posed in front of their "Senior Tree" on November 8.

ALL SOULS DAY



St. Joseph Church on St. Croix was decorated solemnly to remember the poor souls in purgatory when Fr. Cecil Corneille, Pastor, celebrated All Souls Day Mass on November 2.

DOMINICA INDEPENDENCE



Native dress was abundant when Dominica Independence Day was celebrated with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Ann Church's Joachim Center on St. Croix on November 6.

THANKSGIVING MASS



Ss. Peter and Paul School students in native dress presented food baskets for the poor at the offertory at the school's Thanksgiving Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on November 2.

SPONSORING CHILDREN



Fr. Anthony Sazarumuthu celebrated Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas on October 1-2 representing the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging. After Mass he recruited many parishioners into sponsoring a needy child or elderly person in a third world country.

The Pride of Our Parishes



Three parishioners of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix were honored when Hovensa hosted its second annual Unsung Heroes Awards on November 14. Miguelina Ayala, Marjorie Drummond and Raymond Williams were recognized as citizens who freely give their time to help others. Pictured above, Leonardo Ayala posed with his award-winning wife, Miguelina.

Tres feligreses de la Iglesia San José en Sta. Cruz fueron homenajeados por Hovensa en su segundo reconocimiento anual de los "Héroes Anónimos de Sta. Cruz" el 14 de noviembre. Miguelina Ayala, Marjorie Drummond y Raymond Williams fueron reconocidos como miembros de la comunidad que dan su tiempo ayudando a los demás sin ningún beneficio o gloria entre ellos. Leonardo Ayala está retratado con su esposa, Miguelina.

ADULT EDUCATION



Deacon Leonard Monsanto concluded the Mt. Carmel College of Evangelization classes on the Sacraments with classes on Matrimony and the Sacrament of the Sick at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on November 8 and 15.

THOU SHALT STOP



Fr. Charles Crespo, Pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John, holds a "Thou Shalt Stop" sign that replaced an aging stop sign by the corner of the church.

The new sign has been received well by the community and visitors to the island.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETING



Very Rev. Neil Scantlebury, Rector of Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on St. Thomas, spoke at the charismatic prayer meeting at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on St. John on October 27. Guest speakers teach every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m.

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS



Fr. Cecil Corneille, Pastor of St. Joseph Church on St. Croix, and Deacon Guillermo Huertas blessed parishioners celebrating birthdays and anniversaries at the end of Sunday Mass.

PARISH FUN NIGHT



More than 300 adults and youth attended a Fun Night at St. Ann Church's Marian Hall on St. Croix on November 11. Food, fellowship and karaoke were the highlights of the evening.

ST. THOMAS CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

St. Anne Chapel has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on December 2 and all First Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Holy Family Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 6:30 p.m., followed by Mass at 7:30 p.m.

MAGNIFICAT

Magnificat, a ministry to Catholic women, meets December 3 and the every first Saturday at 8:30 a.m. in Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA DEVOTION

The Children of Mary lead a devotion to Our Lady of Fatima at Holy Family Church on December 3 and the first Saturday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

PRE-CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Prayers, Hymns and Praise Steel Orchestra of Holy Family Church will headline a pre-Christmas concert at Columban Hall on Sunday, December 4, at 6:00 p.m. The Golden Miracles Steel Orchestra, the Youth Choir and the Wind Ensemble from St. Andrew Episcopal Church will also minister. Tickets are available for \$10.

SPANISH ADVENT MISSION

Fr. Roberto Cortez Campos of Washington, DC, will lead a Spanish Advent Mission at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on December 6-8 at 6:30 p.m. The closing night will include a Mass in honor of the Immaculate Conception.

SECULAR FRANCISCANS

The Lady Clare of Assisi Fraternity share Franciscan spirituality at Holy Family Church on December 10 and the second Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Ss. Peter and Paul School will have its Christmas pageant at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Saturday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The Holy Family Chapter share Vincentian spirituality at Holy Family Church on December 13 and the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

AGUINALDO MASSES

A novena of sunrise Masses leading up to Christmas will be celebrated in Spanish at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on December 16-24 at 6:00 a.m. (Sunday at 12:30 p.m.), followed by a light breakfast.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

Court 2049 meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on December 17 and the third Saturday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

TREE DECORATING AND CAROLING

The Youth Group at St. Anne Chapel hosts tree decorating and Christmas caroling throughout Frenchtown on Saturday, December 24. All will meet at the chapel's Club House to decorate the tree at 3:00 p.m. and carol through Frenchtown at 4:00 p.m. Afterwards, refreshments will be served at the Parish Hall.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 6187 meets at Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral's Hospitality Lounge on the first and third Sunday of each month at 10:00 a.m.

LEGION OF MARY

Junior Praesidium Mary, Queen of Archangels meets at the St. Anne Chapel Hall on Sundays at 1:30 p.m.

Praesidium Mary, Mediatrix of All Graces meets at the St. Anne Chapel Hall on Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

Praesidium Mary, Mystical Rose meets at Holy Family Church on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Charismatic prayer meetings are held at Holy Family Church on Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

BLUE ARMY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima meets at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year from
THE CATHOLIC ISLANDER*

ST. JOHN CALENDAR

BREAKFAST WITH THE PASTOR

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church hosts a pot luck breakfast on December 2 and all First Fridays after the 7:00 a.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

A bilingual Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction follows the 7:00 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on December 2 and all First Fridays.

ADVENT RETREAT

Rev. Dr. George Franklin will lead an Advent Mission at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Thursday and Friday, December 8-9, and conclude at Mass on Saturday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 11, at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.

DEDICATION OF A NEW CHURCH

Bishop George Murry, SJ, will consecrate the new Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Sunday, December 11, at 1:30 p.m.

AGUINALDO MASSES

A novena of Spanish sunrise Masses leading up to Christmas will begin at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Friday, December 16, at 5:45 a.m., except Sunday, when Mass will be at 5:00 p.m.

POSADA

A traditional Mexican posada will be sung and enacted at a bilingual Christmas Vigil Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Saturday, December 24, at 6:00 p.m.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

Charismatic prayer meetings are held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

HEALING MASSES

A priest lays on hands for physical, spiritual, emotional and psychological healing at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Fridays at the 8:30 a.m. Mass. On Fridays, that Mass is at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

LEGION OF MARY

Praesidium Mary, Queen of Angels meets at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

*Our Blessed Mother's Message from Medjugorje
October 25, 2005*

"Little children, believe, pray and love, and God will be near you. He will give you the gift of all the graces you seek from Him. I am a gift to you, because, from day to day, God permits me to be with you and to love each of you with immeasurable love. Therefore, little children, in prayer and humility, open your hearts and be witnesses of my presence. Thank you for having responded to my call."

Merry Christmas from Claire & John Foster

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ST. CROIX CALENDAR

HOLY HOURS/EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Holy Cross Church has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction on December 2 and all First Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church has a bilingual Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on December 2 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

St. Ann Church has a Holy Hour with Exposition and Benediction on Fridays at 5:30 p.m.

HEALING MASS

St. Patrick Church has a healing Mass on December 2 and all First Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

SANTO NIÑO DEVOTION/RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph Church hosts devotions to El Santo Niño on December 3 and all First Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered simultaneously.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS

St. Mary School will have its Christmas procession, tree lighting and pageant beginning at Market Square on Wednesday, December 7, at 5:30 p.m. and concluding in the school courtyard.

St. Patrick School will have its Christmas program at St. Patrick Church on Saturday, December 11, at 3:00 p.m.

ADVENT MISSIONS

Fr. James Cascione, CSsR, will lead two missions at Holy Cross Church. The Spanish mission will be December 7-10. The English Mission will be December 11-14. All events begin at 7:00 p.m.

Fr. Arnold Francis of Trinidad will lead an Advent Triduum at St. Joseph Church on December 13-15 at 7:00 p.m.

FRANCISCAN SPIRITUALITY

The Our Lady of the Angels Fraternity shares Franciscan spirituality at the Franciscan House on December 11 and the second Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

AGUINALDO MASSES

A novena of sunrise Masses leading up to Christmas will be celebrated in Spanish on December 16-24 at St. Joseph Church at 5:45 a.m. (Saturday at 7:30 a.m., Sunday at 10:00 a.m.) and at Holy Cross Church at 6:30 a.m. (Sunday at 7:15 a.m.), followed by a light breakfast.

EVENINGS OF CHARISMATIC PRAYER

St. Patrick Church has an evening of charismatic prayer on December 16 and the third Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

St. Ann Church holds charismatic prayer meetings on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Church has charismatic evenings on Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

CHILDREN CHOIR ANNIVERSARY

The St. Joseph Church Children Choir will celebrate its tenth anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Joseph Church on Saturday, December 17, at 5:00 p.m. The choir will minister in song at the Mass. A dinner afterwards in the Hospitality Lounge will recognize those who helped launch the choir. Tickets for the dinner are available for \$15 for adults and \$7 for children.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

Jim and Centelia Matthews lead a cancer support group at St. Ann Church on December 21 and the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

LEGION OF MARY

Praesidium Our Lady of Grace meets at the Holy Cross Church rectory on Sundays at 4:00 p.m.

CURSILLO ULTREYA MEETINGS

Cursillo members meet at St. Joseph Church on Mondays after the 7:00 p.m. Mass. Meetings are in Spanish.

NEO-CATECHUMENAL WAY

The Neo-Catechumenal Way presents a catechesis at St. Joseph Church on Mondays and at Holy Cross Church on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

BLUE ARMY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

The Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima meets in the chapel at Holy Cross Church on Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. Entry is by the gate to the rectory.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Holy Cross Council 6482 meets at the McAlpin Hall of Holy Cross Church on first and third Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

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HEART OF JESUS, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, ETC.)**

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OR BLUE, ETC.)**

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MISSALS (WITH SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASS READINGS)

THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Merry Christmas and
Best Wishes for 2006!**

***PARISH SCHEDULES FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY
OLD YEAR'S NIGHT
NEW YEAR'S DAY/SOLEMNNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD***

ST. THOMAS

Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral

Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Carols
6:30 p.m. Family Mass
11:00 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
6:30 a.m. Mass
8:30 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass
12:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)
Old Year's Night
10:00 p.m. Holy Hour
11:00 p.m. Mass
New Year's Day
6:30 a.m. Mass
8:30 a.m. Mass
10:30 a.m. Mass
12:30 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

Holy Family Church

Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Mass
Old Year's Night
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Holy Hour
Midnight Mass
New Year's Day
10:00 a.m. Mass

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Christmas Eve
6:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:30 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
9:00 a.m. Mass
11:00 a.m. Mass
Old Year's Night
5:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
New Year's Day
9:00 a.m. Mass
11:00 a.m. Mass

St. Anne Chapel

Christmas Eve
11:30 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
8:00 a.m. Mass
Old Year's Night
7:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
New Year's Day
8:00 a.m. Mass

ST. JOHN

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church

Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
9:30 p.m. Carols
10:30 p.m. Mass
Christmas Day
7:30 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. Mass
5:00 p.m. Mass (Spanish)
Old Year's Night
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
9:30 p.m. Holy Hour
10:30 p.m. Mass
New Year's Day
7:30 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. Mass
5:00 p.m. Mass (Spanish)

ST. CROIX

Holy Cross Church

Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Pageant
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
7:15 a.m. Mass (Spanish)
9:00 a.m. Mass
11:00 a.m. Mass
Old Year's Night
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Holy Hour
Midnight Mass
New Year's Day
7:15 a.m. Mass (Spanish)
9:00 a.m. Mass
11:00 a.m. Mass

St. Ann Church

Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:15 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
7:00 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. Mass
Old Year's Night
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Holy Hour
Midnight Mass
New Year's Day
7:00 a.m. Mass
9:30 a.m. Mass

St. Joseph Church

Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. Mass & Pageant
11:30 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
7:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. Mass (Spanish)
Old Year's Night
5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Holy Hour
Midnight Mass
New Year's Day
7:00 a.m. Mass
10:00 a.m. Mass (Spanish)

St. Patrick Church

Christmas Eve
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Carols
Midnight Mass
Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Mass
Old Year's Night
6:00 p.m. Vigil Mass
11:00 p.m. Holy Hour
Midnight Mass
New Year's Day
10:00 a.m. Mass