



*Building Our Future Through
Education, History and Culture!*

April Holidays Celebrations Recognition in the United States Virgin Islands

April:

Easter Thursday, April 2 - Monday, April 6
St. Thomas Carnival ... Saturday, April 4 - Saturday, May 2

*Holidays observed by the United States Virgin Islands
strengthen an important process in the development of the territory.*

Compliments of:
Virgin Islands Department of Education
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education

Easter

Easter 2015 is celebrated from Thursday, April 2 through Monday, April 6. It is a national holiday with religious origin. With credibility from the Bible, Christians believe that Jesus was crucified on a cross, buried in a grave, and three days after His death He rose from the dead.

Each day of the Easter holiday has its Biblical symbolism:

Thursday, which is called Holiday Thursday, celebrates Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples and when the final plot was carried out for His death;

Friday, which is noted as Good Friday, commemorates the brutal death by crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross;

Saturday, which is biblically referred to as the Seventh Day or the Sabbath, is celebrated as the Day when Jesus rested in the grave, symbolic of what He did while He was alive;

Sunday, which is known as Easter Sunday, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave;

Monday, which is mentioned as Easter Monday, is known as the day when His disciples and followers reflected on the Apostles embracing His Resurrection.

Commercially, especially on the mainland, there are special Easter Holiday sales, scavenger hunts and meet and greet with the Easter Bunny. It is also an opportunity to spend time with family and friends at church, a museum, zoo, parades, relaxation, and/or simply enjoy the time outdoors.

In the United States Virgin Islands, it is a time when families join together with special meals after attending church. Both in the USVI and the mainland, it is typically one of the most well-attended Sunday service of the year for Christian churches. As part of the religious service, many churches have continued the tradition of re-enacting the Last Supper, His death, His burial, and His resurrection, along with hosting special concerts within the churches and in the community. It is an opportunity to reflect and celebrate on the reason for the Easter Holiday.



Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Attend a special Easter service and/or program

Research the history of the Easter Celebration and share what you have learn with someone

Courtesy of

Text: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Easter>; http://catholicism.about.com/od/holydaysandholidays/p/Holy_Thursday.htm;

<http://christianity.about.com/od/holidaytips/qt/whatis-easter.htm>; <http://elev8.com/369075/what-is-easter-monday/>;

Pictures: <http://pixgood.com/happy-easter-images-religious.html>

St. Thomas Carnival 2015



St. Thomas Carnival 2015 will be celebrated from Saturday, April 4 through Saturday, May 2, 2015.

The theme is "*Culture to the Extreme, V.I. Carnival 2015*". It was submitted by Ms. Carmen L. Figueroa and selected from 25 entries. It defines the spirit and excitement of the Virgin Islands' largest cultural event.

The St. Thomas Carnival dates back to February 14, 1912 when the first Carnival in St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands started and the second was held in 1914. In 1952, after 38 years of dormancy, it was revitalized and to date it has been held annually.

The St. Thomas Carnival offers a melting pot of excitement with the culture and treasured tradition. There will be spectacular memorable events, such as dances, pageantry, music, drinks, food, friends and fun! In the last week, the celebration heats up and climaxes with hard core partying at the Village, J'ouvert, Food Fair, two parades and fireworks.

The second largest Carnival in the Caribbean, this year will host entertainment with talented bands and musicians, pageants for Carnival royalty and fairs showcasing local crafts, food and drinks. To the right is the 2015 St. Thomas Carnival's calendar of events ...



U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

Carnival Time!

April 04 - May 02, 2015
 Carnival Theme: "Culture to the Extreme, V.I. Carnival 2015"
 By: Carmen L. Figueroa
 Carnival Village: "Grapo's Art Gallery"
 Honoring: Cleve "Grapo" Turnbull

Schedule of Events

<p>SATURDAY, APRIL 04, 2015 Calypso Elimination Tent 8:00 P.M. • Venue - To Be Announced</p> <p>SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2015 Prince & Princess Selection Show 5:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015 Queen Selection Show 8:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2015 Toddlers Derby / Best Dressed Doll 4:30 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium Traditional Games 7:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 Carnival at the Schneider Regional Medical Center 6:00 P.M. • Hospital Lobby (First Floor)</p> <p>TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015 Junior Calypso Competition 8:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015 Cultural Night 8:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015 V.I. Calypso Competition 8:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015 Opening of Carnival Village 6:00 P.M. • Fort Christian Parking Lot Village Entertainment Continues Through Saturday, May 02, 2015 8:00 P.M. • Fort Christian Parking Lot</p> <p>SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2015 Calypso Revue 8:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p>	<p>SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2015 Water Sports Activities 10:00 A.M. • Charlotte Amalie Harbor Steelband Jamboree 5:00 P.M. • Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 Village Entertainment Continues</p> <p>TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015 Pre-Teen Tramp 8:00 P.M. • Rothschild Francis Square (Market Square) to Children's Village Senior Citizens' Quebe Tramp 8:00 P.M. • Rothschild Francis Square (Market Square) to Carnival Village</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015 Cultural Fair-"Alvin's Cultural Workshop" Honoring: Mr. Alvin Turnbull 8:00 A.M. • Emancipation Garden</p> <p>THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015 Roas-A-Time (J'ouvert) Warm-up 12:30 A.M. to Roas-A-Time Fort Christian Parking Lot Roas-A-Time 4:00 A.M. • Veteran's Drive</p> <p>FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2015 Children's Parade GRAND MARSHAL: Na'Kaya Esdaille A/K/A "Princessa Keke" 10:00 A.M. • Rothschild Francis Square (Market Square) to Lionel Roberts Stadium</p> <p>SATURDAY, MAY 02, 2015 Adult's Parade GRAND MARSHAL: Dale Benjamin 10:00 A.M. • Western Cemetery to Lionel Roberts Stadium Fireworks 9:00 P.M. • Charlotte Amalie Harbor Calypso Spectakule / Last Lap 10:00 P.M. - 3:00 A.M. Fort Christian Parking Lot</p>
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Virgin Islands Carnival Committee, Inc.
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 P.O. Box 307947, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00803 • Office: (340) 776-3112 Fax: (340) 777-0198
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 Website: WWW.VICARNIVAL.COM
 Email Address: [juvert@viacomm.net](mailto:jouvert@viacomm.net)





Meet our contestants and special honorees this year ...



Queen Contestants

Moniqua Thomas – Charlotte Amalie High School
Kandysee Leonard – Ivanna Eudora Kean High School
Cequoyah George – Charlotte Amalie High School
Abbyssinia Hodge – Charlotte Amalie High School
Jahkeema Petersen – Ivanna Eudora Kean High School
Derisa Greaves – Charlotte Amalie High School

Princess Contestants



T’Kajrah Wharton – Lockhart Elementary School
Jasonique Roberts – Ulla F. Muller Elementary School
Tyel Giffit – Gladys A. Abraham Elementary School

Grand Marshalls Children & Adult Parades



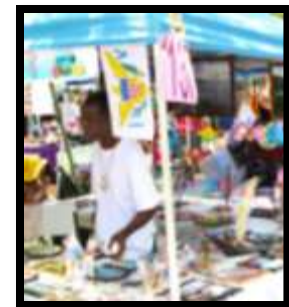
Ms. Na’Kaya ‘Princess KeKe’ Esdaille, Children
Mr. Dale Benjamin, Adults

Carnival Village Honoree



the late Cleve ‘Grapo’ Turnbull
Grapo’s Art Gallery

Food Fair Honoree



Mr. Alvin Turnbull
Alvin’s Cultural Workshop

Suggested Classroom and Family Activities:

Attend a Carnival event

Research the history of Carnival and share what you learned with someone

Interview someone who participates in Carnival about their experience

Courtesy of

Text: <http://www.vicarnival.com/>;

Pictures: [http://stthomassource.com/content/news/local-news/2014/04/23/princess-keke-prince-short-shirt-win-junior-calypso-crowns](http://stthomassource.com/content/news/local-news/2014/04/23/princess-keke-prince-short-shirt-win-junior-calypso-crowns;);
<http://www.sttsports.com/STTLittleLeagueBaseball/Cleve-Grapo-Turnbull-folder/Cleve-Grapo-Turnbull/>; <http://www.vicarnival.com/>;



To receive monthly complimentary electronic holidays / celebrations recognition, kindly contact



*Virgin Islands Department of Education
Division of Virgin Islands Cultural Education*



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