

# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

## Parish in Paradise



Newsletter

Dec 2020 ♦ ISSUE 22



▲ “Angel Tree” gifts, in memory of Sarah Barone. Her friends wrapped and shipped gifts for 37 children and outfits for 40 homeless adults served by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish.

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♦  OurLadyofMountCarmelstjohn ♦  OLMC VI Virgin Islands ♦



## ☛ From the desk of the pastor

My dear friends,

It is with great joy I greet you in the Holy Name of Jesus Christ.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, Emmanuel God is with us.

These words are very comforting in these times. We truly need to remind ourselves that we are never alone on this journey. He is with us always!

We were reminded in the beautiful season of Advent to prepare ourselves for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The first week we were called to KEEP ALERT, STAY AWAKE. Coffee was not going to keep us awake. A spiritual alertness is needed. Why? Because we don't know the day or the hour when Jesus is going to return. Always keep in mind it might mean us dying before He comes. Either way, we need to stay ready.

The second week of Advent calls us to PREPARE ourselves. John calls us to repentance. We need to recognize where we have failed God and mankind. The urgent call by the Church is for us to do the work necessary. God will not do for us what we can do for ourselves. However, we await His return. It is a real deception for us to think we are without sin. Scripture reminds us "for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

The third week reminds us always true repentance brings JOY. However, we need the joy of the Lord in these times we are living. It only comes with true repentance. The Church begins to shift her gaze and take us down memory lane two thousand years ago. God entered time. Heaven came to earth. God sent His only begotten son to save us.

We are now invited into this great celebration that is called Christmas. However, it is a journey. There is a preparation! Maybe you didn't prepare; maybe you weren't alert; maybe you are in pain. Maybe you have lost a loved one, just maybe the future seems uncertain. Maybe we never lose HOPE!

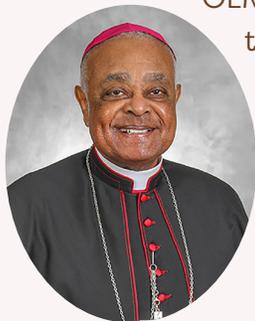
Let us be grateful for this Christmas 2020. May the Christ Child transform the stable of our hearts and make it a place for his dwelling.

From Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church on the beautiful island on St. John:  
Merry Christmas and a Holy 2021. I love you with the Love of Christ!

Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham  
Pastor

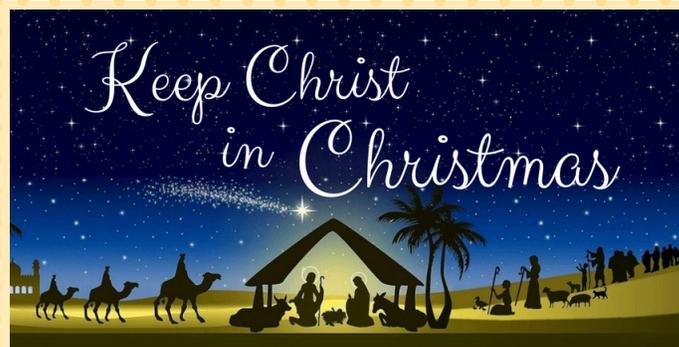
## Congratulations



OLMC extends congratulations to Cardinal Wilton Daniel Gregory. Gregory, born December 7, 1947, is a prelate of the Catholic Church who is the Archbishop of Washington. Pope Francis raised him to the rank of cardinal on November 28, 2020.

He is the first African-American cardinal. He was the Archbishop of Atlanta, from 2005 to 2019; the Bishop of Belleville, Illinois, from 1994 to 2004; and Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago from 1983 to 1994. He was the first Black president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) from 2001 to 2004, when the USCCB issued the "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" in response to Roman Catholic sex abuse cases. Gregory was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands in September.

— Some info from Wikipedia



## CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

### Dec. 24:

#### Christmas Eve:

6 p.m. Vigil Mass;  
9:30 p.m. caroling;  
& 10:30 p.m. Mass

### Dec. 31:

#### New Year's Eve:

6 p.m. Vigil Mass;  
9:30 p.m. Holy Hour;  
& 10:30 p.m. Mass

### Dec. 25:

#### Christmas Day:

7:30 & 9:30 a.m.  
& 12:30 p.m.  
(Coral Bay)

### Jan. 1:

#### New Year's Day:

8:30 a.m. &  
11:30 a.m. (Coral Bay)

## Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church will provide support to all through the liturgy, worship and education. We pledge to provide our parish community and our visitors a prayerful experience in an environment of friendliness and courtesy. We are committed to proclaim the Word of God in unity and love towards each other.

### Our mission is:

**Evangelization:** to evangelize ourselves, our families, our parish and our local community.

**Liturgy:** to celebrate our faith with joy through vibrant and prayerful worship.

**Education:** to educate and become educated in the truths of the Gospel and in the formation of conscience.

**Service:** to reach out in love and service to those in need.

**Stewardship:** to develop the material, financial and human resources of the Church and to manage them as faithful servants.

### The OLMC Parish in Paradise Newsletter

is composed by Fr. Anthony Abraham, Simonia Dagou, Lisa Etre and Brenda Rector Wallace.

To submit an article or for questions regarding OLMC Newsletter please contact: Lisa Etre by email at:

[olmc@hotmail.com](mailto:olmc@hotmail.com)

Graphic Design: Julie Vazquez

### DEVOTIONS:

**Eucharistic Adoration** Daily: 24 hours a day

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 5 p.m.; after Masses;  
or by appointment

**Baptism:** By Appointment; 3 weeks preparation

**Weddings:** By Appointment; 6 months preparation

### Regular Mass Schedule

**Weekend: Saturdays:** 6 p.m.  
**Sundays:** 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.  
12:30 p.m. (Coral Bay)  
5:45 p.m. (Spanish)

#### Weekdays:

**Tuesdays:** 6 p.m. (Coral Bay)  
**Wednesdays:** 6 p.m.  
**Thurs & Fridays:** 7 a.m.

# Angel Tree Gift Project

IN MEMORY of

## *Dear Friends –*

Thank you so much for making Sarah's dream of fulfilling the *Angel Tree* requests a success. Because of your generosity, a team of friends and family have shopped, organized, wrapped and shipped gifts for 37 children and outfits for 40 homeless adults served by Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church on St John's Island.

By the grace of God two pallets of gifts, along with hand crafted note cards filled with the love of Christ, plus prayer cards with Sarah's morning white board message to her family and the O'Neill family prayer, should all be arriving to St John's by the end of this week with plenty of time to unpack and distribute. We will keep you updated with photos and additional details from Fr. Anthony who is excited about how God is working through Sarah in such a special way. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us share Sarah's love and faith to those most in need during Christmas.

The remaining funds will be donated in memory of Sarah O'Neill Barone to the new chapel project on St. John Island and to St. Valentine's pre-school where Mrs. Mills and her staff help form Molly, Emily and Elizabeth in their Catholic faith.

*With love,*

*David, Molly, Emily, and Elizabeth*

A circular portrait of Sarah Barone, a woman with long blonde hair wearing sunglasses and a red top, smiling.

**SARAH BARONE**

A group of people, including children and adults, are seen in a store pushing red Target shopping carts filled with various items like toys and clothing.

Christmas shopping for the *Angel Tree* project in memory of Sarah Barone.

# Senior Spotlight

## Magdalene Charles

**M**agdalene Charles was born on the island of Dominica on Jan. 6, 1937. She attended the St. Luke Parish of Pointe Michel, Dominica. Her life in Dominica was a normal one.

“God has blessed me with eight children – six boys and two girls,” she said.

Magdalene was a devoted wife to Clayton Victor Charles (who worked 35 years at Caneel Bay), and she never worked outside their home. She was a devoted housewife. As a family, they always attended church, walking 20 minutes to get to the house of the Lord.

On Sept. 7, 1978, Magdalene left Dominica to join her husband on St. John. Her husband of 24 years died in 1995.



Magdalene joined Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in 1978. She fondly remembers many of the activities in the parish, including the Annual Christmas Bazaar and food sale. Homemade bread and saltfish cakes were her specialty. Even today her favorite activity is the Christmas celebration.

Being a Catholic, she loves coming to the Lord’s house and listening to his word. Magdalene continues to tell others of God’s goodness, love, mercy and forgiveness. She knows for certain we all need to love one another.

For all of us who love local music, Magdalene is the mother of the brothers who formed the original and are current members of St. John’s very own and one of the Virgin Islands’ No. 1 band, Cool Sessions Brass.

God has really blessed us through her. How cool is that?

# YOUNG ADULT SPOTLIGHT



## Cyrillia Casimir

My name is Cyrillia Casimir. I was raised on the island of St. John. I attended Julius S. Sprauve Elementary School and later transitioned to Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School where I graduated with honors. During my time at Sts. Peter and Paul I was

actively involved in the church and its many activities. I was apart of our lady of Mount Carmel’s youth group for many years, an alter server, lector, and volunteer and the soup kitchen. I attribute the time and dedication to the church and to those less fortunate have driven me to my current profession.

After graduating high school I attended Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore, MD. There I completed 4 years of nursing school with the support of my family and OLMC and graduated in May 2019. After graduating, I realized the best decision at the time was to move back home and use my talents in my community. I started working as a nurse at Roy Lester Schneider Regional Medical Center. I am currently working in the ICU. I love the job that I do, which is more challenging during this pandemic. Making it through this challenging time as a healthcare worker has took strength, perseverance, and grace from God. Nevertheless, I am happy with the profession I choose and look forward to making a mark in my community. I am currently working with Fr. Anthony to provide necessary care to the members of OLMC’s homeless shelter.

# COVID SAFETY Measures at OLMC

- ✓ Greeted by a trained Usher to welcome people to Mass
- ✓ Gently reminded to use the hand sanitizer upon entering OLMC (provided)
- ✓ Pews are roped off to ensure Social Distancing
- ✓ Masks must be worn throughout the Mass
- ✓ A nod or bow is used at the “Peace be With You” section of the Mass
- ✓ No hand holding during the Our Father
- ✓ Communion is distributed into the hand only
- ✓ The pews are wiped down between Masses with sanitizer

*Your safety is our priority.  
Welcome back to Mass!*

*December 1-May 31*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

God, our Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. We praise and thank you for your protection during the hurricane season. We ask you again to guide us through a new year free of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters.

Bless our families and bring peace to all nations. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever

Amen.

## Catholic Charities food distribution



^ Catholic Charities, in conjunction with USDA, distributed more than 1,000 food boxes on St. John on December 3 and 7, 2020. St. John Fire Chief Clarence Stephenson and his fire personnel helped distribute boxes to the seniors on St. John.

## Lighting the Advent Candle



⤴ First Sunday of Advent



⤴ Second Sunday of Advent



⤴ Third Sunday of Advent

## Thanksgiving Luncheon



Our Lady of Mount Carmel held its annual Thanksgiving luncheon. More than 150 meals were served. OLMC extends a great, big thank you and shout out to the Westin St. John Resort and Villas for sponsoring our 2020 Thanksgiving luncheon. We appreciate your generosity. More than 150 meals were served thanks to you. Thank you also to all the volunteers.

## Welcome home!



⤴ We welcome home Tom and Dee Conrad to OLMC. The Conrad's experienced life in a camper during COVID, traveling on the US east coast.

## PRAYER FOR THE SIXTH BISHOP *of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the V.I.*

*Eternal God, shepherd and guide, In your mercy give to your Church's ministry in the Diocese of St. Thomas in the V.I., a shepherd after your own heart and a man filled with the Holy Spirit who will walk in your ways. With loving care, watch over your people. Give us a leader of vision, love, hope and joy; and a teacher of your truth. May your kingdom be built up and your name glorified; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



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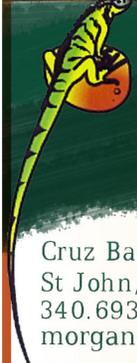


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