

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise



Newsletter

May 2020

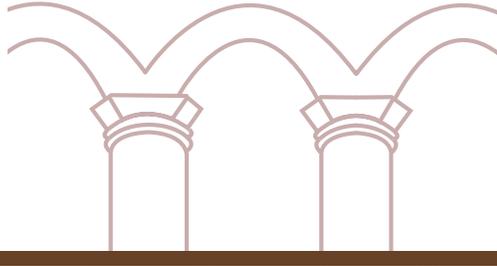
◆ ISSUE 18



^ Bishop Herbert Bevard conferred the Rite of Confirmation upon Sherry-Ann Francis Hill, KingAsa McCoy, Andretti Samuel-Williams and RayNesha Noel; and Vera Powell-Payne was received into full communion with the Catholic Church on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

www.olmcvi.org ◆ olmc@hotmail.com ◆ fax: 340-693-7685

☎ P: 340-776-6339 • ✉ P.O. Box 241 • St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands 00831-0241



➤ From the desk of the pastor

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is good to be given another day. We must always be so grateful for the gift of life. This year, 2020, will by a year we will not forget. This pandemic has affected all of us beyond our imagination.

We as Christians must keep God's promises close to our heart. In Romans 8:28, He promises these words, "in all things God works for the good."

In John 16:33, He promises peace in a troubled world. He says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart I have overcome the world."

One of my favorites is Corinthians 12:9-10, "my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

Our trials really allows us to behold God's strength in our daily lives.

May God give us all the strength we need to stand on the promises of God. Let us carve out time in our day to reflect on God's promises. We need to share those promises with those who need to hear them. May God have mercy on us all.

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony Abraham
Pastor

Exciting News



Mass has resumed

Our Lady of Mount Carmel has resumed its regular schedule as follows:

Saturdays: 6 p.m.

Sundays: 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 6 p.m.

Thursdays and Fridays: 7 a.m.

The Masses will still be live on Facebook, barring any circumstances. To share the Facebook link, click on the live or video, click on share and click on copy link. Then you will be able to send it to others.

All attendees are expected to wear masks and social distancing will be practiced.

Facebook name:

OurLadyof MountCarmelstjohn



◀ Tom and Dee Conrad recently celebrated their 38th wedding anniversary. They received a blessing at Mass.



◀ Barry's Paint workers recently painted the exterior of the church.



Obituary — Rodney R. Varlack Sr.

+ August 30, 1931 – April 27, 2020 +

Rodney Varlack Sr. was born on August 30, 1931 and died on April 27, 2020.



Descendants of Rodney R. Varlack Sr.

Children -

Patricia Varlack, Rodney Varlack Jr., Shirlene Varlack-Hermon, James Varlack, Vivian Varlack (preceeded in death), Faye Varlack-Fredericks, Gayle Varlack, Diane Griffith, Denise “Chelly” Varlack-Joseph, Delrise Varlack, Jeanne Thomas, Angelina Bryan, Deidra-Ann Varlack and Alexander Varlack

Grandchildren -

Chandra Todd, Keshima Howard, Kshawn Varlack, Jenelle Antoine, Delvin Looby, Chantelle Looby, Jaysa Swasey, Jayda Hall, Joseph Hall Jr., Natasha Jones, James “Blues” Jones, Nisha Jones, James “Chucky” Jones, James “JJ” Jones, Kyle Thomas, Calvin Thomas Jr, Kah’leed Thomas, Barry Fredericks Jr, Bryan Fredericks, Brittany Fredericks, Tafara Smith, Jamae Francis, Jen Joseph Jr, Jai Mi Joseph, Elisa Williams, Elsia Williams, Diara Parsons, Larissa Charles, Lawrence Charles III, La’Nae Charles, Aariyah Athanase, Michael Freeman (preceeded in death) and Marlene Warner



^ Kitori Thomas with her great-grandfather, Rodney Varlack.

Great-Grandchildren -

Sean Whyte Jr, Shaisa Whyte, Zaria Varlack, Kyla Varlack, Kyson Varlack, Jabailyn Looby, A’Jahri Richards (preceeded in death), Iniyah Griffin, Kylie Varlack, Yahmia Varlack, Lai’yana Swasey, Eric Swasey Jr., Ja’Laiyah Swasey, Joseph Hall III, Amar Jones, Amor Jones, Amrii Jones, A’mya Walker, James Joseph Jones-Varlack, Christophe De Jean Charles, K’shana Thomas, Carlia Fleming, Kitori Thomas, Kayla Thomas, K’Lah Jacobs, K’Lan Thomas, Kymari Thomas, Ky’Lah Thomas, Eita Fredericks, Reece Garvey, Kennedy Joseph, Jace Joseph, Alaina Larcheveaux, Ariana George, J’Den Charles, J’Sah Charles, Gia Tuckett and Jorden Charles

Great-Great Grandchildren -

Deniyah Harris and K’Lanie Ross

Daughter In-Law - Gailene Varlack

Son In-Law - Jen Joseph Sr.

God Children - Lorriane Sprauve, Ruth Powell, Stephanie Powell Farrell, Elvis Smith, Kela Brathwaite, Leeanna Blackwood and Marigold Alexander

Our Lady of CHARITY house

Our Lady of Mount Carmel has started a transitional house for the homeless on St. John. *Our Lady of Charity*, as it's being called, houses four men in the hopes of helping them get back on their feet. The housing is funded by donations from benefactors. Here, renovations were being done on the house in February 2020. The men moved in March.

Transitional house repairs



↗ OLMC parishioner Carl Steffon makes repairs to the transitional house.



↗ Tom Conrad does some work at the shelter.



↗ Deacon Cassius Mathurin, left, and Kevin Benton Jr. do work at the shelter.



↖ OLMC parishioner Lisa Etre presents a plaque to Fr. Anthony Abraham for *Our Lady of Charity* homeless shelter that she created.

✓ Renovated OLMC transitional house for homeless. Decorated by Vera Powell-Payne.



◀ Fr. Anthony Abraham blessed the *Our Lady of Charity House* in March. The residents include Jerry Newton, Josh Libby, Ervince Phillip and Kevin Benton Jr.



▲ Bishop Herbert A. Bevard blesses the *Our Lady of Charity* homeless shelter on Saturday, May 23, 2020.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Obituary — Benedict Regis

+ December 19, 1936 – March 29, 2020 +

Benedict Charles Emmanuel Regis went to be with his Lord and Savior on March 29, 2020. He was born on December 19, 1936, to the late Missy Charles and Gentle Regis in Grenada, West Indies.

As a young man he moved to Trinidad. On July 9, 1965, he moved to St. John United States Virgin Islands and made it his home.

Regis was a devoted member of Our Lady of Mount Camel Catholic Church. He worked at the Department of Public Works as a heavy equipment operator, and later at the VI Taxi Association as a taxi driver until his retirement.



He also participated in many community organizations such as the VI Taxi Association, the Lions Club, and the Knights of Columbus. He had a great love for his family, helping people, history and politics.

Regis is survived by his wife Bernadette Regis; his daughters, Kathyann Duke, Melina Regis, Marsha Regis-Ross, Mechelle Regis and Melisa Thomas; son, Merritt Regis; 10 grandchildren; one great-grand daughter; and many nieces and nephews.

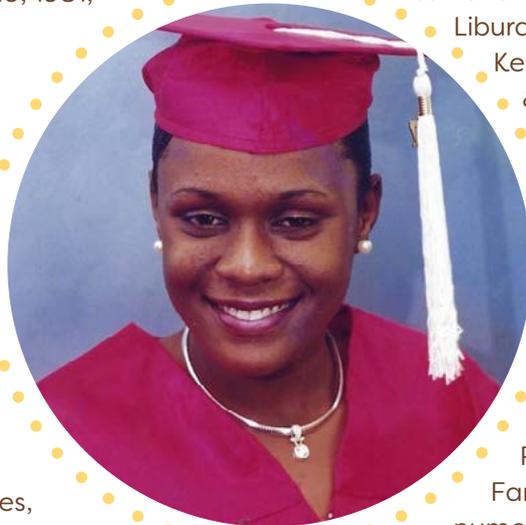
He was predeceased by his siblings Sherrington, Clarence and Gertrude.

Obituary — Alana Liburd

+ May 20, 1981 – April 2, 2020 +

Alana Liburd was born on May 20, 1981, to Sandra Charles-Donaie and Almando “Rocky” Liburd. She went to be with her Lord and Savior on April 2, 2020.

She is also survived by her step-father: John Donaie; brother: Arnold Casimir; sister-in-law: Carmen Casimir; nephew and niece: Jayden & Ava Casimir; maternal grandmother: Magdalene “Dada” Charles; aunts: Pamela Charles-Malachesen, Juanita Canton & Felecita Creque; uncles: Seldon “Sellie” Charles, Stanley Charles, Stanford Charles, Walton “Atty” Charles,



Desmond Charles Sr., Henderson Charles, Angelo Liburd, Juanito Liburd, Lorenzo Liburd and Keith Sewer; aunts-in-law: Ruth Liburd & Juliet Liburd; uncle-in-law: Gitano Creque; great aunts: Gloria Samuel & Marva Applewhite; many cousins to include: Ria Archibald, Roy, Raul Canton, Angelo, Justin Liburd, Ivory, Ajewel Gitano Creque, Julio, Kalima, Lamar, Mahogany Liburd. Hasani, Zamyah and Hazim Liburd; special mention: Yvonne Wells, Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Linda Petersen, and The Lockhart School Family; and family and friends too numerous to mention.

St. Theresa in Coral Bay



Work is progressing on the temporary tent and structure at St. Theresa in Coral Bay. Railing up and stained. Gate has been hinged, and entry steps in place. Container roof has been patched and has two coats of silicone waterproofing over it.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel is raising funds to purchase a truck to meet the growing needs of the parish. We have set up a GoFundMe account. Visit the website www.gofundme.com/f/olmc-truck. All donations are much appreciated.

Social Media

OLMC is now branching out our social media platforms.

Our new website has been launched at: olmcvi.org

You can now find us on *Facebook* at **OurLadyof MountCarmelstjohn**; on *Instagram* at **@parish.in.paradise**; and on *YouTube* at **OLMC VI Virgin Islands**.

This is where you can keep up with us and our latest news and events. We will also be doing special giveaways through these platforms, so be sure to follow us so you don't miss out on the fun!



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

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.
5:45 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays:

Tuesdays & Weds at 6 p.m.
Thurs & Fridays at 7 a.m.



A Coronavirus Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Lord Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. †

Prayer in honor of St. Dymphna

Lord Jesus Christ, You have willed that St. Dymphna should be invoked by thousands of clients as the patroness of nervous and mental disease and have brought it about that her interest in these patients should be an inspiration to and an ideal of charity throughout the world. Grant that, through the prayers of this youthful martyr of purity, those who suffer from nervous and mental illness everywhere on earth may be helped and consoled. I recommend to You in particular, (name). Be pleased to hear the prayer of St. Dymphna and of your Blessed Mother. Give those whom I recommend the patience to bear their affliction and resignation to do Your divine will. Give them the consolation they need and especially the cure they so much desire, if it be Your will. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hurricane Season Prayer

God, our Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. Keep us safe from the danger of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters. May we be secure in your protection and always feel the presence of your love as you turn our fears into praise of your goodness.

June 1–November 30

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.

TO SSG TANI MURGUIA

AND TO EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTEMPLATED SUICIDE

LET'S TALK ABOUT... the weather, sports, cars, music, and work. LET'S TALK ABOUT... family, dreams, healthy choices, and love. LET'S TALK ABOUT... education, responsibility, and goals. LET'S TALK ABOUT... doubts, fears, inaction, and sadness. LET'S TALK ABOUT... finances, life stressors, relationships, and your health. LET'S TALK ABOUT... the things that bring a smile to your face and the things you are grateful for. LET'S TALK ABOUT... pain, betrayal, isolation.

FOR I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU," DECLARES THE LORD, "PLANS TO PROSPER YOU AND NOT TO HARM YOU, PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE AND A FUTURE." – JEREMIAH 29:11

LET'S TALK ABOUT... your value and your worth. LET'S TALK ABOUT... pressure from your peers and superiors. LET'S TALK ABOUT... feeling insignificant, feeling like you are not enough, and feeling shame for past wrongdoings. LET'S TALK ABOUT... social anxiety and mental illness. LET'S TALK ABOUT... the highs and the lows; the

successes and failures; the gains and the losses. LET'S TALK ABOUT... the shortcomings, the disappointments, and expectations. LET'S TALK ABOUT... everything that weighs on your mind; everything that has you thinking your situation is hopeless; everything that has you doubting yourself; and everything that causes you to cry. LET'S TALK ABOUT... the demons and their relentless pursuit of you. LET'S TALK ABOUT GOD.

I can't pretend to understand what you were going through or know your suffering. However, I know that you were tired, tired of wrestling with the demons, tired of painting a convincing smile upon your face, and tired of pretending you were okay. I wish I could have told you that you are more than enough and that you were not alone. That you matter in my life, in your family's life, and in the lives of everyone you have encountered. I wished I could have said God's mercy and love are waiting for you. I wish I could have said that through God, you would have found peace, calm, and your worth. I wish I could have told you; you were created intentionally so that the glory of God may be revealed through you and a life like that is worthy to be lived. I wish I could have said to you, LET'S TALK.

MY PRAYER

They see you smile, but they don't know what you feel inside. God, only you know. Heavenly Father, continue to bless those who suffer in silence. Heal their hearts. Deliver them from the fear that they are unlovable, deliver them from the feeling of hopelessness and abandonment. Give them the strength to keep going, the wisdom to know the pain is temporary, and vision to see brighter days. May they place their trust in you and come to know that their life is a gift. Amen.



Artistic
Villas

The Beach Estate
ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS

800-253-7107

info@artisticvillas.com
www.artisticvillas.com



CARIBBEAN
PLANNING.com

Caribbeanprovisions.planning@gmail.com

**Your Personal
Concierge**

Welcome baskets, provisions,
charters, vacation planning,
baby equipment, babysitting
and much more

340-201-0029

Jessica Schnell, PT, DPT
Chris Reinbold, PT, DPT, OC



ST. JOHN PHYSICAL
THERAPY

Mailing Address: St. John Physical Therapy
5000 Estate Enighed #535
St. John VI 00830

Fax: •340-693-0148
•800-403-8365
•340-514-2376

http://www.stjphysicaltherapy.com/



MORGAN'S
MANGO

*Cruisines
of the Caribbean*

Cruz Bay
St John, USVI
340.693.8141
morgansmango@islands.vi



MUETTES

Lisa Etre VI Artist

Inspired by island
beauty...

lisaetre.com



St John
Scoops

U.S. Virgin Islands

"We Make it Fresh, Everyday!"
Open 9am - 11pm



KILROY'S

SINCE 2006

Laundry & Dry Cleaning

DONNA 693-8741



COURTESY CAR RENTALS

Prompt & Affordable, Professional Service

Greg Edward

P.O. Box 1316
Cruz Bay, St. John
USVI 00831
www.courtesycarrental.com

Days 340 776 6650
Fax 340 776 6734
Evenings 693 8672
info@courtesycarrental.com



SOCIAL MAVENS

A marketing & communications agency

BOSTON AGENCY

ISLAND EXPERIENCE

SOCIALMAVENS.COM



Cool Runnings
TAXI

Peace be the Journey

Open Air Safari Bus
Sightseeing Tours, Beach Trips

John Abraham
P.O. Box 927 • Cruz Bay
St. John U.S.V.I. 00831
Home: (340) 693-5207
Cell: (340) 513-2928

Safari Bus
Tag # JP 0092