

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise



Newsletter

June/July 2022

ISSUE 34



▲ Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio, bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands, conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on three youth on July 3, 2022, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church. The youth are Malena Del Olmo, Naheem Modeste and Liandra Dagou. The Mass was co-celebrated by Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham; and Deacons Evans Doway and Peter Laurencin also served.

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♦ OurLadyof MountCarmelstjohn ♦ OLMC VI Virgin Islands ♦



From the desk of the pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Our Lady of Mount Carmel celebrates its 60th anniversary. God indeed has been very good to us.

We most certainly, with grateful hearts, thank God for His faithfulness.

It took Mr. and Mrs. Callahan to see the need for a church and literally built the first Catholic Church on the island.

Over the years, so many people have been blessed through this Parish including myself. Many sacraments were celebrated here at this Church. Many lives were touched. We are thankful for our many benefactors who over the years contributed to our parish.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel is strategically placed in the middle of Cruz Bay. Her doors are opened to all.

Happy birthday Our Lady of Mount Carmel!

In Christ,

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

Visiting Religious Sisters



^ Sister Petronilla Joseph and Sister Allison of the *Corpus Christi Carmelite Order* in Trinidad spent a week at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church at the invitation of Fr. Anthony Abraham. During that week, the Sisters participated in the 60th anniversary activities, attended Mass, cooked in the soup kitchen, and more.



History of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

The History of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, St John, USVI

On July 16, 1962, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church became an official member of the Prelature of the Virgin Islands in which a cornerstone for the first foundation was laid. Our Lady of Mount Carmel received its name from a Roman Catholic order founded in the 12th century by pilgrim/crusader Berthold on Mount Carmel.

William Callahan was the pilgrim/crusader behind Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel's inception. Mr. Callahan gave generous contributions towards the building of the chapel. His wife Carmel's steadfast commitment to the success of the church is also well documented.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel was officially blessed on August 12, 1962, by the Apostle Delegate, His Excellency Archbishop Clarizio. During its infancy, the chapel struggled to increase membership. Prior to the establishment of the church, the majority of early attendees were migrant workers from Puerto Rico. Mass was said occasionally in Cruz Bay by visiting priests on the larger estates or the Navy chaplains stationed on St. Thomas.

“You could hear his Amen clear across Mongoose Junction!”

—Mrs. Nogueira about Father Stewart

On January 10, 1970, Father Roddy became the first resident Catholic pastor of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Chapel. Father Roddy was succeeded by Father John Lynch, who in April 1977 was in turn succeeded by Father Maurice Quinn and Father William Golbertson.

In the 1980s, the Our Lady of Mount Carmel congregation welcomed Father Tom Kehoe, Father Jerome Roddy, Father Dominic, Monsignor Thomas Burke, who conducted Mass along with Sisters Anne and Kathleen, Father Tom Rainforth, Father Rossi, Father Jack Roach and Father Ernie Sullivan. Ron and

Mary-Phyllis Nogueira, long-time parishioners, can recall

Father Sullivan “charming the faithful” at Mass with beautiful floral arrangements, a talent he cultivated during his years in Korea.

Father Sullivan also was a gifted fundraiser, holding Mass at Caneel Bay, and increasing church donations that led to the building of the extensions to the main chapel.

Mr. & Mrs. Nogueira remembered Father Rossi and his entourage of four to five visiting priests presiding

over Mass every month of February. Father Roach was known for

**◀ William Callahan,
founder of OLMC**

his boisterous services. “You could hear his Amen clear across Mongoose Junction!” said Mrs. Nogueira. Father Stewart was well-known for his deep concern for the elderly.

In the 1990s, Father Ken Stewart, became the church's first African-American priest. In 2000, a young newly ordained Father Neil Scantlebury oversaw the demolition and reconstruction of the new building. He was then replaced by Fr. Charles Crespo.

Mass began to be celebrated in the new church during the high tourist seasons in 2004. The church had no doors or windows, and electricity was brought in via extension cords from the adjoining rectory. Bishop George Murry, SJ, dedicated the new church on December 11, 2005.

Father Charles was transferred to St. Thomas at the end of 2006. Since then, several priests have served including Msgr. Antonio Verzosa, then Fr. Louis Kemayou, and Fr. Anthony Abraham, who has served from March 2011 to present.



OLMC's 60th Anniversary Festivities

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church celebrated our 60th anniversary from July 12-17, 2022.

Several activities were held including a parish mission with Fr. John Mark as the guest speaker; a youth concert; Mass and dinner; and a beach party.

The parish mission was held at 6:30 p.m. from July 12 to 14. More than 20 people attended nightly.

The youth concert on July 15 featured Ronald Lee Jr. and Friends, the OLMC Quadrille Dancers; and the OLMC Youth Steel Pan. OLMC high school graduate RayNesha Noel received a bouquet of flowers and the Ronald Lee Jr. Scholarship to further her education.

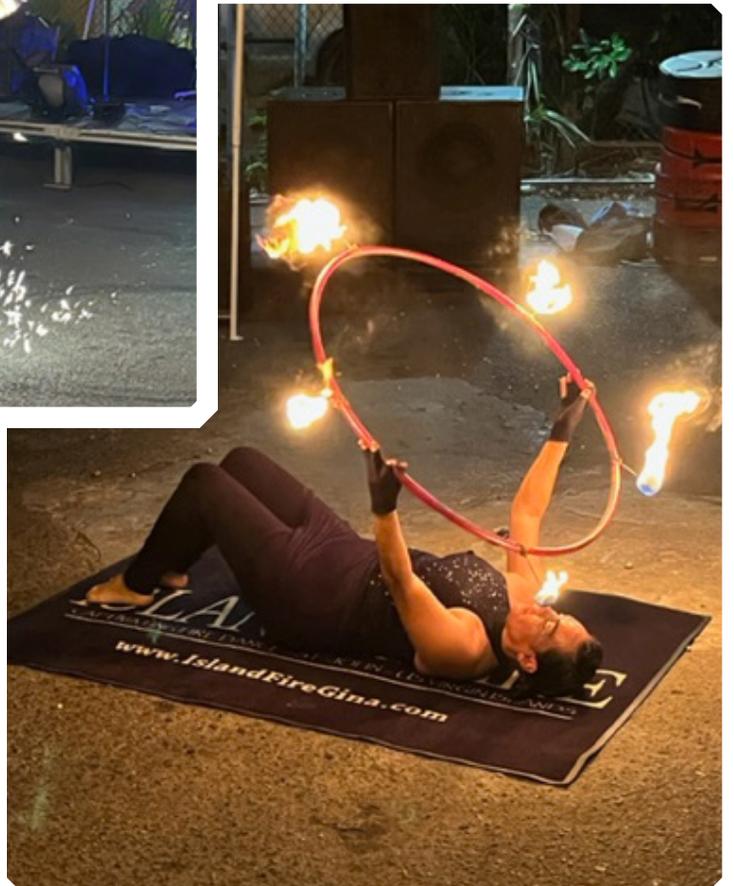
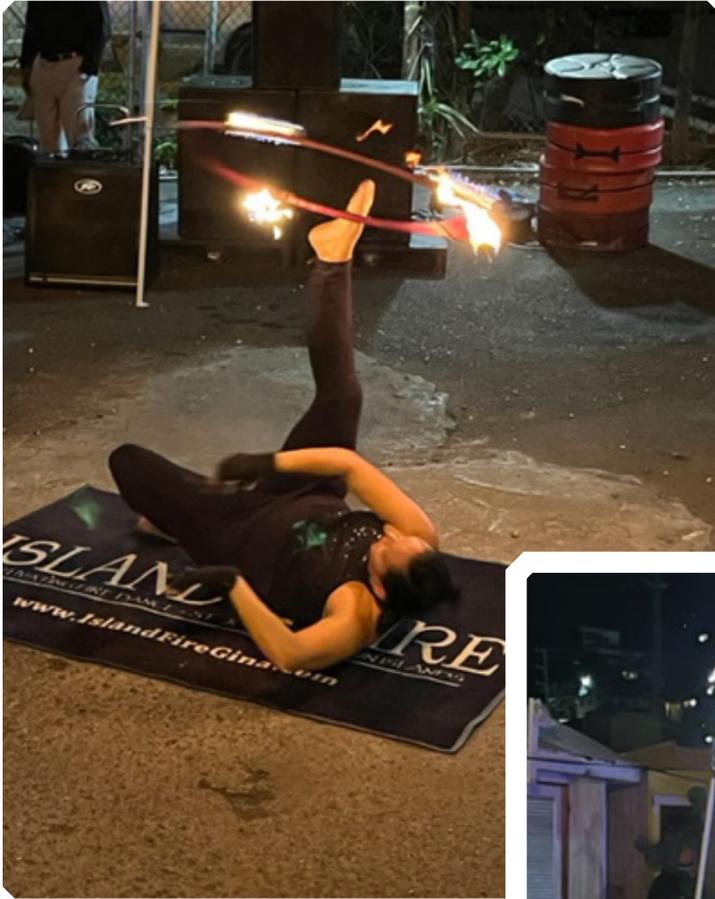
On Saturday, July 16, the anniversary Mass was held followed by dinner at Slimman's Parking Lot. The evening included entertainment by fire dancer Gina Wellner; music by From Broheem with Love and DJ Jeremeih Richards; the OLMC Quadrille Dancers; the OLMC Youth Steel Pan; and the OLMC Choir. The 60th anniversary video was also shown. About 100 people were in attendance.

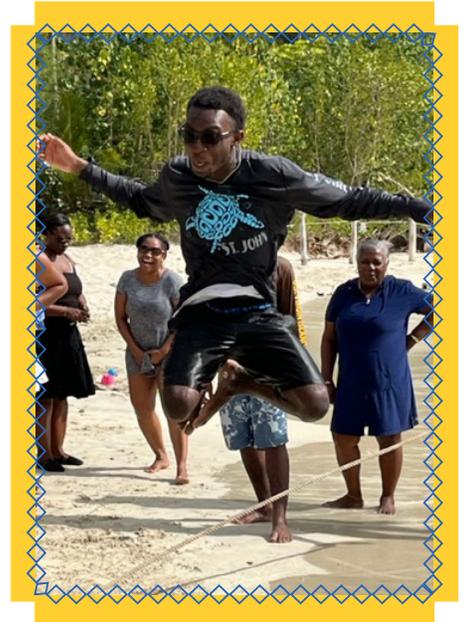
The week ended with a family beach party on Sunday, July 17, 2022.

Thank you to all who made the week a success. We are truly blessed.



Dinner Celebration





Youth Concert





Hurricane Season Prayer

God our Father, all the elements of nature obey Your command. Keep us safe from the danger of hurricanes and all other natural disasters. Let us always feel the presence of Your love. May we be secure in Your protection and turn our fears into praise of your goodness. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen!



Pizza Theology

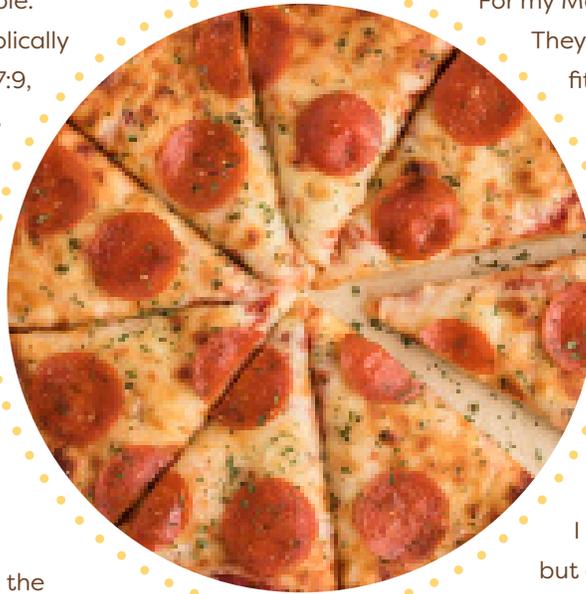
By Claudia Verdant

I admit, the title is questionable. However, food is used symbolically throughout the Bible (e.g., Psalms 107:9, Proverbs 16:24, 1 Peter 2:2) and Jesus also used food in his teachings and ministry (e.g., Matthew 4:4, Luke 9:16, John 6:35). So, I figured I'd also give it a shot in conveying my message.

Do you know anyone who doesn't like pizza? Neither do I. With that thought in mind, I'm hoping this article will appeal to everyone.

Now whether you keep it simple with the classic, unadorned masterpiece that is the Cheese Pizza or you want to jazz it up with a litany of toppings that defines the Supreme Pizza, pizza is undeniably delicious, cheesy, and divine. The taste jostles our brain's pleasure receptors, causes our mouths to water in anticipation of the next bite, and has us craving for more.

For a second imagine your favorite type of pizza, with a crust, sauce, cheese, and toppings. Now imagine that pizza represents you and each slice represents the different areas in your lives and your interests. Just as there are various different types and styles of pizza, your pizza and your slices, will not look like that of your family, friends, or neighbors, and it's not supposed to. Your slices will not be cut perfectly or uniformly, as is the case with any real pizza. Some slices will be bigger than others depending on where you spend your time and money, and the number of slices will vary. What is universal is that your slices, represents part of the whole, it represents you.



For my Margherita pizza, I have quite a few slices. They include traveling, working, health and fitness, living the single life, being a daughter, sister and aunt, volunteering, improving my Spanish, working on my degree, forgiving myself, learning how to flat twist, and investing in my future. The size and quantity of my slices change, as my life changes, as I change. Now you may have noticed that not one of my slices mentions God or anything religious. It wasn't an oversight. It was purposely left out because I see God not as a mere slice in my pizza but as the crust.

The crust is the foundation for the entire pizza and is the first element that must be made before adding the sauce, cheese, and toppings. So too is God the foundation of our lives. He is the crust in all of our pizzas. The crust affects the taste and everything else about the pizza and He also affects everything in our lives.

Imagining our lives as a pizza with each slice representing the different areas in our lives, requires us to see what areas we may or may not have invited God and His Spirit into. We all need that thick, pan crust pizza with no less than a ¼ inch of thickness. If you're more into the health-conscious kind of pizzas and prefer flat bread or thin crust, let it go. In Pizza Theology the thicker the crust in every area of our lives, the better.

God is not unhealthy. He and His Spirit makes for healthy living and "if we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another" (Galatians 5:25-26). Our pizzas will have us craving for more, our lives and each slice will be filled with "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

"IF WE LIVE IN THE SPIRIT, LET US ALSO WALK IN THE SPIRIT."

- GALATIANS 5:25 -



◆ Claudia Verdant, a St. John resident, is a Major in the U.S. Army. She is also a parishioner of OLMC.

Congratulations to our OLMC Youth graduates!



Class Of
2022

• CONGRATULATIONS •



GRADUATES

RayNesha Noel

RayNesha Noel, the daughter of Lucette and Raymond Noel, graduated from *Giffit Hill School* on June 3, 2022. RayNesha's plan is to attend a cosmetology trade school on St. Thomas. When she completes the cosmetology training, she plans to attend a culinary school to be a pastry chef. RayNesha does not plan to stop there. She also plans to obtain her bachelor's degree and to be a sommelier.

Dylan David August

Dylan David August, son of Ed and Yvonne August, graduated from *Our Lady of Victory Catholic High School* on July 3, 2022, with a 3.67 GPA.

GOD BLESS YOU!

Painting of the church



^ In preparation for the 60th anniversary, the exterior of the church was painted. OLMC extends a great, big thank you to Barry Duncan and his crew; Deacon Michael Jackson; and also, to Vicente De Jesus for helping to paint the exterior of the church.

Installation of a new generator



^ OLMC recently received a generator. The old generator was removed on Saturday, May 28, 2022. Thank you to Christian Loranger, Ryan Blackwood, Deacon Michael Jackson and Michael Marsh, who all assisted with the removal, and the V.I. Police Department, who assisted with blocking the street. The other generator was installed on June 8, 2022.

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

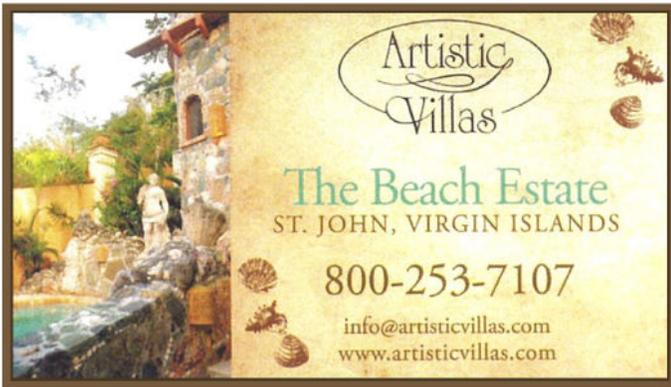
Weddings: By Appointment; 6 months preparation

Regular Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturdays: 6 p.m.
Sundays: 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
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.



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MUETTES

Lisa Etre VI Artist

Inspired by island beauty...

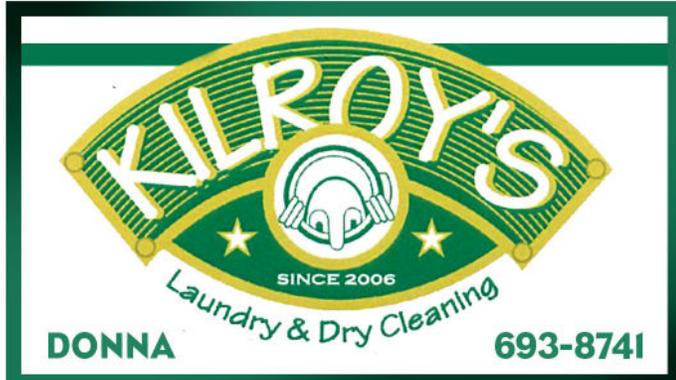
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