

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise

July/August 2023 ♦ ISSUE 41



Newsletter

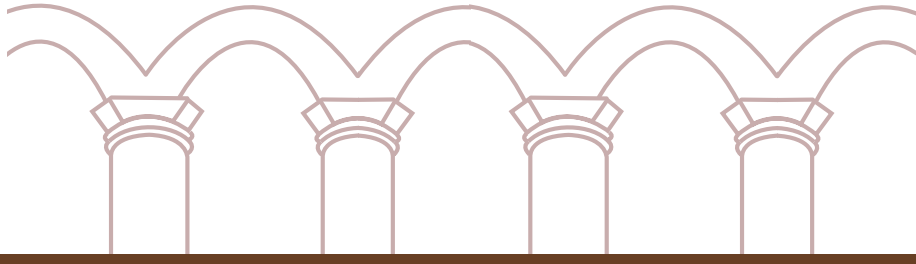


↗ A delegation from the US Virgin Islands attended the Fourth African National Eucharistic Congress in Washington DC. Eight parishioners from OLMC were among the delegation.

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✦ From the desk of the pastor

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It is so good to be alive and feeling free and to have everyone in our family. I cannot thank God enough for all the great things he has done, is doing, and will do for you individually and us collectively.

The Bible reminds us in Isaiah 41:31, “Those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint...” Indeed patience is a virtue. It is essential for every Christian person. We all will admit waiting can be very difficult.

One of the Characters from the Bible who waited for a long time was Joseph. This story is in Genesis 37. A brother was sold by his own brothers into slavery, and he waited many years to reunite with his beloved Father.

I think every prophet in the Bible went through that waiting period. Sometimes you are tempted to believe God does not care or think he has forgotten you. Sometimes we ask God where are you? What have I done? Let us make it clear God is always working for us; even when we think he is not working, He is.

What have you been praying for? What are you waiting on the Lord for? Is it healing? Conversion of a loved one? Financial breakthrough? Deliverance from a chronic sin?

Like the Israelites, God has heard your cry. He will surely deliver. However, we must know all things come together in God’s time. We have to put our trust in him. As we wait on God, we wait with hope, knowing that He has never failed us and will not start now.

As the Pastor of this Parish, I give God thanks for you and the many ways you have been a blessing to me personally and to each other. May God continue to bless you and your family. May he grant you your heart’s desire as we make him our only joy.

Prayer for Patience: Lord Jesus, help us pray with patience and perseverance so that we may be gracious in all things and a calm and pleasant person in our living. Grant us the virtue of patience. Lord, when we discern Your will in all, with prayer and perseverance, we can see Your plans unfold in perfect timing. Amen!

In Christ,

Rev Fr. Anthony Abraham

The Enduring Love

By Claudia Verdant

Cause, baby, there ain't no mountain high enough. Ain't no valley low enough. Ain't no river wide enough. To keep me from getting to you, babe.

I'm sure most of us recognized the 1967 love song by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, *Ain't No Mountain High Enough*. Let's see if you can guess the next timeless classic.

My love, there's only you in my life. The only thing that's right. My first love, you're every breath I take. You're every step I make.

Congratulations if you guessed Lionel Richie and Diana Ross, *Endless Love*. This 1981 love song has been sampled and sung by many artists.

It's estimated that more than 100 million love songs have been recorded, and the time-tested love songs of devotion (e.g., Randy Travis's *Forever and Ever, Amen*; Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* and Monica's *For You I Will*) seem to be everyone's favorite.

We all know what love is, what it could be, and what we feel when we experience it. Perhaps love songs are so popular because we relate to them. However, according to Psychologist Karl Maslow, we each have an innate need for love and belongingness. I'll further propose that we genuinely need a love that is given freely and unconditionally.

1 John 4:7-21 explains where we can find freely given and unconditional love. The love that fulfills our innate needs is found in God. Psalm 139 reiterates that God is love, and through David's Psalm, we learn who God is and who we are to Him, beloved beyond all measure.

"Beloved, let us love one another; for love is from God, and he who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God; for God is love." -1 John 4:7-8



David shows us that ...

1. God intimately knows us, "For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13
2. God is always with us, "Where shall I go from your spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?" Psalm 139:7. Spoiler alert, the answer is nowhere.
3. God purposefully made us, "I praise you, for I am wondrously made. Wonderful are your works." Psalm 139:14

Those are all examples of His love. I don't know what your thoughts are, but I think that there is no safer place to put our trust than in God. He doesn't love from a distance or with a condition but searches for us and knows us. He sent His Son to lay down His life for us so that we may also know Him.

There's no mountain high enough, no valley low enough, and certainly no river wide enough that can keep his endless love away from us. Abide in Him, and His love will be perfected in us.

Full disclosure: After reading this article, your homework is to read Psalm 139.



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

OLMC's 61st Anniversary Festivities



Our church celebrated 61 years on Sunday July 16, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Here are some of the festivities!





Youth Sail



^ OLMC Youth set sail to celebrate summer break!

Congratulations

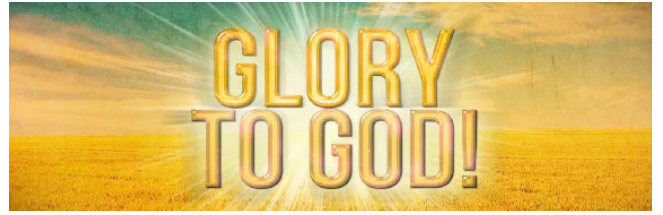


Malena Del Olmo

I'm heading up to Fairfield Connecticut to attend Sacred Heart University. It's a small private Catholic institution where I will be playing on the Division 1 tennis team. I will be majoring in Biochemistry as I will be following a premed track.

In regards to the Ruby Rutnik scholarship, it is truly an honor and I have so much love and gratitude for the Rutniks. They have been a huge part of my life and have always been a massive part of the GHS community. When they announced me as one of the winners during graduation, I nearly started tearing up. They are such incredibly kind people and I will be forever grateful that they are supporting me in my studies.

VIHFA Grant - Our Lady of Charity Transitional Homeless Shelter



◀ The Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority (VIHFA) completed its review of our application for funding under the **2023 Community Development Block Grant**. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Homeless Facility Construction Project (*Our Lady of Charity Homeless Shelter*) has received a favorable recommendation for funding in the amount of \$591,874.80. There are still additional funds needed to complete the project. **Scan the QR code to help us reach our final goal!**

St. Therese Chapel permit approval



↗ Our Lady of Mount Carmel has been approved for the Major CZM Permit by the Department of Planning and Natural Resources for 6R-2C Carolina. OLMC hopes to break ground this year. The first structure to be built will be St. Therese Chapel. We recently installed a new tent to use for worship services until the Chapel is constructed. **If you wish to make a donation towards this project, please scan the QR code, contact the OLMC Rectory, or visit: <https://olmcvi.org/st-therese/>**

Thank you Fr. Yacob



^ OLMC would like to thank Fr. Yacob Fopa Lonfo for his two month service to our parish. He served as an Associate Pastor to Fr. Anthony Abraham.

African National conference



^ Deacon Evans and his wife Digna Doway at the African National Eucharistic Congress in D.C.

Hurricane Season Prayer

God our Father, all 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!

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)
5:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays:

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



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