

## Mass Intentions: February 6-12, 2021

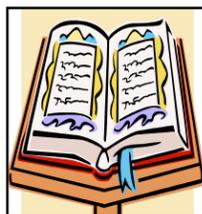
Sat. Feb. 6	6 p.m.	For Eilet Matthew for God's deliverance & blessings requested by her cousin
Sun. Feb. 7	7:30 a.m.	Birthday blessings for Martha Cherry & John Donaie requested by Sandra Donaie; & in loving memory of Ina Lee requested by Wendy & Orville Rouse
	9:30 a.m.	In loving memory of Virginia Kutner requested by Fred & Irene Kutner; & for Maggie Metor for healing requested by Rosie Boyd
	12:30 p.m.	For the Coral Bay community
Tue. Feb. 9	6 p.m.	In thanksgiving to Joseph Peter; in loving memory of Andy Stillman requested by Rodney & Catherine Ellis; & in loving memory of Maria Lisowska requested by Agatha Wells
Wed. Feb. 10	6 p.m.	In thanksgiving to Agnes & Frank Ward & Lynn Giovanna
Thu. Feb. 11	7 a.m.	In thanksgiving to Jay & Sara Sellick & Joseph & Kathleen Hurley
Fri. Feb. 12	7 a.m.	In thanksgiving to James & Mary Mullins & Margaret & Edward McCarthy



With the increase of homeless persons on St. John, OLMC in March 2020 opened a shelter to meet this growing need. Since then, we have housed 7 men. At present, 5 men are housed there. We have now opened the other side for women. One woman is housed there. We are asking for your help prayerfully and financially. If you would like to make a donation, make checks payable to:  
 \* OLMC and mail to P.O. Box 241, St. John, VI 00831; memo: OLMC Shelter  
 \* PayPal: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (olmc@hotmail.com)  
 \* Online giving: [www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390](https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390)

**Monday: Feb. 8**  
 Gn 1:1-19  
 Mk 6:53-56

### Daily Readings



**Tuesday: Feb. 9**  
 Gn 1:20--2:4a  
 Mk 7:1-13

**Wednesday: Feb. 10**  
 Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17  
 Mk 7:14-23

**Thursday: Feb. 11**  
 Gn 2:18-25  
 Mk 7:24-30

**Friday: Feb. 12**  
 Gn 3:1-8  
 Mk 7:31-37

**Saturday: Feb. 13**  
 Gn 3:9-24  
 Mk 8:1-10

**Sunday: Feb. 14**  
 Lv 13:1-2, 44-46  
 1 Cor 10:31--11:1  
 Mk 1:40-45

## Stewardship of Treasure

Jan. 30	6 p.m.	\$469.00
Jan. 31	7:30 a.m.	\$304.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$1,068.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$179.00

Thank you for your offerings. May God bless you.

If you would like to donate the SANCTUARY CANDLE or ALTAR FLOWERS in memory of someone or in celebration of a special occasion, please call the office and schedule a date. A free will donation is welcome.

## Working on the trailer in Coral Bay



Tom Conrad works on the office trailer in Coral Bay.



## OLMC Member Birthdays Week of Feb. 6-12

- John Donaie Feb. 8
- Diane Conrad Feb. 9
- Scholastica Michel Feb. 10
- Desmona Laurencin Feb. 12

If your birthday is not listed, call the office at 776-6339.

## ~ WISH LIST ~

- Gospel book cover - \$2,295.00
- Coral Bay office - \$7,100.00

## Parish Announcements

**TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS, IN LIGHT OF THIS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, PLEASE STAY SAFE. MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASSES. SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IN EFFECT. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS.**

Continue to pray for the members of our body who are sick or suffering both on and off island. May we keep them in our hearts and in our minds. The names of the sick are posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church.

- **CONDOLENCES:** OLMC extends condolences to Digna Doway & Deacon Evans Doway & family on the passing of her mother, Anora Toussaint.
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021. Speaker will be Bianca Laurencin. The topic is "Understanding the Nicene Creed."
- **MEMBER REGISTRATION:** Please fill out a parish registration form if you are not registered or if your information needs to be updated.
- **TITHES/OFFERINGS:** If anyone would like to give their tithes, you can:
  - A. Drop your offering envelope in the church mailbox on the office door
  - B. Mail it to the church at P.O. Box 241, St. John, VI 00831
  - C. PayPal: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (olmc@hotmail.com)
  - D. Online giving: <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390>



Our Lady of Mount Carmel has purchased land in Coral Bay to build this chapel, which will be named, St. Therese. We need your financial support to make this a reality.

- To make a donation,
- \* Make checks payable to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, P.O. Box 241, St. John, VI 00831; memo line: Coral Bay Chapel.
  - \* PayPal: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (olmc@hotmail.com)
  - \* Online giving: [www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390](https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390)
- Donations are tax-deductible.

# 'The "Negro" Spirituals — The Essence of Black Religion and Black Spirituality'

By Adeline Jean

This Sunday's Mass readings, during this first week of Black History Month, prompted the following reflection on the Negro Spirituals, as not just a part of, but as the core of Black religion and Black spirituality.

Let's reflect on the following from this Sunday's Mass readings:

*First Reading: Job 17: 1-4, 6-7 – "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?*

*Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages."*

This clearly reminds us of the plight of slaves who suffered on the plantations of the "New World."

*Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 47 – "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted."*

This resembles the cries of so many slaves who believed against all hope that despite their suffering there was a God who would deliver them.

*Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23 – "That, when I preach,*

*I offer the gospel free of charge."*

It was the duty of Christians in the days of slavery as it is our duty now in days that are still reminiscent of slavery in the US to give of ourselves freely in whatever capacity that is needed to be the hand, voice, face, and feet of God in this hurting country.

*Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29-29 – "For this purpose have I come."*

As human beings created in the image of God, we have been created for a specific mission for the Lord — not to make money, become famous, or leave a legacy worth nothing. We are called to make a difference.

While within the "invisible institutions" of the hush/brush arbors (the equivalent to a modern-day Black Christian church) preaching, dance, and prayer were common forms used as expressions of religion and the Black Theology of the slaves, the unique art form of Black music that the slaves developed, the Spirituals, was noticeably the most expressive form of their religion and theology. Marion Alexander Haskell defined the Spirituals as follows: "Spirituals are the religious songs composed by the negroes themselves, never written or printed, but passing from one generation to another with such addition and variations as circumstances may suggest" ("Negro Spirituals").

Interestingly, the term "spiritual" was not used for the genre until after the Civil War. John Storm Roberts notes that traditional African music is different from European music in that it is inclined to be more directly connected with function, to accompany worship or courtship, to make work go more smoothly, or simply to give pleasure; overall, in Africa, "it is more closely bound up with the details of daily living than in Europe" (Black Music of Two Worlds). This is clearly evident when investigating the content of the spirituals that developed out of this African background and influence.

Though the early history of the spirituals is ambiguous, the slaves were described as having "an ecstatic delight in psalmody" that was a delight to the ear, which Roberts says is the best description for the "superlative religious music of African-Americans." Roberts explains that spirituals can be divided into three groups: "the call-and-response chant; the slow, sustained, long-phrase melody; and the syncopated, segmented melody" (Black Music of Two Worlds). Diana L. Hayes describes that historically, the spirituals were considered "sorrow songs," which were "compensatory complaints that enabled the slaves to sustain themselves in their despicable situations" (Forged I the Fiery Furnace); black leaders and scholars of the early twentieth century, W.E.B. Du Bois and Benjamin Mays, were proponents of this description.

However, according to Hayes, historian and theologian Gayraud Wilmore believes that the spirituals were like the people who created them, holistic; as such, the spirituals were "both compensatory and revolutionary" (Forged I the Fiery Furnace). She adds that Black liberation theologian, James Cone, was one of the first Black theologians to recognize the revolutionary meaning of the spirituals. All in all, Hayes summarizes that "the spirituals reveal a...rechristened Christianity, for they are the essence of Black religion and Black spirituality."

**Prayer:** Lord, amid all the current struggles for equality that are at the forefront in the US and worldwide, may I not be an ambiguous spectator but an active contributor to the healing that's needed. **Amen**



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# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 241, 5AA-5AB Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S.V.I. 00831-0241

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The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B • February 6-7, 2021

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OLMC VI Virgin Islands



**Pastor:** Rev. Father Anthony Abraham  
**Administrative Assistant:** Simonia Dagou  
**Rel. Ed. Coordinators:** Julia Mingo & Jessica Schnell  
**Parish Council President:** Michael Jackson Sr.  
**Deacons:** Evans Doway, Peter C. Laurencin, Cassius Mathurin & Michael Jackson Sr.  
**Acolyte:** Hayden Smith  
**Youth Group President:** Kitori Thomas  
**Young Adults President:** Shanekua Tyrell



Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

## Masses

### Weekend

Saturdays: 6 p.m.

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

### Weekday

Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (Coral Bay)

Wednesdays at 6 p.m.  
Thursdays & Fridays at 7 a.m.

## DEVOTIONS

### Eucharistic Adoration

Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

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



Simonia Dagou  
Administrative Assistant

## Hours

### The Church is open

Mondays - Fridays: 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Sundays: 6:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Deacon  
Evans Doway  
Stationed: Cathedral



Deacon  
Cassius Mathurin  
Stationed: OLMC



Deacon  
Michael Jackson Sr.  
Project Manager

### Office Hours

Mondays - Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Pastor's Hours

Tuesdays to Fridays: 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Call to set up an appointment**

## Week in Preview

### Youth Ministry:

Mondays at 5 p.m.

### Music Ministry:

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

### Charismatic Prayer Group:

Thursdays from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.



Digna Doway  
Catholic Charities  
Case Manager

"TOGETHER BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD"