

Mass Intentions: March 5-11, 2022

Sat. March 5	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph and Kishorn Duncan for God's blessings
Sun. March 6	7:30 a.m.	In thanksgiving to Drs. Richard & Teresa O'Flynn, Edward Poreba & Douglas & Connie Sterbenz
	9:30 a.m.	Birthday blessings for Agnes Chitolie requested by her family
	12:30 p.m.	In thanksgiving to Vernon & Ella Marsh, Meg Shavite & Stephen & Maria Hull
Tue. March 8	5:30 p.m.	For the Hispanic Community of St. John
	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph & Kishorn Duncan for God's protection & deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles
Wed. March 9	6 p.m.	In thanksgiving to Beatrice Holt, Lisa Storms & Dave Roberts Jr., Richard Schraf, Jay & Sara Sellick, Dwane Schmitz & Lynn Wiggert; & for Sara Sellick for healing
Thu. March 10	7 a.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph & Kishorn Duncan for God's protection & deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & for Monique & Martin Jongue for God's blessings and protection requested by Mary Dalmida
Fri. March 11	7 a.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph & Kishorn Duncan for God's protection & deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & birthday blessings for Glenn Philbert requested by Louise Philbert



St. Michael Prayer

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the divine power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.

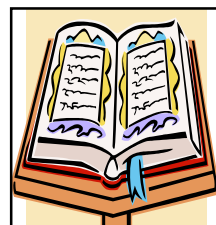
Monday: March 7
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: March 8
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: March 9
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: March 10
Est C: 12, 14-16, 23-25
Mt 7:7-12

Daily Readings



Friday: March 11
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: March 12
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday: March 13
Gn 15:5-12, 17-18
Phil 3:17-4:1
Lk 9:28b-36

Stewardship of Treasure

Feb. 26	6 p.m.	\$490.50
Feb. 27	7:30 a.m.	\$704.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$1,358.00
	5:30 p.m.	\$60.00

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.



New Parish Council

Fr. Anthony Abraham installed the new Parish Council on Sunday, Feb. 27, 2022.



~ Fasting & Abstinence ~

- On Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all Fridays of Lent: Everyone ages 14 and up must abstain from eating meat.
- On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: Everyone ages 18 to 59 must fast, unless exempt due to a medical reason. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

~ Wish List ~

- Install fencing and 3 gates around front of the hall - \$11,503.87

Scan this QR Code to visit OLMC's Website.



Parish Announcements

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.

- **SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection this weekend is for the Bishop's Appeal.
- **LECTORS:** There will be a meeting for all lectors on Wednesday, March 9 after the 6 p.m. Mass.
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 10, 2022, in Coral Bay. It will be a night of praise & worship and intercessory prayers.
- **WOMEN'S RETREAT:** A retreat for women will be held on Saturday, March 12, from 10 a.m. to noon at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Confession starts at 9:30 a.m.
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held at 6 p.m. Fridays in Cruz Bay and Coral Bay.
- **LENTEN MISSION:** The Diocese of St. Thomas will hold a Diocesan Lenten Mission from March 14 to 19. The guest speaker will be Most Rev. Kenneth Richards, Archbishop of Kingston, Jamaica. The mission will be held on St. John on Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m. in Coral Bay at the future site of St. Therese Chapel.
- **MUSICIAN NEEDED:** OLMC is seeking a musician to play at Masses. Call the church office at 776-6339 for more information.
- **60th ANNIVERSARY:** OLMC will celebrate our 60th anniversary in July. We are inviting people to tell us how OLMC has made an impact in your lives. We will also accept photos. Email your story and pictures to olmc@hotmail.com.

For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission

On Sept. 7, 2021, the Vatican released a preparatory document and handbook for the 2023 synod on synodality to be reviewed by all Catholic dioceses in the world over the next six months.

In that document synodality is described as "the form, the style, and the structure of the Church."

The theme of this Synod is For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission

The current Synodal Process is guided by a fundamental question: How does "journeying together" take place today on different levels (from the local level to the universal one),

allowing the Church to proclaim the Gospel? What steps is the Spirit inviting us to take in order to grow as a synodal Church? (PD, 2)

Each bishop is asked to undertake a consultation process with the local Church from Oct. 17, 2021, to April 2022.

Dioceses should organize local gatherings for "synodal consultation," to enable individuals to give their feedback directly to the diocese.

Multiple parishes should come together for these "synodal consultation meetings" so that "a range of people from different socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities, age groups" can take part.

'This Lent: A Combined Effort of Word of God, Memory, and First Fruits'

By Adeline Jean

This Sunday's Mass readings can lead us to conclude that what is needed this Lent is our combined focus on the word of God, our memory, and our first fruits.

In the First Reading, Moses describes what happens once first fruits are given to the priests. The most important aspect of this giving and receiving is the memory of what God has done for the Israelites throughout their history as a people, which is recalled in the Jewish Shema.

Similarly, memory is significant for all Christians. In giving of our first fruits to God, we must therefore remember all the reasons for our giving. We start off by giving of our first fruits, which is from what we have produced or earned before we have used any portion for our own selves. First fruits should be considered beyond the concept of tithing because many tithe out of obligation and not out of love. Memory allows us to remember what God has done for us—not just within the past week, month, or year. We remember that God called us into being just as he did all creation. God fashioned us into the person we are. God sent us to this earth to fulfill a special mission for Him that only we can fulfil. God, in His love for all humanity, desires us to be in a perfect relationship with Him, meaning that He is the center of our lives, our reason for living, for getting up each day and for going on despite the struggles we face. We remember that God's Incarnation means our salvation, that God's saving grace is a gift we don't deserve. We remember that we do not live on bread alone (on what we produce and earn) but on every word that comes from the mouth of God (what God has promised and taught us). Everything we receive from God is God's first fruits to us because God is the creator and originator of everything. What we give back as first fruits in thanksgiving is simply giving back to God what is already God's. This can be likened to a parent who gives an allowance to a child, which the child in turn uses to purchase a gift for the parent.

As we begin Lent, let us consider what we can give to God this Lent as opposed to what we can give up. Make this a Lent of giving away, not of giving up. We give away by giving away ourselves to God and to others. We give God more time and attention, we remember and celebrate God's unconditional love for us, we give to others what they need as well—our time, undivided attention, help and support, affirmation, love, finances, forgiveness, and the like.

The Second Reading (Romans 10:8-13) adds meaning to the words of God, "A person does not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds from the mouth of Yahweh," and highlights another reason why we should give our first fruits in thanksgiving to God.

This highlights that every word that comes from God is near to us—in our mouths and in our hearts. We keep the word of God close to us by choosing to give it a central place in our hearts and in our mouths. Giving it a place in our hearts means that we hold the word of God dear and consider it as priceless, that we meditate on it day and night, that it is never far from our thoughts, that it drives our actions. Giving the word of God a central place in our mouth means that we allow it to control our tongue as a security check to everything we say. The word of God is our strength because they are God's word. God is the all-powerful. No one or nothing can stand in relation to God's word. God's word diffuses bad situations but ignites good situations because God's word stands supreme. God's word is the armor we need for every battle and the tool we need for every victory.

The Gospel Reading (Luke 4:1-13) tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert where He spent forty days fasting in preparation for His public ministry, which Jesus withstood and overcame by standing on the word of God. Jesus' divinity did not preclude Him from being tempted. Jesus' memory of the word of God gave Jesus strength and power to overcome the temptations of the devil. God's word diffused the attacks launched against Him. The word of God was Jesus' battle armor. The word of God, on the lips of Jesus, like that of all humanity, is Jesus' faith. Jesus' actions serve as a model for all Christians in the face of conflict: with the power of the Spirit, we can conquer evil through obedient faith. Jesus also showed trust in God and faithfulness towards God's word as a reliable and unconquerable weapon. Christians learn from this model that the Spirit Jesus receives at Baptism, protects Jesus against temptation and sustains Jesus. The Spirit we have received does the same for us also.

Prayer: Jesus, I consecrate this Lent to your most Sacred Heart. May the word of God draw me closer to you during these forty days. **Amen**

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

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The First Sunday of Lent • Year C • March 5-6, 2022

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Pastor: Father Anthony Abraham
Administrative Assistant: Simonia Dagou
Rel. Ed. Coordinator: Julia Mingo
Parish Council President: Michael Jackson Sr.
Deacons: Evans Daway, Peter C. Laurencin, Cassius Mathurin & Michael Jackson Sr.
Acolyte: Hayden Smith
Youth Group President: RayNesha Noel
Young Adults President: Shanekua Tyrell

Week in Preview

Youth Ministry:
Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Music Ministry:
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Charismatic Prayer Group:
Thursdays from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Masses

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)

Weekday
Tuesdays at 6 p.m. (CORAL BAY)
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Thursdays & Fridays at 7 a.m.

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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.

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 for an appointment

And Jesus answering said to him, It is said, You shall not tempt the Lord your God.

—Luke 4:12

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