

Mass Intentions: March 20-26, 2021

Sat. March 20	6 p.m.	In loving memory of Theodora Pierre requested by Diane Mathurin
Sun. March 21	7:30 a.m.	For Alan Monell for God's healing and deliverance requested by Cynthia John; in loving memory of Patrick Joseph requested by the Joseph family; & birthday blessings for Chester Mingo Sr. requested by Chester Mingo Jr.
	9:30 a.m.	In loving memory of Teresita Nunez requested by her loving daughters; & in loving memory of Eladio Caraballo requested by Diane Mathurin
	12:30 p.m.	Birthday blessings for Hayden Smith
Tue. March 23	6 p.m.	For Abigail Cyntje for God's healing and deliverance requested by Virginie Cyntje
Wed. March 24	6 p.m.	For Abigail Cyntje for God's healing and deliverance requested by Virginie Cyntje
Thu. March 25	7 a.m.	For Steven Fisher for God's blessings requested by Gail & Scott Killian; & birthday blessings for Sarah Clermont requested by Mary Roberts
Fri. March 26	7 a.m.	For Eileen Fisher for God's blessings requested by Gail & Scott Killian; & for the family of Mary Roberts for God's blessings requested by Mary Roberts

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



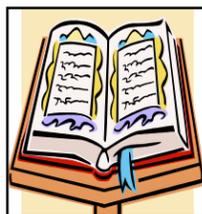
Daily Readings

Monday: March 22
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30
Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: March 23
Nm 21:4-9
Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: March 24
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95
Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: March 25
Is 7:10-14; 8-10
Heb 10:4-10
Lk 1:26-38



Friday: March 26
Jer 20:10-13
Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: March 27
Ez 37:21-28
Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: March 28
Mk 11:1-10
Is 50:4-7
Phil 2:6-11
Mk 14:1--15:47

Stewardship of Treasure

March 13	6 p.m.	\$393.00
March 14	7:30 a.m.	\$603.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$1,311.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$164.00

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.

Save the dates ...

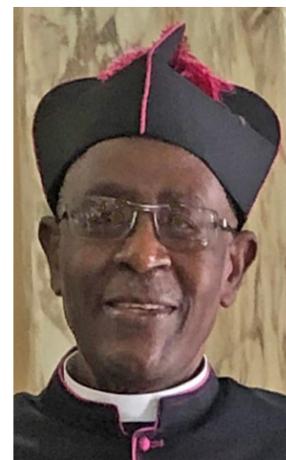


Acolyte Hayden Smith

Acolyte Hayden Smith has two reasons to celebrate on March 21, 2021. He will make his 75th birthday and will retire as acolyte at OLMC. Come celebrate Mr. Smith's life and service at 4 p.m. Sunday, March 21 at the future site of St. Therese in Coral Bay. To sign up, call 340-776-6339.

Bishop-elect Jerome Feudjio

Bishop-elect Jerome Feudjio is scheduled to be ordained on April 17, 2021. There will be a commemorative booklet. We are soliciting ads and patrons for the booklet. If you would like to purchase an ad or patron, forms are available at the back of the church. Patrons are \$20, \$50, \$100 and up. For more information, call the church office at 340-776-6339.



OLMC Member Birthdays March 20-26

- Hayden Smith March 21
 - Carl Steffon March 24
 - Marcellus Calixte March 24
 - Khadijah Lee March 25
 - Wendell Laurencin March 25
- If your birthday is not listed, call the office at 776-6339.

~ WISHLIST ~

- Gospel book cover - \$2,295.00
- Coral Bay office - \$7,979.00

Parish Announcements

TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS, IN LIGHT OF THIS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, PLEASE STAY SAFE. MY PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS YOU.

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.

- **CONFESSIONS:** Confessions will be heard at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 22, 2021. Priests from St. Thomas will be available.
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 25, 2021. It will be a night of praise and worship & intercessory prayer.
- **PALM SUNDAY:** A March of Witness & Ecumenical Service will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday, March 28, 2021. The procession will be from Mon-goose Junction to Nazareth Lutheran Church, where the service will be held. All are invited.
- **ITEMS NEEDED:** OLMC will hold an auction to raise funds to build St. Therese Chapel. If you have any items you would like to donate, call the church office at 340-776-6339.
- **PHONE CALLS:** Parishioners can expect to receive phone calls from Parish Council members just to check in and update your information.



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

Donations are tax-deductible.

'Love for the Sake of Love'

By Adeline Jean

The Mass readings of this Fifth Sunday of Lent beckon us to the virtue of love.

In the First Reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34), we hear the hopeful voice of the prophet. Jeremiah is a prophet who wrote from Judah to the Hebrew during the time of their exile in Babylon. He wrote to them to encourage them to stay in exile and to repent and turn back to God as opposed to trying to return to their homeland as the false prophets in Judah, as well as in exile, were advising them to. Jeremiah's frankness in telling the Hebrew people that their rebelliousness towards God had resulted in the judgment of exile they had suffered, caused him to be labelled as a "prophet of doom."

However, for 40 years Jeremiah faithfully carried out the mission the Lord had called him to, prophesying amid opposition while staying faithful to his call though he thought was beyond his capabilities. He reassured the Hebrew people that the Lord would make a new covenant with them: "I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts...I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more." Here, it is evident Jeremiah's tone and message are different. No longer is he being the reproachful prophet; instead, he is uplifting the people through words of hope.

Jeremiah and his prophesies symbolize Jesus Christ and His message. Like Jesus, he had to complete a mission that called him to self-sacrifice, and, in so doing, to suffer the pain and grief of false accusation and rejection, yet he persevered in love proclaiming the message of love. No longer will the Hebrew people have written laws that call on them to follow a prescript for living. The life of the people of God would not be a life of rules and regulations. To the contrary, their lives would be lives lived in appreciation of God, giving Him the honor and commitment, He deserves because He always loves first. Our love is merely reciprocal. Another aspect of symbolism is that Jesus is "the new law"—He is the love of the Father come into the world, and He leaves us with the new commandment of love. Higher than any law, rule, or regulation, love and the act of loving has a power to change people in ways that are beyond explanation.

When we write Jesus upon our hearts, which means emulating His model of unconditional love and compassion towards all, we will begin to gradually reject the allures of the world and to be safeguarded against the attraction of sin. Love will drive our daily living and choices. As we journey through Lent, let us consider if we are spending our Lent by just following a convention of routine prayers earnestly recited from prayer books like we have done all of our lives. Has this approach made us better Catholics and more so better people? Wouldn't choosing to love others as our Lenten sacrifice be much harder yet more rewarding and transforming for us and for the recipients of our love? Lent should not be about convention but about innovation. We need to take a different approach to each Lent. This is one way we can accomplish change in our lives, change for the best.

In the Gospel Reading (John 12:20-33), Jesus announces: "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." The Hebrew people had to be sent into exile, to fall flat on their faces — to lose their possessions, dignity, and homeland — as God's way of compelling them to die to their sins. In so doing, they could come out of captivity as renewed believers and practitioners of their faith. Similarly, Lent can be a time that is used for falling to the ground and dying, that is, of dying to self, by acknowledging our nothingness and total dependence on God. Only then will we be able to bear much fruit and to appreciate the fresh start that Easter offers.

In the Second Reading (Hebrews 5:7-9), we learn that even Christ, "Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him." Jesus produced the ultimate good fruit — that of being the resurrected Savior of the world! God did not use a different standard for Jesus. In His humanity, Jesus was called to the same standard humanity is called to — to obedience out of love and to sacrifice out of love.

Prayer: "A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me." **Amen (Psalm 51)**



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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands
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The Fifth Sunday of Lent • Year B • March 20-21, 2021

Connect with us on social media



Pastor: 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

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 to set up an appointment



Simonia Dagou Administrative Assistant

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.



Deacon Michael Jackson Sr. OLMC Project Manager

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

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 Case Manager, St. John Catholic Charities

Deacon Peter C. Laurencin Stationed: Holy Family



Deacon Cassius Mathurin Stationed: Cathedral

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