

Mass Intentions: March 26-April 1, 2022

Sat. March 26	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O’Ryan Joseph, & Kishorn Duncan for God’s protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & for Lubens Besse for God’s blessings and deliverance requested by Julia LaRoche
Sun. March 27	7:30 a.m.	For Lubens Besse for God’s blessings & deliverance requested by Julia LaRoche
	9:30 a.m.	For God’s richest blessings for Dr. Marcella Nunez Smith requested by Dr. Maxine Nunez; & in loving memory of Benedict Regis requested by his family
	12:30 p.m.	In loving memory of Phyllis Volpe requested by Maria & Stephen Hull
Tue. March 29	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 and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & in loving memory of Benedict Regis requested by his family
Wed. March 30	6 p.m.	For the Attidore family for God’s blessings & deliverance; & for Lubens Besse for God’s blessings & deliverance requested by Julia LaRoche
Thu. March 31	7 a.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O’Ryan Joseph, & Kishorn Duncan for God’s protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles
Fri. April 1	7 a.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O’Ryan Joseph, & Kishorn Duncan for God’s protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; and in loving memory of Alana Liburd requested by Sandra Donaie

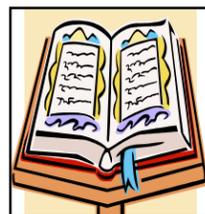
Offer a Mass for your loved ones. Call the office at 776-6339.



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.

Daily Readings



Monday: March 28
Is 65:17-21
Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: March 29
Ez 47:1-9, 12
Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: March 30
Is 49:8-15
Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: March 31
Ex 32:7-14
Jn 5:31-47

Friday: April 1
Wis 2:1a, 12-22
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: April 2
Jer 11:18-20
Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: April 3
Is 43:16-21
Phil 3:8-14
Jn 8:1-11

Stewardship of Treasure

March 19	6 p.m.	\$444.00
March 20	7:30 a.m.	\$438.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$1,873.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$91.00
	5:30 p.m.	\$59.00

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.



With the increase of homeless persons on the island of St. John, OLMC in March 2020 opened a shelter to meet this growing need. Since then, we have housed many men. At present, we have 8 men and 2 women. We are asking for your help prayerfully and financially. If you would like to make a donation, please 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)

Lenten Retreat



Most Rev. Kenneth Richards, Archbishop of Jamaica, was the guest speaker at Lenten Retreat on March 19, 2022, at OLMC.



~ 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.

~ Charismatic Prayer Group ~

You are invited to come pray, praise, and worship our Lord with us every Thursday at 7 p.m.

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. Brochures are available at the back of the church for you to make a donation at a later date.
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 31, 2022, in Coral Bay. The guest speaker will be Fr. Anthony Abraham.
- **PROJECT HOMELESS:** Project Homeless Connect will be held on May 20, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the VIPA gravel parking lot. The homeless and less fortunate will be served. Volunteers are needed to assist in making this event a success. A sign-up sheet has been placed on the back table. For more information, contact Digna Doway, Catholic Charities case manager, at 340-775-0969.
- **HEALTH FAIR:** Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center will hold a health fair on Saturday, April 9, 2022, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Cruz Bay Park. Services include blood pressure checks, cholesterol, vision, A1C (sugar), etc. Please fast for the blood test. This is free.
- **STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During Lent, Stations of the Cross will be held at 6 p.m. Fridays in Cruz Bay and Coral Bay.
- **VOLUNTEERS:** If anyone would like to volunteer in the parish, please call Fr. Anthony in the church office.
- **MUSICIAN NEEDED:** OLMC is seeking a musician to play at Masses. Call the church office at 776-6339 for more information.

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.

'God is LOVE'

By Adeline Jean

This Sunday's Mass readings remind us that God is LOVE.

In the First Reading (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12), we learn that God keeps His promises, even if we cannot keep ours. God had made a promise of this land to Abraham (Genesis 15). Despite all the reasons that the Hebrew people gave God to change His mind and to not keep His promise, God still kept His promise. This shows us that God's love is unconditional. We do not have to do anything to deserve it. This is because "God is love" (1 John 4:16). Julian of Norwich, mystic and saint in the Catholic Church, when she had a vision of Jesus dying in the cross, asked God what this meant. Based on the response from God she received in the vision Julian reassures that the suffering we cause ourselves through our sinful acts is the only punishment we will endure because "God, who is ALL-Love, is 'incapable of wrath'" (Mirabi Starr, The Showings of Julian of Norwich, xvi).

Thus, while we may suffer the consequence of sin, this consequence is the result of our action; it does not come from the hand of God because "God is love" and God is "incapable of wrath."

Moreover, this narrative teaches that despite the cause of our sufferings and the length of our sufferings, God always provides us with a way out, with a new beginning because God removes all that stands in the way of us and Him. Additionally, we learn that when God has blessed us, we must take the time to give thanks. We should not take God's blessings for granted. When the Israelites celebrated the Passover in thanksgiving to God, they set a model for us: Before we even accept the blessing, before it is even granted to us, we must first give thanks. We give thanks to God because He is not just a loving God. Out of love, God is also generous. God gives us much more than we can ever deserve.

The Gospel Reading (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) reveals the face of this God of love who is incapable of wrath. In this story of the Prodigal Son, the son who was smug enough to think that he deserved what he did not work for, an inheritance from his father, experienced first-hand the consequence of his sin of pride. Amid his suffering—spiritual (he used prostitutes), emotional (he regretted what he had left behind), and physical (he experienced hunger and hard labor)—he must have recognized how inconsiderate and unwise he was, but he must have also pondered that it was better to admit that he was wrong than to continue living the life that he was. This is the same choice we all face because we are all sinners.

Our sin takes us away from God. We believe that whatever we desire, whether sex, money, power, fame, or the like, is better than what we could have otherwise, so we seek after them at all costs, even if this means the detriment of family life, and, even more, of our very soul. However, this story simultaneously reveals that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38). We learn that God sees even our slightest acknowledgment of remorse, sorrow for sin, or desire for repentance, and, before we even act on these, God extends His loving arms of mercy. God is already waiting and ready to remove the distance we place between ourselves and Him. God doesn't just forgive us, God welcomes us, God celebrates us, and God holds us just as close and consider us just as dear as He does those who stay faithful to Him.

The Second Reading (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) extends beyond the understanding of individual reconciliation to that of salvation, which is humanity's reconciliation with God. Salvation is available to all who accept God's grace. When we choose Christ, we choose new life because "whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ."

All of humanity has been reconciled to God because of God's love, which is manifested through God's sacrificial embodiment of humanity in the person of Jesus Christ. Because of our reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ, humanity's sins are not counted because "for our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him." This is pure gift! Whether we are a prodigal son or daughter or we are in close relationship to God, this gift of salvation is available to us. It is also available to us regardless of the good works we do. Jesus Christ is God's greatest and most perfect act of love.

Prayer: Lord, I thank you for loving me more than I deserve. **Amen**



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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

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The Fourth Sunday of Lent • Year C • March 26-27, 2022

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Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio, Bishop



Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

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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.

DEVOTIONS

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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:
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Pastor's Hours
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