

## Mass Intentions: April 2-8, 2022

Sat. April 2	6 p.m.	For Lubens Besse for God's blessings & deliverance requested by Julia LaRoche; for the Attidore family for God's blessings & deliverance
Sun. April 3	7:30 a.m.	Birthday blessings for Ivo Philbert requested by Louise Philbert; in loving memory of G. Michael Nash requested by Tom & Dee Conrad; & 40th wedding anniversary to Tom & Dee Conrad
	9:30 a.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, and Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & for Roma Attidore for God's blessings & deliverance
	12:30 p.m.	In loving memory of Sebastian Volpe requested by Maria & Stephen Hull
	5:30 p.m.	For the Hispanic Community of St. John
Tue. April 5	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, & Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & for Reynald Jean in thanksgiving requested by Adeline Jean
Wed. April 6	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, & Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & in thanksgiving to David Matter
Thu. April 7	7 a.m.	For Lubens Besse for God's blessings & deliverance requested by Julia LaRoche; & in thanksgiving to Charles Moniotte
Fri. April 8	7 a.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, & Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles

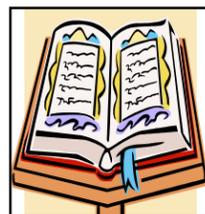
Offer a Mass for your loved ones. Call the office at 776-6339.



### 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: April 4**  
Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62  
Jn 8:12-20

**Tuesday: April 5**  
Nm 21:4-9  
Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday: April 6**  
Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95  
Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday: April 7**  
Gn 17:3-9  
Jn 8:51-59

**Friday: April 8**  
Jer 20:10-13  
Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday: April 9**  
Ez 37:21-28  
Jn 11:45-56

**Sunday: April 10**  
Lk 19:28-40  
Is 50:4-7  
Phil 2:6-11  
Lk 22:14--23:56

## Stewardship of Treasure

March 26	6 p.m.	\$257.00
March 27	7:30 a.m.	\$634.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$1,843.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$332.00
	5:30 p.m.	\$74.00

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)

### Volunteering



The Grissom family of Alabama recently spent a few hours volunteering in the soup kitchen.



### ~ 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 ~

- Yearly salary for a security officer for the shelter -- \$32,400.00

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, April 7, 2022, in Coral Bay. The guest speaker will be Sandra Donaie. The topic will be "The Spirit of Truth."
- **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's Justice and Mercy — Both Meant for Our Good'**

**By Adeline Jean**

This Sunday's Mass readings motivate us to look beyond our circumstances realizing that God's justice and mercy work together for the good for all believers.

In the First Reading (Isaiah 43:16-21), the Israelites are invited to recognize that the same God who worked all things for the good for them in the past is about to do even more amazing things for them.

The Lord says to the Israelites through Isaiah, "See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? In the desert I make a way, in the wasteland, rivers...for I put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, the people whom I formed for myself, that they might announce my praise." God is promising the Israelites that despite all they have suffered, their time in captivity is coming to an end. God makes that same promise to us. Our future does not have to be defined by our past. Our future is what God has destined it to be despite what our past may have been. However, what is most important here, is what God expects of the Israelites, and also from us, in return: "that they might announce my praise." God does not love and bless us because He wants anything in return, but because He just wants us to love Him, and in loving God, we cannot help but praise Him for His unending love and surpassing mercy. God deserves our praise. God's actions in the lives of His own Chosen People, the Israelites, prove that God is capable of exercising justice while also extending mercy. Both God's justice and mercy helped to build Israel into a nation.

In the Gospel Reading (John 8:1-11), we encounter Jesus as He comes to the rescue of a woman caught in adultery, which meant she had a past that deserved His justice, yet Jesus showered her with mercy. Jesus' actions expose what those lost in sin are unable to see — that God looks past their sins to instead see them, their circumstances, their struggles, their needs. God knows all of His children individually. God knows our past, our present, and our future. God has given all humankind the gift of free will. Still, God knows what He desires for us, and He will help us in any way to enable us to achieve His Will for our lives. While others may see only the sin and darkness in us like the adulterous woman's accusers did, and define us as such, God knows that this is not everything that makes us who we are. God knows that sin does not define us. We are more than the sin in our lives. Though no human can be sin-free, when we turn our lives over to God and lean on His strength, sin starts to lose its hold on us as we obtain God's help in battling temptations. Irish poet and playwright, Oscar Wilde, very wisely describes the hope that should be ours because it suggests God's perspective: "Every saint has a past, and every sinner has a future."

In the Second Reading (Philippians 3:8-14), Paul admits that righteousness does not come from obeying the law but from faith in Jesus and the power of Jesus' resurrection. This serves as an impetus to Paul, and should do the same for all believers — to pursue righteousness, even to the point of sharing in Jesus' suffering.

Paul can write from this perspective because he has "been taken possession of by Christ Jesus." Such "possession" erases Paul's understanding of his past, namely, what is of value, and gives him a different vision and understanding of his future, of what is of true value, even as he sits in prison. As a convert to Christianity after being a persecutor of Christians, Paul has learned from personal experience that God's mercy exceeds God's justice though both work together for the good of us — that is, our finding our way to God. That reality allows him to declare in a voice of praise that nothing in life matters except knowing Jesus Christ and being possessed by Jesus. Paul suffered God's justice for that brief time of blindness and maybe in other ways not known, but he would receive immeasurable mercy, which enabled him to not only become contrite for his sins, namely the persecution of Christians, but which also enabled him to convert, to become a great witness, missionary, and evangelist.

**Prayer:** Jesus, I pray that by the end of this Lenten season I will be able to praise you with joy for the blessing of knowing you and for the gift of your love and mercy. Amen



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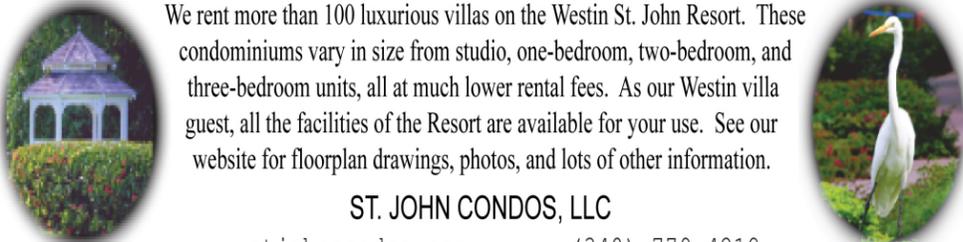
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**Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church**

Established: July 16, 1962

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The Fifth Sunday of Lent • Year C • April 2-3, 2022

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Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio, Bishop



Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

**Pastor:** Father Anthony Abraham  
**Administrative Assistant:** Simonia Dagou  
**Rel. Ed. Coordinator:** Julia Mingo  
**Parish Council President:** Liniqeu Dagou  
**Deacons:** Evans Doway, 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.

**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

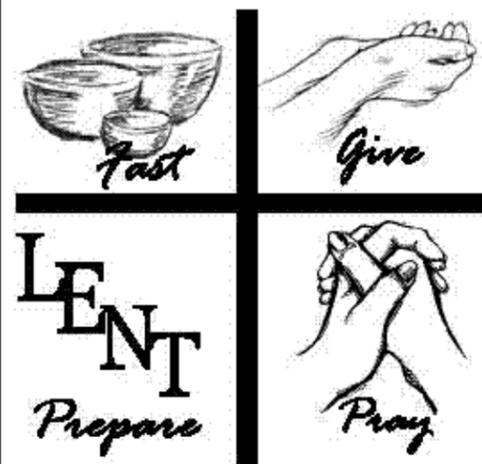
**Hours**

**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**



**Fast** **Give**  
**LENT**  
**Pray** **Prepare**

"TOGETHER BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD"