Mass Intentions: April 23-29, 2022

Sat. April 23	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, and Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; birthday blessings for Colleen Esprit-Victorin requested by her family; & in thanksgiving to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Sun. April 24	7:30 a.m.	For Reynald Jean in thanksgiving requested by Adeline Jean; & for Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, and Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles
	9:30 a.m.	In loving memory of Teresita Nunez requested by her loving daughters; & in thanksgiving to Robert & Barbara Jones & Kenneth & Caryn Pape
	12:30 p.m.	For Zahirah James for healing; & for Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, and Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles
	5:30 p.m.	For the Hispanic Community of St. John
Tue. April 26	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, and Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; & in thanksgiving to Mike & Susan Wallace, Candace Puma, Rod & Cassie Ellis & Jeffrey & Jennie O'Bryan
Wed. April 27	6 p.m.	For Cynthia Charles, O'Ryan Joseph, and Kishorn Duncan for God's protection and deliverance requested by Cynthia Charles; birthday blessings for Eric Philbert requested by Louise Philbert; & in loving memory of Cecelia Liverpool requested by Mona Bedminster
Thu. April 28	7 a.m.	COMMUNION SERVICE
Fri. April 29	7 a.m.	COMMUNION SERVICE

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 25
1 Pt 5:5b-14
Mk 16:15-20

Tuesday: April 26
Acts 4:32-37
Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: April 27
Acts 5:17-26
Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: April 28
Acts 5:27-33
Jn 3:31-36

Friday: April 29
Acts 5:34-42
Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: April 30
Acts 6:1-7
Jn 6:16-21

Sunday: May 1
Acts 5:27-32; 40b-41
Rv 5:11-14
Jn 21:1-19

Stewardship of Treasure

April 16	7:30 p.m.	$817.00
April 17	7:30 a.m.	$1,391.00
	9:30 a.m.	$2,400.00
	12:30 p.m.	$683.00
	5:30 p.m.	$102.00

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.

Good Friday

Easter Vigil

Lakeya Abbott, left, and Gwenda Dagou were welcomed into OLMC at the Easter Vigil on April 16, 2022. They are shown with Fr. Anthony Abraham and Deacons Evans Doway and Michael Jackson Sr.

OLMC Member Birthdays April 23-29

- Colleen Victorin — Apr. 23
- Ronald Lee Sr. — Apr. 24
- Patrick Hendrickson Jr. — Apr. 27
- Eulie Ferrol — Apr. 29

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

~ 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 to assist the poor and less fortunate in our community.
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, April 28, 2022, in Coral Bay at the future site of St. Therese. The guest speaker will be Sandra Donaie. The topic will be "The Spirit of Truth."
- **THANK YOU:** A great, big thank you to all who contributed to the Special Bishop's Appeal for Catholic Education. The Diocese was able to raise $60,000 for our Catholic Schools in the territory.
- **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. For more information, contact Digna Doway, Catholic Charities case manager, at 340-775-0969.
- **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.
- **60th ANNIVERSARY:** OLMC will celebrate our 60th anniversary in July. We are inviting persons to tell us how OLMC has made an impact in your lives. We will also accept photos. Email your items to olmc@hotmail.com.
- **HOUSING:** We are seeking housing for nuns, who will be coming to St. John. Call the office for more information.

Holy Thursday

Our Lady of Charity Homeless Shelter

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)

We are seeking someone to sponsor a security guard for our homeless shelter. The yearly salary for a security officer is $32,400.00.

'Touching, More Than Seeing, is Believing'

By Adeline Jean

This Sunday's Mass readings suggest that when Christians are able to touch, that is, have a personal encounter with aspects of their religion, this results in a stronger belief system than when they only see/witness aspects of their religion.

The First Reading (Acts 5:12-16) emphasizes the charismatic power of the Holy Spirit that is being manifested through the twelve apostles, specifically through the charism of healing of the sick. It mentions that "many signs and wonders were done among the people at the hands of the apostles." Though the people were witnessing healing miracles, it is apparent that what they were really experiencing was the power of God working through the apostles. These early believers would have recognized that simply touching those who were carrying out Jesus' mission, was touching Jesus, even if this touching was just that of the shadow of an apostle. Seeing the healings that were occurring impacted just one aspect of belief. Seeking to touch the healing power of the Spirit with the hope of an ensuing favorable result, strengthens a person's belief system.

In the First Reading, the early believers went seeking the touch of the Spirit for healing and deliverance. In the Second Reading (Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19), Jesus comes seeking John to touch him in a special way so that he could experience things otherwise impossible. The power of the touch of God, whether we go seeking after it or whether it comes to us as pure gift: It moves us to act in uncharacteristic ways. This happens because we go before God with open hands and hearts, with trust in His power, and with unbounding hope. While God may come into our world unannounced, uninvited, and unpretentious, many of us will still likely recognize God's majesty and follow God's lead with hope and trust.

In the Gospel Reading (John 20:19-31), Thomas actually touched the side of Jesus, placing his finger into the wound of Jesus' side that was pierced, but this touch implies a lot more than what it appears to. Only when Thomas touched Jesus' side and realized that Jesus' wound was real, did he come to believe that Jesus was actually present. Jesus then says that believing without seeing is a blessing.

The wound at Jesus' side, the last wound inflicted on Jesus' body, from which blood and water flowed, became the focus of the image of Divine Mercy, as well as a mystery. This is the image that was shown to Saint Faustina when she had conversations with and visions of the transcendent Jesus. Saint John Chrysostom, one of the early Church Fathers, has taught that the water that flowed from Jesus' side symbolizes Baptism and the blood symbolizes the Eucharist. According to Saint John Chrysostom, from these two sacraments the Church was born. Water represents rebirth and renewal that comes through the Holy Spirit and from the Eucharist. Saint John Chrysostom adds that just as a mother feeds her child with her milk and blood, so too does the Church feed Catholics with the water of Baptism and Jesus' blood in the Eucharist. Therefore, Christ, the new Adam, fashioned the Church from His side just as God fashioned Eve from the rib of Adam's side. As Adam's rib was taken after he was in deep sleep, so Jesus' water and blood were taken after His death.

The Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Divine Mercy on this second Sunday of Easter. Participating in the religious practices that surround the feast, are ways we can touch Jesus and thereby strengthen our faith. In her Diary, Saint Faustina writes the words Jesus Himself gave her regarding this feast:

I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. (No. 699)

The Feast of Divine Mercy invites us into the mystery of God's love and mercy. God, in His love and mercy, has given us not just Jesus, through whom salvation was made available to all who accept it as the gift that it is, but He has also given us the Church. Jesus' selfless giving of Himself is the greatest act of mercy. Jesus also offers mercy to all who come to Him seeking forgiveness. The gift of the Church to all humankind is another great act of mercy. Through the Church we come to know, love, and serve God; we come into relationship with Jesus; we come to understand the Spirit. However, the aspect of Divine Mercy on which the feast most focuses is the unexplainable, unquestionable, and unending mercy of Jesus Himself.

Prayer: Jesus, I trust in You. **Amen**

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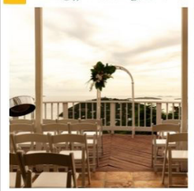

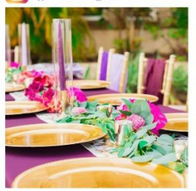

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

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P.O. Box 241, 5AA-5AB Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S.V.I. 00831-0241

Tel.: 340-776-6339 • **Fax:** 340-693-7685 • **Emer.:** 340-626-4135
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Divine Mercy Sunday • Year C • April 23-24, 2022

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Most Rev.
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Acolyte: Hayden Smith
Youth Group President: RayNesha Noel
Young Adults President: Shanekua Tyrell

Rev. Fr. Anthony
Abraham, Pastor

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:
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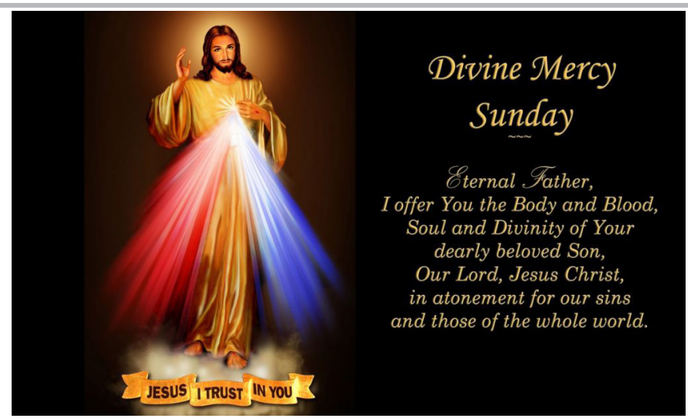
Call for an appointment



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