

Mass Intentions: May 8-14, 2021

Sat. May 8	6 p.m.	For the repose of the soul of Peter Zareas requested by Angie Zareas
Sun. May 9	7:30 a.m.	For Marvelin Jules for God's blessings, deliverance & healing
	9:30 a.m.	In loving memory of Jeannette Mahoney requested by her Goddaughter Marcella
	12:30 p.m.	For the repose of the soul of the unknown person buried on St. Therese's grounds
Tue. May 11	6 p.m.	For Marvelin Jules for God's blessings, deliverance & healing
Wed. May 12	6 p.m.	In loving memory of Michael Skrbich requested by Lisa Etre
Thu. May 13	7 a.m.	For the repose of the soul of Peter Zareas requested by Angie Zareas
Fri. May 14	7 a.m.	For the repose of the soul of Peter Zareas requested by Angie Zareas

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



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, 6 men are 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: May 10
 Acts 16:11-15
 Jn 15:16--16:4a

Tuesday: May 11
 Acts 16:22-34
 Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: May 12
 Acts 17:15, 22--18:1
 Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: May 13
 Acts 18:1-8
 Jn 16:16-20



Friday: May 14
 Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
 Jn 15:9-17

Saturday: May 15
 Acts 18:23-28
 Jn 16:23b-28

Sunday: May 16
 Acts 1:1-11
 Eph 1:17-23
 Mk 16:15-20

Stewardship of Treasure

April 24	6 p.m.	\$107.00
April 25	7:30 a.m.	\$477.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$845.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$267.00

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.

Bishop's Thanksgiving Masses



Bishop Jerome Feudjio celebrated two Masses at OLMC on Sunday, May 2, 2021.



OLMC Member Birthdays May 8-14

- Luis Parrilla May 8
- Tom Conrad May 8
- Gregory Edward Sr. May 9
- Deneisha Davis May 6
- JeVonte Hodge May 10
- Stephan Jean Baptiste May 13
- Ingi Charles May 14
- Jessica Schnell May 14

~ Altar Flowers ~

Thank you to an anonymous donor for donating this week's altar flowers. Thank you for your generosity.

~ Wish List ~

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

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.

- CONDOLENCES:** OLMC extends condolences to Jovanna Laurencin & family on the passing of her grandmother, Leolla Copenny and her cousin Brandon Richards; to Jessica Schnell & family on the passing of her grandfather, Charles Zizelman; & to Angie Zareas on the passing of her father, Peter Zareas.
- THANK YOU:** A special thank you to all who helped make the Bishop's visit last Sunday a success including those who helped prepare the food, those who served the food, the ushers, altar servers, acolyte, deacon, choir, lectors, etc.
- MAGNIFICAT:** Magnificat, St. John USVI Chapter is inviting all adult daughters, sisters, mothers and wives of the parish community to a grace-filled journey and evening on May 30, 2021, at 6 p.m. Please register with the parish office by May 21 by calling 340-776-6339. Join our facilitator Ayanna Griffith from Trinidad and Tobago as we begin our journey on May 23.
- ITEMS NEEDED:** OLMC will hold an online auction to raise funds to build St. Therese Chapel. We are seeking any service such as villa rentals, hotel stays, spa services, sunset sails, day sails, etc. to auction. If you would like to donate, call the church office at 340-776-6339.
- SCHOLARSHIP:** The Young Adult Group is raising funds for the Ronald Lee Jr. Scholarship. This year, we have three graduates in our parish who have been accepted to many universities and colleges. All donations can be sent to OLMC with memo: Scholarship Fund.



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.

'Hand-picked for Greatness'

By Adeline Jean

The readings of this Sixth Sunday of Easter reveal that while we are all called to intimacy with God, some are hand-picked for spiritual greatness.

As part of the preparation for His departure, Jesus proceeds from His teaching on His connection to His Father as the vine. He now starts to make the move towards His teaching of the coming of the Spirit. Before he can teach of the Spirit's coming, he must introduce the concept of love because the Spirit is the love that binds the Father to the Son.

In the Gospel Reading (John 15:9-17), Jesus tells His disciples, "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love." Jesus adds, "If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love... This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." Here, Jesus is inviting us into a Trinitarian type of love like that which He shares with His Father. The Spirit is the binding force of love in the Trinity. The Spirit also binds us into a trinitarian love with Jesus allowing us to remain in Jesus' love and therefore that of the Father.

Jesus goes even further announcing, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you." In essence, Jesus is saying that the greatest act of love is to sacrifice one's life for a friend, and when we choose to obey His commands, we become His friends. We can interpret from this that we are all called into intimacy with Jesus as His friends, but we have the choice to obey His commandments and to lay down our lives for Him or not. From a literary perspective, this is a form of verbal irony in that what is said is not what the reader expects. From having the benefit of history, the reader knows that Jesus laid down His life for all His "friends" — all humanity. However, the reader hears Jesus saying the opposite here: As friends of Jesus, we must lay down our lives for Him. This appears to be a tall order, something almost impossible to accomplish. Hence, this is why only a few are called to spiritual greatness — those who can meet the demands of this tall order.

What does laying down our lives for Jesus entail? It begins by living according to Jesus' commands. Therefore, obedience is the fuel that starts the fire. Living in peace and harmony with Jesus brings us to a place of self-sacrifice. That is because when we get a lot out of a situation or a person, we naturally want to give back in return. For most Catholics, our self-sacrifice amounts to giving of our time, talent, and treasure. This apparent formula of good stewardship makes us almost rigid in the way we give, as well as limited. We view charity with the tunnel vision of each of these three lenses.

Where does the surrendering of our self-will, of our life plans, and of our physical selves fit into those neat boxes? By some stretch of the imagination, from the contextual meaning of the word, these could be our personal treasure. For many, giving a monetary donation is easier than the giving up of any of these three areas of our lives. Yet, this is what laying down of our lives for our friend Jesus demands. It means being willing to sleep less and pray more, to focus less on beauty and physique and more on beautifying our soul, to choose a career that pays little and benefits the marginalized as opposed to one that is lucrative and offers notoriety, to want less and to give more, and most of all, to seek our needs only after those of others have been met. Any of these amounts to a tall order. Those who act accordingly are considered as hand-picked for greatness — spiritual greatness — because what they are able to accomplish for the Lord, their bearing of much fruit, seems unimaginable and unbelievable.

Jesus thus describes this friendship between Himself and us as a mutual exchange: He teaches us all he has heard from the Father, and, we, in return, lay down our very lives for Him. Astonishingly, Jesus then takes us to an anticlimax when He divulges, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain." From what has been said so far, it appeared as if we were being asked to lay down our lives for Christ on our own strength and based on our own will. However, Jesus is telling us that we cannot make the first move; we must respond to His invitation. Our free will determines if and how we respond.

Prayer: Father, give me the grace to make you my everything so that giving of myself to you will come naturally, without effort, hesitation, or regret.

Amen



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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

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The Sixth Sunday of Easter • Year B • May 8-9, 2021

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Acolyte: Hayden Smith
Youth Group President: Kitori Thomas
Young Adults President: Shanekua Tyrell

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

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.

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.

"TOGETHER BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD"