

## Mass Intentions: May 15-21, 2021

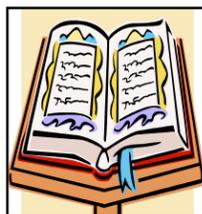
Sat. May 15	6 p.m.	In loving memory of Nancy and Julian Parton requested Joy Parton; and for Marvelyn Jules for God's blessings, deliverance & healing.
Sun. May 16	7:30 a.m.	For Sandra Challenger & family for God's blessings requested by Sandra Challenger; & for Austin Killian for God's blessings requested by Gail & Scott Killian
	9:30 a.m.	For Deacon Peter Laurencin for healing requested by OLMC parish; & in loving memory of Samuel Abraham requested by his family
	12:30 p.m.	For the repose of the soul of the unknown person buried on St. Therese's grounds
Tue. May 18	6 p.m.	COMMUNION SERVICE
Wed. May 19	6 p.m.	COMMUNION SERVICE
Thu. May 20	7 a.m.	COMMUNION SERVICE
Fri. May 21	7 a.m.	COMMUNION SERVICE

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 17**  
Acts 19:1-8  
Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday: May 18**  
Acts 20:17-27  
Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday: May 19**  
Acts 20:28-38  
Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday: May 20**  
Acts 22:30, 23:6-11  
Jn 17:20-26

**Friday: May 21**  
Acts 25:13b-21  
Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday: May 22**  
Acts 28:16-20, 30-31  
Jn 21:20-25

**Sunday: May 23**  
Acts 2:1-11  
1 Cor 12:3b-7  
Jn 20:19-23

## Stewardship of Treasure

May 8	6 p.m.	\$267.00
May 9	7:30 a.m.	\$848.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$1,043.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$206.00

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.

## National Day of Prayer



Deacon Evans Doway delivered the reflection at the National Day of Prayer service held on May 6, 2021, at the Nazareth Lutheran Church. The theme was "Lord, pour out your Love, Life and Liberty," based on 2 Cor 3:17.

Daughters, sisters, wives, mothers  
 The Magnificat St. John, USVI chapter  
 invites you to  
**"Woman, you are well!"**  
 Luke 13:12  
 A  
*grace-filled*  
 journey and evening  
*Come, Receive, Be made well again*

Venue: OLMC Parish Church  
 Facilitator: Ayanna Griffith  
 Date: 5.30.21  
 Time: 6pm

Please register with the Parish Office 340-776-6339  
 The journey begins on the 23/5/21

## OLMC Member Birthdays May 15-21

- Shiquela Monsanto May 15
- Patricia Moorehead May 17

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

## ~ 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.

- FOOD BOX:** Catholic Charities will hold a food box distribution on Friday, May 21 at the Port Authority's gravel parking lot by the barge ramp.
- PENTECOST:** OLMC will celebrate Pentecost with an evening of praise and worship and healing at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, May 23, 2021. The theme is "Come Holy Spirit, we need Thee." All are invited.
- FUNERAL MASS:** A funeral Mass for Clement Anthony "Tommy" Peltier will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, May 24, 2021, at OLMC.
- RCIA:** OLMC has opened registration for our RCIA classes, which will begin on June 7. Pick up a registration form at the back of the church.
- ITEMS NEEDED:** OLMC will hold an online auction to raise funds to build St. Therese Chapel. The auction will begin on June 20. 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.
- RENTAL ASSISTANCE:** V.I. Housing Finance Authority has opened its Emergency Rental Assistance Program to assist residents with their rent. Applications are available at the back of the church. Contact VIHFA at 340-777-4432, Catholic Charities on St. Thomas at 340-777-8518 or St. John Community Foundation at 340-693-9410.
- MEMBER REGISTRATION:** Please fill out a parish registration form if you are not registered or if your information needs to be updated.



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.

# 'The Spiritual Rhythm of the Ascension'

By Adeline Jean

On this Ascension Sunday, the Mass readings provide a recounting of Jesus' departure for heaven. It comes unexpected; it is dramatic; it is witnessed. Of importance is the fact that "theologically and empirically the Ascension of Jesus Christ is at the very heart of the New Testament" (Brian K. Donne, Christ Ascended, 67), and it has implications for our very lives.

The plan of redemption did not end with Jesus' suffering and His death. The plan of redemption culminated with Jesus' Ascension into heaven. In terms of the theological significance, the Church Fathers considered the Ascension of Jesus as an event in which Jesus makes a physical ascent into heaven, meaning, in the flesh. St. Gregory of Nyssa, one of the Church Fathers known for his theological and monastic writings, sustains that Jesus ascended in His complete humanity, which is of spiritual significance. He writes, "When we see in Him the weight of the body which naturally gravitates to earth, ascending through the air into the heavens, we believe according to the words of the Apostle, that we also shall be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (Against Eunomius 7:2). Per se, Jesus' ascension gives us the assurance of our ability to likewise be taken up to heaven to meet the Lord.

A theologian of the early Church, Cyril of Jerusalem, gave significance to both the historical (thereby empirical) and theological aspects of the ascension. He says quite simply, "In Bethlehem He descended from heaven; from the Mount of Olives He ascended into heaven. In Bethlehem He came to men to begin the work of Redemption; from the Mount of Olives He ascended to receive the crown for the work of Redemption" (Catechetical Lectures 14:23).

Importantly, the physical ascent of Jesus was needed for the spiritual descent of the Spirit to occur. All humans need the Holy Spirit because He is the helper that assists us in working out our salvation. While salvation is free, we don't have to choose it as the gift that is it, won for us and freely given, because we have free will. Therefore, it is clear that the ascent of Jesus and the descent of the Spirit, while opposite, are vital in the process of redemption, that is, the action of being saved. Without the Spirit we cannot acknowledge Jesus as Lord, and without the gifts of the Spirit we are spiritually disabled. Equally, the spiritual descent of the Spirit is needed for our spiritual ascent to the Lord to occur because the Spirit catalyzes our spiritual lives.

The Ascension of Jesus is also of empirical importance. The ascension was witnessed because it was a visible event. In the First Reading (Acts 1:1-11), the author, Luke, describes the moment. Prior to the Ascension, Jesus was engaged in conversation with His apostles. He was telling them about the coming of the Spirit, which He described as a new baptism, different from that of baptism by water. Suddenly, without warning, as He was telling them, "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem... and to the ends of the earth." He began His ascent. Luke describes this moment as follows: "When he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight... they were looking intently at the sky as he was going." This is pure eye-witness account. Luke first provides this ascension narrative as the culmination of his gospel (Luke 24:50-53) and then at the beginning of Acts 1, his other writing. He viewed this experience as important enough to repeat. When one has witnessed (by observation and/or experience) the majesty of God, one invariably becomes a witness (one who speaks of this experience of the divine).

In the Gospel Reading (Mark 16:15-20) we hear Mark similarly repeating what Luke accounts in Acts as the last words of Jesus before His Ascension: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature" — it is the call to become witnesses. However, in Mark's version, Jesus' call extends our understanding of what being a witness involves: "In my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages. They will pick up serpents with their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not harm them. They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." Jesus is promising them that they and those who believe will be able to do as He did while He was in the flesh. Together with proclaiming Jesus to others, being a witness encompasses also doing the works Jesus did. Such witnessing allows believers to prepare others for their spiritual ascent into heaven.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, I give you permission to take me to spiritual heights unimaginable. Amen



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# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands  
P.O. Box 241, 5AA-5AB Cruz Bay, St. John, U.S.V.I. 00831-0241

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Web: [www.olmcvi.org](http://www.olmcvi.org) • E-mail: [olmc@hotmail.com](mailto:olmc@hotmail.com)

The Ascension of the Lord • Year B • May 15-16, 2021

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Most Rev. Jerome Feudjio, Bishop



Deacon Evans Doway Stationed: OLMC



Deacon Peter C. Laurencin Stationed: Holy Family



Deacon Cassius Mathurin Stationed: Cathedral



Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor



Simonia Dagou Administrative Assistant



Deacon Michael Jackson Sr. OLMC Project Manager



Digna Doway Case Manager, St. John Catholic Charities

**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

## 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"