

## Mass Intentions: Dec. 12-18, 2020

Sat. Dec. 12	6 p.m.	In thanksgiving to Greg Tyrone Edward Jr., Elizabeth Landry and Kevyn Salsburg
Sun. Dec. 13	7:30 a.m.	For Mandy Hess for God's blessings requested Gail & Scott Killian
	9:30 a.m.	In loving memory of Patrick Paul requested by his children
	12:30 p.m.	In loving memory of John & Noreen Roddy requested by Charlie Roddy.
Tue. Dec. 15	6 p.m.	For Kaileigh Hess for God's blessings requested Gail & Scott Killian
Wed. Dec. 16	6 p.m.	In loving memory of Ann Haffey requested by Joy Parton; & in thanksgiving to Lynn Giovanna & Catherine Stephen
Thu. Dec. 17	7 a.m.	In loving memory of Anna Ruth Connor requested by James Olgren; and in thanksgiving to Steve & Deana Ceman & Jerome & Lynne Morea
Fri. Dec. 18	7 a.m.	In thanksgiving to Susan Picetti, Michael Prince & Ralph Carbon

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, 3 men are housed there. We have now opened the other side for women. One woman is house 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](http://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390)

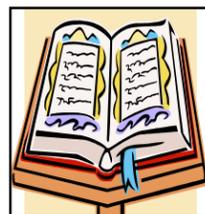
**Monday: Dec. 14**  
Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a  
Mt 21:23-27

**Tuesday: Dec. 15**  
Zep 3:1-2, 9-13  
Mt 21:28-32

**Wednesday: Dec. 16**  
Is 45:6b-8, 18, 21c-25  
Lk 7:18b-23

**Thursday: Dec. 17**  
Gn 49:2, 8-10  
Mt 1:1-17

### Daily Readings



**Friday: Dec. 18**  
Jer 23:5-8  
Mt 1:18-25

**Saturday: Dec. 19**  
Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a  
Lk 1:5-25

**Sunday: Dec. 20**  
2 Sm 7:1-5; 8b-12, 14a, 16  
Rom 16:25-27  
Lk 1:26-38

## Stewardship of Treasure

Dec. 5	6 p.m.	\$268.00
Dec. 6	7:30 a.m.	\$459.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$791.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$80.00

Thank you for your offerings. May God bless you.

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.

## Catholic Charities food box distribution



Catholic Charities, in conjunction with USDA, held a food box distribution on Thursday, Dec. 3, 2020, on St. John. Fire Chief Clarence Stephenson and his fire personnel distributed boxes to seniors on St. John. A special thanks to all the volunteers and everyone who made this day a success.

## OLMC Member Birthdays Week of Dec. 12-18

- Charlie Roddy Dec. 13
- Bernice Boynes Dec. 13
- Neya Calixte Dec. 14
- Jahmari Boynes Dec. 15
- Celso Principaal Dec. 18

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

## ~ CHRISTMAS WISH LIST ~

- Gospel book cover - \$2,295.00
- (6) Solar lights - \$60.00 each
- Wheelchair for Ervince Phillip - \$400.00

## Parish Announcements

**TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS, IN LIGHT OF THIS CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, PLEASE STAY SAFE. MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND MASSES. SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE IN EFFECT. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU. GOD BLESS.**

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.

- **CONFESSIONS:** Confessions will be heard on Tuesday, Dec. 15 and Thursday, Dec. 17 from 5:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday will be for youth and young adults and Thursday will be for adults. Sign up at the back of the church.
- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. It will be a night of intercessory prayer and praise and worship.
- **CHRISTMAS-NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE:** is as follows:  
 Dec. 24: Christmas Eve: 6 p.m. Vigil Mass; 9:30 p.m. caroling; and 10:30 p.m. Mass  
 Dec. 25: Christmas Day: 7:30 and 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (Coral Bay)  
 Dec. 31: New Year's Eve: 6 p.m. Vigil Mass; 9:30 p.m. Holy Hour; & 10:30 p.m. Mass  
 Jan. 1: New Year's Day: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. (Coral Bay)
- **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](http://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390)
- Donations are tax-deductible.

# 'Open Hands, Open Hearts, Endless Joy'

By Adeline Jean

The readings of this Third Sunday of Advent should encourage us to contemplate why at Advent we should come before the Lord with open hands and hearts.

In the First Reading (Isaiah 61: 1-2, 10-11) we are reminded that the Spirit of the Lord is upon us because the Lord Himself has anointed us, which we considered in last week's reflection. We also considered then that we receive the Spirit so that we can be of service in building up the Church. In Isaiah, we read of some of the ways we can personally build up each other who are each extensions of the Church: "to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners."

When the Spirit is upon us, we can also truly "rejoice heartily in the LORD" because "in my [our] God is the joy of my [our] soul[s]." Rejoicing thus comes as a result of the joy within us.

The Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 16:5-24) invites: "Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." Whether life situations go our way or not, when we have joy deep within us because we recognize the presence of God, His Spirit, in our lives, we will be able to rejoice always giving thanks and praying believing that God's will is being accomplished, so there is no reason to fear anything. We start to recognize the giants coming against us as really ants — small and non-threatening.

In the Gospel Reading (John 1:6-8, 19-28) we meet John the Baptist who introduces himself as, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, 'make straight the way of the Lord.'" This is the man who was entrusted with probably the biggest mission in the history of the world: He came to announce the coming of Jesus and to reveal what the coming of Jesus would entail — baptism in the Spirit. His introduction reveals Jesus' mission as well because in order to baptize with the Spirit, Jesus had to sacrifice His own life for the salvation of all humankind. His departure paved the way for the Spirit to come into this world as a personal gift to each individual, not just to Christians.

This is evident when we read John 16: 7-8, "For if I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation." Note that this says he will "convict the world," not just Christians. Jesus' coming then is double-purposed. Because of the gravity of Christ's mission, John had to decrease so Jesus Christ could increase. This is why we see John as a man living on the margins of society, living and looking like a beggar; yet, without a doubt, he must have had joy in his heart that made him rejoice in his mission because he did it with conviction and determination despite the opposition he faced.

When we come before the Lord with open hands and hearts like those who are ready to extend themselves to the service of others do, relying only on God to guide and strengthen them, like John did knowing that he would be going against the societal norms, and like Jesus did by accepting a fate that no one else would, we are, in essence, saying to God, "Here I am, use me." What joy it brings to place our trust in God knowing that with Him no task is too difficult, not sacrifice too great.

**Prayer:** Father, I stand before you with open hands and heart this Advent season as I await the gift of You — Your presence as papa in my life, the gift of Your Spirit as love working in and through me, and the gift of Jesus, recognizing Him as my brother, friend, and Savior. **Amen**



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# Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

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The Third Sunday of Advent • Year B • December 12-13, 2020

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## Lighting of the Advent candle Week Two



"TOGETHER BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

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