

Mass Intentions: Dec. 26, 2020-Jan. 1, 2021

Sat. Dec. 26	6 p.m.	In loving memory of Patrick Paul requested by his children; & anniversary blessings for Helen & Paul Peltier requested by their children
Sun. Dec. 27	7:30 a.m.	For Francis Fisher for God's blessings requested by Gail & Scott Killian
	9:30 a.m.	Birthday blessings for Liandra Dagou requested by her family; and in loving memory of Marcel Metor requested by Maggie Metor
Tue. Dec. 29	12:30 p.m.	For the Coral Bay community
	6 p.m.	For Peter Zareas for healing requested by Angie Zareas
Wed. Dec. 30	6 p.m.	For Peter Zareas for healing requested by Angie Zareas
Thu. Dec. 31	6 p.m.	For peace throughout the world
	10:30 p.m.	OLMC PARISH
Fri. Jan. 1	8:30 a.m.	Birthday blessings for Lea Hippolyte
	11:30 a.m.	For the Coral Bay community

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

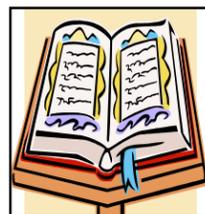
Monday: Dec. 28
 1 Jn 1:5--2:2
 Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: Dec. 29
 1 Jn 2:3-11
 Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: Dec. 30
 1 Jn 2:12-17
 Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: Dec. 31
 1 Jn 2:18-21
 Jn 1:1-18

Daily Readings



Friday: Jan. 1
 Nm 6:22-27
 Gal 4:4-7
 Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: Jan. 2
 1 Jn 2:22-28
 Jn 1:19-28

Sunday: Jan. 3
 Is 60:1-6
 Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6
 Mt 2:1-12

Stewardship of Treasure

Dec. 19	6 p.m.	\$245.00
Dec. 20	7:30 a.m.	\$205.00
	9:30 a.m.	\$849.00
	12:30 p.m.	\$133.00

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.

Have a blessed Happy New Year!

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

**NEW YEAR'S
MASS SCHEDULE**

New Year's Eve,
 Thursday, December 31:
 Mass: 6 p.m. (Vigil)
 Holy Hour: 9:30 p.m.
 Mass: 10:30 p.m.

New Year's Day
 Friday, January 1:
 Mass: 8:30 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. (Coral Bay)



Gifts have arrived at OLMC for the children, youth and the homeless thanks to the Barone family.



OLMC Member Birthdays Week of Dec. 26-Jan. 1

- Amerie Otto Dec. 26
- Deacon Michael Jackson Dec. 27
- Liandra Dagou Dec. 29
- Lea Hippolyte Jan. 1

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

~ CHRISTMAS WISH LIST ~

- Gospel book cover - \$2,295.00
- (3) Solar lights for St. Therese chapel- \$107.00 each

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.

- **PRAYER MEETING:** Prayer Meeting will resume in January.
- **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:** Religious Education will resume on Jan. 9.
- **MEMBER REGISTRATION:** Please fill out a parish registration form if you are not registered or if your information needs to be updated.
- **TITHES/OFFERINGS:** If anyone would like to give their tithes, you can:
 - A. Drop your offering envelope in the church mailbox on the office door
 - B. Mail it to the church at P.O. Box 241, St. John, VI 00831
 - C. PayPal: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (olmc@hotmail.com)
 - D. Online giving: <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1390>



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.

"Picture of a 'Holy Family'"

By Adeline Jean

This Sunday's Mass readings on this Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph give us a glimpse of how children should honor their parents (First Reading, Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14), of the qualities and lifestyle that every person in a family should strive for (Second Reading, Colossians 3:12-21), and of one ritual act that Jesus and Mary performed for baby Jesus — they presented him to the Lord (Luke 2:22-40). Yet, when we consider ideal models of a holy family and that of our own family, our family seems to fall short. However, this is not really the case.

Every family should be considered as a "holy" family simply because each member is made in the image of God. If our Father in heaven is holy, we should be holy as well. Consequently, when we are brought together by God's design, sharing the same blood and living space as we grow into maturity, we are all "holy" people who are simply trying to make it in this world with its struggles, imperfections, and challenges. What is important is how we choose to live despite of life circumstances.

The family that is probably considered by Catholics as the ideal real-life "holy" family is that of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower. Her parents, Louis and Zélie sought to live religious life before marriage, so it is understandable why their daughters were brought up living a, and then all committing to, religious life. These parents were model parents who reflected the almost-perfect family life of daily Mass, a household environment and way of life that consisted of prayer, shared faith, and family love and support that echoed and nurtured a strong Catholic identity. How many of our families can identify with such a family life and can claim such commitment to God both as a family and as individuals? The question is, do we have to? Prayer and modeling the essence of Christian living are essential in every family, but what serves as prayer can be determined based on family circumstances. Sitting and actually praying is the most accepted and revered form of family prayer. Nevertheless, sitting at the bedside of a loved one, fixing a meal that the family enjoys, eating together as a family, and coming home early to spend more time with the family are also examples of prayer. Prayer becomes what allows us to find God, to see God, and to reflect on God in our daily living. In so doing, our communication with God would just be our actions, thoughts, and hopes and not mere words.

When we consider these things, then "holiness" likewise holds a different standard. Holiness is not our pious actions of repeating lots of prayers and being in a state of spiritual strength and purity. Rather, holiness is all acts done in service of others with a pure heart and out of love. These make us holy. Accordingly, when we have children who are addicted to substances, negative things and ways of living, when we cannot be the role models that parents are called to be because we fall short ourselves, and when we find it difficult to live with each other, we don't lose the ability to be and to live like a holy family. Once we try to love each other, wish the best for and give our best to each other despite how we feel, support each other unconditionally, serve each other, and make an effort to live in peace (even though we fight each day), we can be considered as a holy family. We do all these things because we see God in each other, and that is the most important quality for us to live as a holy family.

In a holy family, no one, not even parents, is more important than the other — everyone is equal.

Let us keep in mind that even the Holy Family was not totally perfect. Jesus brought heartache and fear to his parents when he stayed back in Jerusalem for three days after their pilgrimage there without telling them of his plan. This shows a strong-minded Jesus who knew what he wanted to do and did it despite how his actions would affect his parents. This is an often typical situation in families. His parents reaction though was not that of anger and reprimand but of loving understanding.

Prayer: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, please come into my family and home situation and intercede for my family that we will become the holy family we are called to be. Amen



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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Established: July 16, 1962

Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands
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Mary, the Holy Mother of God • Year B • December 31, 2020-January 1, 2021

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OLMC VI Virgin Islands



Pastor: Rev. 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



Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

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



Simonia Dagou
Administrative Assistant

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



Deacon
Michael Jackson Sr.
Project Manager

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.



Digna Doway
Catholic Charities
Case Manager

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