

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise



Newsletter

June 2021 ♦ ISSUE 27



Giffit Hill Graduate Seniors 2021. Shekinah Abraham, Naheem Modeste, Kitori Thomas. (left to right)

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♦  OurLadyofMountCarmelstjohn ♦  OLMC VI Virgin Islands ♦



✦ From the desk of the pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

It is summertime. Summertime was made for long weekends, leisurely road trips, or just getting away to explore some place new. No matter what kind of vacation you have in mind this summer, please take Jesus along with you.

This pandemic has changed the joy of traveling for so many people. However, many are now realizing we cannot put our lives on hold. We need to continue enjoying life and appreciate the gift of God, family and friends.

For many, especially our youth, it must be a very difficult time for them. I recently received a prayer request for a 14-year-old who committed suicide. Our youth are hurting. It is so critical that we point them to Jesus. For many, I am sure this is not how they planned their senior year in high school or college. Virtual learning was so far off their radar.

Those who have lost family or friends must find life very difficult. It can be so tempting for so many to get themselves addicted to drugs, gambling, pornography, or gangs. We need to pay attention especially to our youth. Let us be a source of hope for them and keep them in our prayers.

For those youth who have a firm foundation, we thank God for them. We pray God will sustain them on the path they are on. We pray their lives will be used as a tool to evangelize others.

Congratulations to all graduates for 2021. We remember our own OLMC graduates – Naheem Modeste, Shekinah Abraham and Kitori Thomas.

PRAYER FOR YOUTH

We offer to you, loving God, the gifts and needs of youth. Bless them with your guiding grace as they face the challenges and opportunities in their lives. Touch their hearts with the gentleness of your love, that they may know they are valued and valuable beings. Send your spirit of hope to their lives, that they may believe in themselves and know they are needed in this world. Grace them with the gift of joy that they may celebrate life through laughter and tears alike.

Guide us, as we continue to grow in appreciation of the many gifts of young people, in the ministry opportunities we offer to them, in the journey of faith we walk with them, in our shared mission as a community called to discipleship in the world.

We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

In Christ,

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor



Thank you to OLMC Parish & St. John Community
FROM
DEACON PETER LAURENCIN

“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”
—James 5:14-16

For those of you who may not know, I am currently battling non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. This is something that I never thought I would say. This has helped me to realize what the important things are in life. We shouldn’t take life for granted.

First of all, I want to thank God almighty because if it was not for Him, I would not be here today. I want to thank God for the prayer warriors; all the helping hands; and for all the love I felt in the hospital whether post cards were sent, calls were made, and words of support were given.

Sitting in a hospital room, in pain, bleeding and suffering. Not being able to feel the sun on your face, smell the ocean breeze or work on a boat engine. The feeling of being locked inside not having the option to go out like you’re trapped in a prison.

When you’re in a different place or an uncomfortable zone where there is no family or friends around the corner, down the street or on a neighboring island. This has been my experience and it has been terrible.

Looking at the cards that were sent made me feel warm, loved and appreciated. And for a moment, it felt like I wasn’t too far from home, and I could make it through this trial.

This journey has only just begun and has truly been a challenging one. Having to leave my family behind to get the proper medical care was an unexpected decision.

I would just like to thank everyone for all your love and support not only to me, but also the love and support you have shown to my family—whether it was dropping off food for the children; helping with accommodations here in Florida; or even catching a plane and tussling with security just to visit me in the hospital, and calling to see how my two traveling nurses are holding up. Thank you, thank you, thank you a million times over and more.

I thank God the Father Almighty. Philippians 1:3 says, “I thank my God every time I remember you.”

If anyone would like to send care packages or cards or to help with medical expenses, contact OLMC at 340-776-6339 for the mailing address, PayPal and ATH Movil.

On St. John, donations can be made to the St. John Revolving Fund at Connections or at OLMC with Peter Laurencin in the memo line. Donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your generosity. May God continue to bless each and every one.

Deacon Peter Laurencin

Congratulations to our OLMC Youth graduates!



• **Kitori Thomas** •

Kitori Thomas, the daughter of Kyle E. Thomas and Melchia Athanase, is a part of Gifft Hill School's graduating Class of 2021.

She has been accepted to all four colleges she has applied to. Her goal is to attend her top choice, Georgia State University, in the fall. She plans to pursue a degree in Marketing with a minor in Finance, with the hope of being a Business Owner in the Marketing industry.

Thomas is president of the OLMC Youth Group. Her activities with the group include cooking for the homeless. She enjoys playing steel pan with the Love City Pan Dragons of which she has been a member for many years.



• **Naheem Modeste** •

Naheem Modeste, a graduate of Gifft Hill School's class of 2021, was originally born on St. Croix, but raised on St. John.

He went to the U.S. mainland for school beginning in seventh grade. He continued his education in the states throughout middle and high school before returning to St. John for his senior year.

While on St. John, Modeste participated in community outreach events whether it was cooking for the homeless or cleaning up the beaches.

Modeste, the son of Bianca Laurencin and Edmund Modeste, plans on attending the University of Michigan in the fall where he plans to study Nuclear Engineering.



• **Shekinah Abraham** •

Shekinah Abraham is a recent graduate of the Gifft Hill School, Class of 2021. Born and raised in the Virgin Islands, she has worked tirelessly to become the successful graduate she is today.

Shekinah, the daughter of John and Justina Abraham, was an honors student who served on the student council as vice president and in her class as president. She is a strong athlete and an essential member of her school's volleyball team.

Shekinah is involved in many extracurricular activities. When she is not hosting at Dave and Jerry's Island Steakhouse, she is playing steel pan with the Love City Pan Dragons and volunteering for her community. Shekinah has hopes of pursuing her bachelor's degree in accounting and finance at Hofstra University in Long Island, New York.

May God Bless you & guide you!



Religious Education closing



Religious Education students and teachers end the 2020-2021 school year with a fun game of Taboo and food and drinks.

Youth Group cooking for shelter



OLMC Youth Group prepared and delivered lunch for the residents of the Our Lady of Charity Shelter on May 31, 2021. They prepared chicken alfredo with garlic bread and a salad.



From left: shelter resident, Richard DeVito; youth group – Naheem Modeste, Jacori Laurencin, Gleidy Castillo Caraballo, Liandra Dagou and Kitori Thomas; and shelter resident, Ervince Phillip.

Bishop Neil Scantlebury



The Most Rev. Neil Scantlebury was consecrated as bishop for the Diocese of Bridgetown, Barbados, on June 11, 2021. Scantlebury, who was born in Barbados, is the first native to occupy this role. He was ordained a priest on May 18, 1995, for the Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands; and served at OLMC from 1997 to 2003.

Governor with pastors



Fr. Anthony Abraham, pastor of OLMC, and other St. John pastors recently met with Governor Albert Bryan Jr. Here, the pastors and others present pray for the governor.



Recommended Items to Include in a Basic Emergency Supply Kit:

- Water, one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation
- Food, at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- First aid kit
- Whistle to signal for help
- Dust mask, to help filter contaminated air and plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place
- Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation
- Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities
- Can opener for food (if kit contains canned food)
- Local maps

St. Michael Prayer

Saint 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 power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who roam throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.



June 1–November 30

Hurricane Season Prayer

God, our Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. Keep us safe from the danger of hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters. May we be secure in your protection and always feel the presence of your love as you turn our fears into praise of your goodness.

Bless our families and bring peace to all nations. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

Amen.

Additional Items to Consider Adding to an Emergency Supply Kit:

- Prescription medications and glasses
- Infant formula and diapers
- Pet food and extra water for your pet
- Important family documents such as copies of insurance policies, identification and bank account records in a waterproof, portable container
- Cash or traveler's checks and change
- Emergency reference material such as a first aid book or information from www.ready.gov
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person. Consider additional bedding if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Complete change of clothing including a long sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes. Consider additional clothing if you live in a cold-weather climate.
- Household chlorine bleach and medicine dropper – When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency, you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color safe or bleaches with added cleaners.
- Fire Extinguisher
- Matches in a waterproof container
- Feminine supplies and personal hygiene items
- Mess kits, paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, paper towels
- Paper and pencil
- Books, games, puzzles or other activities for children

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Our Lady of Mount Carmel Mission Statement

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church will provide support to all through the liturgy, worship and education. We pledge to provide our parish community and our visitors a prayerful experience in an environment of friendliness and courtesy. We are committed to proclaim the Word of God in unity and love towards each other.

Our mission is:

Evangelization: to evangelize ourselves, our families, our parish and our local community.

Liturgy: to celebrate our faith with joy through vibrant and prayerful worship.

Education: to educate and become educated in the truths of the Gospel and in the formation of conscience.

Service: to reach out in love and service to those in need.

Stewardship: to develop the material, financial and human resources of the Church and to manage them as faithful servants.

The *OLMC Parish in Paradise* Newsletter is composed by Fr. Anthony Abraham, Simonia Dagou, Lisa Etre and Brenda Rector Wallace.

To submit an article or for questions regarding OLMC Newsletter please contact: Lisa Etre by email at: olmc@hotmail.com

Graphic Design: Julie Vazquez

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration Daily: 24 hours a day

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays at 5 p.m.; after Masses; or by appointment

Baptism: By Appointment; 3 weeks preparation

Weddings: By Appointment; 6 months preparation

Regular Mass Schedule

Weekend: Saturdays: 6 p.m.
Sundays: 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. (Coral Bay)
5:45 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays:

Tuesdays: 6 p.m. (Coral Bay)
Wednesdays: 6 p.m.
Thurs & Fridays: 7 a.m.



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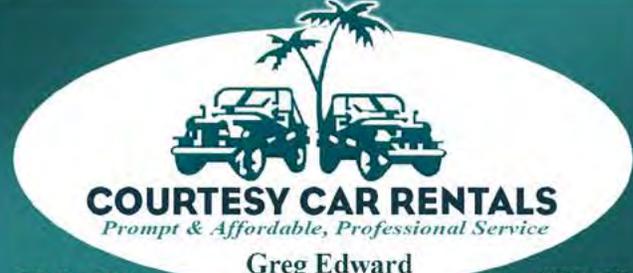


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