Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise

Newsletter

May-June 2026 ◆ ISSUE 58

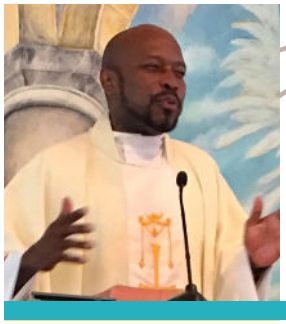


OLMC held a procession around Cruz Bay for Corpus Christi (The Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ) on Sunday, June 7, 2026.

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From the desk of the pastor

Dear Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As your pastor, I want to remind you today that no matter what challenges you may be facing, God has not forgotten you. We all experience seasons of uncertainty, loss, hardship, and waiting. Yet through every season, God's love remains constant, His promises remain true, and His presence never leaves us.

The Word of God reminds us, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." These words encourage us to place our trust not in our circumstances but in the faithful God who walks beside us every step of the way.

If your heart is heavy, know that Christ is your comfort. If you feel weary, He is your strength. If you have lost your way, He is your Good Shepherd, ready to guide you with love and compassion. There is no burden too great for Him to carry and no prayer too small for Him to hear.

As a parish family, let us continue to pray for one another, encourage one another, and serve one another with kindness and compassion. Together, we are stronger because we are united in Christ. Let us be a light of hope to our neighbors, sharing God's love through our words and our actions.

I encourage you to remain faithful in prayer, diligent in reading God's Word, and steadfast in worship. Even when we cannot see what God is doing, we can trust that He is working all things together for good for those who love Him.

Please know that you are remembered in my prayers every day. May the Lord fill your home with His peace, strengthen your faith, and bless you with renewed hope. Whatever lies ahead, remember that our future is secure in Christ, and His mercy is new every morning.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May His face shine upon you and give you peace.

With love, prayers, and every blessing,

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham

Pastor

Hurricane Thanksgiving Prayer — December 1-May 31

God, our Father, all the elements of nature obey your command. We praise and thank you for your protection during the hurricane season. We ask you again to guide us through a new year free of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. 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.

THE GREATEST LOVE

By Claudia Verdant

Every May, we celebrate Memorial Day. Aside from the Memorial Day weekend perks like a day off for federal workers, retail discounts, free theme park admissions, and discounted dining, the holiday is a solemn occasion.

Like the U.S., numerous other countries observe a national holiday similar to Memorial Day. While celebrated under different dates, different names, and with different observance actions (e.g., wreath laying, grave decoration, wearing commemorative symbols, parades, and observing moments of silence), the primary purpose is the same. It is a day dedicated to remembering, honoring, and mourning the men and women who died in combat or from injuries sustained in the line of duty.



They gave their all, and they paid the ultimate price for freedom, the ultimate sacrifice. The term ultimate sacrifice carries significant emotional weight, and it spans military and law enforcement contexts, first responders, and theological contexts.

The ultimate sacrifice is acknowledged as the purest, greatest expression of love. Across many cultures, traditions, and theological beliefs, true love is defined by selfless action and placing the well-being of another above your own, despite the personal cost. This belief is firmly rooted in the biblical passage John 15:13, which states, “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” This acceptance and action are firmly expressed in the Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary.

The Sorrowful Mysteries of the Rosary are a powerful reflection of Jesus’ sacrifice and love, highlighting the suffering he willingly endured for others, for us. Each mystery is a testament to the different aspects of his self-giving love.

1. The Agony in the Garden

Jesus prays in the Garden of Gethsemane, experiencing great sorrow (Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:44-45). Jesus’ act of love is evident in his acceptance of God’s will and eventual suffering.

2. The Scourging at the Pillar

Jesus is brutally whipped at Pilate’s command (John 19:1). Despite being innocent, Jesus is beaten, humiliated, and endures injustice without hatred or revenge, displaying a selfless love.

3. The Crowning with Thorns

Soldiers mock Jesus by placing a crown of thorns on his head (Matthew 27:29-30; John 19:2-3). Jesus does not respond in anger while being mocked, insulted, and crowned with thorns. Instead, he displayed an enduring, faithful love as he remained steadfast in his mission and acceptance of his Father’s will.

4. The Carrying of the Cross

Jesus carries his cross to Calvary (John 19:17). Jesus’ perseverance and commitment to giving himself for others fueled him as he carried the cross toward his crucifixion.

5. The Crucifixion

Jesus is nailed to the cross and dies for our sins (Luke 23:33-46). While on the cross, Jesus asks for forgiveness for those who crucify him and dies, giving the greatest expression of his love (John 15:13).

Jesus’ love was more than just a feeling. It involved sacrifice, forgiveness, faithfulness, and placing our well-being above his own, despite the personal cost. The suffering and death Jesus endured for our salvation was and still is the greatest love.



Claudia Verdant, a St. John resident, is a Major in the U.S. Army. She is also a parishioner of OLMC..

Mother's Day and Father's Day





OLMC distributed gifts to mothers, spiritual mothers and others during Mass on May 9 and 10; and to fathers, spiritual fathers and others during Mass on June 20 & 21.

Celebrating our spiritual Mother



Parishioners crowned Mary at Masses on May 2 and 3, 2026.



Magnificat, St. John, USVI, Our Lady of Grace Chapter, celebrated its Feast Day, May 31, The Feast of the Visitation, with a procession of flowers to the Blessed Mother.

Pentecost Rally



Fr. Anthony Abraham led this year's Catholic Charismatic Renewal St. Thomas-St. John's Pentecost Rally at OLMC. The theme was "Come, Holy Spirit."

Deacons anniversary



Deacons Cassius Mathurin, Evans Doway and Peter C. Laurencin celebrated their 10th anniversary on May 28, 2026. Fr. Godfrey blesses Deacons Mathurin, Doway and Bianca Laurencin, who stood in proxy for her husband.

Corpus Christi



OLMC held a procession around Cruz Bay for Corpus Christi (The Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ) on Sunday, June 7, 2026.





St. Clement of Rome: the Fourth Pope

By Brenon Joseph

St. Clement of Rome stands as one of the most significant figures of the early Church, a man whose life and writings form a bridge between the age of the apostles and the generations that followed.

As the fourth Bishop of Rome, Clement inherited a Church still young, still persecuted, and still learning how to live out the Gospel in a world dominated by the Roman Empire. His leadership, humility, and theological clarity helped shape the Church's understanding of unity, apostolic succession, and pastoral authority — themes that remain central to Catholic identity today.



Clement lived in the late first century, a time when memories of the apostles were still fresh. Early Christian tradition holds that he personally knew St. Peter and St. Paul, and may have been formed directly by their teaching. This connection gave Clement a unique authority: he was not merely a bishop, but a living witness to the apostolic age. His name appears in the New Testament when Paul sends greetings to his fellow laborers, a detail many early Christians believed referred to Clement himself. Whether or not this identification is exact, it reflects the Church's memory of Clement as a man deeply rooted in the apostolic foundation.

When Clement assumed leadership of the Church in Rome, Christianity was still illegal. Believers met in homes and catacombs, gathering quietly to celebrate the Eucharist and encourage one another in faith. The Church had no public buildings, and no legal recognition. Yet it possessed something far greater: the Gospel, the sacraments, and the unbroken witness of the apostles. Clement's mission was to preserve this inheritance, strengthen the community, and guide the faithful through times of uncertainty and persecution.

His most enduring contribution is his Letter to the Corinthians, written around the year 96 AD. This remarkable document is the earliest Christian writing outside the New Testament that we still possess. It reveals Clement's pastoral heart, his theological depth, and his commitment to unity within the Church. The Christian community in Corinth had fallen into division, with members rejecting their appointed leaders. Clement wrote to restore peace, reminding them that the apostles established bishops and priests, and that the Church must remain faithful to this structure. His letter emphasizes humility, charity, obedience, and the divine origin of ecclesial authority. What makes this letter extraordinary is that the Corinthians accepted Clement's correction — even though Rome was far away. This demonstrates that the early Church already recognized the Bishop of Rome as a source of unity and guidance, a role that would continue to develop throughout Christian history.

Clement's leadership was marked not by dramatic miracles or political influence, but by quiet strength. He encouraged believers to remain steadfast in faith, to practice charity, and to honor the structure established by the apostles. He understood that the Church's unity was not merely organizational but spiritual — rooted in Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit. His writings show a deep love for Scripture, a profound respect for apostolic tradition, and a pastoral concern for the well being of the entire Christian community.

Tradition holds that Clement eventually suffered martyrdom for the faith, possibly by being drowned with an anchor tied around his neck. Whether this account is literal or symbolic, it reflects the early Church's memory of Clement as a courageous witness who gave his life for Christ. His tomb became a place of devotion, and his name is still mentioned in the Roman Canon of the Mass, a sign of his lasting importance in the life of the Church.

St. Clement of Rome left the Church three priceless gifts: a powerful witness to apostolic succession, one of the earliest Christian writings, and a model of pastoral leadership rooted in humility and charity. In an age often marked by division and confusion, Clement reminds us that unity is a gift — one safeguarded by fidelity to the apostles and strengthened by love for Christ. His life encourages us to remain rooted in Scripture, faithful to the Church, and committed to charity in all things.



Brenon Joseph is an OLMC parishioner St. John resident, who currently lives in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas. Brenon is a Pre-Nicene Catholic Apologist on a mission to show Catholics-Christians the importance of church history.

St. Therese Chapel



OLMC has plans to build a Catholic Church in Coral Bay. This chapel will be named, St. Therese. For the construction of this chapel, we need to raise the approximate total of $4.2 million dollars. You can help us bring this vision into reality, by first, joining us in Prayer. Second thing you can do is donate to the St. Therese Catholic Chapel Campaign, where you have the option to give incrementally or make a one-time donation. Any small amount goes a long way. We thank you and we appreciate you helping us move forward, working together, building the Kingdom of God.

How to donate

† Mail a check to: OLMC, P.O. Box 241, St. John, VI 00831 (memo: St Therese Chapel)

† Use PayPal: Our Lady of Mount Carmel (olmc@hotmail.com)

† or SCAN the QR CODE with your device

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 Zoriah Noel.

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

DEVOTIONS:

Eucharistic Adoration Daily: 24 hours a day

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.; after Masses; or by appointment

Baptism: By Appointment; 3 weeks preparation

Weddings: By Appointment; 6 months preparation

MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturdays: 7 a.m.
6 p.m. **(Vigil)**
Sundays: 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. **(Coral Bay)**
5:30 p.m. **(Spanish)**
Mondays, Thursdays & Fridays: 7 am.
Tuesdays: 6 p.m. **(Coral Bay)**
Wednesdays: 6 p.m.





Jessica Schnell, PT, DPT
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To place an AD
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