

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise

March/April 2023 ♦ ISSUE 39



Newsletter

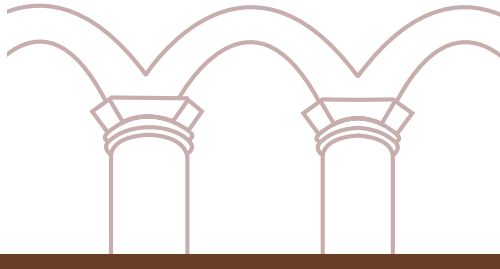


▲ OLMC led a pilgrimage to Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral on Saturday, March 25, 2023. OLMC led the Vigil Mass with Fr. Anthony Abraham as the main celebrant. The Diocese of St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands is celebrating its 250th anniversary. Each church in the Diocese held a pilgrimage to Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

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❖ From the desk of the pastor

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost

O Lord Jesus Christ / Who, before ascending into heaven / did promise to send the Holy Ghost / to finish Thy work / in the souls of Thine Apostles and Disciples / deign to grant the same Holy Spirit to me / that He may perfect in my soul / the work of Thy grace and Thy love. / Grant me the Spirit of Wisdom / that I may despise the perishable things of this world / and aspire only after the things / that are eternal, / the Spirit of Understanding, to enlighten my mind with the light of Your divine truth, / the Spirit of Counsel / that I may choose / the surest way of pleasing God / and gaining heaven, / the Spirit of Fortitude / that I may bear my cross with Thee / and that I may overcome with courage all the obstacles that oppose my salvation, / the Spirit of Knowledge that I may know God and know myself / and grow perfect in the science of the Saints, / the Spirit of Piety / that I may find the service of God sweet and amiable, / the Spirit of Fear of the Lord / that I may be filled with a loving reverence towards God, and may dread in any way to displease Him. / Mark me, dear Lord, / with the sign of Thy true disciples / and animate me in all things with Thy Spirit. / Amen.

Palm Sunday



Youth Gospel Drama



^The OLMC Youth Group dramatized the gospel reading on March 19, 2023.

Nigel Fields



^ V.I. National Park Superintendent Nigel Fields and his staff visited OLMC in early March to discuss the land swap between the National Park and the V.I. government and also Caneel Bay Resort. Parishioners were encouraged to meet with Fields and his staff after the Masses.

Palm Sunday through Easter Vigil



Chrism Mass

^ The annual Chrism Mass was held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023, at *Ss. Peter and Paul Cathedral*. Bishop Jerome Feudjio and priests of the Diocese gather to celebrate this Mass. During the Chrism Mass, Bishop Jerome blessed the holy oils used for sacraments and rituals.



Holy Thursday

^ Fr. Anthony Abraham washes the feet of 12 men at the Holy Thursday Mass on April 6, 2023.



Good Friday

^ Good Friday service was held on April 7, 2023. Stations of the Cross was held before the service. The service included veneration of the cross.

Easter Vigil



^ Easter Vigil Mass was held on April 8, 2023. The 3 1/2-hour Mass is one of the greatest highlights of the Easter season. OLMC welcomed three men into the Catholic Church – Joseph Prentice, Brett Huntley and Earl Singleton.

Being Catholic in the 21st Century

By Claudia Verdant

L remember the days of payphones and telephone directories with yellow pages. I remember when we did not have Caller ID, and the only reason you did not answer the phone was because you were not home. Now we can screen our phone calls and we don't pick up when our aunt calls. I remember having to read the TV Guide section in the Daily News to find out what shows and movies were playing and on what channel. I remember watching people standing in long lines at Chase Manhattan Bank waiting to cash their work checks or pay bills.

From those days to now, our world has seen so many inventions and advancements in every industry that have changed how we live our daily lives: transportation, medicine, finance, energy, technology, production, education, and more.

Smartphones, GPS Navigation, Human Genome Mapping, 3D printing, and automating jobs are just a few of the impactful advancements. Communication has become easier than ever before and entertainment is more immersive.

While these changes have are praised for enhancing the quality of life, prolonging life, solving issues, etc., another significant but seldom spoken about impactful change is the effect on our worldview. What is right and what is truth is being distorted, and it is negatively altering our worldview.

We, not only adults but our children from an early age, are inundated by tv shows, movies, advertisements, social media, political messages, and more that desensitizes our sensibilities. So, at times we find ourselves having to resist the values of the world in order to honor the values of God.

"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you."

— John 15:18-19

This Bible passage references God calling us to be *in* the world but not *of* the world. We should be wary and teach our children to be mindful of the negative influence.

The world's values of self-sufficiency (John 15: 4-7; Matthew 19:26), pridefulness (Proverbs 16:18), and idolatry (Psalms 115:4-8) all prevent God from being with us. Imagine God standing at the front door incessantly knocking, and our flirtation with the world's values, keeps that door locked and places us at odds with Him and His teaching (James 4:4).

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment." As Catholics living in the 21st Century, our faith is challenged every day, maybe even more than our parents and grandparents. Every day these challenges bring about a profound rethinking of our Catholic identity: our life, values, relationships with others, and our relationship with God.

Catholicism is a living tradition. Yet, it is challenging living a way that pleases God and not the world. As much as the world has changed and will continue to change, God's word is the same as it was yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).



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

GET YOUR OLMC GEAR!



OLMC has items for purchase as part of the church's fundraising activities. Items include 20-ounce hot and cold tumblers for \$50; 40-ounce water bottles for \$60; hats for \$20; adult rash guards for \$40; and children's rash guards for \$20.

We accept all forms of payment including cash, checks, credit cards and PayPal.



You can also scan the QR code to make your purchase.



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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