

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

Parish in Paradise

Sept/October 2023 ♦ ISSUE 42



Newsletter



▲ OLMC broke ground on St. Theres Chapel in Coral Bay on Sunday, October 1, 2023. More than 150 people were in attendance including parish priests, deacons, altar servers, other clergy, Gov. Albert Bryan Jr., Senator-At-Large Angel Bolques Jr.; & St. John Administrator Shikima Jones-Sprauve. Bishop Jerome Feudjio was the main celebrant.

www.olmcvi.org ♦ olmc@hotmail.com ♦ fax: 340-693-7685

📞 P: 340-776-6339 • 📧 P.O. Box 241 • St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands 00831-0241

♦ OurLadyof MountCarmelstjohn ♦ OLMC VI Virgin Islands ♦



From the desk of the pastor

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Lord be with you. It is good to know that we are never alone, and that God is always with us. (Matthew 28:30).

At the beginning of every Mass, the priest reminds us – do not be afraid, the Lord is with you. God is with us to guide, protect, provide and minister to all our needs.

Scripture reminds us if God is for us who can be against us. Nothing, no one!

1 Samuel 17:50-53 tells us about David that David defeated Goliath. God was with David. He had a relationship with his covenant keeping God. A God he knew promised to guide, provide and protect him. Therefore, he knew Goliath was no match for his God.

Sometimes we forget the God we serve is almighty, invincible and unstoppable. He never lost a battle and never will. Do we believe God is fighting for us? Then why are we afraid of the Goliaths in our lives. God has provided the stone to slay the enemy. Do not be afraid to stand before your Goliath. Nothing is impossible with God. Actually, the battle is the Lord's, and the victory is ours (Chronicles 20:15). This means we need to step aside and let God move.

My dear friends remember, therefore, that the Lord our God is God indeed. Above him there is no other. He remains the faithful God who keeps his promises and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands. (Deuteronomy 7:9)

Stay in the fight!

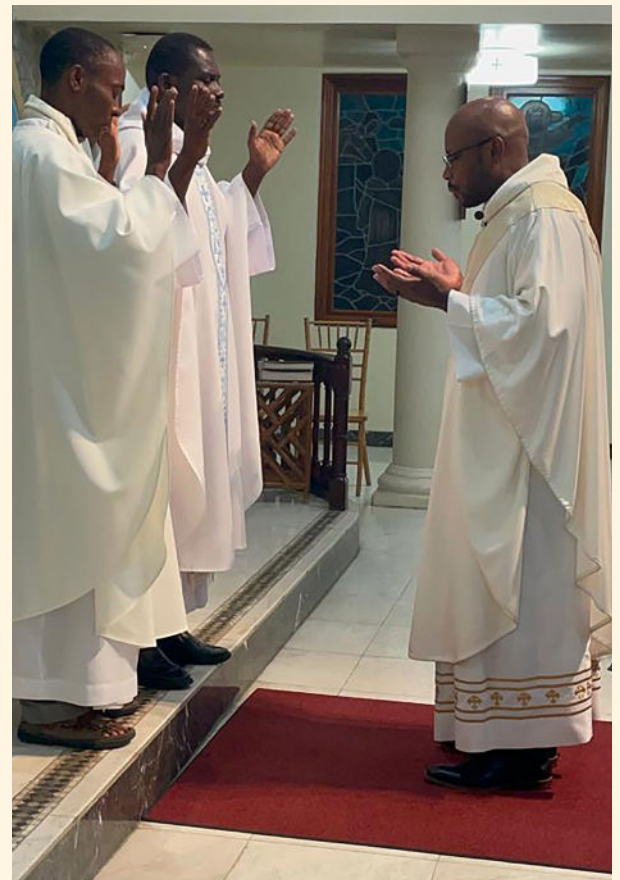
In Christ,

Rev. Fr. Anthony Abraham, Pastor

Fr. Anthony's 15th anniversary



Fr. Anthony Abraham celebrated his 15th anniversary to the priesthood with a Thanksgiving Mass on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023. Fr. Prince and Fr. Dominic con-celebrated the Mass.



Fr. Dominic and Fr. Prince gave Fr. Anthony a blessing.

St. Therese Chapel Groundbreaking



If you wish to make a donation towards this project, please scan the QR code, contact the OLMC Rectory, or visit: <https://olmcvi.org/st-therese/>

Catholic Charities OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

ST. JOHN SOUP KITCHEN



← Mary Ignace Dalmida,
Assistant Cook



“Whoever is kind to the poor
lends to the Lord, and he will
reward them for what they
have done.” – Proverbs 19:17

Catholic Charities, St. John, is comprised of 3 staff members, our cook, Sonia Athanaze, Asst. Cook, Mary Ignace Dalmida, and myself, Digna Doway, supervisor/case worker. We are, however, blessed to have many people who volunteer with us on a daily basis. Even visitors to our shores sometimes grace us with their presence in our kitchen.

This month we will feature Ms. Dalmida. Ms. Dalmida, or Ignace as she is commonly called, is the longest and oldest member of our staff. She began working with Catholic Charities in December 2017 after Hurricane Irma devastated the island. Ms. Dalmida likes to start her morning early, I suppose remembering her days at Caneel Bay. She prepares breakfast; attends to clients who want to use the shower; assists in the kitchen; drives to Coral Bay where we also deliver meals daily; and whatever else needs to be done, you can count on her.

She is very diligent and hardworking. She has her method of doing her work and you can count on her to correct you if things are not done properly. Although she is older, she continues to do her duties to the best of her ability. She loves her job.

At a meeting recently with Bishop Jerome, she asked him at what age should one stop working? The Bishop turned around and said to her, “does a mother stop caring for her kids”? At that, we all laughed, and she said that was her answer. As long as she has health and strength, she will continue to work to take care of the less fortunate that God has placed in her care. We are truly blessed to have her as part of the Catholic Charities family. May God reward you Ignace for all you do.

Always remember that “whatever you do to the least of my brothers you do it unto me, says the Lord” Matthew 25:40.

Mrs. Digna Doway

Case Manager
St. John, USVI

Youth trip to DC

On September 21, 2023, two members of the OLMC youth group, (Shari Raphael and Lynnea Jean), had the opportunity to go to Washington DC.

The purpose of the trip was to play with the Love City Pan Dragons, at the Annual Congressional Black Caucus Conference's Prayer Breakfast. The CBC is a legislative caucus within Congress that aims to put forward legislation to support Black Americans and marginalized communities.

The V.I. Delegate to Congress, Stacey Plaskett was the one who requested pan be played and Ian Samuel made sure that the Love City Pan Dragons represented the Virgin Islands at this event, with funding provided by Love City Strong.

We visited different sites such as; The United States Capitol, The Washington Monument, The Freedom Wall (The wall has 4,048 gold stars, each representing 100 Americans who died in the war) and The Lincoln Memorial. We



also visited the Cultural Academy for Excellence (CAFE), an after-school music program. CAFE, provided pans for the Pan Dragons to use

during our performance, and Ronald Lee Jr, a former instructor and former Pan Dragons member, was instrumental in securing and transporting the pans.

At first, we performed as everyone entered the building, but there weren't many people at the event at that time as yet. When we performed the second time around, we were able to give the large crowd a taste of our culture. We received a

huge round of applause, and everyone was happy with our performance.

In conclusion, we loved the trip, and we think it was a great opportunity for us to come and bless the ears of people who have never heard the sound of steel pan music in their lives and to also play alongside our friends.

We want to say a special thank you to all who made this trip possible.

VIHFA Grant - Our Lady of Charity Transitional Homeless Shelter



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Homeless Facility Construction Project (*Our Lady of Charity Homeless Shelter*) has received a

favorable recommendation for funding in the amount of \$591,874.80. There are still additional funds needed to complete the project. **Scan the QR code to help us reach our final goal!**

The Power of Patience

By Claudia Verdant

There is almost nothing we cannot have with the click of a button. With the convenience of the internet, the world's interconnectedness, and the shift to modernizing and digitalizing everything, we believe immediate satisfaction is the only way to live and survive. We are not entitled to have all our needs, wants, and expectations met immediately and conveniently without friction. We grow impatient and unwilling to live life at the pace it actually happens when we have such unrealistic beliefs and expectations.

While exercising patience is difficult or seemingly impossible for some, an impatient person experiences dissatisfaction and irritability. An impatient person is quick to anger, unkind, and not a joy to be around. Impatience will bleed into our relationship with others, our relationship with ourselves, and our relationship with God.

Patience with others

We have to be patient with others. We must be patient with those we live with, work with, and meet on the street, whether we see them every day or once a year, regardless of whether they're strangers or estranged family members or friends. Daily, we face situations that try our patience: waiting on hold for 45 minutes with customer service, misbehaving kids, the line at FirstBank is out the main door, and only one barge is in service. It's even more difficult to persevere with a good attitude and be patient when we are ill, stressed, or tired. However, hot tempers and impatience will not bring us or others peace (Proverbs 15:18).

Patience with ourselves

We have to be patient with ourselves. Imagine falling into a sin recently or continually repeating the same sin over and over. We're down on ourselves for our actions.

We thought we were past this point, past this sin, thought we were better than that. We become angry, frustrated, and despondent. This is all pride and embarrassment and should be rejected. Instead, we must bring the failing and our thoughts to the Divine Physician, whose mercy meets our wretchedness (Matthew 9:9-13).

Patience with God

We have to be patient with God. I know we have prayed to God and found our prayers were not answered according to our criteria or in a self-imposed, timely manner. There are times we have prayed for healing, employment, a spouse, compassion, conversion, faith, wealth, etc., and the request was unanswered, and the situation worsened. It seemed as if God was absent, not listening, or indifferent to our petitions and aggravating situations. We risk questioning God's promises, timing, and faithfulness when we do not get what we want. We need to remember God's ways transcend and supersede ours in planning, wisdom, and love. His plans, designs, and care are all for our good. Therefore, we must trust God and have patience in God's timing and plan for our lives (Psalm 37:7).

Saint Paul calls patience a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22), and Father Joseph Esper, author and a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit, said, "Almost all of us need to grow in patience...but most of us are in no particular hurry to do so." Patience means kindness, tolerance, wisdom, strength, and equanimity. Patience means understanding, trusting, faithfulness, and reliance on God. Patience is powerful.

"Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instead set about remedying them, every day begin the task anew."

—Saint Francis de Sales

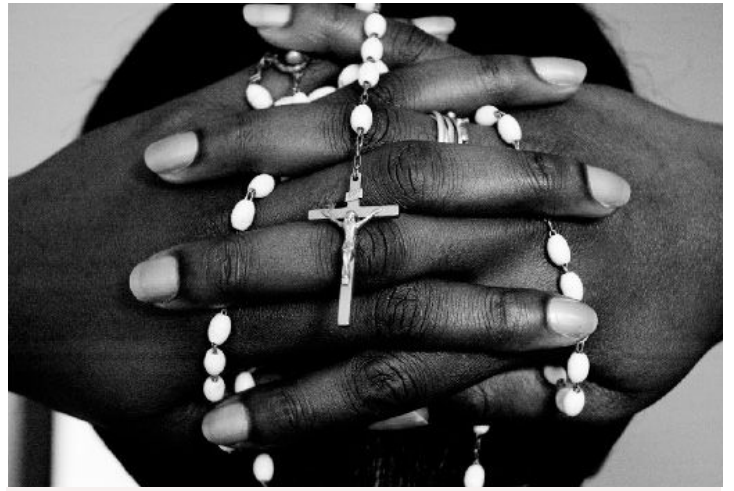


◆ Claudia Verdant, a St. John resident, is a Major in the U.S. Army. She is also a parishioner of OLMC.

Deacon Mike's anniversary



▲ Deacon Michael Jackson Sr. celebrated his third anniversary to the Diaconate on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, surrounded by some of his family and friends.



Hurricane Season Prayer

God our Father, all elements of nature obey Your command. Keep us safe from the danger of hurricanes and all other natural disasters. Let us always feel the presence of Your love. May we be secure in Your protection and turn our fears into praise of your goodness. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

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)
5:30 p.m. (Spanish)

Weekdays:

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



Artistic
Villas

The Beach Estate
ST. JOHN, VIRGIN ISLANDS

800-253-7107

info@artisticvillas.com
www.artisticvillas.com



CARIBBEAN
PLANNING.com

Caribbeanprovisions.planning@gmail.com

**Your Personal
Concierge**

Welcome baskets, provisions,
charters, vacation planning,
baby equipment, babysitting
and much more

340-201-0029

Jessica Schnell, PT, DPT
Chris Reinbold, PT, DPT, OC



ST. JOHN PHYSICAL
THERAPY

Mailing Address: St. John Physical Therapy
5000 Estate Enighed #535
St. John VI 00830

Fax: 340-693-0148
800-403-8365
340-514-2376

http://www.stjphysicaltherapy.com/



MORGAN'S
MANGO

*Cruisines
of the Caribbean*

Cruz Bay
St John, USVI
340.693.8141
morgansmango@islands.vi



MUETTES

Lisa Etre VI Artist

Inspired by island
beauty...

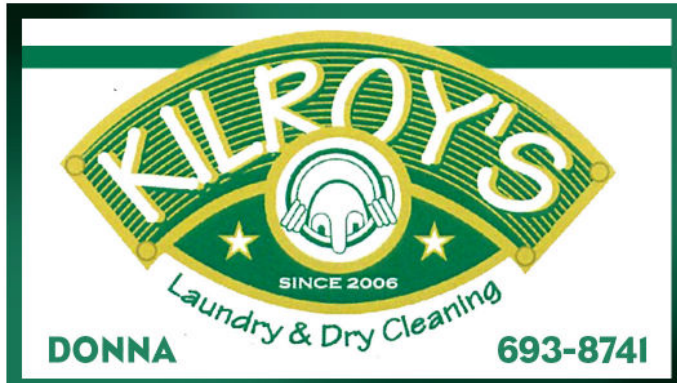
lisaetre.com



St John
SCOOPS

U.S. Virgin Islands

"We Make it Fresh, Everyday!"
Open 9am - 11pm



KILROY'S

SINCE 2006

Laundry & Dry Cleaning

DONNA 693-8741



COURTESY CAR RENTALS

Prompt & Affordable, Professional Service

Greg Edward

P.O. Box 1316
Cruz Bay, St. John
USVI 00831
www.courtesycarrental.com

Days 340 776 6650
Fax 340 776 6734
Evenings 693 8672
info@courtesycarrental.com



SOCIAL MAVENS

A marketing & communications agency

BOSTON AGENCY

ISLAND EXPERIENCE

SOCIALMAVENS.COM



Cool Runnings
TAXI

Peace be the Journey
Open Air Safari Bus
Sightseeing Tours, Beach Trips

John Abraham
P.O. Box 927 • Cruz Bay
St. John U.S.V.I. 00831
Home: (340) 693-5207
Cell: (340) 513-2928

Safari Bus
Tag # JP 0092