

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

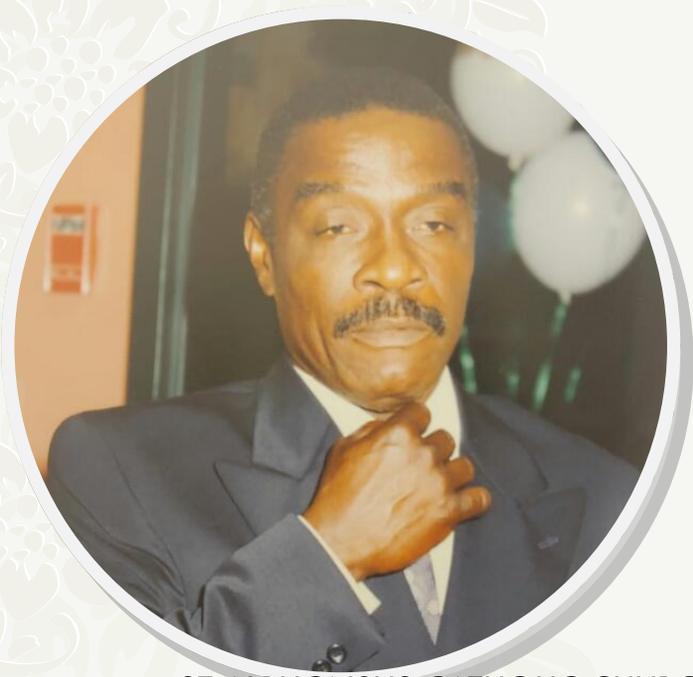
We cannot fully express our heartfelt appreciation for all the love, support, and expression of sympathy you have shown to our family during this time. We are grateful for all the kindness extended to us whether through a visit, call or prayer. Thank you and may God continue to bless you.

The Christian Family



## Mass of Christian Burial

*Raphael Toulon Christian*



ST ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH  
WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER 2020  
3:00PM

SUNRISE SEPTEMBER 23RD 1950  
SUNSET JULY 31ST 2020

## Order of Mass

Celebrant	Fr Charles Martin
Entrance	Canticle of the sun
First Reading	Proverbs 31: 10-31
Responsorial Psalm	Shepherd me O God
Second Reading	Romans 6: 3-9
Gospel Acclamation	Alleluia (Fr Ho Long)
Offertory	Here I am Lord
Holy	Sanctus
Memorial Acclamation	Save us, Saviour of the World (Dan Schutte)
Great Amen	Amen, Alleluia
Lord's Prayer	Our Father (Jean Lawrence)
Lamb of God	Fr Ho Long
Communion	We Remember
Thanksgiving	My Stronghold
Recessional	How Great Thou Art



I wanted to stay, but I had to go. I know you will miss me but in time you will know. I am in no more pain and back to whole. To heaven I am gone but you will still have my soul. I am an angel now and a handsome one at that., still smart and intelligent with the personality to match. I have lived my life; just ask my family 'mercy mercy'. So I was ready to go to do my heavenly duties because i'm in heaven you know.

Jerome, Neville, Malcolm and Cromwell my four kings, I love you so much and keep shining real bright like the stars you are. You have all been here for me in good and bad times so hold your head high and stop crying for me.

Now back to me, you know I like to boast. I am the total package so you know God has chosen me to lead many important tasks. But since I just got here, I am having a ball. So my children, just take it easy, no crying, no fussing. Just dream of me and I will be there. And call my name and I will appear, even if you don't see me, just know I care. Rafy is out of pain, sitting with God. Sipping on tea while sitting in my chair. My body is gone but my soul is still here and you will see daddy's body is well and has been repaired. I am gone with God; He took me to Heaven and let me tell you! It's absolutely great up there!

Touls

## EULOGY

Raphael Toulon Christian was born on Sept. 23, 1950, in Glanvilia, Portsmouth, He passed away on July 31, 2020 at the age of 69 in Bayamon, Puerto Rico but resided in St John USVI for over 24 years.

He was the loving father of four sons, Jerry, Nevo, Marley and Cromy. He was a kind hearted person, to whom nothing was too much to give. He had a great love for music and enjoyed listening to Sparrow and Nat King Cole. He loved to pen and sing calypso. For a few years he competed on the calypso stage in Dominica under the stage name **Prince Ony**. In 1988 during the reunion '88 celebrations, he won the independence song competition with his rendition 'Miss Tourist'

***"An isle of beauty an Isle of nature, an isle of splendor that is no gesture. I want to stay here, I want to live here, I should be born in Dominica."***

***In 1985 he graced the calypso stage with his first penned piece entitled "Dominica I love you"...Dominica I love you, yes I love you and with all that love I'll learn to pave my way....Dominica we love you, yes we love you, we will love you more each independence Day."*** A patriotic Dominican he was and so he raised his children to be the same.

Family meant everything to him. He loved dearly his children and ten grandchildren Kareem, Miles, Rachim, Joshua, Nerville, Darnel, Charmalla, Chloe, Narvin, Noah and his beloved great grand daughter, Kerdaya. He had a special place for his nieces and nephews both in Dominica and abroad and his surviving sisters.

Rafy as he was affectionately known in St. John enjoyed a good game of draft and a good joke. But something which always took his fancy was the English dictionary and the joy of using new words at every opportunity. He loved fishing and having a good time. A smoke and a drink of Brugal were his relaxing moments.

He will surely be missed by all those who knew him.

## ENTRANCE

### **Canticle of the Sun**

The heavens are telling the glory of god, and all creation is shouting for joy, come, dance in the forest, come play in the field and sing, sing to the glory of the Lord.

Sing to the sun, the bringer of day, "he carries the light of the Lord in his rays, "the moon and the stars, who light up the way unto your throne.

Praise to the wind, that blows through the trees, the seas mighty storms, the gentlest breeze, they blow where they will, they blow where they please, to please the Lord.

Praise to the rain that waters our fields, and blesses our crops, so all the earth yields, from death unto life her myst'ry concealed, springs forth in joy.

Praise to the fire, who gives us his light, the warmth of the sun to brighten our night, he dances with joy, his spirit so bright, he sings of You.

Sing to the earth, who makes life to grow, the creatures You made to let Your life show, the flowers and trees that help us to know the Heart of Love.

Praise to our death, that makes our life real, the knowledge of loss that helps us to feel, the Gift of Yourself, Your Presence revealed to bring us home



## PSALM

Shepherd me, O God

Shepherd me, O God  
Beyond my wants  
Beyond my fears  
From death into life

God is my shepherd  
So nothing I shall want  
I rest in the meadows  
Of faithfulness and love  
I walk by the quiet waters  
Of peace

Gently You raise me  
And heal my weary soul  
You lead me by pathways  
Of righteousness and truth  
My spirit shall sing  
The music of Your Name

Though I should wander  
The valley of death I fear no evil  
For You are at my side  
Your rod and Your staff  
My comfort and my hope

You have set me  
A banquet of love  
In the face of hatred  
Crowning me with love  
Beyond my power to hold

Surely Your kindness and mercy  
follow me  
All the days of my life  
I will dwell in the house of my  
God forevermore

## OFFERTORY

### **Here I Am Lord**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in darkness now  
My hand will save.

I who make the stars of night,  
I will make their dark-ness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. It is I Lord.  
I have heard you calling in the  
night.  
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them.  
They turn a-way.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
Give them hearts for love a-lone.  
I will speak my words to them.  
Whom shall I send?

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide,  
Till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

## BE NOT AFRAID

You shall cross the barren de-  
sert, but you shall not die of  
thirst

You shall wander far in safety  
though you do not know the  
way

You shall speak your words to  
foreign men and they will un-  
derstand

You shall see the face of God  
and live

***Be not afraid  
I go before you always  
Come follow me  
And I will give you rest***

If you pass through raging wa-  
ters in the sea, you shall not  
drown

If you walk amid the burning  
flames, you shall not be harmed  
If you stand before the pow'r of  
hell and death is at your side  
Know that I am with you  
through it all

Blessed are your poor, for the  
kingdom shall be theirs  
Blest are you that weep and  
mourn, for one day you shall  
laugh

And if wicked men insult and  
hate you all because of me

## BECAUSE HE LIVES

God sent His son, they called Him  
Jesus;  
He came to love, heal and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my  
Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomor-  
row,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance:  
This child can face uncertain days  
because He Lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomor-  
row,

Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

And then one day, I'll cross the river,  
I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
And then, as death gives way to  
vict'ry,  
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know  
He lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomor-  
row,  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living,  
Just because He lives!

## GRAVESIDE HYMNS

### WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

What a friend we have in Jesus  
All our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer  
O what peace we often forfeit  
O what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer

Have we trials and temptations  
Is there trouble anywhere  
We should never be discouraged  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful  
who will all our sorrows share  
Jesus knows our every weakness  
Take it to the Lord in prayer

Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care  
Rest on Him Thy Spirit's burden  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee  
Take it to the Lord in prayer  
In his arms he'll take and shield thee  
Thou wilt find a solace there

Even though I  
walk through the  
valley of the  
shadow of  
death, I will fear  
no evil, for you  
are with me;  
your rod and  
your staff, they  
comfort me.



Psalm 23:4

## COMMUNION

### We Remember

#### CHORUS

We remember how you loved us to your death,  
and still we celebrate, for you are with us here;  
and we believe that we will see you when you come in your glory, Lord.  
We remember, we celebrate, we believe.

Here, a million wounded souls are yearning  
just to touch you and be healed.  
Gather all your people, and hold them to your heart.  
(CHORUS)

Now we recreate your love, we bring the bread and wine to share a meal.  
Sign of grace and mercy, the presence of the Lord.  
(CHORUS)

Christ, the Father's great "Amen" to all the hopes and dreams of ev'ry heart,  
Peace beyond all telling, and freedom from all fear.  
(CHORUS)

See the face of Christ revealed in ev'ry person standing by your side,  
Gift to one another, and temples of your love.  
(CHORUS)

