

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KHS Pastor

Rev. José Rivera, *Summer Assistant*

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. Brian Muzás

Weekend Assistants

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella Betty Ann Niece

Religious Education

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Gail McElroy & Jerryl Pulis

Jr. High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:30pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

First Saturday: 8:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday: 12:00pm Mass for Souls in Purgatory

Sundays: at 3PM Group Rosary

Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

Rosary: Recited M - Sat after 8:00am & 12Noon Mass.

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 2:00-3:00pm

Thursday-Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction: 7:00pm

Friday-Exposition & Adoration: 12:30PM-3:00pm

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am. First Friday at 7:00pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:25pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.

SUNDAY, July 3, 2016

Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy



WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00pm, 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)

9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,

1:00pm (Spanish)

6:00pm & 7:00pm

Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00am & 12:00noon



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
201-768-1400
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent
201-768-1705

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **OLV PARISH** may be restored to health and all those who **ASSIST** and **CARE** for the sick will be given the **STRENGTH** to continue **GOD'S GOOD WILL**: Br. Pius, Joseph Accardi, Maria Aleman, William Biasi, Terry Boyle, Michael Conmy, Kamal Faris, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Ken Mosier, Kathleen Musante, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Danny Rizzi, Ginny Romeo, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie and George Rush, Cynthia Simonelli, Mildred Speck, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Darien Wesler, Al Wiese, Roy Wurst, Marian Zanetti, Elaine Zito.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"That person is truly blessed who understands what it is to love Jesus and to serve Him with deep humility. Jesus wishes to be loved above all things; everything else must come second. The love of anything other than Jesus is deceptive and fickle; the love of Jesus is faithful and enduring." **Thomas A Kempis**
THE IMITATION OF CHRIST Book 2 Chapter 7

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
Midshipman Jon Clemente, US Navy;
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
Captain Michael Franson, US Army;
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
Corporal Richard McKenna, USMC;
Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Thirteen Stars and Thirteen Stripes

It was on JUNE 14, 1777, that the Second Continental Congress selected the Flag of the United States. In 1916, Woodrow Wilson signed the Proclamation making JUNE 14 "National Flag Day." On Flag Day, 1942, Franklin D. Roosevelt stated: "The belief in man, created free, in the image of God - is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face...God of the free...grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men." On JUNE 14, 1954, Dwight Eisenhower signed Joint Resolution (Public Law 396) adding the phrase "One Nation Under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Eisenhower stated: "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's true meaning." President Eisenhower ended: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war."

God Bless America.

SUN/SON TAN

During the summer we often go down the shore to "work" on our tans. We may spend an hour in the sun and get "burned" by the sun. Imagine how much good spending an hour before the Son of God will do us. Why don't you stop by the Church on Thursday evenings at 7PM.

SAVE USED EYEGLASSES

The Knights of Columbus collects used and old eyeglasses for the less fortunate. Any old or "retired" glasses may be left in the basket in the back of Church.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness...you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week. If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world. If you can attend church without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death...you are more blessed than 3 billion people in the world. If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of the world. If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy. If your parents are still alive and are still married...you are very lucky, even if you live in the US. If you can read this, you received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you and furthermore, you are more blessed than over 2 billion people in the world who cannot read at all. Someone once said, "What goes around comes around." So: Work like you don't need the money. Love like you've never been hurt. Dance like nobody's watching. Sing like nobody's listening. Live like it's Heaven on Earth.

JOIN A MINISTRY THAT HAS NO MEETINGS

Become one of our OLV prayer team members. There are no meetings, so this apostolate is wonderful for all, including those parishioners who are homebound. For information, please phone Maria at the rectory.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON PRAYER GROUP

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:30PM-3:30PM we have a group who are praying a **Marian Novena Rosary** in Church in front of the Blessed Sacrament. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

OLV Knights of Columbus

All men over 18 are invited to join the OLV parish's Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. For more info or to join, contact Bob Tringali at 201-768-0648.

GOING ON VACATION

Visit www.masstimes.org for the locations of Catholic Churches and a Mass schedule, throughout the USA.

What the Catechism Says

"In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church, the Apostles left Bishops as their successors. They gave them "their own position of teaching authority." Indeed, "the apostolic preaching, which is expressed in a special way in the inspired books, was to be preserved in a continuous line of succession until the end of time." **The Catechism of the Catholic Church #77**

2017 Mass Book OPEN

The OLV 2017 Mass book is now open. Please contact the rectory to reserve your Mass for 2017.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

- Jul 5 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:15-3:15PM
- Jul 6—Wed—OLV Needlers
- Jul 8—Fri— Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
- Jul 9 - Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00 Noon 3:00-3:25PM
- Jul 9—Sat—AA basement of Church 6:30-8:30PM

Sisters of Charity 50/50 Raffle

Sr. Elizabeth will be selling raffle tickets this weekend to support Maris Stella Retreat Center. Tickets are \$20 each or 3 for \$50. Three prizes: 1st prize 25%, 2nd prize 15%, 3rd prize 10% of gross receipts. Drawing will be held on Labor Day, September 5, at Maris Stella. Winner need not be present. Please make checks payable to Sisters of Charity.

Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne

Young women who are discerning a religious vocation with the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne will have a weekend of sharing at the Motherhouse in Hawthorne NY July 29 –31, 2016 Questions call Sr. Alma Marie 845-745-1319 or Hawthorne-Dominican.org

FRIDAY ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays after Noon Mass – 3:00PM. So stop by and adore our Eucharistic Lord.

Divine Gifts and Promises

When we honor the Saints, we do not worship or adore them; not even the great Mother of God, Mary Most Holy, merits what God alone deserves. However, they are among the many gifts God gives to us; with their guidance and example, their prayers and intercession, the Saints (and Angels, too!) reflect Divine Light into this world’s darkness. That gives us the ability to see, as they saw, what God is calling us to do, and what gifts God is providing so that we can “share the lot of the Saints in light.”

THE WAY OUT

How did we humans get where we are? How do we get out? Genesis—through the Adam and Eve narrative explains that we got separated from God and happiness through greed, selfishness, arrogance. But, as Paul explained to the Romans, God has not abandoned us, and never will. We get out through the “new Adam,” Jesus Christ, through whom the death of sin is conquered by the life of “overflowing grace.” From the start, though, Jesus—like Adam and Eve, like you and me—had to face “the tempter.” Shown fame and wealth, he was tempted to grab for it. But Jesus saw through such foolishness. During Lent we will look at what the tempter spreads before us daily, then try to make choices that put us on the side of the angels.

DID YOU KNOW???

That Guglielmo Marconi, a devout Roman Catholic of Irish/Italian descent is credited with perfecting a practical wireless radio system. By 1932, he had successfully installed a working radio-telephone system between Vatican City and Castel Gandolfo, the Pope’s summer residence. But the impetus for his research in the wireless derived from a fantastic theory - Marconi believed, erroneously, that sound waves, as well as electromagnetic radio waves, travel out into space without fully dissipating. He imagined that these sound waves, produced by human speech, would leave behind a faint residual pattern which could be amplified and reproduced through the workings of a radio receiver. Incredible as it seems, with the most pious of intentions, Marconi was obsessed with the desire to intercept, by radio, the seven last words spoken by Our Lord on the Cross!

SAVE THE DATE– JULY 13–16

Attention Young Men in High School!—there will be a Quo Vadis Retreat—“Where are you going” retreat. The retreat is an opportunity to examine where your life is going. This retreat is designed to help young men to understand their baptismal call to holiness by the priesthood, religious life or marriage. On this retreat, you will take the time out of your busy life to ask God where He desires to lead you. If interested see Fr. Bryan or go to www.newpriestnj.com.

Why do we have to attend Mass every Sunday?

Throughout our two thousand years of Church history, Sunday has been set aside as “the Lord’s Day,” to celebrate God’s greater creation of the world. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, “The Sabbath brings everyday work to a halt and provides a respite. It is a day of protest against the servitude of work and the worship of money” (CCC 2172). Observing Sunday as the Lord’s Day helps us to keep our worship of God outward, visible, public, and regular.

Sunday is also the day we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. The Church instructs us to attend Mass each Sunday because that is where Jesus gives us what we need to stay strong in the world. Just as we take food into our bodies, so we take in Christ through the Eucharist. His body is real food and His blood is real drink (John 6:55-57). The resulting grace helps us to overcome our daily temptations and fulfill our responsibilities. And our faithful Communion will bring us eternal life in Heaven.

Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help

The Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help is site of the only approved apparition of the Blessed Virgin in the United States. Our Lady appeared there to a young Belgian immigrant woman Adele Brise in October 1859. She warned Adele that unless souls converted they would be punished by God. She asked Adele to pray for the conversion of sinners and also to teach the faith to the children of the region. Adele did as the Virgin requested, and, as a Third Order Franciscan Sister, eventually founded a small boarding school on the site, which witnessed a miraculous intervention from Heaven that is well worth reflecting upon.

The Midwest was ravaged by drought in the year 1871, and a thriving lumber industry left piles of dry brush all over great stretches of land in Illinois and Wisconsin, effectively turning the region into a vast tinderbox ready to explode into flame. On October 8, 1871, the Great Chicago Fire destroyed four square miles of the city and took the lives of 250 people. The same storm system that fueled the fire spawned the Peshtigo Fire: a series of blazes firestorms, and fire tornados that soon raged across the entire Wisconsin peninsula. After weeks with absolutely no rain, the fires were impossible to contain, and vast acres of land and homes, even whole towns, went up in flame.

The inhabitants of the region fled before what became a terrifying inferno, likened by a survivor to a blizzard of coals and sparks driven by a horrific wind. The Sisters at the shrine site, however, refused to abandon it. Others took refuge with them on the six-acre plot, which soon was surrounded by fire on all sides. When the wind and fire exposed them to suffocation, they turned in another direction, desperate in the helplessness but unwaivering in their hope. Processing on their knees with a statue of the Blessed Virgin before them and rosaries in their hands, they cried out to their heavenly Mother for protection.

Our Lady heard their prayers. Rain began to fall heavily. The fires died down and eventually were extinguished altogether. Over 2,400 square miles of land had been destroyed, and 1,500 to 2,500 people had lost their lives. The entire region was a blackened ruin... all, that is, but the six acres of land consecrated to the Virgin Mary, “an emerald island amid a sea of ashes,” proof of Heaven’s care and the power of Our Lady’s rosary.

Rev. Fr. Gerard Beck-Rector, St. Mary’s Academy and College

Why be rebellious in God's house?

People generally have no real problem wearing proper clothing when entering places that demand such attire. Would you ever consider attending a formal dinner or a wedding dressed in a tee shirt and shorts, or a tank top and swimming trunks?

Please dress appropriately when coming to Mass.

CLOTHING BINS

True Freedom is found in our Lord Jesus Christ who liberated us from sin through his death and resurrection. As we rejoice with our fellow-Americans for the independence we enjoy in the United States, let us never forget those who are restricted by the chains of poverty. Why not celebrate your freedom by an act of kindness? One way to do this is by donating your unwanted clothing and shoes to the Catholic Charities donation bin located on our property. Thank you.

QUESTION?

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists, eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners; men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured. Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags. Thomas McKeam was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward. Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton. At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt. Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months. John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. **So, take a few minutes while enjoying your 4th of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid. Remember: freedom is never free! I hope you will show your support by sending this to as many people as you can, please. It's time we get the word out that patriotism is NOT a sin, and the Fourth of July has more to it than beer, picnics, and baseball games.**

Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation FOOD DRIVE

During June and July—OLV will be having a food collection to help Catholic Charities feed the homeless during the summer months. Summertime means increased hardship for many needy families in the Archdiocese who rely on school breakfast and lunch programs to feed their children's nutritional needs. Food pantries are hard pressed to provide for these hungry people since many food collections drop off or stop for the summer months. Last summer over 50,000 people turned to the 50 faith-based food pantries supported by Catholic Charities (over 40% of these were children).

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 4 – St. Elizabeth of Portugal - Queen

8:00 Charles F. Scott R/b Tony and Laura Scott

No 12:00 Mass today

Tuesday, July 5-St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria - Priest

8:00 Lucy Soldavin R/b the Zanetti Family

12:00 Ellen Vaughn R/b Stephen and Robin Hartman

Wednesday, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti, virgin

8:00 Dan Gallagher R/b the Barrett Family

12:00 Jo Ann Taylor R/b Claire Kinn

Thursday, July 7—Bl. Ralph Milner and Roger Dickenson, Martyrs

8:00 Ted Gormley R/b the Gormley Family

12:00 Rose Bandiera R/b the Garzino Family

Friday, July 8 - St. Grimbald, Abbot of Newminster

8:00 Eileen Seneca R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich

12:00 Angela Carboneri R/b Anthony and Barbara Zito

Saturday, July 9 – St. Augustine Zhao Rong and companions

8:00 Gelsomina and Bartolomeo Merola R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara

12:00 Mary Gween R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich

4:00 Br. Rudy Youngmans R/b Jim and Rose Youngmans

5:00 James and Alice Attas R/b Marie Michaels and Josephine J. Fogarino

Sunday, July 10—St. Ulric of Augsburg, Germany-Bishop

7:30 James Byrnes R/b Jim and Rose Youngmans

8:15 People of the Parish R/b Valley PTO Board

9:30 Zonnia Serrano-Ingraham R/b Bill and Felicia Klingenberg

10:45 Patrick Gaughan R/b Robert and Laura Neumann

12:00 Anton Mikovsky R/b Tony and Laura Scott

1:00 Domingo A. Jiminez R/b the Piccinich Family

6:00 Dolores Tarabocchia R/b Nicholas Ottomanelli

7:00 Weinschreider Family

Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Louis Bahoritsch-3rd Anniversary, r/b Marion Bahoritsch.

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns for the souls in Purgatory.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Michael Giotta, r/b the Giotta family.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp Votive Lamp burns this week for the unemployed.

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns for the intentions of the men and women who serve in defense of our country.

FYI

Cousins in Norwood owned by the Risch family has been reopened after the January fire.

The Harrington Park Meat Market has been reopened by OLV's Fichera family.

Flavors of Cuba/Presto Restaurant in Harrington Park will make a donation to OLV when you patronize the restaurant and tell them you're from OLV.

AA meets in the basement at OLV on Saturday nights from 6:30-8:30PM.

STEWARDSHIP

MY FAMILY – MY PARISH – MY RESPONSIBILITY

As your expenses increase, so do the Church's, but we rely on your generosity to meet our expenses. Please be generous.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Maryland
2. Charles Carroll
3. John Carroll
4. John F. Kennedy
5. Elizabeth Ann Seton

History Lesson - The Star Spangled Banner

OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM....IN GOD DO WE TRUST!

Unless you know all four stanzas of the Star Spangled Banner you may find this most interesting. Perhaps most of you didn't realize what Francis Scott Key's profession was or what he was doing on a ship. This is a good brush-up on your history. In 1812, the United States went to war with Great Britain, primarily over freedom of the seas. We were in the right. For two years, we held off the British, even though we were still a rather weak country. Great Britain was in a life and death struggle with Napoleon. In fact, just as the United States declared war, Napoleon marched off to invade Russia. If he won, as everyone expected, he would control Europe, and Great Britain would be isolated. It was no time for her to be involved in an American war.

At first, our seamen proved better than the British. After we won a battle on Lake Erie in 1813, the American commander, Oliver Hazard Perry, sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." However, the weight of the British navy beat down our ships eventually. New England, hard-hit by a tightening blockade, threatened secession. Meanwhile, Napoleon was beaten in Russia and in 1814 was forced to abdicate. Great Britain now turned its attention to the United States, launching a three-pronged attack.

The northern prong was to come down Lake Champlain toward New York and seize parts of New England. The southern prong was to go up the Mississippi, take New Orleans and paralyze the west. The central prong was to head for the mid-Atlantic states and then attack Baltimore, the greatest port south of New York. If Baltimore was taken, the nation, which still hugged the Atlantic coast, could be split in two. The fate of the United States, then, rested to a large extent on the success or failure of the central prong. The British reached the American coast, and on August 24, 1814, took Washington, D.C. Then they moved up the Chesapeake Bay toward Baltimore. On September 12, they arrived and found 1,000 men in Fort McHenry, whose guns controlled the harbor. If the British wished to take Baltimore, they would have to take the fort. On one of the British ships was an aged physician, William Beanes, who had been arrested in Maryland and brought along as a prisoner. Francis Scott Key, a lawyer and friend of the physician, had come to the ship to negotiate his release. The British captain was willing, but the two Americans would have to wait. It was now the night of September 13, and the bombardment of Fort McHenry was about to start. As twilight deepened, Key and Beanes saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry. Through the night, they heard bombs bursting and saw the red glare of rockets. They knew the fort was resisting and the American flag was still flying. But toward morning the bombardment ceased, and a dread silence fell. Either Fort McHenry had surrendered and the British flag flew above it, or the bombardment had failed and the American flag still flew.

As dawn began to brighten the eastern sky, Key and Beanes stared out at the fort, trying to see which flag flew over it. He and the physician must have asked each other over and over, "Can you see the flag?" After it was all finished, Key wrote a four stanza poem telling the events of the night. Called "The Defense of Fort McHenry," it was published in newspapers and swept the nation. Someone noted that the words fit an old English tune called, "To Anacreon in Heaven" -- a difficult melody with an uncomfortably large vocal range. For obvious reasons, Key's work became known as "The Star Spangled Banner," and in 1931 Congress declared it the official anthem of the United States.

Now that you know the story, here are the words. Presumably, the old doctor is speaking. This is what he asks Key: Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming? And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there. Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave? ("Ramparts," in case you don't know, are the protective walls or other elevations that surround a fort.)

The first stanza asks a question. The second gives an answer:

On the shore, dimly seen thro' the mist of the deep Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes, What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep. As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the

gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream 'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave! "The towering steep" is again, the ramparts. The bombardment has failed, and the British can do nothing more but sail away, their mission a failure. In the third stanza I feel Key allows himself to gloat over the American triumph. In the aftermath of the bombardment, Key probably was in no mood to act otherwise?

During World War I when the British were our staunchest allies, this third stanza was not sung. However, I know it, so here it is:

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion A home and a country should leave us no more? Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution. No refuge could save the hireling and slave From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave, And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

(The fourth stanza, a pious hope for the future, should be sung more slowly than the other three and with even deeper feeling):

Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand Between their loved homes and the war's desolation, Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven - rescued land Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation. Then conquer we must, for our cause is just, And this be our motto --"In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

I hope you will look at the national anthem with new eyes. Listen to it, the next time you have a chance, with new ears. Pay attention to the words. And don't let them ever take it away ... not even one word of it.

How to Know YOU are Growing Old

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt, doesn't work. The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals. You feel like the night before, and you haven't been anywhere. Your knees buckle, but your belt won't. Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D. You get winded playing chess. You look forward to a dull evening. Your children begin to look middle-aged. You join a health club and can't go. A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going. You turn off the lights for economic reasons. You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions. Your back goes out more often than you do. You sink your teeth in a steak, and they stay there. You have too much room in your house, but not enough in the medicine cabinet. The little gray-haired man/woman you helped across the street is your husband/wife.

"MUSIC FOR A SUMMER NIGHT"

"Songs from the Greatest Generation, WWII"

Saturday – July 16, 2016 at 7:30 PM

St. Anthony's Church – Northvale, NJ

*****FREE ADMISSION*****

KIDZ KORNER

1. Which of the original colonies was the Catholic colony?
2. Who was the Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence?
3. Who was the first Catholic bishop in the US?
4. Who was the first Catholic president?
5. Who was America's first native born Saint?

Answers on page four

I live in my own little world but it's OK; everyone knows me here.

Check out OLV's website olvhp.org and find us on Facebook: Our Lady of Victories Parish