

Our Lady of Victories Church

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

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvh.org

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

Sunday, March 26, 2017 A.D.

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. John O'Connor

Rev. Brian Muzás

Latin Mass Assistants

Weekend Assistants

Br. Angelus CFR

Parish Seminarian

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella

Religious Education

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Selena Piazza

Lesla Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Jerryl Pulis & Meagan Mullany

Jr. High School Ministry

Curtiss & Katie Stella

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

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.

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 8:00a.m. & 12:00noon



Find us on
Facebook

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**:

Fr. Apostoli, Br. Pius, a little boy—Finn, Sean, William Biasi, John Bolger, James Brady, Joey Bulger, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Rosanne Kearney, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaai, Teresa Meierdierks, Kathleen Musante, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Odalis Recchia, Mary Rinner, Danny Rizzi, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Yvette Walls, Catherine Wanner.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT "PENANCE"

We all know that we need to be sorry for our sins, and yet we seem to know it much less than we used to. Personal penance, which in some way was painful or unpleasant, used to be part of the Christian life. For Catholics, it meant fasting, extra prayers, generosity to the poor, and just putting up with life without complaining. Somehow, in the last few decades, we moved away from any unpleasantness in fulfilling our Christian duties. We felt we had to have cushy, padded kneelers in church. We now have practically no Eucharistic fast, and our current Lenten fast would have brought laughter to the early Christians or even to those of the early twentieth century. Penance is supposed to be tough. As the three sacred days of Holy Week approach, those of us in the hospital have little opportunity to do traditional penances. Because of illness, we also feel that we are doing enough. Perhaps a lot of other people who are not in the hospital but who have severe problems, heavy crosses, or chronic difficulties with family all feel that they too are doing enough. But this is a time to do more, or to do better what we always do, and to do it with much love for Christ. Because of the film *The Passion of the Christ*, millions of people have a better awareness of what Christ suffered for us. Penance is the scriptural way of showing one's gratitude.

Fr. Benedict Groeschel CFR

There are No Accidents page 10

LENTEN Reading

We just received a huge new order of interesting books and booklets, so visit our bookrack and check out the vast selection of books, booklets, and pamphlets. LENT is a great time to read and become closer to God. Learn more about your Faith, the Saints, Mary, Jesus, or pick up one of the inspirational books in stock. Check out some of our new and interesting titles. Don't have time to read? Listen to a CD in the car since we also have a wide variety of Catholic CDs.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross by **St. Alphonsus Liguori**, on Thursday evenings at 7PM. On Friday evenings after the 7PM Mass there will be the Stations according to the **Franciscan Tradition**. Stations of the Cross, the **Scriptural version** will be held after 8AM Mass on Saturday mornings.

SAVE USED EYEGLASSES

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

POST-ABORTION COUNSELING

Contact PROJECT RACHEL - 908-925-6442.

Remember You are unique; just like everyone else!

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-3:00PM members of OLV parish meet and pray the Mary Mother of All Nations Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

EASTER DUTY

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty), that is the obligation of receiving the Eucharist for Easter extends to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 11. No one conscious of committing a serious or mortal sin should receive Holy Communion until they have first gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation a.k.a. Confession. Confessions are heard EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 3:00-3:30PM, every weekday morning at 7:30AM, and Fridays from 6:30-6:50PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Social Concerns Cereal Collection

The OLV St. Vincent de Paul - Social Concerns Society will be running a breakfast cereal collection to the end of March, as well as a nonperishable food collection. The proceeds will go to the St Cecilia's Food Bank.

Divine Mercy Sunday April 21, 2017

On Divine Mercy Sunday from 3-4pm, there will be a Holy Hour conducted by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. At 4:15pm there will be **Holy Mass offered by Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Fr. Innocent CFR.**

COMMUNION DRESSES/SUITS NEEDED

The First Communion Day of our child is a very special occasion - a day to be celebrated and always remembered! Please help to make a child's First Communion Day one that will be cherished by donating any communion dresses, suits, headpieces or shoes. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please bring all articles, clean and on hangers, to St. John the Baptist Church Parish Ctr., Hillsdale, by April 12th or call Kathy 201-666-4185.

LENT: A SEASON FOR FASTING, A SEASON FOR FEASTING

- FAST from judging others; FEAST on seeing Christ in all.
- FAST from harsh words; FEAST on words that build up others.
- FAST from discontent; FEAST on gratitude.
- FAST from anger; FEAST on patience.
- FAST from pessimism; FEAST on optimism.
- FAST from worry; FEAST on trusting God.
- FAST from complaining; FEAST on appreciation.
- FAST from bitterness; FEAST on forgiveness.
- FAST from criticism; FEAST on compliments.
- FAST from discouragement; FEAST on hope.
- FAST from self-centeredness; FEAST on compassion and service.
- FAST from suspicion and lies; FEAST on the truth.
- FAST from thoughts that weaken; FEAST on promises that inspire.
- FAST from idle gossip; FEAST on silence with a purpose.
- FAST from despair; FEAST on hope in God.
- FAST from trying to "go-it alone"; FEAST on family and friends.
- FAST from hatred and resentment; FEAST on love and forgiveness.

FRIDAY ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 12:00Noon – 3:00PM.

So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.

From Our Ministers of Music...

The Choir is In Need of New Members: If you love singing, please consider donating your time and talent to help us make our worship as beautiful musically as we can. Our choir rehearses each Tuesday evening beginning at 6:30pm. We need YOU.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Mar 28 -Tue—Moms, Pops and Tots 11:30AM-1:30PM
 Mar 28-Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
 Mar 29—Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
 Mar 29 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
 Mar 31 -Fri— Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
 Mar 31—Fri—7:00PM Mass & Stations of the Cross
 Apr 2– Sun—Rosary Society Breakfast w/guest speaker
 Apr 4—Tue—“Passion of Christ” 7:00PM Lower Church
 Apr 18—Tue - Cardinal Tobin Mass/Reception 7:30PM St. Mary Church
 May 21—Sun - 2:00PM -Confirmation

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Private Matthew Brady, U.S. Marine Corps;
 Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
 Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
 Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
 Major Michael Franson, US Army;
 Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
 Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
 1st Lieutenant Thomas Iafate, U.S. Marine Corps;
 Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
 Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
 Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
 Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
 SN Daniel T. LoVecchio, U.S. Navy;
 2nd Lieutenant Gigi McElroy, US Army;
 Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
 Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

Toiletries Collection for the LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Annual Toiletries Collection will be held during the month of March. Please see the shopping list below for suggested donations. Small and medium size toiletries are especially useful.

REQUESTED ITEMS FOR THOSE IN NEED:

Toothpaste	Soap	Disposable razors
Toothbrushes	Lip Balm	Body Lotion (unscented)
Dental Floss	Shampoo	Shaving Cream
Deodorant	Talcum/Baby Powder	Combs/Brushes
Denture Adhesive/Cleanser	Individual Packets of Tissues	

“Life” An Owner’s Manual

Call someone back before it's your turn. Good manners are like grooming: once you've formed the habit, you won't notice ~ but others will. * Remember, there is no "overnight success". Genius without perseverance is wasted. * Say "yes" more often. * Politeness is difficult to maintain in a context of intimate familiarity. This is the principal value of frequent houseguests, * It is natural and fitting to be proud of your accomplishments, but let someone else tell the stories. * The faults we resent most are the ones we recognize most readily. Think how much can be learned from someone we dislike.

CLOTHING BINS

Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we move closer to Christ, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any unwanted clothing and shoes to the Catholic Charities donation bin located on the property? If you do, you have made the connection.

LAETARE SUNDAY

This is the Fourth Sunday in Lent, and it is known as “Laetare” or Rejoicing Sunday. On this Sunday, ROSE, not pink, vestments are worn and flowers are permitted in the Church to signify that Lent is half over. In the past, when Lenten penitence and fast were more severe, today was a mid-point break on which the Church suspended the Lenten Fast for one day.

Women’s Breakfast

The Rosary Society will have their annual Communion Breakfast next weekend - Sunday, April 2 - the featured speaker will be Fr. Fred Miller—The Spiritual Director of The College Seminary. Topic: Forgotten Secrets about the Holy Eucharist Tickets are on sale after all Masses or call Patrice Coyne 201-767-8409 or the OLV Rectory 201-768-1706. \$15 each or \$20 Mother/Daughter Combo. All women and girls welcome!

BOX TOPS COLLECTION

The Archdiocese of Newark is helping the children of St. Joseph’s Catholic school in Jersey City to collect Box Tops for Education. This is a program that was launched by General Mills to help support students and schools across the country. St. Joseph School is trying to collect 200,000 box tops which equates to \$20,000 for an outdoor electronic sign. The students want all to know their school as well as using this sign to evangelize. OLV is helping them in this endeavor. If you would like to donate any box tops to this cause, please mail or drop off at the OLV rectory.

In REPARATION of ABORTION

On Good Friday, April 14, at 9:30AM join the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and the Legion of Mary in doing the Stations of the Cross in Englewood on the way to the Abortion clinic.

The Passion of the Christ

On Tuesday, April 4, at 7pm in the lower church auditorium we will be showing Mel Gibson’s “The Passion of the Christ”. This presentation very powerfully and graphically depicts the suffering and death of Our Lord and Savior, so it might not be suitable for all. We look forward to seeing you there.

Workshop on Social Media/Cyber Bullying

Wednesday, March 29, 7PM at Don Bosco Prep’s De Sales Hall Auditorium (Ramsey, NJ). Sgt. Thomas Rich, (Summit Police Dept) will discuss:

*How do our teens deal with stress arising from technology/social media?

*How should we speak with our teens about using technology safely?

80% of teens use cell phones, the most common way cyber bullying occurs. Workshop is free of charge and for the general public. For info’ contact Jenica Siniscalco, 201-327-8003 x164 or jsiniscalco@donboscoprep.org.

DISCERNMENT RETREATS

Friday, April 21 at 7:00PM –Sunday, April 23 at 9:00AM. “Come if you love.” **Veni Si Amas Discernment Retreat** with Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. For women 17—30 years old. The weekend includes talks on discernment and religious life, time in prayer with our Lord, as well as many opportunities to meet, share and pray with our Sisters. Location: St. Francis Convent, Alton, IL. For more information or to register contact vocations@altonfranciscans.org (registration by April 17). \$15 suggested donation.

Friday, May 19—Sunday, May 21, optional day with the sisters Monday, May 22 departing Tuesday, May 23 after Mass. Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, for single women 18-35, at the Delegate House, Parsippany, NJ. For more information or to register www.franciscansisters.com. Look under “Becoming a Sister.”

“NEW HOPE - HELPING HANDS” - SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 6:30-10:30pm. Seasons, 664 Pascack Rd, Washington Twp. 07676, \$85 per person. Cocktail hour, gourmet dinner, silent auction, Tricky Tray, raffle, huge 50/50 and dancing. Your generosity enables us to reach out to first-time single mothers and their babies so please celebrate with us! For reservations contact Kathy: (201) 573-8697 or kturlick@gmail.com

Bishop George Ahr/St. Thomas HS Alumni!

In anticipation of its 50th anniversary, Bishop George Ahr / St. Thomas HS wants to reconnect with all of its alumni. If you have not provided us with your most recent contact information please reach us at dchippendale@bgahs.org or 732-549-1108 x605, the alumni office, so we can keep you informed of our upcoming milestone celebration.

Camp Veritas 2017

Camp Veritas is a one-week play & pray summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. 3 locations: Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, NY July 16-22; Summit Lake Camp in Emmitsburg, MD July 23-29; Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY August 13-19. \$450 per camper. Early bird rate / paid in full by 4/1/17 \$400. Volunteers (must be 18 and older) are needed and free! For more info visit www.campveritas.com.

REVERENT CLOTHING

In our much less formal culture, gone are the days of “Sunday best”, but have we gone too far with beachwear, gym attire, workout rags and the like at Mass? We are a Church of outward signs; what does your clothing say about your understanding of what happens at Mass? While the Lord loves everyone and accepts us as we are, and there are emergencies, are we *giving witness* to the *sacred nature of the Mass* if we just “come as we are”?

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

An Acceptance of Suffering: Jesus promised us that suffering would be a normal part of a disciple's life (see Lk. 9:23-24). So, when we mark our bodies with the Sign, we are embracing whatever pain comes as a consequence of our faith in Christ. Making the Sign is our taking up the cross and following Him (Lk.9:25). At the same time, however, it comforts us with the realization that Jesus, who endured the Crucifixion for us, now joins us in our suffering and supports us. Signing ourselves also announces another significant truth: with St Paul, we are celebrating that our afflictions as members of the Body of Christ contribute to the Lord's saving work of perfecting the Church in holiness.

Kidz Korner Answers

- 1. The results of the annual BBC World Country Rating Poll are in, and Germany came out on top as the most positively viewed country in the world among people probably under the age of 85 (at a 59% positivity rating).**
- 2. On that same rating scale, Iran has come in dead last (at a 59% negativity rating). Only 15% of people polled viewed Iran in a positive light.**
- 3. In Mawsynram, India, it rains an average of 467.35 inches per year, and with a record of 1000 inches in 1985.**
- 4. The 600 miles of South America's Atacama desert is the driest place on Earth, no contest. The Desert sees an average of 4 inches of rain every thousand years. Yes, you read that right.**
- 5. Yuma, Arizona, the sun shines for an average of 11 hours a day. Its forecast is sun for 90 percent of the year, averaging a total of 4015 daylight hours a year.**
- 6. The new champion of the world, Singapore has recently beat out Tokyo for the title of "most expensive city" for 2014. Cars can cost between 4-6 times in Singapore what they cost in the US or UK (for example, a Toyota Prius actually costs about \$150,000.00 there).²**
- 7. Mumbai, India is the cheapest place to live in the world, according to the Worldwide Cost of Living Index 2014. For some perspective, a loaf of bread that would cost \$3.36 in Singapore, would only cost \$0.91 in Mumbai.**

Mass Intentions

- Monday, March 27–St. John of Egypt – Hermit**
 8:00 Zdzislaw Marczyk R/b Henry and Helen Bloomer
 12:00 Ronald Dobbs, Jr. R/b Bill and Cathy Ryan
 7:00 (Convent) Sr. Mary Cordelia RSM R/b Family
- Tuesday, March 28 –St. Tutilo of France – Monk**
 8:00 Evelyn Pedersen R/b the Pedersen Family
 12:00 James Gaffney R/b Joan Gaffney
- Wednesday, March 29 – St. Joseph of Arimathea**
 8:00 Patrick Barrett R/b the Barrett Family
 12:00 Mr. and Mrs. James Laughlin R/b Al and Lenore Villavecchia
- Thursday, March 30 – St. John Climacus, Abbot**
 8:00 Deceased of the DiPalma Family R/b Mary Warner
 12:00 Gabriel Quarto R/b the Steindl Family
- Friday, March 31-St. Benjamin, Deacon and Martyr**
 8:00 Filomena Ferrara R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara
 12:00 Boniface Santoro—5th Anniversary R/b Frederick and Therese Laurenzo
 7:00 Joseph McQueeny R/b Jim and Rose Younghans
- First Saturday, April 1 – St. Hugh, Bishop of Grenoble**
 8:00 Rev. Zachary H. Monet, O.Carm. R/b Pat Consoli
 12:00 Souls in Purgatory
 4:00 Stephan Brawley R/b Lorraine Gobbetti
 5:00 Mark and Katherine Redmond R/b Pete and Fran Redmond
- Sunday, April 2–St. Francis of Paola, Hermit**
 7:30 James Cahill R/b Scott and Kristen Dinnell
 8:15 Josephine Conlon R/b John Conlon
 9:30 Living and deceased members of Rosary Society
 10:45 Timothy Moraski R/b the Freemyer Family
 12:00 Cosmos Abbadessa R/b Ruth Cangialosi
 1:00 People of the Parish
 6:00 Margaret Dunlea R/b John and Mary Dunlea
 7:00 Rita Garritano R/b Teresa Dooley

- The Church Sanctuary Lamp** burns for the **Souls in Purgatory.**
- The Convent Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Bob Shortal**, r/b The Catholic War Veterans
- The Rectory Chapel Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Fr. Robert Pachana**.
- The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Michael Giotta**, r/b loving family.
- The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** burns this week for a special intention, r/b Bill and Cathy Ryan
- The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp** burns in commemoration of **Maddy and Tom Kopec's 50th Wedding Anniversary**, r/b Sara Smith
- The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Msgr. James Sheehan**, r/b The Holy Name Society.
- The Hosts and Wine** used at Mass this week have been donated for the repose of the soul of **Michael Murtaugh**, r/b Mary & Richard O'Toole.

Sanctuary Offerings

The Altar Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM Votive Lamp, and St. Joseph Votive Lamp, the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

BLESSING OF WATER, SALT and OIL

The Blessing of Oil water and salt will take place on Tuesday afternoon April 4 after the 2:15 ADORATION/SPIRITUAL WARFARE NOVENA.

People are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pew.

March is dedicated to Saint Joseph.

--JESUS' DEATH

At the age of 33, Jesus was condemned to the death penalty. At the time crucifixion was the "worst" death. Only the worst criminals were condemned to be crucified. Yet it was even more dreadful for Jesus, for unlike other criminals condemned to death by crucifixion Jesus was nailed to the cross by His hands and feet, rather than tied. Each nail was 6 to 8 inches long. The nails were driven into His wrist, not into His palms as is commonly portrayed. There's a tendon in the wrist that extends to the shoulder. The Roman guards knew that when the nails were being hammered into the wrist, that tendon would tear and break, forcing Jesus to use His back muscles to support himself, so that He could breathe. Both of His feet were nailed together. Thus He was forced to support Himself on the single nail that impaled His feet to the cross. Jesus could not support himself with His legs for long because of the pain, so He was forced to alternate between arching His back and using his legs just to continue to breath. Imagine the struggle, the pain, the suffering, the courage. Jesus endured this reality for over 3 hours. Yes, over 3 hours! Can you imagine this kind of suffering? A few minutes before He died, Jesus stopped bleeding. He was simply pouring water from his wounds. From common images we see wounds to His hands and feet and even the spear wound to His side... but do we remember the many wounds made to his body. A hammer driving large nails through the wrists, the feet overlapped and a nail hammered through the arches, then a Roman guard piercing His side with a spear. And ... before the nails and the spear, Jesus was whipped and beaten. The whipping was so severe that it tore the flesh from His body. The beating so horrific that His face was torn and his beard ripped from His face. The crown of thorns (two to three inch thorns) cut deeply into His scalp. Most men would not have survived this torture. He had no more blood to bleed out, only water poured from His wounds. The human adult body contains about 5 liters (just over a gallon) of blood. Jesus poured all 5 liters of his blood; He had three nails hammered into His body; a crown of thorns on His head and, beyond that, a Roman soldier who stabbed a spear into His chest. All these without mentioning the humiliation He passed after carrying His own cross for almost 2 kilometers, while the crowd spat in his face and threw stones (the cross beam was almost 30 kg of weight, to which His hands were nailed). Jesus had to endure this experience, so that you may have free access to God. So that your sins can be "washed" away. All of them, with no exception! Don't ignore this.

JESUS CHRIST DIED...FOR YOU! Do not believe that He only died for others (those who go to church or for pastors, bishops, etc). He died for you! It is easy to tell jokes or share silly photos, but when it comes to God, sometimes we feel ashamed to forward a message about Him on to others. We are worried of what they may think. Accept the reality, the truth, that JESUS IS THE ONLY SALVATION FOR THE WORLD.

Divorced and Separated Catholics

Our Lady of Victories is starting a ministry for divorced and separated Catholics. The intention of this group is to provide knowledge, compassion and understanding in this stressful time. Anyone interested in assisting with this ministry, please contact Maria at the Rectory 201-768-1706. No "counseling" experience is necessary, only a desire to help those who are sorely in need.

No one is listening until You make a mistake!

YOUR ALTAR

O Lord, we bring to Your altar these offerings of our service: be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of our redemption.

During Mass, parents (and others!) often admonish children to "behave themselves", because they are in God's house. But are we "grown-ups" fully attuned to what happens in this sacred place, at God's holy altar? Whatever we bring to a Catholic altar – we literally bring to Christ Himself! All the prayers we utter before, or vows we make before, or sacrificial gifts we offer before a Catholic altar – are offered to Christ! No wonder we bow before the altar, and the ordained ministers venerate it with a kiss at Mass! Are you aware of what is happening each time you stand before our altar, or when your gifts are brought to our altar, or when you or a loved one celebrates a Sacrament: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist or Anointing of the Sick before our altar, or when the bodies of our loved ones are honored before our altar?

This prayer asks Christ to receive EVERYTHING we bring to God's altar – and transform it into Himself! For the altar is the place of the ultimate exchange; at the altar, we offer back to God whatever He has entrusted to us; our service, our offerings, our very lives – which He receives and transforms into Himself! WOW!

REVERENCE IN CHURCH

When we come to church we should be silent. It is striking how many people have lost the sense of the holy. When they come into church they speak no differently from the way they would at Grand Central Terminal and very often, people have to be told to be quiet and remember where they are. If we stood in the presence of Christ we would not be laughing and gossiping with each other. We'd be speechless. The question is why don't we do that when we come into the house of God?

When you come into church, your eyes should be focused on the central point, which is the throne of God, His altar. Whenever you enter the church, whether the Mass is being celebrated or whether we are praying privately, God is present, dwelling in the tabernacle. Tabernacle means a tent. We have given God the tabernacle so that He who condescends to dwell within us may have a place as fine as we can offer in thanksgiving for the incarnation "word was made flesh", and "dwelt amongst us". God allows us to handle Him, but we are judged if we manhandle Him. God grants Himself to us. We are judged if we take Him for granted. The tabernacle reminds us that God is present. When we come into the church and the Blessed Sacrament is before us, we genuflect, "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow." God, in His mercy, allows His house to be our house, but that requires of us a special heavenly etiquette and the most civilized thing we can do is to come into the house of God and pray silently and reverently." Fr. George Rutler – Church of Our Savior, NYC

KIDZ KORNER

1. What is the world's most popular country?
2. What is the world's least popular country?
3. Where is the wettest spot on Earth?
4. Where is the driest spot on Earth?
5. Where is the sunniest place on Earth?
6. What is the most expensive city to live in?
7. What is the least expensive city to live in?

ANSWERS ON PAGE FOUR.