

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



WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)
COME WORSHIP WITH US
Sunday, December 9, 2018 A.D.



JOHN THE BAPTIST

Second
Sunday
of
Advent

Prepare
the Way of the Lord



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am.
First Friday at 6:30pm
Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:30pm

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.

Latin Mass every Sunday 8:15AM
Spanish Mass every Sunday 1PM



Find us on
Facebook

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Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Today is the last day of bringing the gifts for those in need in our Giving Tree charitable action. Congratulations and thank you to all those who helped not only others, but also themselves. Every time we give, we help ourselves. We make others richer materially and ourselves spiritually.

This Sunday we welcome in our parish Kaled, who brings Bethlehem crafts. Consider helping them help the city of Bethlehem and many Christians whose only sustenance is this sale.

Next Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent is a Gaudete Sunday during which every year, the Holy Father blesses the baby Jesus figurines that will be present at our manglers.

As we approach Christmas, we will have a special Blessing during all the Masses of the Baby Jesus on that same Sunday here at OLV.

Last week several families from our parish participated in making a creche with their children. It was so nice to see families gathered around the creche, in which the center was Christ.

Please remember the Fr. Anthony's talk in the Church this Monday, December 10, at 7:00PM.

Parents Night Out

On December 14th from 6PM-9PM parents can drop their K-8th grade children off at the OLV School and then have a few hours to do last minute Christmas shopping or go out for a quiet meal before the real hustle and bustle of the Christmas season begins. In a holiday atmosphere with plenty of pizza and snacks, our Confirmation Candidates and the CCD Staff will entertain the children by showing Christmas movies, playing games, working on arts and crafts. If you would like your children to participate in this evening of fun, please call the CCD Office 201-768-1400.

Blessing of Water, Salt and Oil

There will be blessing of water, salt and oil on Tuesday, December 18, after the 2:00PM Marian Novena prayers.

CONVERSION

There are in truth three states of the converted: the beginning, the middle, and the perfection. In the beginning they experience the charms of sweetness; in the middle the contests of temptation; and in the end the fullness of perfection. *Pope St. Gregory the Great*

CCD CORNER

Thank you to those families and volunteers who participated last Sunday in our **Nativity Building Project** especially Mrs. Sue Evannella, Mrs. Mary Clare McLaughlin, Mrs. Susan Leyden and the Confirmation Candidates who organized and assisted at this wonderful event. Today our 9th graders will be going to Confession and then to class. This Friday from 6:00 – 9:00pm the CCD Program will be sponsoring **Parents Night Out**. If you wish your children to participate please contact the office (201-768-1400). Next Sunday and Monday our students will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Please keep them and their parents in your prayers.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Dec 8/9 - Sat/Sun - Bethlehem Olivewood Crafts Sale
Dec 9 - Sun - Holy Name Society Mass/Meeting 9:30AM
Dec 9 - Sun - **Giving Tree Gifts due back.**
Dec 10 - Mon - Advent Reflection / Fr. Anthony 7:00PM
Dec 11 - Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
Dec 13 - Thu - Holy Hour: Advent Reflection 7:00PM
Dec 14 - Fri - Parents Night Out 6:00-9:00PM
Dec 18 - Tue - Blessing of Water, Salt & Oil after 2PM Novena Prayers.
Dec 18 - Tue - Silent Night, Holy Night 6:00-9:00PM

Giving Tree

Giving Tree Gifts are due back to OLV this Sunday December 9th.

Bethlehem Handicrafts

From the birthplace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Christian community is seeking your love and support through obtaining their handmade olive wood religious articles. These items will be displayed at the church after all Masses this weekend. Your help can and will make a difference in the lives of your brothers and sisters in Bethlehem.

Advent Reflections

During Advent on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8PM OLV will be presenting **The Stories That Led Up to Christmas** during our weekly Holy Hours. Each night we will spend some time reflecting on these powerful moments and their impact on our lives and the history of salvation. We will recite from the Liturgy of Hours Evening Prayer and conclude with Benediction. Our topics for meditation are Week One: the **Annunciation**, Week Two: the **Visitation**, Week 3: the **Journey to Bethlehem**. As we prepare our homes for a joyous holiday let's find time to prepare our hearts and souls for the glorious Christmas Season!

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent Night, Holy Night will be held at OLV on Tuesday, December 18, from 6 to 9PM. During the season of Advent we ask everyone, young and not so young, to stop for 10 minutes from all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, and visit Jesus in His Church. The gift of time is so precious, but sometimes, especially around Christmas, we are so busy with last minute preparations that we forget about preparing our hearts and souls for the holy celebration of Christmas. As a family, what greater example can we give to our children than to come to God's house and in the silence of the night offer our prayers to Emmanuel — God with us. Please make the effort to come and allow the music of the season to prepare you for the Feast of Christmas.

NEW VESTMENTS-Memorial Opportunity

The parish has purchased several sets of new vestments, which are available to be memorialized in honor of a loved one, deceased or living. Included are new vestments for deacons. The cost of the vestments to be memorialized is \$300 each. Call Maria at the rectory if you would like to memorialize any of these items in the name of your family or a loved one.

Clothing Bins

Most gifts will bring you a deep sense of joy on many levels – joy from the actual item you received and joy in knowing that someone thought about you. Catholic Charities reaches out to those who may not receive one gift and who may have very few if anyone to think about them. Help Catholic Charities by contributing to the clothing bin. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE - January 26, 2019

Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483
ELEVENTH ANNUAL "Hap Nightingale" BEEFSTEAK

Reflections from Fr Anthony—Visit www.frmastroeni.com

SILENT NIGHT

The popular Christmas carol *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night) was first sung on December 24, 1818, in the Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, Austria. The lyrics were written by the curate, Fr. Josef Mohr, who was inspired by a baby seen on a sick call earlier in the day. The organ in the church was broken, therefore the music for his carol was initially written for guitar and consisted of six stanzas, three more than we are used to hearing.

WHO STARTED CHRISTMAS?

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card. Finally the elevator doors opened, and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot." From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be. -- Author Unknown

Christmas Greens

Holly and Mistletoe or other Evergreens have been used to decorate for thousands of years in many cultures. Evergreens are symbols of enduring life since they stay "alive" all winter when most plants wither and die. Some believed evergreens had magical power due to their constant greenness. Homes were decorated with evergreens in the hope of enticing the spirits of the woods inside to bring good luck in the coming year. They were twisted into a circle, symbol of eternity, and suspended from ceilings after being attached to wagon wheels, brought inside to protect them from the winter elements. Candles were often added to give light to the room – and presto: Advent wreaths were born! Some consider holly "masculine" since it uses its thorns to protect itself, as men use weapons to protect themselves; ivy is "feminine" since it entwines or embraces whatever it is near. Since mistletoe was thought to bring good luck and fertility, the Scandinavians began the custom of "kissing under the mistletoe." In Norse mythology, an evil spirit formed an arrow from mistletoe and killed Baldur, the god of innocence, beauty, joy, purity, and peace. As his mother wept, her tears became the white berries of the mistletoe – and his life was restored! In thanks, his mother, Frigga, the goddess of love and beauty, is said to kiss anyone who passes under mistletoe. Even enemies would call a truce when they met underneath it

ADVENT RESOLVE

The More I SpeakThe Less I Hear ..
The Less I Speak The More I Hear .

A Little Humor ...

WAKING UP TO OUR TRUE REALITY

A concerned husband went to a doctor to talk about his wife. He says to the doctor, "Doctor, I think my wife is deaf because she never hears me the first time and always asks me to repeat things." "Well," the doctor replied, "go home and tonight stand about 15 feet from her and say something to her. If she doesn't reply move about 5 feet closer and say it again. Keep doing this so that we'll get an idea about the severity of her deafness". Sure enough, the husband goes home and does exactly as instructed. He starts off about 15 feet from his wife in the kitchen as she is chopping some vegetables and says, "Honey, what's for dinner?" He hears no response. He moves about 5 feet closer and asks again. No reply. He moves 5 feet closer. Still no reply. He gets fed up and moves right behind her, about an inch away, and asks again, "Honey, what's for dinner?" She replies, "For the fourth time, vegetable stew!"

Other Events ...

Cathedral Basilica in Newark, 48th Candlelight Carol Sing on Wednesday, Dec 12 and Thursday, Dec 13 at 8PM (2 performances). Doors open at 7PM both nights. Christmas music in 9 languages. Free-will donation. For more info call 973-484-2400 or visit www.cathedralbasilica.org.

St. Andrew's Church in Westwood will have a Presentation: Words of the Magnificat on Friday, December 14, 10-11:30AM and Wednesday, December 19, 7-8PM in St. Andrew's Parish Center. Fr. Phil Latronico, Chaplain of the Community of God's Love in Rutherford will lead us in a reflection on the words of the Magnificat that will unlock the path that leads to the heart of Christ. Please register by calling 201-666-5697.

Immaculate Heart Academy in Washington Township invites all to their Annual Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 13, from 7pm-8:30pm in the IHA Performing Arts Center! IHA's Vocal Ensembles will perform, the Orchestra will play and a surprise guest in a red suit may come by for a visit! All are welcome!

Community Church in Harrington Park, *Live Nativity with petting zoo*, Sat, December 15, 1-3PM. Christmas play starts 1:30. All children are invited to participate as an angel or shepherd and should arrive by 1PM for costuming. For more info' call 201-768-2457 or email cchp@verizon.net.

MIRACLE OF FOLLOWING THE TRUE VOICE

In 1992, long before Cardinal Timothy Dolan was even a bishop, he was on a study tour of the Holy Land. One day while hiking, the group encountered two shepherds enjoying conversation and a smoke whose grazing flocks had become completely mixed together. Through their guide, the group asked how hundreds of sheep would sort themselves out and follow the correct shepherd. Eager to impress these tourists, the men stood at a distance from one another, yelled something incomprehensible, and began walking in opposite directions. Immediately, the sheep fell in line behind the proper herdsman! That's not all: the two men then exchanged clothing and once again stood apart and shouted. So familiar were the shepherds' voices to the sheep that these cute (but dumb) animals, ignoring the disguised outward appearance, again followed their respective herdsman!

"My sheep hear my voice," says Jesus in today's Gospel reading, "I know them, and they follow me" (Jn. 10:27). A few verses earlier, Jesus states that the sheep follow the shepherd "because they recognize his voice," whereas "they do not recognize the voice of strangers" (10:4-5).

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
Specialist Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Captain Shawn Linn
Lieutenant Gigi McElroy
Colonel John McLaughlin
Lieutenant John G. Miele

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Thomas lafrate

US Navy

Lieutenant Commander Julia Cheringal
Ensign Jon Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
OS3 Daniel T. LoVecchio

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.

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: baby Sean Cresci, baby Cole McKeon, Addie Bennington, Richard Bolton, Irene Ciccarino, Mary Corcoran, Eleanor Daily, Pat Dinnell, Antoinette Dougherty, Dan Filippone, Sebastian Filippone, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Mary Foley, Marietta Flahive, Kathy Freeburn, Bernardita Garcia, Kyle Gauweiler, Anne Giotta, Tom Giuliano, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Glen Hall, Megan Kavanagh, Austin Kellar, Peter Kellar, Andrew Kloeppel, Lisa LoSchiavo, Peter Mahler, Anne Matthaei, David Mercur, Skylar Migliaccio, Len Moriarity, Kevin Mullane, John Murawski, John Pal, Joyanna Peros, Andy Pfeiffer, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Linda Rivera, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Michael Tobia, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Angela, Brian, Carla, Chris, Dierdre, Edward, Jennifer, Lucas, Lynn, Lori, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, and Sean.

NEED BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For more information, phone the rectory. Adult Catholics who have not yet celebrated Confirmation, should also contact the rectory for preparation class information.

CONVALIDATION

Were you married civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? See Fr. Wojciech for details and to see if your marriage can be regularized with the Church.

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It is necessary to understand that the whole of our life must be an "Advent", a vigilant awaiting of the final coming of Christ.

Pope St. John Paul II

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 10--St. Romaric-Abbot

8:00 John Nicoletti R/b Rose Nicoletti
12:00 William McGinnis R/b Pete and Carole Stonitsch

Tuesday, December 11 -- St. Damasus I of Rome, Pope

8:00 Rev. Henry Goodwin, O.Carm. R/b the Zwerle Family
12:00 Bartram Lee Reeves R/b the Reeves Family

Wednesday, December 12-- Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 Rosemary O'Brien R/b Judy Pommett
12:00 Lucy Ulisse R/b Don Ulisse

Thursday, December 13--St. Lucy of Syracuse, Italy, virgin, martyr

8:00 Patrick Clifford R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Rev. Zachary H. Monet, O.Carm. R/b Pat Consoli

Friday, December 14--St. John of the Cross of Spain, priest

8:00 Joseph Oechsley R/b Tom and Tara Oakley
12:00 Helen Smith R/b John McDonough

Saturday, December 15 -- St. Nino of Georgia, virgin

8:00 Betsy Clark R/b the Clark Family
12:00 John Harrison R/b the McPolin Family
4:00 Joseph Colella R/b Joseph and Anita Diliberto
5:00 Virginia Savistano R/b Pete and Carole Stonitsch

Sunday, December 16- St. Adelaide of Burgundy-Queen of Germany

7:30 Mary Kirk R/b Peggy O'Brien
8:15 Maryanne DePietro R/b William and Dianne Smith
9:30 Michael Bentivegna R/b the Bentivegna Family
10:45 Victorio Torres R/b Julie Torres
12:00 Giovanna and Corrado Iozzia R/b Mike Zocco
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 James McConnell R/b the Kruimer Family
7:00 Lucille Ruth Rafaelle R/b Matthew and MaryAnn Donohue Ryan

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the souls in Purgatory.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Lydia Mohsenin, r/b the Dunn Family.

St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for a special intention, r/b the Werner Family.

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for those serving in defense of our country.

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week for the unemployed.

The Pope John Paul Votive Lamp burns this week for the intentions of those on OLV parish sick list.

Sanctuary Offerings

The Bread and Wine, Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp, St. Joseph Votive Lamp, and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis. AND the Altar Flowers are also available to be memorialized. Please contact the rectory for more information 201-768-1706.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. King Saul. 2. King David. 3. King Solomon. 4. The Queen of Shebah. 5. Israel and Judah.

THE UNBELIEVER

Once upon a time, there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge. He was a very kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealing with other men. But he didn't believe all that stuff about an incarnation which churches proclaim at Christmas. And he was too honest to pretend that he did. "I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, who was a faithful churchgoer, "but I simply cannot understand this claim that God became man. It doesn't make any sense to me." On Christmas Eve, his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. "I'd feel like a hypocrite," he explained. "I'd much rather stay at home, but I'll wait up for you." Shortly after his family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier. "If we must have Christmas," he reflected "it's nice to have a white one." He went back to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper. A few minutes later, he was startled by a thudding sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living-room window. When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm, and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his window.

"I can't let these poor creatures lie there and freeze," he thought. "but how can I help them?" Then he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter. He quickly put on his coat and galoshes and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on the light. But the birds didn't come in. "Food will bring them in," he thought. So, he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn. To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction except into the warm, lighted barn. "They find me a strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, "and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me. If only I could be a bird myself and for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety."

Just at that moment, the church bells began to ring. He stood silently for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow. "Now I understand," he whispered. "Now I see why You had to do it."

In the active life all the vices are first of all to be removed by the practice of good works, so that in the contemplative life a man may, with now purified mental gaze, pass on to the contemplation of the Divine Light.

St. Isidore of Seville

CRECHE

Francis called it a "crèche", the French word for cradle. Francis created the first crèche using real people, a real manger, a real ox and ass, and real shepherds. The Incarnation – Christmas – was a key component in the spirituality of Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how the Christ Child lay on the hay in a manger with an ox and an ass standing by.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223. At the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the new Bethlehem. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they carried lit up the night as they approached the crèche. Once again shepherds were walking in the night to come and adore Him. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition began.

As you look upon your Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the crèche symbolizes. From *The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano*.

ADVENT WREATH

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples, who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept those popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany, the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world. Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet, and the fourth is rose for the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word "Rejoice"). The rejoicing comes from the fact that Advent is half over, and Christmas is soon to follow. If we listen to Isaiah, we may understand the symbolism of the wreath more clearly: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death, a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; they rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. Is:9.1-2

A COURAGEOUS CHOICE

Over 2000 years ago, an angel announced the pregnancy of a young unmarried girl. The courageous choice made by that young woman to give birth in difficult circumstances, supported by a man named Joseph, still stands as a model of God's way to handle unplanned pregnancy.

KIDZ KORNER

- 1 Who was the first king of the Jewish nation?
2. What shepherd boy succeeded him?
3. Who was the wisest king of Israel?
4. What famous Queen came to visit this "wise" king?
5. What were the names of the two Jewish kingdoms in the Old Testament?

Answers on page 4

Advent opportunity-REPENTANCE

Where sin was hatched, let tears now wash the nest.

St. Robert Southwell