

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

Sunday, December 23, 2018 A.D.
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Administrator

Rev. Duverney Bermudez Rev. Anthony Mastroeni
Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KCHS Rev. John O'Connor
Rev. Brian Muzás *Latin Mass Assistants*
Rev. Msgr. Sam Sacus
Weekend Assistants

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC
In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Susan Evanela Deacon Al McLaughlin
Religious Education *Parish Catechetical Leader*

Selena Piazza Elizabeth Gulfo
Lesla Rossmann Martin Coyne II
Ministers of Music *Parish Trustees*

Michael Flynn & Meagan Mullany Curtiss & Katie Stella
Jr. High School Ministry *High School Ministry*
Maria Hellrigel
Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq. Jon Fischer CFA
President Parish Council *Chairman Finance Committee*

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:00pm, 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

St. Peregrine: First Friday of the Month

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

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 12:30pm-3:00pm

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

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



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:30pm Christmas Pageant in OLV Gym
4:15pm Mass in Church
5:30pm Mass in Church
7:00pm Mass in Church
9:00pm *Sung Latin Mass in Church*

Christmas Day, December 25

Midnight Mass in Church
(Christmas Carols 30 minutes before Mass)

8:00am Mass in Church
10:00am Mass in Church
12:00Noon Mass in Church
1:00pm *Spanish Mass in Church*
6:00pm Mass in Church



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Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Dear OLV Family,

I would like to wish you ALL MARY's Christmas. Yes, to live our Christmas with HER, with St. Joseph and with JESUS. I take this opportunity of again thanking all who donated over 500 gifts to others through the Giving Tree - also to our CCD kids who donated so many books and many other items to the children of The Holy Family School in the Turks and Caicos Islands this year. I would like to thank you for all the gifts to our parish, monetary, material or spiritual, even offering your sufferings. And especially I would like to thank you all for the Gift you All are to me. It is my first Christmas at OLV. I am honored to live it with you, my new family.

In Poland, we have this beautiful tradition on Christmas Eve of gathering as a family at the dinner table next to the manger and Christmas tree, and before starting a meal we hear normally the father proclaim the gospel of Luke (Lk 2:1-14) about the birth of Jesus. Then we exchange Christmas wishes (also thank-yous and sorrys) and break the wafer - *oplatek* - which symbolizes Christ who comes in Bethlehem (city of bread) to become THE BREAD for us. Then we sing some carols, eat a splendid meal, and after we exchange the gifts. After the meal there is a beautiful tradition of waiting for Midnight Mass - THE BEST BREAD.

May this Christmas be a time of living it in the beauty of your families. Christ was born into a family. May HE be born into YOUR family -

HE - THE CHRISTMAS GIFT.

The Man Who Hated Christmas

Louis Cassels tells a story about a man who hated Christmas...

It was late Christmas Eve, but in spite of his wife's pleas he would not accompany her to church. The whole crazy idea of God becoming a human being made no sense to his logical mind. He stood watching the heavy snow at his picture window. He thought of the birds and wondered if they would find the seeds he had put out for them. It was snowing hard enough that the seed holders were quickly covered. He turned on the backyard lights, but both the birds and the seed were lost in the falling snow. Putting on his heavy coat, he went outside and opened his big barn door. Then he spread bird seed just inside the barn, hoping that the birds would see it. They did not! Still hoping to help these little starving creatures, the man tried desperately to shoo the little birds toward the light of his open barn - but they were too frightened. Here they were only inches away from the food and water they needed, and he was helpless. "If only I were a bird", he thought to himself, "I would show them the way to that life-giving food." Just then the church bells began to ring announcing Christmas morning. Suddenly he understood why God's Son came to show us the way to eternal life in the way that he did - as one of us. From that point on he became a believer.

Thank you!!

OLV St. Vincent de Paul Social Concerns thanks all who gave so generously for the Giving Tree. Gifts for over 250 people were received and were delivered to the distribution center in Westwood on December 12th. Gift cards were added to all the bags, to also help those in need. Your generous response is remarkable. St. Vincent de Paul Social Concerns thanks you. A blessed Christmas to all.

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.

BEEFSTEAK DINNER

January 26, 2019

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

DEFEND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Over the course of the last generation, Christianity and in particular our Catholic Faith has been under attack. Anti-Catholicism is the last acceptable prejudice. What can we do about it? Besides prayer, all Catholics should join The Catholic League at www.catholicleague.org or 450 Seventh Avenue, NY, NY 10123 and receive the journal, The Catalyst, which has articles detailing where Catholicism is under attack and by whom. As Christmas approaches, we will see secularism creep in and try to wrestle and strip the season of its Christian elements.

WORKERS NEEDED

The Harvest is great but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest. Become a Priest or Religious Brother or Sister or Permanent Deacon. For information see Fr. Bryan or call the Vocations Office 973-497-4365.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

We are Christians and Catholics not because we worship a key, but because we have passed through the door, and felt the wind that is the trumpet of liberty blow over the land of the living."

--G.K. Chesterton, The Everlasting Man, 2,3.

CCD CORNER

There is no CCD today, nor next week as well. On behalf of the teachers and staff, we would like to wish you and your families a very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 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

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

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 Din-nell, Antoinette Dougherty, Dan Filippone, Sebastian Filippone, Tommy Fitzpatrick, Mary Foley, Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Bernardita Garcia, Kyle Gauweiler, Anne Giotta, Tom Giuliano, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Glen Hall, Kazimiera Jaskowiak, Megan Kavanagh, Austin Kellar, Peter Kellar, Andrew Kloepfel, Lisa LoSchiavo, Peter Mahler, Anne Matthaai, David Mercur, Skylar Migliaccio, Len Moriarity, Kevin Mullane, John Murawski, John Pal, Joyanna Peros, Andy Pfeiffer, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Wendy Ruggiero, Michael Tobia, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Angela, Brian, Carla, Chris, Dierdre, Edward, Jennifer, Lucas, Lynn, Lori, Mariola, 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 24—St. Adele, Queen and Abbess

8:00 Alberto Bellini R/b Carole Bellini
12:00 Orlando Tobia R/b the Mahoney Family

Christmas Eve Masses

3:30 Pageant-Gym Intentions of Reagan McElroy R/b the McElroy Family
4:15 Irene Louise Ricciardi R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
5:30 Stephen and Mary Fogarino R/b Josephine J. Fogarino
7:00 Margaret and Theodore Siefritz, and Dolores and Norman Maxon R/b John and Linda Russo
9:00 Latin Toleno and Evanelle Family R/b the Evanelle Family

Tuesday, December 25 - the Nativity of the Lord

Midnight Lawten and Quinn Family R/b the Quinn Family
8:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
10:00 Jordan and Evelyn Pedersen R/b the Pedersen Family
12:00 Edward and Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family
1:00pm Spanish William Tristano and Clifford P. Keenan Jr. R/b Josephine Tristano
6:00 Frank and Patricia Adamcik R/b the Adamcik Family

Wednesday, December 26 - St. Stephen—first martyr

8:00 Wilma Longo R/b the Bentivegna Family
12:00 Jim and Anna Hellrigel R/b the Hellrigel Family

Thursday, December 27 - St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 Intentions of Anna Heaney R/b John Heaney
12:00 Helen Smith R/b Jack and Alicia Chimento

Friday, December 28—The Holy Innocents—Martyrs

8:00 John Scivanich R/b the Busanic Family
12:00 James McGrath Jr. R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

Saturday, December 29—St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

8:00 Lydia Mohseni R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey
12:00 Helen Smith R/b Bill and Eileen Lewis
4:00 Michael Giotta R/b Anne Giotta
5:00 Virginia Mary Carolan R/b the Egg Family

Sunday, December 30 – St. Anysius of Greece, Bishop

7:30 Alfred Fedorowicz R/b the Ferrara Family
8:15 Intentions of Linda Russo R/b Sr. Elizabeth
9:30 Sven Carlson R/b Peter and Linda Wayne
10:45 George W. Smith R/b William and Dianne Smith
12:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Richard Powers R/b Marylene D'Jamoos
7:00 Special Intention R/b the Landers Family

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the intentions of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

The Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Votive Lamps burn this week for the intentions of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

The Hosts and Wine which will used at Mass this week have been donated in honor of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

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 repose of the soul of William Tristano.

The Pope John Paul Votive Lamp burns this week in memory of Howard and Ruth Hunt, r/b Kathy Hedenberg.

BIRTHDAY

As you well know, we are getting closer to my birthday. Every year there is a celebration in my honor and I think that this year the celebration will be repeated. During this time there are many people shopping for gifts, there are many radio announcements, TV commercials, and in every part of the world everyone is talking that my birthday is getting closer and closer.

It is really very nice to know, that at least once a year, some people think of me. As you know, the celebration of my birthday began many years ago. At first people seemed to understand and be thankful of all that I did for them, but in these times, no one seems to know the reason for the celebration. Family and friends get together and have a lot of fun, but they don't know the meaning of the celebration.

Remember that last year there was a great feast in my honor. The dinner table was full of delicious foods, pastries, fruits, assorted nuts and chocolates. The decorations were exquisite and there were many, many beautifully wrapped gifts. But, do you want to know something? I wasn't invited. I was the guest of honor, and they didn't remember to send me an invitation. The party was for me, but when that great day came, I was left outside, they closed the door in my face ... and I wanted to be with them and share their table.

In truth, that didn't surprise me because in the last few years all close their doors to me. Since I wasn't invited, I decided to enter the party without making any noise. I went in and stood in a corner. They were all drinking; there were some who were drunk and telling jokes and laughing at everything. They were having a grand time. To top it all, this big fat man all dressed in red wearing a long white beard entered the room yelling Ho-Ho-Ho! He seemed drunk. He sat on the sofa and all the children ran to him, saying: "Santa Claus, Santa Claus" ... as if the party were in his honor!

At 12 Midnight all the people began to hug each other; I extended my arms waiting for someone to hug me and ... do you know ... no one hugged me. Suddenly they all began to share gifts. They opened them one by one with great expectation. When all had been opened, I looked to see if, maybe, there was one for me. What would you feel if on your birthday everybody shared gifts and you did not get one? I then understood that I was unwanted at that party and quietly left.

Every year it gets worse. People only remember to eat and drink, the gifts, the parties and nobody remembers me. I would like this Christmas that you allow me to enter into your life. I would like that you recognize the fact that over two thousand years ago I came to this world to give my life for you, on the cross, to save you. Today, I only want that you believe this with all your heart. I want to share something with you. As many didn't invite me to their party, I will have my own celebration, a grandiose party that no one has ever imagined, a spectacular party. I'm still making the final arrangements. Today I am sending out many invitations and there is an invitation for you. I want to know if you wish to attend, and I will make a reservation for you and write your name with golden letters in my great guest book. Only those on the guest list will be invited to the party. Those who don't answer the invitation will be left outside. Be prepared, because when all is ready you will be part of my great party.

See you soon. I Love you!
Jesus.

THE NATIVITY SCENE

One of the most beautiful and popular teaching tools of the Christian Faith is the Nativity Scene, or "Crèche," an Old French word for manger. The "Book of Blessing" says that St. Francis of Assisi began the custom of displaying figures to depict the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve, 1223. However, there are wall paintings depicting the Nativity of the Lord, based on the Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke, dating from as far back as the fourth century! Some of the ancient Nativity scenes even include the prophecies of Isaiah and Habakkuk, which foretold the Messiah would be born in the midst of animals in a manger. "Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock." **LUKE 2:8**. The good news of the birth of the Good Shepherd was given to the poor, uneducated shepherds. This is in keeping with St. Luke's Gospel theme that the lowly are singled out as recipients of God's favors and blessings. One thousand years earlier, while out in the fields shepherding the flock, David was called to be the King of Israel. From then on, God continually promised an even greater shepherd, One who would lead the people and be a Son to Him. "And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **LUKE 2:12** The manger, or animals feeding trough, gives us much "food for thought" – pun intended! How appropriate that Jesus, the Bread of Life, was placed in a feeding trough! Animals know where to go to be fed by INSTINCT, but we know where to go to be fed by FAITH! By faith, we are much smarter than animals. Or are we? That's what St. Francis asked by placing two special animals in the crèche. "An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger, but Israel does not know me, my people have not understood." **ISAIAH 1:3** These "dumbest" of animals are placed in the crèche to "chide" us into realizing what THEY were smart enough to know: that the Holy Child was the One through Whom all things were made! Jesus, God's Son in human flesh, is their Owner and Master! Another explanation for their presence is that the ox, an animal often sacrificed, was a sign of the supreme sacrifice Jesus would offer on His cross; the ass was a sign that the donkey would carry Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, so He could become our Sacrifice. The people of Bethlehem (means house of BREAD) represent us! Like our ancestors, we cry out in need to the Lord, waiting for His reply. As they went about their daily routine, some found room for the Lord in their hearts– but others did not. Those who took the time to stop, to look and to reflect found the Lord; those who were so preoccupied with work, earthly concerns or whatever, probably missed Him! Will we find room for Him in our hearts and our lives today?

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. St. John the Baptist 2. The Jordan River 3. 30
- 4. A carpenter like St. Joseph 5. A Phariseetic Jew

"Fear not;
for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy."

Luke 2:10

CHRISTMAS COLORS

The liturgical color for Christmas is white, often trimmed in silver and gold, but the 'secular' colors for Christmas are red, white and green. Some say that this is because of how the red and green poinsettia plant and holly of wintertime contrast with the white snow. (Is St. Valentine's Day red, and St. Patrick's Day green, so stores can get rid of all their green and red stuff?) Red symbolizes love (the heart) and reflects our warmth (fire) and love for each other. It is also the color that is considered the greatest excitement. As a religious symbol it stands for fire, blood, and charity. Red vestments are worn twice during the octave of Christmas: 12/26, the feast of the first martyr, St. Stephen, and 12/28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs. Green symbolizes hope, the eternal longing for spring, and all the promises of the future. Green is the symbol for nature, youth, and the hope of eternal life. Since Christmas is a feast of hope, with a newborn child as its central symbol, green plants like holly, pine trees, ivy, and mistletoe are all closely associated with Christmas. White stands for purity and is represented by the crystalline form of water and the snowflake. White is the religious symbol which stands for light, purity, joy and glory. White is seen in the robes of Christmas angels and the clergy, in Santa's beard, in Christmas snow and snow flakes.

POINSETTIA and Baby Jesus?!

Poinsettias are native to southern Mexico, Central America, Africa, and even in the wild in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. They are named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. As a statesman and a botanist, he introduced the American elm to Mexico – and brought the beautiful Mexican shrub with large red flowers he found growing on the roadside to the USA in the 1820's. Although South Carolina was their first 'home,' they were first sold in Pennsylvania; currently the leading producer of poinsettias is the State of California. Ancient Mayan Indians believed poinsettias were powerful creatures from another world. A legend with many variations tells how they became a Christmas flower. In each version a poor child - who could not afford a gift to offer to Christ on Christmas Eve - picked weeds from the roadside; the child had been told that any humble gift, given in love, would be acceptable to God. Once inside the church the weeds bloomed into red and green flowers, which many proclaimed a Christmas miracle! From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the "Flores de Noche Buena" or "Flowers of the Holy Night" - for they always bloom during Christmas.

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

KIDZ KORNER

1. Who baptized Jesus?
2. In what river was Jesus baptized?
3. How old was Jesus when He was baptized?
4. Before Jesus started to preach what did He do for "a living"?
5. In what religion was Jesus raised?

Answers on page 4

CANDY CANE'S HIDDEN LESSON

How can a candy treat be a birth announcement? Many years ago a candy maker had an idea. He wanted to show, through the candy he made, that Jesus Christ was born among us, lived and died to save us all. So, through the use of color and shape, he created a piece of candy that told the story of Jesus from Christmas to Easter. He created the candy cane. The white stripes on the candy cane stand for the fact that Jesus was sinless and pure. The small red stripes stand for the scourging Jesus endured before He died. The large red stripes stand for Jesus' blood, shed on the cross. The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's staff, reminding us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Turn it upside down, and it is a letter "J", the first letter of Jesus' name. We can learn a lot from the candy cane – both to look at it and see Jesus, and, like the candy maker, to share the story of Jesus in whatever we do.

Christmas is NOT 1 day long.

It also is NOT 12 days long-

it is a whole season.

We tend to think of Christmas as being just December 25th, but the Christmas season lasts longer than that. Many think of the "twelve days of Christmas," but the Christmas season is actually variable in length, depending on how soon a Sunday occurs after January 6th.

Here is the official rule for when it begins and ends:

33. Christmas Time runs from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after January 6.

This year (2018-2019), Christmas Time will run until January 13th (the Sunday after January 6).

—From 9 things you need to know about Christmas by Jimmy Akin

DID YOU KNOW

The **Octave of Christmas** is celebrated from Christmas day to January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The Church recognizes that the days of the Christmas Octave are the same as the solemnity of Christmas for eight days, concluding on a high note with another solemnity that echoes the solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord.

Octave means an eight-day celebration, that is, the prolongation of a feast to the eighth day (dies octava) inclusive. The feast itself is considered the first day, and it is followed by six days called "days within the octave." The eighth or octave day is kept with greater solemnity than the "days within the octave"

—With Christ Through the Year, Bernard Strasser, 1947, p. 39.

CHRISTMAS IS NOT BASED ON A PAGAN HOLIDAY

No matter how many times you hear Sheldon Cooper (or anyone else) say Christmas is based on a pagan holiday (whether Saturnalia, Sol Invictus, or anything else), we simply have no evidence of this.

If you read the writings of the Church Fathers, you do not find those who assign Christmas to December 25th saying things like, "Let's put Jesus' birthday here so we can subvert a pagan holiday." (Not that subverting pagan holidays is a bad thing.) They simply don't do that.

The ones who say Jesus was born on December 25th do so because that is when they think he was born.

In his book, *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, Pope Benedict comments: "The claim used to be made that December 25 developed in opposition to the Mithras myth, or as a Christian response to the cult of the unconquered sun promoted by Roman emperors in the third century in their efforts to establish a new imperial religion. However, these old theories can no longer be sustained" (pp.,107-108). From 9 things you need to know about Christmas by Jimmy Akin