

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

WELCOME

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Pastor

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

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Susan Evanella Denise Coulter
Religious Education

Selena Piazza Elizabeth Gulfo Michael Flynn
Lesla Rossmann Martin Coyne II Meagan Mullany
Ministers of Music Parish Trustees Jr. 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: 6:00pm Confessions followed by Devotions & Mass

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 & 12:00 Noon Mass

OLV Adoration Schedule

* **2nd and 4th Tuesdays** from after the 12 noon Mass until 3PM

* **Every Thursday** Holy hour 7-8PM

* **Every Friday** Adoration 12:30PM until 3PM

* **First Friday** Adoration 12:30PM (after 12 Noon Mass),
6PM confessions, 6:30PM devotions, concludes with 7PM Mass

* **First Saturday** Adoration 12:30PM until 1PM

SUNDAY, December 22, 2019 A.D.
Fourth Sunday of Advent



MARY'S CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:30pm Christmas Pageant & 4pm Family Mass
in OLV Gym

4:15pm Mass in Church

5:30pm Mass in Church

7:00pm Mass in Church

9:00pm *Latin Mass in Church*

Christmas Day, December 25

Christmas Carols 30 minutes before Midnight Mass

Midnight Mass in Church

8:00am Mass in Church

10:00am Mass in Church

12:00 Noon Mass in Church

1:00pm *Spanish Mass in Church*

NO EVENING MASS



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Address: 81 Lynn St.
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax
201-768-3962

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

OLV Convent
201-768-1705
145 Parkway

Fr. Wojciech's Corner

The Wise still seek Him. An amazing statement that I found on a Christmas card. Is it not they who should find Him first? The Gospel of Matthew says "you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children—Matthew 11:25" A mystery. **I wish to all OLV Family to find HIM in a little, recently born child and to find in HIM everything.**

Last week, several **young people** and some of our **Confirmation candidates** volunteered to join me in singing some carols at **Brookside Village** for their annual Christmas party. It was fun and everybody enjoyed the intergenerational encounter. Dear Keara, thank you - and all the other youth!

Some of our OLV groups had also their Christmas parties: **Rosarians** and **Knights of Columbus** with **Catholic Daughters of America**. What a delight it was to be with you all. Music brought us together while we were eating and enjoying each other's company while caroling a few songs together.

Being Polish I cannot but remember that 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-you's and sorry's) 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. Plates in some homes are even placed on the tablecloth under which there is hay in memory of the manger in which Christ our true food was placed - His first plate was made of hay, what a humility. We also leave a plate at the table empty for Christ who might come that night, as Advent taught us to be waiting and vigilant. He might come as a poor person that night as well. As a kid, these traditions taught me to focus my life on waiting for Christ. After the meal we exchange gifts. There is a beautiful tradition of waiting, while singing Christmas carols, for Midnight Mass - THE BEST BREAD.

Dear OLV Family, I wish you ALL:

Enjoy HIM first and with Him your family time and everything else - **IN HIM THERE IS EVERYTHING** we need and want. 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.

OLV BUILDS A HOME FOR HAITI for Christmas

Thanks to all those who have already donated to the "Homes for Haiti" project. If you would like your donation included in your year-end donations summary for tax purposes, please make your check payable to OLV with memo "Homes for Haiti".

Thank you!!

OLV St. Vincent de Paul Social Concerns thanks all who gave so generously for the **Giving Tree**. Gifts for over 270 people were received and delivered to the Community Center in Westwood on December 18th. 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.

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.

BEEFSTEAK DINNER - January 25, 2020

Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483

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. Wojciech 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.

GOD'S HOUSE

The Church is God's special dwelling place and some people come to pray, especially this Christmas season, so please be aware of this and please refrain from idle chatter before and after Mass. We should behave differently in God's House as opposed to being at home, at the mall, a grocery store or a civic center.

A man is overcome by great awe when he considers the miracle of God descending, abiding in a mother's womb, assuming a human body with his divine essence, willingly growing in his mother's uterus for nine months, and the fact that this womb made of flesh was able to carry such fire - a flame abiding in this delicate body without burning it. ~ Ephrem the Syrian

a wish...

"Once upon a time there lived a fisherman and his wife. Their home was a humble two roomed cottage with a tiny garden and a well. Every day the fisherman would go out in his little boat and in the evening bring home his catch, sometimes good, sometimes poor. This was their livelihood. But the fisherman's wife was discontented. "Why should I have to live in this hovel? Is it too much to expect a decent home with water and electricity and a kitchen? I wish I was a lady." Her continual grouching made the fisherman quite miserable.

One day, something happened which changed their lives. The man caught a strange and beautiful fish which startled him by speaking. "Please thrown me back into the sea and I'll grant whatever you wish." The fisherman thought a bit and then replied, "So be it. I wish my wife was a lady and lived in a proper house with water, electricity and a kitchen."

When he returned that evening he found that his wish had been granted, and his wife was very pleased. But as the months passed she began to grumble again, "Is it too much to expect something better than this pokey house? I wish I was a Duchess, with a mansion and servants and a carriage. Why did you ask for so little? I'm sure the fish meant us to do better than this."

Driven by her complaints nagging, the fisherman tried to contact the fish again and rowed his boat to the spot. No sooner had he called than the fish appeared and agreed to his request. But the duchess was still not satisfied. Within a month she was grumbling and complaining again. "I wish I was a queen, go and see your fish again". And so he did.

Life in the palace was luxurious, but the fisherman's wife, now a queen, wasn't content for long. "What I would really like" she said, "would be to be God. I'm sure your fish will understand that this is what I wanted all along." When the man returned from his last visit to his fishy friend, he found no palace on the shore, no mansion, not a house. Not even his little old cottage was there. But then he heard crying, and noticing a cave in the cliff face, he went closer. Inside it was fashioned into a rough stable. There were 2 oxen and a donkey. And in the manger a little baby lay crying." The fisherman's wife had her wish.

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.

A Little Humor...

Entering Heaven

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

"In honor of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolizes Christmas to get into heaven."

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates."

The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's glasses.

St. Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolize?"

The man replied, "They're Carol's."

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 23 - St. John of Kanty, Priest

8:00 Anthony DiBella R/b Michael and Barbara Maher
12:00 In Thanksgiving R/b Peter and Linda Wayne

Tuesday, December 24—St. Adele, Queen and Abbess

8:00 Alberto Bellini R/b Carole Bellini
12:00 Intentions of Fr. Wojciech and OLV Staff

Christmas Eve Masses

3:30 *Pageant-Gym* Intentions of Reagan McElroy
R/b the McElroy Family
4:15 Andreone, Bertoglio and Ricciardi Family
R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
5:30 Stephen and Mary Fogarino
R/b Josephine J. Fogarino and Marie Michaels
7:00 Jorden and Evelyn Pedersen R/b Nick Pedersen
9:00 *Latin* Toleno and Evanela Family R/b the Evanela Family

Wednesday, December 25 - the Nativity of the Lord

Midnight For Living and Deceased members of OLV parish
8:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
10:00 Edward and Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family
12:00 Zanetti and Walsh Family R/b the Zanetti Family
1:00pm *Spanish* Esperanza Cordon R/b the Cordon Family

No 6pm Mass & No 7pm Mass

Thursday, December 26 - St. Stephen—first martyr

8:00 Intentions of Anna Heaney R/b John Heaney
12:00 Martino Busanic R/b the Busanic Family

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

8:00 Catherine Scoblick R/b Joe and Catherine Genco
12:00 Marion McPolin R/b Mary Warner

Saturday, December 28—The Holy Innocents—Martyrs

8:00 James M. Walsh R/b Kathy Freeburn
12:00 James McGrath Jr. R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico
4:00 Intentions of Bridget Kiene R/b Joan Crowley
5:00 Esperanza Cordon R/b the Cordon Family

Sunday, December 29 – St. Anysius of Greece, Bishop

7:30 Marion McPolin R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
8:15 People of the Parish
9:30 Pat Dinnell R/b Sr. Elizabeth
10:45 George and Helen Smith R/b the Smith Family
12:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
1:00 Jack Matesic R/b Mr. and Mrs. Marty Picinich
6:00 Kathy Soisson R/b Claire Kinn
7:00 Norma Chimento R/b the Fizulich Family

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

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

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the intentions of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns 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 Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week in memory of Howard and Ruth Hunt, r/b Kathy Hedenberg.

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

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

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Shanna Bennett
 Corporal Matthew Brady
 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
 Lance Corporal Thomas lafrate
 Corporal Joseph Levine

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
 Ensign Jon Clemente
 Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
 Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
 OS2 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

PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Please *Pray* in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the *sick of the 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 Will*: baby Cordelia, baby Emmet Fischer, Richard Bolton, Dominic Carini, Carolanne Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Kevin Columbo, Anthony Cortez, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Isabelle DeLeonibus, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Carl Falasca, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Mary Foley, Kathy Freeburn, Peter Kellar, Milan Krupa, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, John Pal, Joyanna Peros, John Peterson Jr, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, Veronica Romanchuk, Phylis Rooney, Mike Tobia, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Fiona, Jennifer, Joann, Lisa, Lucas, Lynn, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Sean, Sharon.

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.

*** **

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

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?

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*

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.

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.

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.*

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