

Our Lady of Victories Church

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

www.olvhp.org

WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

Parish Office 201-768-1706

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Pastor

Rev. Edmond P. Ilg
Parochial Vicar

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Maria Hellrigel - Parish Secretary
201-768-1706

Religious Education (CCD)
Susan Evanella Denise Coulter (LSEC)
201-768-1400

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

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

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

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 & after 12:00Noon Mass

**Wait on the LORD:
be of good courage,
and
He shall strengthen thine heart.**

Psalm 27:14

Wait (Hebrew-qavah)= to wait, look for, hope, expect,
to wait or look eagerly for,
to lie in wait for, linger for

Sunday, November 29, 2020 A.D.
First Sunday of Advent

COME, LORD JESUS!



ATTENTION !

no more sign-ups for

Saturday evening / Sunday Mass.

Seating for Mass will be on a "first-come, first-served" basis,
with the assistance of the ushers.

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday evening 4:00PM and 5:00PM

Sunday 7:00AM, 8:00AM *Latin*, 9:30AM - also live-streamed,
10:45AM, 10:45AM Family Mass in OLV GYM
12:00Noon, 1:00PM *Spanish*, 6:00PM. No 7PM Sunday Mass

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Mon.-Sat.: 7:30-7:50am. Saturday: 11:00-11:50am; 3:00-3:45pm

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.



Address:
Phone:
Email:

OLV Rectory
81 Lynn St. (Mailing)
201-768-1706
olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

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

OLV Convent
145 Parkway
201-768-1705

OLV Church physical address: 150 Harriot Ave.

Fr. Wojciech's Corner

To all those who did not restrict their hearts to donate Turkeys to those in need, I say **thank you!** After Thanksgiving Day, with restrictions, we now enter into a great season of **Advent**. One of the meanings of the word Advent is **coming**. There is also another one, **arrival**. That's a great way to look at Advent. Advent is a time to meditate about time and times. Time to reflect about the end of times (eternity without restrictions), His second **arrival**, and the end of our time(s)- our own death, our **arrival**. Time to prepare for the time of Christmas (**first arrival**) when the Eternal God descends and encloses Himself in human time and human body. May this Advent show us the true perspective and direction - ETERNITY. May Advent help us put everything in right order, put our priorities straight. May our lives be about saving our souls first and then our lives as well. The other way around could be more deadly. ETERNITY brings HOPE into everything. Advent is a time that teaches us to wait - Wait patiently for the LORD; be strong and courageous. *Wait patiently for the LORD!* -Psalm 27:14.

As our annual project of **Giving Tree** continues, I thank all those who participate in it and encourage all those who hesitate to take part in it. What a great way to use our means towards a good end. Please remember that gifts and cards are due next Sunday, December 6th.

For those who would like to spent their advent time in prayer and meditation, **Deacon Al will lead every Thursday of Advent a special Holy Hour from 7:00-8:00PM.**

Tuesday, December 22, we will have our traditional **Silent Night, Holy Night with Deacon Al**. Many ways to prepare.

God's Advent to ALL!

GIVING TREE

Tags with gift cards MUST be returned by December 6th.

Christmas Greens Sale

Small Grave Blanket - \$25

Large Grave Blanket - \$35

Wreath - \$25.

Thank you for your support.

First Thursday, December 3, there will be Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 7:00PM-8:00PM.

First Friday, December 4, there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 12:30-7:00PM with confessions at 6:00PM, followed by Devotions and Mass.

First Saturday, December 5, Mass at Noon will be for the Souls in Purgatory. There will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12:30-1:00PM.

**SPECIAL HOLY HOUR
EVERY THURSDAY of ADVENT
with Deacon Al 7:00-8:00PM**

ADORATIONS schedule. No appointment needed

Tuesdays and Thursdays adoration from 8:30AM till 12Noon.

First Thursdays of the month, Holy Hour at 7PM,

First Fridays regular adoration from 12:30PM till 7PM

First Saturday from 12:30PM till 1PM.

COME let us ADORE the EUCHARISTIC LORD.

3 Comings of Christ

St. Bernard of Clairvaux says there are three comings: Advent prepares not just for the first coming of Christ to Israel, or even the second at the end of time. There is a third coming between these two in which Jesus comes in spirit and power for our rest and consolation. We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible.

In the first coming He was seen on earth, dwelling among men; He Himself testifies that they saw Him and hated Him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on Him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In His first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming He comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming He will be seen in glory and majesty. In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord Himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being; let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength. Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, He will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.

If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the One who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all.

**CLEAN UP YOUR INNER HOUSE
for CHRISTMAS
make a GOOD CONFESSION**

Memory Awakens Hope

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope...."

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

—Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

Mondays are dedicated to the Holy Angels.

REQUIREMENTS for GODPARENTS

Godparents play a very important role in your child's spiritual life as role models of the faith. They should support not only the child, but the parents as well. Additionally, in their role as godparent, they represent the larger Church community and this is a tremendous responsibility. The Church has provided guidelines to help parents choose the best possible godparents for their children. In recognizing the importance of the godparent and their duties:

Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old.

Godparent/Sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church. Must be a practicing Catholic (*attend Sunday Mass weekly*).

Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church.

If single, not living with significant other, nor married civilly only.

Godparent/Sponsor cannot be the candidate's parent. Each child only requires one Godparent. If you wish to have 2 Godparents, there must be one female and one male. (Canon Law 872-874)

CCD Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 10AM-2PM
201-768-1400 olvhpcdd@gmail.com

CONVALIDATION

Best way to start your married life is with God. In Sacramental Marriage God's own divine life can be experienced and lived. Were you married only civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. Wojciech for details.

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.

Jesus asked one thing from us!!!

On His last night of earth (Holy Thursday) Jesus asked His disciples one thing – to stay awake with Him for one hour. OLV has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday and Thursday - 8:30AM to 11:50AM.

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession at a minimum once a month. This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11AM to Noon and 3-3:40PM; every weekday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Clothing Bins: Please donate clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books. Please place your donations **INSIDE** the bins (sometimes you have to push it in) . Do not leave items outside.

My Parish—COVID-19—My Responsibility

We thank all those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some have been laid off from their work or experiencing decreased income and are unable to continue their donations at this time.

Donations/offering envelopes may be mailed to:

OLV Rectory, 81 Lynn Street, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.

Thank you for your generosity.

Relevant Radio 1430AM

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 30– St. Andrew, Apostle

8:00 Kenneth Nodini R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey

12:00 Intentions of Monika Maria Senicar R/b the Senicar Family

Tuesday, December 1–St. Florence of Asia Minor-Laywoman

8:00 Thomas Weber R/b Richard and Erin Flynn

12:00 Marilyn Anzalone R/b Tom and Tara Oakley

Wednesday, December 2—St. Bibiana of Rome-Virgin and Martyr

8:00 Matthew McPartland R/b Maggie and Joe Falkenstern

12:00 Maria Scivanich R/b Nick and Maria Busanich

Thursday, Dec. 3—St. Francis Xavier of Spain-Missionary Priest

8:00 Veronica Kucera R/b Tony and Laura Scott

12:00 Vincent Ricciardi R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi

First Friday, December 4– St. John of Damascus, priest, doctor

8:00 Anne Bellini R/b Carole Bellini

12:00 Giron Family R/b Raphael and Margoth Giron

7:00 Thomas Giuliano - 1st Anniversary R/b Selena Piazza

First Saturday, Dec. 5—St. Gerald of France-Bishop of Braga, Spain

8:00 James McGrath Sr. R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

12:00 Souls in Purgatory

4:00 Manette and Gilbert Ferard R/b Diane Wolf

5:00 Hilda and Jerry Michaels R/b Marie Michaels & Josephine J. Fogarino

Sunday, Dec. 6—St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra aka St. Nick

7:00 James Shalhoub R/b the Coulter Family

8:00 Carrino and Amato Family R/b Armando and Christine Carrino

9:30 John Purcell R/b loving family

10:45 Victorio Torres R/b Julie Torres

10:45 Gym Daniel Sterns R/b Tom and Tara Oakley

12:00 Corrado and Giavanna Iozzia R/b Mike Zocco

1:00 People of the Parish

6:00 Jack McGovern R/b Jack and Alicia Chimento

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for the **repose of the soul of Thomas Giuliano, r/b Selena Piazza.**

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn this week in honor of **Frances Semler on her 102nd birthday.**

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the **souls in Purgatory.**

Flower & Sanctuary Offerings

If you would like to donate **flowers** for the Altar, BVM and St. Joseph, call the rectory. Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

ADVENT STORIES

A hermit lived in the desert twelve miles from the nearest water. Once, on his way to draw water, he was tired out. So he said, 'Why suffer this? I will come and live by the spring.' As soon as he said this, he turned round and saw a man following him and counting his steps. He asked him, 'Who are you?' He said, 'I am an angel of the Lord, sent to count your steps and reward you.' When the hermit heard this, his resolve was strengthened, and he moved his cell five miles further from the spring.

Antony said, "He who sits alone and is quiet has escaped from three wars: hearing, speaking, seeing: but there is one thing against which he must continually fight: that is, his own heart."

"The life of a Christian is nothing but a perpetual struggle against self; there is no flowering of the soul to the beauty of its perfection except at the price of pain" — **Padre Pio**

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dippolito
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.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Corporal Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Thomas Iafrate
Corporal Joseph Levine
2nd Lieutenant J.P. Maher

US Navy

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

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 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, baby James Amicucci, baby Jonathan, Robert Bardsley, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Dominic Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Christopher Cleary, Kevin Columbo, Paul Corbett, Paula Brennan Comine, Marie D'Ascenzo, Cathy Daleo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Mike Donohue, Carl Falasca, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Christine Fitzgerald, Mary Foley, Amy Hartwell, Peter Kellar, Milan Krupa, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan and Buddy Phalon, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, Debra Rendon, Bruce Michael Ricciardi, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Janet Sylvia, Aileen Vassar, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Michael, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Sean, Sharon, Tina W., Tom.

Spiritual Communion composed by Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val

As I cannot this day enjoy the happiness of assisting at the holy Mysteries, O my God! I transport myself in spirit at the foot of Thine altar; I unite with the Church, which by the hands of the priest, offers Thee Thine adorable Son in the Holy Sacrifice; I offer myself with Him, by Him, and in His Name. I adore, I praise, and thank Thee, imploring Thy mercy, invoking Thine assistance, and presenting Thee the homage I owe Thee as my Creator, the love due to Thee as my Savior.

Apply to my soul, I beseech Thee, O merciful Jesus, Thine infinite merits; apply them also to those for whom I particularly wish to pray. I desire to communicate spiritually, that Thy Blood may purify, Thy Flesh strengthen, and Thy Spirit sanctify me. May I never forget that Thou, my divine Redeemer, hast died for me; may I die to all that is not Thee, that hereafter I may live eternally with Thee. Amen.

SICK OR "HOMEBOUND"

If you are sick or "homebound" (or know someone who is), and would like to have Communion, please contact the Rectory at 201-768-1706.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards began in 1843 when a young British civil servant, who had no time to write Christmas letters to all his friends and relatives, asked an artist to design a card for him with the words: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you." The card showed a family raising their glasses in a toast, which angered English Puritans who declared it promoted drunkenness! But 1,000 cards were sold at a penny a piece, and since the first "cheap" stamp had been introduced in Britain in 1840, a new tradition began! A few years later, an American of German descent, Louis Prang, the "father of American Christmas Cards," designed and printed beautiful, but rather expensive, cards. Eventually, mass-produced, less expensive cards flooded the market; US companies began to make them when German products were "taboo" during WWI and WWII, and a 169 year-old tradition began!

A Simple Way to Pray Always

After my liberation many people said to me: "Father, in prison you must have had a lot of time to pray." It was not as simple as one might think. The Lord permitted me to experience all my weakness, my physical and mental fragility. Time passes slowly in prison, particularly in solitary confinement. Imagine a week, a month, two months of silence ... There were days when I was so worn out by exhaustion and illness that I could not manage to say a single prayer! This reminds me of a story.

There was an older man named Jim who would go to church every day at noon for just a few minutes, and then he would leave. The sacristan was very curious about Jim's daily routine, and one day he stopped Jim to ask: "Why do you come here every day?" "I come to pray," Jim answered. "That's impossible! What prayer can you say in two minutes?" "I am an old ignorant man. I pray to God in my own way." "But what do you say?"

"I say: 'Jesus, here I am, it's Jim.' And then I leave." After some years, Jim became ill and had to go to the hospital, where he was admitted to the ward for the poor. When it seemed that Jim was dying, a priest and a nurse, a religious sister, stood near his bed. The priest asked, "Jim, tell us how it is that from the day you came to this ward everything changed for the better? How is it that the patients became happier, more content and friendlier?"

"I don't know. When I could walk around, I would try to visit everyone. I greeted them, talked a bit with them. When I couldn't get out of bed I called everyone over to me to make them laugh, to make them happy. With Jim they are always happy!" "But why are you happy?" "Well aren't you happy when you receive a visitor?" "Of course, but we have never seen anyone come to visit you." "When I came here I asked you for two chairs. One was for you, Father, and one was reserved for my guest." "But what guest?" "I used to go to church to visit Jesus every day at noon. But when I couldn't do that anymore, Jesus came here." "Jesus comes to visit you? What does he say?"

"He says: 'Jim, here I am, it's Jesus!'" Before dying, Jim smiled and gestured with his hand toward the chair next to his bed, as if inviting someone to sit down. He smiled for the last time and closed his eyes.

When my strength failed and I could not even pray, I repeated: "Jesus, here I am, it's Francis." Joy and consolation would come to me, and I experienced Jesus responding: "Francis, here I am, it's Jesus."

- Venerable Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. Hessian troops during the American Revolution. 2. 30 million. 3. 1851 4. Franklin Pierce 5. Calvin Coolidge in 1923.

The First Sunday of Advent

For Catholics, the new Liturgical Year commences with the first Sunday of Advent. In this new liturgical year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord. This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, to wait for Our Lord Jesus who is coming:

*'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'*¹

The Season of Advent is therefore a season of vigilant waiting, that prepares us to welcome the mystery of the Word Incarnate, who will give the 'Light' to the womb of the Virgin Mary, but essentially this time prepares us not only to welcome this great event but to incarnate it in our lives. We could say that the true light enters the world through the immaculate womb of Mary but it does not stay there. On the contrary, this light flows out into our dark, obscure, sinful lives to illuminate them, so that we can become the light that illuminates the world. For this reason, let us live this time of waiting not only to celebrate a historical memory but to repeat this memory in our lives and in the service of others. To wait for the Lord who comes, means to wait and to watch so that the Word of Love enters inside us and focuses us every day of our lives.

As Blessed John Henry Newman reminded us in a homily for the Advent Season: "Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation, but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance. This 'vigilance' means the necessity, the urgency of an industrious, living 'wait'. To make all this happen, then we need to wake up, as we are warned by the apostle to the Gentiles, in today's reading to the Romans: 'Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed' (Rm 13:11).

We must start our journey to ascend to the mountain of the Lord, to be illuminated by His Words of peace and to allow Him to indicate the path to tread (cf. Is 2:1-5). Moreover, we must change our conduct abandoning the works of darkness and put on the 'armor of light' and so seek only to do God's work and to abandon the deeds of the flesh (cf. Rm 13:12-14). Jesus, through the story in the parable, outlines the Christian life style that must not be distracted and indifferent but must be vigilant and recognize even the smallest sign of the Lord's coming because we don't know the hour in which He will arrive (cf. Mt 24:39-44)

- Pope Benedict XVI, *Celebration of First Vespers of Advent, Vatican Basilica, December 2006* Excerpted from the website of Congregation for the Clergy

ADVICE OF SAINTS FOR ADVENT

"In times of aridity when I am incapable of praying, of practicing virtue, I seek little opportunities, mere trifles, to give pleasure to Jesus; for instance a smile, a pleasant word when inclined to be silent and to show weariness. If I find no opportunities, I at least tell Him again and again that I love Him; that is not difficult and it keeps alive the fire in my heart. Even though this fire of love might seem extinct, I would still throw little straws upon the embers, and I am certain it would rekindle." **St. Therese Lisieux, "The Little Flower"**

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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

What is It to Watch?

"Take heed, watch: for you do not know when the time will come" (Mk 13:33) ... Let us then consider this most serious question, which concerns every one of us so nearly; - What is it to watch for Christ. He says, "Watch ye therefore, for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh; at even, or at midnight, or at cock-crowing, or in the morning; lest coming suddenly He find you sleeping. And what I say unto you, I say unto all, Watch!" (v.35f)

Many men indeed are open revilers of religion, or at least openly disobey its laws; but let us consider those who are of a more sober and conscientious cast of mind. They have a number of good qualities, and are in a certain sense and up to a certain point religious; but they do not watch... They do not understand that they are called to be strangers and pilgrims upon the earth (Heb 11:13), and that their worldly lot and worldly goods are a sort of accident of their existence, and that they really have no property... Now it cannot surely be doubted that multitudes in the Church are such as I have been describing, and that they would not, could not, at once welcome our Lord on His coming.

It is a most affecting and solemn thought, that He has actually called our attention to this very danger... He warns his disciples of the danger of having their minds drawn off from the thought of Him, by whatever cause; He warns them against all excitements, all allurements of this world; He solemnly warns them that the world will not be prepared for His coming, and tenderly intreats of them not to take their portion with the world. He warns them by the instance of the rich man whose soul was required, of the servant who ate and drank (Lk 12:45), and of the foolish virgins (Mt 25:2)... the bridal train is sweeping by, - Angels are there, - the just made perfect are there - little children, and holy teachers, and white-robed saints, and martyrs washed in blood...his Bride hath made herself ready (Rv 19:7). She has already attired herself, while we have been sleeping. - **St. John Henry Newman**

Advent - HOW TO BE VIGILANT

Many centuries ago a rabbi once asked his students how they could tell when the night was passed and the day was on its way back again. One suggested - "when you see an animal in the distance and you can tell if it is a sheep or a goat." Another said: "When you can see a tree in the distance and you can tell whether it is a fig tree or a peach tree."

But the rabbi was not impressed with these answers. He finally told his students - it is when you can look at the face of any human being and see there the face your brother or sister - because if you cannot do this, then no matter what time it is - for you it is still night."

KIDZ KORNER

1. Who introduced the tradition of Christmas trees in the U.S.?
 2. How many people in the U.S. buy live Christmas trees?
 3. In what year were Christmas trees first sold in NYC?
 4. What President first had a Christmas tree in the White House?
 5. Which President started the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony?
- Answers on page four.**

In prayer do not do all the talking. If you went into a doctor's office, you would not rattle off the symptoms and then rush out ... You learned to speak by listening, did you not?... So we are not constantly to be yapping in prayer. Sacred Scripture says, "Speak, Lord, thy servant heareth.

-Bl. Fulton Sheen from Prayer is Dialogue