

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 Evarella 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

MARY'S
CHRISTMAS!

**The shepherds returned,
glorifying and praising God
for all they had heard and seen.**

Luke 2:20

Sunday, December 20, 2020 A.D.
Fourth Sunday of Advent



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00pm Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)
4:00pm Mass in Gym *Family Mass*
5:00PM Mass in Church
6:00PM Mass in Church
9:00pm *Latin Mass in Church*

Christmas Day, December 25

Midnight Mass in Church (also Live-Streamed)

(Christmas Carols 15 minutes before Mass)

8:00am Mass in Church
9:30AM Mass in Church
10:45AM Mass in Church
12:00Noon Mass in Church
1:00pm *Spanish Mass in Church*

NO EVENING MASS Christmas Day

Please SIGN UP for Christmas Masses.
Email Deacon Al at deaconalatolv@gmail.com



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

Religious Education
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OLV Convent
145 Parkway
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OLV Church physical address: 150 Harriot Ave.

Fr. Wojciech's Corner

"They [shepherds] went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger." Luke 2:16

In this time when we are lost, confused and fearful of what the future will bring due to the pandemic and as we look for health, calm and meaning what could be my best wish to ALL? That we all find THE CHILD JESUS - THE REAL CURE with Mary and Joseph this Christmas. As I wrote in my Christmas letter to you: **"Every good and perfect gift is from above."** James 1:17

May HE be your perfect and good gift this Christmas.

Since I was a child 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, visitors and friends, I wish you ALL:
To find HIM in your families and in Him to find everything else
that you and your families need this year.
Merry Christmas to ALL!**

Christ is the Light

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.

CONFESSION'S POWER

Charles de Faucauld (now already Blessed) came into the confessional and said through the confessional screen: Father, I do not have faith, please give me some advice. He heard from the other side a voice: Please kneel, confess your sins to God and you will believe. But I did not come for that, responded Charles. Please, confess, insisted firmly the priest. Charles knelt and allowed his heart to speak ...

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent Night, Holy Night will be held at OLV this **Tuesday**, December 22, from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. 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.

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.*

CCD Christmas corner

Even though we are not having in-person classes we have still been active in providing ways for the students and their families to learn and grow in their faith. Each month there is a theme and each month we have been providing families with packets of activities to do with their children at home relating to that theme. October was the Rosary, November was All Saints and All Souls, and December is Advent and preparation for Christmas. We have been encouraged by the participation of our students and their enthusiasm for their projects! Please see the display on the table in the lobby with a sampling of their monthly work. We thank all our teachers for their patience and flexibility in adapting to these challenging circumstances. We thank all of you for your prayers and support! **Merry Christmas from CCD!**

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.

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

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.

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)**

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 weekday at 7:30AM, as well as First Friday at 6PM, and Saturdays from 11AM to Noon and 3-3:40PM; every . 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.

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KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Bethlehem. 2. The House of Bread-*Beth* in Hebrew is house and *lehem* bread. 3. God saves. 4. The Shepherds.
5. The Angels told them while they were in the field.
6. An ox and a donkey, according to Isaiah 1:3

**Fear not;
for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy.**
Luke 2:10

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius of Holland-Priest

8:00 Antonio Marinzulich R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 Tony Amalfitano R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey

Tuesday, Dec. 22—Ss. Chaeremon and Ischyron, Martyrs of Egypt

8:00 Joseph Lamendola - Anniversary R/b Jinnie Moran
12:00 Michael Coviello R/b the Supple Family

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

8:00 Michael Ruggieri R/b Pat Duggan
12:00 In Thanksgiving R/b Peter and Linda Wayne

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

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

Christmas Eve Masses

3:00 Andreone, Bertoglio & Ricciardi Family R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
4:00 (Gym) Living and Deceased members of OLV parish
5:00 Stephen and Mary Fogarino R/b Marie Michaels
6:00 Jordan and Evelyn Pedersen R/b Nick Pedersen
9:00 *Latin* Joseph and Jane Ferrara R/b OLV Parish

Friday, December 25 - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Midnight Living and Deceased members of OLV parish
Families of Fr. Wojciech and Fr. Ed
8:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
9:30 Intentions of Sr. Elizabeth Holler
10:45 Edward and Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family
12:00 Zanetti and Walsh Family R/b the Zanetti Family
1:00pm *Spanish* Rita Adams, Blanca Cedeno and Zelideth Pallares
R/b Marcela Sanchez Botero

No Evening Mass CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 26 - St. Stephen—first martyr

8:00 Intentions of Anna Heaney R/b John Heaney
12:00 Anthony Palermo R/b Ann, June, and Fred
4:00 Andreone, Bertoglio & Ricciardi Family R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
5:00 Rosemary Dolan R/b the Kip Family

Sunday, December 27 – HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

7:00 George and Helen Smith R/b William and Dianne Smith
8:00 Intentions of Gregory Ali R/b the DeJoseph Family
9:30 Richard DelVecchio R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico
10:45 Alfred Villafuerte R/b Matthew and Mary Ann Donohue Ryan
10:45 Gym Ben Luderer R/b John and Anna Severino
12:00 Jennifer Davis R/b Tony and Laura Scott
1:00 People of the parish
6:00 Michael Ruggieri R/b Pat Duggan

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Sanctuary Lamp, the Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp and the St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the intentions of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

The Hosts and Wine which will become the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, at Holy Mass this week have been donated in honor of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

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.

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
Private First Class Sean Keohane
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, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Dominic Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, 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, Christine Flatt, 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.

Relevant Radio 1430AM

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."

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*

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

KIDZ KORNER Christmas SPECIAL

1. In what town was Jesus born?
2. What is the meaning of the name of the town where Jesus was born?
3. What does the name Jesus mean?
4. Who came first to visit the new born baby Jesus?
5. How did they find out where Jesus was born?
6. What were the two animals present at Jesus' birth and where can we find the proof of it?

Answers on page 3