

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
Lesla 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

**All of you
who were baptized into Christ
have clothed yourselves
with Christ.**

Galatians 3:27

Sunday, January 10, 2021 A.D.

Baptism of the Lord

In the Year of Saint Joseph



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
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OLV Convent
145 Parkway
201-768-1705

OLV Church physical address: 150 Harriot Ave.

Fr. Wojciech's Corner ...

As today we conclude the Christmas festivities with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord, I cannot but **thank you all again**. I was so impressed by the number of people who attended our liturgies, coming so many days back and forth to the Church. **Thank you to all who worked so hard to honor the Birth of Christ in our celebrations**. I was also so impressed (considering that you have your own families and considering the pandemic) by your generosity in gifts, cards and kindnesses to Fr. Ed and me, and your generous donations to the parish. **OLV is a Family** and it truly is a **Little Church with a Big Heart**. Not even the Christmas storm managed to discourage our faithful from coming. The storm "tried" to destroy our BIG TREE lights, but it only partially damaged the lights. However, the wind has broken the cross on our steeple tower. Due to the water from the rain it was slowly corroding and broke during the storm. At the moment, it is removed thanks to the great help of one of our parishioners and roofers Mr. Plescia and spear-headed by Mr. McDonough, who so many times works behind the scenes. The cross will be renovated and placed back on our Church tower. I hope to make a special blessing on that day.

As today, we celebrate the **Baptism of the Lord**, we remember our own Baptism and want to continue the journey of crossing with our lives through the Red Sea and Jordan River (see a beautiful comment on page 5 by Origen). Today, it's a great day to remember our GODPARENTS, maybe giving them a call if they are still alive or saying a prayer for them. What a great way to thank them in any way on that day for being our Godparents at our own Baptism.

May this New Year help us to cross towards God and towards each other in the midst of the pandemic and through the pandemic. Let nothing or nobody stop us from that.

St. Joseph, patron of this year, pray for us!

BAPTISM PEBBLES

The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism. -**St. Ambrose of Milan**

The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian, because we see in the Gospel that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in His footsteps ... we understand even more that, in virtue of baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation -**Pope Benedict XVI**

BAPTISMAL name..., Saints' Name so we become saints

Conferring a name in baptism signals an intensity in our relationship with God, who "adopts" us as his sons and daughters. Pope Benedict XVI once baptized twenty-one babies in just one month, and said: "Every baptized child acquires the character of the son of God, beginning with their Christian name, an unmistakable sign that the Holy Spirit causes men to be born anew in the womb of the Church." So it is salutary to be careful in choosing names that identify with the great saints who have gone before us. The first pope to change his name upon election was John II in 533. He did so because his father had named him for the pagan god Mercury. The more pagan a culture becomes, the more it lapses into pagan and even downright silly names. There is, however, the hope that the grace of baptism can make even someone burdened with a fashionably pagan name, a saint. Saint John Vianney said, "Not all the saints started well, but all of them ended well."

Today is the 1st Sunday of ordinary time, year B. It is also the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This Sunday is like a bridge between two great cities. Officially, it marks the end of Christmas season as well as the beginning of the ordinary time of the year. As the first among his brothers (Rom 8, 29), he always takes the lead in order to show us the way. Hence, He came from heaven to earth to show and lead us through the way. The baptism of Christ therefore is the stepping stone for our own baptism. By purifying the water He healed the water. Thus, giving it the capacity to clean us from Original Sin. Therefore, today's celebration reminds us of God's saving help to us. It reminds us that what Adam and Eve destroyed through Original Sin, was restored by Christ through the water of baptism. At Christ's baptism, the Spirit of the Father bore witness that he is truly the son of the Father. This is equally what happens to us, not only at baptism, but daily. As we continue to walk with God by fulfilling our baptismal promises, the Holy Spirit, continues to testify: "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." Finally, today's celebration affords us the opportunity to reflect on our Baptism. So, let us renew those promises we made to God in the name of Jesus Christ. Today, let us recommit ourselves to Christ in whose name we were baptized. With joy let us draw living water from Christ, the well of salvation (Is 2, 3). - *franciscanjoku A fine WordPress.com site.*

SAINT WHO mocked baptism

Genesius of Rome is a legendary Christian saint, once a comedian and actor who had performed in plays that mocked Christianity. According to legend, while performing in a play that made fun of baptism, he had an experience on stage that converted him. He proclaimed his new belief, and he steadfastly refused to renounce it, even when the emperor Diocletian ordered him to do so.

Genesius is considered the patron saint of actors, lawyers, barristers, clowns, comedians, converts, dancers, people with epilepsy, musicians, printers, stenographers, and victims of torture. His feast day is August 25.

Did You Know?

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem used to take the newly baptized to Jesus' tomb, and point out that each of them were there when Jesus was buried.

St. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem (349 – 384 A.D.) had a unique privilege of presiding over the church in Jerusalem immediately after the completion of new buildings begun during Constantine's reign. Cyril preached magnificent sermons within feet of the actual places of Christ's death and resurrection. He said of Calvary, "Others only hear, but we both see and touch." Cyril wrote: "Here in this city of Jerusalem the Spirit was poured out on the church; here Christ was crucified; here you have before you many witnesses, the place itself of the Resurrection and towards the east on the Mount of Olives the place of the Ascension."

PRAY, PRAY, PRAY

Father Gustave De Ravignan, S.L 1858

"Believe me, my dear friends - believe an experience ripened by thirty years in the sacred ministry, I do here affirm that all deceptions, all spiritual deficiencies, all miseries, all falls, all faults, and even the most serious wanderings out of the right path, all proceed from this simple source - a want of constancy in prayer. Live the life of prayer; learn to bring everything, to change everything, into prayer - pains and trials and temptations of all kinds. Pray in calm, pray in storm; pray on waking, and pray during the daytime; going and coming, pray; tired out and distracted, pray; whatsoever your repugnance may be, pray. Pray that you may learn to pray. 'Teach us, O Lord, how to pray,' 'But I cannot pray.' That is heresy. Yes, you can always pray. If you feel a disgust - nay, a horror of prayer, pray on; pray in spite of yourself, against yourself. Beg for the courage in prayer which our agonizing Savior merited for you by His pangs in Gethsemane and upon Calvary. Pray, for prayer is the strength which saves, the courage which perseveres, the mystic bridge cast over the abyss which joins the soul to God. 'And being in an agony, He prayed the longer.'"

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)

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 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.

Secret of Trevor Lawrence

Clemson routed Alabama to win its second national title in three years. Trevor Lawrence, a nineteen-year-old freshman, was named the Most Valuable Player. He is already being hailed as a **once-in-a-generation talent**. Now, after a performance for the ages, ESPN tells us this morning that **"the legend of Trevor Lawrence has only just begun."** The best part of the story isn't the part that's making headlines today. When Lawrence was named Clemson's starting quarterback last September, reporters asked how he stays so calm during games. "That's just always my personality," he explained. "Football's important to me, but it's not my life. It's not the biggest thing in my life. I would say my faith is."

He added: **"I put my identity in what Christ says, who He thinks I am and who I know that He says I am."**

The soul is regenerated in the sacred waters of baptism and thus becomes God's child. -St. Maximilian Kolbe

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 11-St. Paulinus of Friuli, Italy-Bishop of Aquileia
 8:00 Edward Vassar R/b Sr. Elizabeth
 12:00 Robert John Maynes IV R/b the Maynes Family

Tuesday, January 12–St. Benedict Biscop-Abbot
 8:00 Rev. Zachary H. Monet - Anniv. R/b Pat Consoli
 12:00 Diane Melchiorre R/b George and Claire Meyer

Wednesday, January 13–St. Hilary-Bishop of Poitiers, France
 8:00 Domenico Bandiero R/b the Garzino Family
 12:00 Clifford Keenan Jr. R/b Josephine Tristano

Thursday, January 14– St. Sava-Bishop of Serbia
 8:00 Josephine Raymond R/b William Raymond
 12:00 Intentions of Edwina Simonelli R/b Dan and Karen Brady

Friday, January 15–St. Ida of Waterford, Ireland-Virgin
 8:00 Michael B. Ryan R/b Mary Ann Ryan
 12:00 Ida Mae Walsh and John Zanetti R/b the Zanetti Family

Saturday, January 16–St. Berard & Companions-Martyrs of Spain
 8:00 Mary Reiner R/b the Coulter Family
 12:00 Marie Villas R/b Andrew and Marcia Oakes
 4:00 Mary J. Corcoran R/b Tom and Peggy Corcoran
 5:00 John Joseph Peterson II R/b the Ardalan Family

Sunday, January 17– St. Anthony, Abbot
 7:00 Robert Jacobi R/b Michael Mazarella and Family
 8:00 Rosa Russo and Laura Russo R/b Christine Carrino
 9:30 Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family
 10:45 Tom Kraus
 10:45 Gym Domenick J. Maio R/b Roy and Maria Lapidus
 12:00 David Zocco R/b Mike Zocco
 1:00 People of the Parish
 6:00 Salvatore Cusimano R/b Lisa Unanue and Family

SANCTUARY MEMORIALS

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for the repose of the soul of **Robert John Maynes IV**, r/b the Maynes family.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn this week for the repose of the soul of **William Cummings**, r/b the Coulter Family.

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

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 memory of **Norma Chimento**, r/b Judi Villani.

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.

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**

"No one can begin a new life, unless he repent of the old. "
- St. Augustine, Doctor of the Church

"The early Church described Baptism as *fortisimos*, as the Sacrament of illumination, as a communication of light, and linked it inseparably with the resurrection of Christ."
--Pope Benedict XVI

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, Mary Lowe, Richard Mayer, James McGarry, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, Natalie Niebergall, Adelaide Pakingham, 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

Three Legged Race

How many of you have ever been in a three-legged race??? Why were you in a three-legged race??? Was it fun???

When you get tied together in a three-legged race you are saying that the two of you will go together until the end of the race. And when you are in a three-legged race, you have to hang onto each other. You can't act separately or you won't be able to move. If you hold onto each other it is easier.

Baptism is like a three legged race. God promises to be with us always - for our whole lives. God will be with us and help us to walk where we should go - and when we are not sure what to do - if we hold on tight to Him - if we close our eyes - and we pray - we can feel Him trying to lead us and we can do what we promise to do in baptism - which is to walk with Him wherever He goes. At our baptism God promises to always be with us - He ties Himself to us - follow Him.

Birth into a New Creation

"Baptized into Christ Jesus, we were baptized into his death. We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection," (Rom 6, 3-5). Thus does St. Paul clearly show us that our new birth through baptism is the symbol of our resurrection after death. This will be achieved in us through the power of the Spirit, as it is said: "It is sown corruptible; it is raised incorruptible. It is sown dishonorable; it is raised glorious. It is sown weak; it is raised powerful. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body," (I Cor 14,42f.). What this means is that, just as our body here below, so long as its soul is present, enjoys a visible life, so it will receive then, in the same way, an eternal and incorruptible life through the power of the Spirit.

The same thing applies to the birth given us in baptism, which is the symbol of our resurrection. Through it we receive grace by the same Spirit, but with moderation and in the form of a token. We will receive it in its fullness when we truly rise and incorruptibility is indeed given to us. That is why, when the apostle Paul speaks of the life to come, he tries to reassure his listeners with these words: "Not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for the redemption of our bodies," (Rom 8,23). For if we have received here and now the first fruits of grace, we expect to receive them in their fullness when the happiness of the resurrection is given to us.

Theodore of Mopsuestia (?-428), Bishop and theologian
Commentary on St John's Gospel, Book 2

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

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

Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God.

- St. Vincent Ferrer

DID YOU KNOW?

Where do we get the names for the months of the year? Our calendar takes the names of the months from the ancient Roman calendar, which was pagan in origin. The original Roman calendar had only ten months but in the year 700 B.C., January and February were added to make twelve. March was considered the first month of the year because it was the beginning of the planting season.

January is named for the Roman god Janus.

February is named for the purification festival Februa when Romans prepared for the new year.

March is named after the Roman god of war and agriculture - Mars.

April's name comes from the Latin aperire, which means open. It is in April when leaves and buds begin to open.

May is named after the Roman goddess of growth and living things – Maia, or it could also be derived from the Latin word majores – older men - because it was during this month that they were honored.

June is named after the Roman goddess of marriage – Juno, or it could also be derived from the Latin word juniores – younger men - because it was during this month that they were honored

July – is named after Julius Caesar.

August – is named after Caesar Augustus. August was originally Sextilius, the sixth month. At the time of renaming from Sextilius, to August, it had only 30 days. This did not sit well with the new ruler because July, named after his uncle had more days. He took a day from February and gave it to August.

September, October, November and December their names come from the Latin words meaning seventh (septem), eighth (octo), ninth (novem) and tenth (decem). These names are remnants of the original Roman calendar whose year only had ten months so these names make no sense in our modern day twelve-month calendar.

A Little Humor ...

After a hardy rainstorm filled all the potholes in the streets and alleys, a young mother watched her two little boys playing in the puddle through her kitchen window.

The older of the two, a five-year-old lad, grabbed his sibling by the back of his head and shoved his face into the water hole. As the boy recovered and stood laughing and dripping, the mother runs to the yard in a panic.

"Why on earth did you do that to your little brother?" she says as she shook the older boy in anger. "We were just playing church mommy," he said. "And I was just baptizing him ...in the name of the Father, the Son and in...the hole-he-goes".

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they drew. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's artwork. As she go to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what her drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God." The teacher paused and said, "But no one know what God looks like."

Without missing a beat or looking up from her drawing, the little girl replied, "they will in a minute!"

"Let nothing disturb you; let nothing dismay you. All things pass, God never changes. Patience attains all it strives for. The one who has God finds they lack nothing. God alone suffices." **St. Teresa of Avila**

Baptism by desire and blood

St. Genesius is not the only saint who was baptized by blood: the Holy Innocents whose feast we celebrate on December 28th; St. Emerentiana, the foster-sister of St. Agnes, was martyred before baptism, as were St. Rogation of Nantes (France) and St. Victor of Braga (Portugal) among many other catechumens.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says of **Baptism of blood**: *The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This Baptism of blood, like the desire for Baptism, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament. (CCC § 1258)*

Numerous Fathers of the Church and theologians have confirmed the Church's teachings and have reflected on the nature of this baptism notably St. Cyprian, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. John Chrysostom, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, Peter Lombard Hugh of St. Victor and St. Alphonsus Ligouri, the Church's great moral theologian.

A number of years ago a priest, Fr. Leonard Feeney, citing the doctrine "outside the Church there is no salvation", denied the possibility of Baptism by blood and maintained that all who died without baptism are lost, even those Saints and other catechumens who were martyred. The Church rejected his opinion in 1949, pointing out that since the beginning, and drawing on Sacred Scripture, those who died without baptism but with the desire for baptism were **baptized by desire** and those put to death for the faith were **baptized by blood**. The Church does indeed believe that outside the Church there is no salvation (cf Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*, § 13) but this teaching is not contradicted by Baptism of desire or of blood and must be understood in terms of how the Church sees herself as being founded by Christ as the Sacrament of Salvation in the world, and that God, in his mercy, desires that all people should be saved. It must also be understood that in Catholic teaching those who are not baptized and not members of the Church are not necessarily lost or excluded from heaven: if they do not know or believe in Christ or his teaching through no fault of their own, but live good lives according to their understanding, God in his mercy will not exclude them.

CROSSING THE RED SEA & THE JORDAN

Origen (2nd century Father of the Church) commenting on the Book of Joshua, shows that the early Church saw the sacrament of baptism not only as the crossing of the Red Sea, but also as the crossing of the Jordan River into the promised land. He says: "You have recently abandoned the darkness of idolatry, and you now desire to come and hear the divine law. This is your departure from Egypt. When you became a catechumen and began to obey the laws of the Church, you passed through the Red Sea; now at the various stops in the desert, you give time every day to hear the law of God and to see the face of Moses unveiled by the glory of God. But once you come to the baptismal font and, in the presence of the priests and deacons, are initiated into those sacred and august mysteries which only those know who should, then, through the ministry of the priests, you will cross the Jordan and enter the promised land. There Moses will hand you over to Jesus, and He Himself will be your guide on your new journey."

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.**