

# Our Lady of Victories Church

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

www.olvhp.org

## WELCOME

Sunday, February 14, 2021 A.D.  
In the Year of Saint Joseph

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

Rev. Edmond P. Ilg  
Parochial Vicar



### 2021 LENTEN REGULATIONS

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and **two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.** Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty\*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2021 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 30, 2021.**

\*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

## ASH WEDNESDAY February 17, 2021

### Mass Schedule

6:00am, 8:00am, 12:00noon,  
4:00pm, 5:00pm Live Streamed  
6:00pm Latin, 7:00pm,

6:30pm **DRIVE THRU** distribution of ashes  
(in front of the glass doors of the Church)

Ash Wednesday is a day of both Fast and Abstinence. On this particular day only one (1) full meal is permitted, and no meat is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

ASHES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED VIA SPRINKLING ON THE HEAD

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

during Lent

EVERY FRIDAY: 11:30AM & 7:00PM –in Church



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**

**Next Sunday, February 21, Bishop Michael A. Saporito (Auxiliary Bishop of Newark and our Bergen county Bishop) will visit our parish for the first time. His Excellency will celebrate the 9:30AM Live Stream Mass at OLV. We welcome Bishop Saporito to our parish family.**

This Sunday, we celebrate **World Marriage Day**. We congratulate all Sacramentally married.

This coming Wednesday (Ash Wednesday) we will begin the Liturgical time of Lent that will prepare us for Easter. Because of the pandemic we all are familiar with the term *quarantine* which is defined by Merriam-webster dictionary as a period of 40 days and also a *state of enforced isolation*. May these 40 days be a time of change (conversion, *isolation from*) from both the smallest and gravest things, that hinder our relationship with God. **"Be reconciled to God"**, says St. Paul (2 Cor 5:20). Only then, can we reconcile with one another as well. The prayer, fasting and almsgiving are only *tools* to accomplish that. Aside from Sunday Mass, many people start attending daily Mass during Lent. What a great time also to spend time in adoration and meditation with Scripture. What a great time to pray/meditate on the Stations of the Cross. We can also have a family time with kids: fasting from games or tv, or phone, etc. It could be our alms and expression of loving Jesus more than anything.

We will start with Ashes, **Remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return. Humility is everything.** Due to the pandemic, the **distribution of ashes will take place via sprinkling**. It is not a common practice in the United States, but it is common in Europe and elsewhere. A minister will simply use the tips of the fingers, similar to sprinkling spices into a recipe and sprinkle ashes on the head. Let us remember, that the ashes are not mandatory, but are a traditional exterior sign of our interior conversion. This is the focus of our Lenten journey and our ongoing journey of faith.

**Holy Lent to all.**

### **2021 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Please prayerfully consider donating to the Annual Appeal. OLV parish goal this year is \$65,143. Appeal envelopes are available in the church. We ask you to submit your Appeal donations to the OLV rectory, so we can ensure that our parish receives proper credit for the donations. Please make checks payable to **2021 Annual Appeal**. Visit the Archdiocesan Website for more information and videos at 2021 Annual Appeal | Archdiocese of Newark (rcan.org). The link is available on our website. **THANK YOU to ALL who already donated.**

### **How to fast?**

#### **A Word from the Desert Fathers**

"Abba Joseph asked Abba Poeman: 'How should one fast?' And Abba Poeman said: 'For my part I think it is better that one should eat every day, but only a little, so as not to be satisfied.' Abba Joseph said to him, 'When you were younger, did you not fast two days at a time, abba?' The old man said: 'Yes even for three days and four and the whole week. The Fathers tried all this out as they were able and they found it preferable to eat every day, but just a small amount. They have left us this royal way, which is light.'"

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ashes will be distributed during the Masses. The Mass Schedule for the day is: 6:00a.m., 8:00a.m., 12:00Noon, 4:00p.m., 5:00p.m., 6:00p.m. Latin, 7:00p.m. At 6:30p.m. there will be a Drive Thru distribution of ashes in front of the glass doors of the Church. As a reminder, Ash Wednesday is a day of both Fast and Abstinence. On this particular day only one (1) full meal is permitted, and no meat is permitted. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

## **Lenten Disciplines**

*The Lenten discipline consists of three separate parts:*

1. **Corporal or External Fast**, including the abstinence from certain foods, drinks and amusements, i.e. music, and parties during Lent. These points of fast should be stressed today especially with the mania of entertainment besetting our society;
2. **Spiritual or Internal Fast**, which consists of abstinence from "all evil" – sin. St. John Chrysostom taught that the "value of fasting consists not so much in abstinence from food but rather in withdrawal from sinful practices." And St. Basil the Great explains: "Turning away from all wickedness means keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, suppressing evil desires, and avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things – herein lies the true value of fast!"
3. **Spiritual Change** achieved by the practice of virtues and good works must be the main objective of our fasting. The Fathers of the Church insisted that during Lent the faithful attend the Lenten church services and daily Mass.

## **QUESTION?**

**Where do we get the ashes that are used on Ash Wednesday?**

We begin Lent with ashes, the burnt remains of last year's palms. Surprisingly, the use of ashes was reserved for serious public sinners. Eventually, they grew in popularity; in 1091 Pope Urban II mandated the use of ashes for all Catholics. This is to show that we will turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We also remove all signs of joy and festivity to focus on the core of our Faith. That is why from Ash Wednesday to the Easter Vigil we omit the "Alleluia" (a Hebrew word which means "Praise God") since it is our most joyful word of praise, and we also omit the joyful "Gloria" from the Sunday Mass. Through prayer, works of mercy, acts of self-denial, and Lenten practices, we prepare for the Sacred Triduum and Easter.

## **THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**

An Acceptance of Suffering: Jesus promised us that suffering would be a normal part of a disciple's life (see Lk. 9:23-24). So, when we mark our bodies with the Sign, we are embracing whatever pain comes as a consequence of our faith in Christ. Making the Sign is our taking up the cross and following Him (Lk.9:25). At the same time, however, it comforts us with the realization that Jesus, who endured the Crucifixion for us, now joins us in our suffering and supports us. Signing ourselves also announces another significant truth: With St. Paul, we are celebrating that our afflictions as members of the Body of Christ contribute to the Lord's saving work of perfecting the Church in holiness.

**You cannot be half a saint; you must be a whole saint or no saint at all - St. Therese of Lisieux**

**SOUPer BOWL Canned Food Collection**

Benefits St. Cecilia Food Pantry. Please bring your donations of non-perishable canned foods to the Church or leave at the rectory garage. .

**Toiletry Collection - Weekend February 27/28** for Little Sisters of Poor, St. Joseph's Home for Elderly, Totowa. Toiletry personal items for men and women (individual size-not large economy size). Most needed: mouthwash, toothpaste & body wash. Other: shampoo, tissues, hand soaps, deodorant, body lotion, aftershave, combs, brushes, toothbrushes, dental floss, etc.

**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? Call 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)

**LENT your time**

**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. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

**Array of Hope-Awakening Hearts:** Check out all that we have been up to on social media and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up to date! Tune in to our *Instagram Live* Monday thru Friday @ 3pm for a LIVE daily *Divine Mercy Chaplet* !

**What if you are CALLED! ???**

For information, call the Vocations office 973-497-4365 and ask for Fr. Gino, Director, who is always ready to listen - even anonymous inquiries or see or call Fr. Wojciech at our parish 201-768-1706, ext. 11.

**Mass Intentions**

- Monday, February 15 - St. Claude De La Colombiere, Priest**  
8:00 Dennis McLarnon R/b the McLarnon Family  
12:00 Violet Carlson R/b Peter and Linda Wayne
- Tuesday, February 16 - St. Onesimus, Martyr**  
8:00 Andrew T. Albanese R/b Diana DiGiacomo  
12:00 Blase Sacus R/b John and Anna Heaney
- ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17-The Seven Founders of the Order of Servites**  
6:00 Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families  
8:00 Louis Intintola R/b Marlene Thornton  
12:00 Blase Sacus R/b Michael and Tish Oates  
4:00 People of the Parish  
5:00 Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families  
6:00 Protection of Babies in the Womb and their Families  
7:00 David Musante
- Thursday, February 18-St. Marie Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin**  
8:00 Michael Ramig R/b Cathy Ryan  
12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
- Friday, February 19-St. Conrad of Piacenza, Hermit**  
8:00 William Michael Murray R/b the Fischer Family  
12:00 Meryl Miller R/b the Giron Family
- Saturday, February 20-St. Eucharius of Orleans, France-Bishop**  
8:00 David Musante R/b John McDonough  
12:00 Blase Sacus R/b John and Anna Heaney  
4:00 Peter T. Stonitsch R/b Peter and Carole Stonitsch  
5:00 Frances Burke R/b Tom Burke
- Sunday, February 21- St. Peter Damian of Italy-Bishop**  
7:00 Kenneth Everett R/b Muhammad and Alicia Awais  
8:00 Lilly and Maria Piana R/b Carole Bellini  
9:30 Elizabeth Haug R/b Anka Kovacic  
10:45 Brian J. McElroy Sr. R/b the McElroy Family  
10:45 Gym William Cummings R/b the Grassi Family  
12:00 Ivan Busanic R/b the Busanic Family  
1:00 People of the Parish  
6:00 John Carroll R/b Steve and Leslie Marotta

**SANCTUARY MEMORIALS**

- The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for the men and women who serve in defense of our country.
- The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn this week for the repose of the soul of **Michael A. Casenta**, r/b Colleen Connors Casenta.
- The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the souls in Purgatory.

**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.

**NEW TO THE AREA?** If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. You may register via our parish website olvhp.org. Go to tab "About" and then "Parish Registration". PLEASE, if you change your address or phone number, let us know!

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** Please email Maria at olvrectory.hp@gmail.com to request your 2020 statement.

**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  
Sergeant 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, baby Joseph William Ragu, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Dominic Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Kevin Columbo, Paul Corbett, Marie D'Ascenzo, Cathy Daleo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Roseann Dennehy, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Frank Diller, Mike Donohue, Carl Falasca, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Christine Fitzgerald, Christine Flatt, Mary Foley, Leslie Handler, Amy Hartwell, Peter Kellar, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, Natalie Niebergall, Adelaide Packerham, 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, Maria Williams, 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.

**ST. PETER DAMIAN**

St. Peter Damian is one of those stern figures who seem specially raised up, like St. John Baptist, to recall men in a lax age from the error of their ways and to bring them back into the narrow path of virtue. He was born at Ravenna and, having lost his parents when very young, he was left in the charge of a brother in whose house he was treated more like a slave than a kinsman.

As soon as he was old enough he was sent to tend swine. Another brother, who was archpriest of Ravenna, took pity on the neglected lad and undertook to have him educated. Having found a father in this brother, Peter appears to have adopted from him the surname of Damian.

Damian sent the boy to school, first at Faenza and then at Parma. He proved an apt pupil and became in time a master and a professor of great ability. He had early begun to inure himself to fasting, watching and prayer, and wore a hairshirt under his clothes to arm himself against the allurements of pleasure and the wiles of the devil. Not only did he give away much in alms, but he was seldom without some poor persons at his table, and took pleasure in serving them with his own hands.

After a time Peter resolved to leave the world entirely and embrace a monastic life away from his own country. While his mind was full of these thoughts, two religious of St. Benedict, belonging to Fonte Avellana of the Reform of St. Romuald, happened to call at the house where he lived, and he was able to learn much from them about their Rule and mode of life. This decided him and he joined their hermitage, which was then in the greatest repute. The hermits, who dwelled in pairs in separate cells, occupied themselves chiefly in prayer and reading, and lived a life of great austerity.

Peter's excessive watchings brought on a severe insomnia which was cured with difficulty, but which taught him to use more discretion. Acting upon this experience, he now devoted considerable time to Sacred studies, and became as well versed in the Holy Scriptures as he formerly had been in profane literature.

By the unanimous consent of the hermits he was ordered to take upon himself the government of the Community in the event of the superior's death. Peter's extreme reluctance obliged the abbot to make it a matter of obedience. Accordingly after the abbot's decease about the year 1043, Peter assumed the direction of that holy family, which he governed with great wisdom and piety. He also founded five other hermitages in which he placed Priors under his own general direction. His chief care was to foster in his disciples the spirit of solitude, charity, and humility. Many of them became great lights of the Church, including St. Dominic Loricatus, and St. John of Lodi, his successor in the priory of the Holy Cross, who wrote St. Peter's life and at the end of his days became Bishop of Gubbio. -Catholic.org

**KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS**

1. Counting Sundays, Ash Wednesday falls 46 days before Easter. We speak of the "40 days of Lent" because Sundays are not typically counted in Lent. This also leaves us with a number that is symbolic of the 40 days Christ spent fasting in the wilderness. .
2. The earliest Ash Wednesday can fall is February 4. Ash Wednesday is a "moveable feast", which means it falls on different calendar dates in different years. The date is dependent on Easter. The earliest it has ever fallen is on February 4th. It last fell on February 4th in 1818 and will do so again in 2285.
3. They burn the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday.
4. The ashes are a sacramental, not a sacrament. A sacramental is a material object that is set apart and blessed.

**World Marriage Day  
BEAUTY OF CATHOLIC MARRIED LIFE  
IN THE EYES of THE CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH  
CHRIST BEGUN AT THE WEDDING:**

CCC#1613 On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence.

**MARRIAGE STARTS AT BAPTISM:**

1617-The entire Christian life bears the mark of the spousal love of Christ and the Church. Already Baptism, the entry into the People of God, is a nuptial mystery; it is so to speak the nuptial bath which precedes the wedding feast, the Eucharist. Christian marriage in its turn becomes an efficacious sign, the sacrament of the covenant of Christ and the Church. Since it signifies and communicates grace, marriage between baptized persons is a true sacrament of the New Covenant.

**MARRIAGE OF TWO CATHOLICS, A EUCHARISTIC VOCATION:**

It is so beautiful for a Catholic couple to start their first steps as married couple not in court but in Church, with God, 1621 their wedding in Church has a connection with all of the sacraments and with the Paschal mystery of Christ. In the Eucharist the memorial of the New Covenant is realized, the New Covenant in which Christ has united himself for ever to the Church, his beloved bride for whom he gave himself up. It is therefore fitting that the spouses should **seal their consent** to give themselves to each other through the offering of their own lives **by uniting it to the offering of Christ for His Church made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice**, and by receiving the Eucharist so that, communicating in the same Body and the same Blood of Christ, they may form but "one body" in Christ.

**BONDING:**

1638-"From a valid marriage arises a bond between the spouses which by its very nature is perpetual and exclusive; furthermore, in a Christian marriage the spouses are strengthened and, as it were, consecrated for the duties and the dignity of their state by a special sacrament."

**CHILDREN:**

1652-"By its very nature the institution of marriage and married love is ordered to the procreation and education of the offspring and it is in them that it finds its crowning glory."

**HOLY FAMILIES in the WORLD:**

1655-Christ chose to be born and grow up in the bosom of the holy family of Joseph and Mary. The Church is nothing other than "the family of God." From the beginning, the core of the Church was often constituted by those who had become believers "together with all [their] household." When they were converted, they desired that "their whole household" should also be saved. These families who became believers were islands of Christian life in an unbelieving world.

**DOMESTIC CHURCH:**

1666-The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called "the domestic church," a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity.

**WEDDING WILL BE OUR DESTINY:**

1602-Sacred Scripture begins with the creation of man and woman in the image and likeness of God and concludes with a vision of "the wedding-feast of the Lamb."

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**STORY from DESERT FATHERS:**

Abba Macarius the Great said to the brother (monks) at Scetis, when he dismissed the assembly, 'Flee, my brothers.' One of the old men asked him, 'Where could we flee to beyond the desert?' He put his finger on his lips and said, 'Flee that,' and he went into his cell, shut the door and sat down.- *Abba Macarius-Desert Father*

**WHAT IS WORLD MARRIAGE DAY?** World Marriage Day (WMD) honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family, the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.

**HISTORY** - The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, La., in 1981, when couples encouraged the Mayor, the Governor and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentines Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day". The event was so successful, the idea was presented to and was adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's National Leadership. By 1982, 43 Governors officially proclaimed the day and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day", designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. In 1993, his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day. WMD celebrations continue to grow and spread to more countries and faith expressions every year.

**SYMBOL** - Our World Marriage Day Symbol speaks readily of the role and values we proclaim. Husband and wife are symbolically seen as two candle-like figures, reminding us that married love calls us to help enlighten the world. The couple is joined by a heart, focusing on love as the power that fosters unity within the couple and generates the capacity to be life-giving and inspire others to fruitfulness and unity.

**THEME** - Our Theme for WMD has been permanently adopted as "Love One Another". This phrase is the commandment given us by Jesus in John 15:12. It speaks to us in a simple but challenging way of how our Father wishes us to live. Loving one another is a daily decision, simple but challenging.

**CHASTITY=TOTAL FREEDOM**

Chastity includes an *apprenticeship in self-mastery* which is a training in human freedom. The alternative is clear: either man governs his passions and finds peace, or he lets himself be dominated by them and becomes unhappy. **CATECHISM of the Catholic Church #2339**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Marriage helps to overcome self-absorption, egoism, pursuit of one's own pleasure, and to open oneself to the other, to mutual aid and to self-giving. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1609*

In the Latin Church, it is ordinarily understood that the spouses, as ministers of Christ's grace, mutually confer upon each other the sacrament of Matrimony by expressing their consent before the Church. In the Eastern liturgies the minister of this sacrament (which is called "Crowning") is the priest or bishop who, after receiving the mutual consent of the spouses, successively crowns the bridegroom and the bride as a sign of the marriage covenant. *Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1623*

**A Little St. Valentine's Day Humor ...**

- What did the paper clip say to the magnet? **I find you very attractive.**
- What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day? **I'm stuck on you!**
- Why didn't the skeleton want to send any Valentine's Day cards?  
**His heart wasn't in it.**
- Why did the sheriff lock up his valentine? **She stole his heart.**
- What do you call two birds in love? **Tweethearts!**

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. Ash Wednesday falls how many days before Easter?
2. What is the earliest date Ash Wednesday can possibly occur?
3. Where do churches typically get the ashes that are used to mark worshippers' foreheads on Ash Wednesday?
4. True or False? In the Roman Catholic church, the Ash Wednesday ashes are a sacrament. **Answers are on page 4.**