

Dear OLV parents,

August 25th, 2020

I hope this letter finds you well and healthy as we continue our journey in the “*desert times*” we find ourselves. Over the summer we took a family vacation to Red Rocks National Park in Nevada and did some hiking. I was prepared for the hike but wasn’t sure what was ahead of me. It was 104 degrees as we hiked. We had water, snacks, good shoes, sunscreen, etc. But that doesn’t mean you are always prepared for what might happen. Some of the paths were clear to see ahead and some of it was a surprise. I really had to think through how I was going to maneuver some of the journey. The most important thing we needed on a 104 degree day was water! As Deacon Rob said after, “I was fine until I wasn’t”. I noticed at one point on the hike back UP from the canyon he was pouring bottles of water over his head just to get his body temperature back down.

My mind thought a lot about our spirituality on that hike. As Catholics, Eucharist is the nourishment we need on our journey in life. Our theme this school year is “**In His Presence**”.

Many of us have taken advantage that Eucharist would be there for us if we felt we needed it, but then the Pandemic happened and **nothing** was really there for us. We had to be resourceful. Of course, we can find God is so many things around us, but Eucharist is at the heart of it. The Holy Eucharist is where God meets you - right where you are - and becomes for you what you need at that moment. There were times in my life when I approached Communion with a heavy heart and God came to me in those moments and strengthened me. I have experienced powerful moments at Adoration when God gave me the answers I was seeking. Time after time, the Eucharist was the “bottle of water pouring over my head” that I needed to continue on my faith journey.

Joe Paprocki tells us in his book “**Living the Mass**” how Eucharist supports us and directs us the other six days of our life. The Eucharistic Prayer invites us and challenges us to:

- Acknowledge the presence of others, especially at home and at work.
- Be present to those people we are committed to spouse, children, parents, coworkers, and friends.
- Bring Jesus’ presence to others, especially in places where there is despair.
- Offer our daily lives to God, striving to make holy our days at work and at home by setting aside time for God’s purposes.

Our opening parent meeting will be via Live Stream on Sunday, September 20th, 6:00 – 7:00 pm. I will send you the link via email closer to the date. I ask that all parents or at least one of you log onto our website to participate. Actually I hope your whole family will join in to hear Father Thomas Blau from St. Patrick’s parish in Columbus as he presents his talk on “**The Real Presence**”. Father Thomas is energetic, faithful, and super smart.

This school year will look different. We have worked hard to create several options with the intention to meet whatever comfort level you may have about this year. With guidelines established by the CDC, the State of Ohio, including the Ohio Department of Education and the Department of Health, we planned for a different version of our school year. Our protocols for reported positive COVID-19 diagnosis is stated on our website and on the attached page. Even though positive cases have dropped and students will be returning to their public schools, we will continue with our plan for the year for safety of all.

Attached is a detailed list of what we will offer. Smaller, twice a month in-class for Pre-K through 5th grades. We will also offer an At Home Catechesis option for parents in those grades. 6th-8th grade will be online with mentor catechists meeting with them twice a month and speakers that will make their faith realized. The 8th grade Confirmation year has the option of online or in-class. Or if your child is on a travel sports team or there is a family situation that makes Sunday mornings difficult for you, 5-8th grade have total online options. 6-8th online will be required to Zoom in on the monthly speakers. ***Be sure to read in detail how each program will be run.*** There is a cap of how many students can register for an in-class session for the lower grades, so please do not wait to register or you may be closed out from the program you wish to use this year

As we have asked in the past, please support this program to the best of your ability. With this unusual year ahead, parental involvement (in all forms) is more important than ever.

Online giving is now available on the parish website. We ask all Religious Ed parents to enroll in online giving. It is a painless process, you can go to the parish website and it will “walk you through” the process. Of course, we understand that some families have lost jobs and income has been cut. We don’t want your child’s Religious Education to be a family burden so please let me know if we can help.

Online registration is now available at www.ourladyofvictory.cc or enclosed is a registration form, along with the additional Harassment form and the COVID-19 Waiver, both from the Diocese of Columbus that need to be signed and returned to our office by September 6th. Pre-K through 5th begin on September 20th or 27th depending on which group you are in. 6-8th grades begin online September 27th. **Please send in your registrations by September 6th. You can register online, or mail to our office at 1553 Roxbury Road, or drop off to the 24-hour secure mailbox up by the parish office door.**

Once you pick a program, you will be emailed a calendar for the school year and the group your child is in (for PreK – 5th grades and 8th grade). **Again, please read the details of each program in order to select the correct choice.**

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me via email or my cellphone at 614-940-1394 with any questions.

Peace and health,

Mrs. Krista Joseph

Father William A. Metzger