

Our Lady of Victories Church

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

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KHS Pastor

Sunday, December 11, 2016 A.D.

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. John O'Connor

Rev. Brian Muzás

Latin Mass Assistants

Weekend Assistants

Br. Angelus CFR

Parish Seminarian

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella

Religious Education

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Selena Piazza

Elizabeth Ulisse

Lesla Rossmann

Martin Coyne II

Ministers of Music

Parish Trustees

Gail McElroy & Jerry Pulis

Curtiss & Katie Stella

Jr. High School Ministry

High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

Jon Fischer CFA

President Parish Council

Chairman Finance Committee

CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

Tuesday thru Friday December 20, 21, 22 & 23

7:20am - 7:50am in Church

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, December 24

2:30pm	Christmas Pageant and Mass in Gym
4:15pm	Mass in Church
4:15pm	Mass in Gym
5:30pm	Mass in Church
5:30pm	Mass in Gym-SPANISH
7:30pm	Mass in Church
9:00pm	Sung High LATIN Mass
11:30pm	<u>Christmas Carols in Church</u>
Midnight	Mass in Church

Christmas Day, December 25

7:30am	Mass in Church
9:30am	Mass in Church
10:45am	Mass in Church
12:00Noon	Mass in Church
6:00pm	Mass in Church

No 7:00pm Mass

Church and Gym are handicap accessible.



WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00pm, 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)
9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,
1:00pm (Spanish)
6:00pm & 7:00pm

Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00a.m. & 12:00noon



Find us on
Facebook

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OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
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OLV Convent
201-768-1705

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **OLV 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 GOOD WILL**: Br. Pius, William Biasi, John Bolger, Ellen Dunn, Catherine Fallon, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Michael Lawten, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaei, Teresa Meierdierks, Kathleen Musante, Canice Prince, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie & George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, and Jim Walsh.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

BRILLIANCE IS NOT REQUIRED

"Every time Jesus taught the multitudes, the apostles would get Him alone afterward and say, "Master, would you explain the parable to us?" Every child in that audience knew exactly what He was talking about, except his apostles. Now some of you look at Scripture and you don't understand it. Then someone comes along with an insight that makes you feel teeny-tiny. Well, don't! You aren't alone. Holiness doesn't consist of knowing much, or doing much, but of loving much."

Mother Angelica, Little Book of Life Lessons page 43

ADVENT WREATH

The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples, who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light. Christians kept those popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany, the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world. Traditionally, the wreath is made of four candles in a circle of evergreens. Three candles are violet, and the fourth is rose for the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday, from the Latin word "Rejoice"). The rejoicing comes from the fact that Advent is half over, and Christmas is soon to follow. If we listen to Isaiah, we may understand the symbolism of the wreath more clearly: The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who lived in a land as dark as death a light has dawned. You have increased their joy and given them great gladness; they rejoice in your presence as those who rejoice at harvest, as warriors exult when dividing spoil. Is:9.1-2

ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by the Rectory any weekday and meet Maria and register to become a member of the OLV Family. Census forms are also located in the Church vestibule.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Silent Night, Holy Night will be held at OLV on Wednesday, December 14, from 6:30PM to 9PM. 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.

Blessing of Water, Salt and Oil

After the Marian Novena prayers on Tuesday, December 13th, there will be blessing of water, salt and oil.

Giving Tree

Giving Tree Gifts must be brought to OLV today, December 11th. Please remember the less fortunate as you shop and prepare for Christmas.

Good People Did Nothing ...

A wise man once said "All that needs to happen for evil to prevail is for good people to stand aside and do nothing". Sadly, we've seen this proven too many times here in America.

Good People did nothing and prayer was banned from our Public Schools. *Good People did nothing* and Roe vs. Wade opened the door for abortion on demand.

Good People did nothing and they outlawed the Ten Commandments in courthouses all over our Country.

Good People did nothing and now you have to be careful about even saying "Merry Christmas".

We just can't afford to do nothing anymore.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-3:15PM members of OLV parish meet and pray the Marian Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession **at a minimum once a month**. This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 3-3:25PM. Monday through Friday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 7:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

SAVE USED EYEGLASSES

The OLV Knights of Columbus collects used and old eyeglasses for the less fortunate. Any old or "retired" glasses may be left at the rectory.

46TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING

The Cathedral Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will perform on Wednesday, December 14 and Thursday, December 15. Performances begin at 8:00PM—doors open at 7:00PM. Ramped entrance on Ridge Street secure parking—Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Park and Clifton Avenues, Newark. For information please call 973-484-2400.

YG Christmas Greens Sale

The Youth Group of Our Lady of Victories Parish is conducting a wreath and grave blanket sale. All proceeds of this sale will support our Youth Ministry Program. Thank you for your support.

Small Grave Blanket \$25

Large Grave Blanket \$35

Decorated Wreath \$25

HOLY HOUR AT OLV

Every Tuesday from 12:30-3:00PM. **Every Thursday** at 7PM OLV has a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayers and quiet time. **Every Friday** OLV has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 12Noon to 3PM. Stop by and make a visit to our Eucharistic Lord.

GOD'S HOUSE

The Church is God's special dwelling place and some people come to pray, so please be aware of this and please refrain from idle chatter before and after Mass. We should behave differently in God's House as opposed to being at home, at the mall, a grocery store or a civic center.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Dec 11—Sun—**Giving Tree Gifts due back**
Dec 13 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
Dec 14—Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
Dec 14—Wed—Silent Night, Holy Night 6:30-9:00PM
Dec 14 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
Dec 16-Fri– Adoration from 12:30-3:00PM
Dec 17 - Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00Noon & 3:00-3:25PM
Dec 17 -Sat—AA - lower Church 6:30-8:30PM
Jan 28—Sat—K of C Beefsteak Dinner
Feb 4—Sat—10AM—First Confession
Apr 2– Sun—Rosary Breakfast
May 21—Sun- 2:00PM -Confirmation

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
Major Michael Franson, US Army;
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
2nd Lieutenant Gigi McElroy, US Army;
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

SILENT NIGHT

The popular Christmas carol *Stille Nacht* (Silent Night) was first sung on December 24, 1818, in the Church of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, Austria. The lyrics were written by the curate, Fr. Josef Mohr, who was inspired by a baby seen on a sick call earlier in the day. The organ in the church was broken, therefore the music for his carol was initially written for guitar and consisted of six stanzas, three more than we are used to hearing.

WHO STARTED CHRISTMAS?

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card. Finally the elevator doors opened, and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot." From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop. Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be. -- Author Unknown

PLEASE OBEY PARKING LAWS

One cannot park in a crosswalk or block a driveway.

One needs to park 25 feet from a crosswalk or corner.

One needs to park 50 feet from a stop sign.

Parking is prohibited on Harriot Ave. between Elliot and Lynn.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

CDA is a national organization dedicated to prayer, good works, and the helping of others less fortunate. You will make new and dear friends and have fun while enriching your life and others. Regular meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the lower church at 7:00PM. For info, contact Renee Tringali@gmail.com/201-913-2580.

Free Blood Pressure Screening

Harrington Park Residents Saturday, December 17—8:30 to 10:00AM

No appointment necessary. 15 Kline Street, Harrington Park.

Christmas Greens

Holly and Mistletoe or other Evergreens have been used to decorate for thousands of years in many cultures. Evergreens are symbols of enduring life since they stay "alive" all winter when most plants wither and die. Some believed evergreens had magical power due to their constant greenness. Homes were decorated with evergreens in the hope of enticing the spirits of the woods inside to bring good luck in the coming year. They were twisted into a circle, symbol of eternity, and suspended from ceilings after being attached to wagon wheels, brought inside to protect them from the winter elements. Candles were often added to give light to the room – and presto: Advent wreaths were born! Some consider holly "masculine" since it uses its thorns to protect itself, as men use weapons to protect themselves; ivy is "feminine" since it entwines or embraces whatever it is near. Since mistletoe was thought to bring good luck and fertility, the Scandinavians began the custom of "kissing under the mistletoe." In Norse mythology, an evil spirit formed an arrow from mistletoe and killed Baldur, the god of innocence, beauty, joy, purity, and peace. As his mother wept, her tears became the white berries of the mistletoe – and his life was restored! In thanks, his mother, Frigga, the goddess of love and beauty, is said to kiss anyone who passes under mistletoe. Even enemies would call a truce when they met underneath it.

CCD CORNER

The students continued their Advent journey by participating in a prayer service and learning about this time of preparation through scripture and reflection. Some of classes made Advent Wreathes, others composed Advent Prayers and still others shared what they will doing in getting themselves ready for Christmas. As we enter the 3rd week of Advent our students will be preparing their souls to celebrate the birth of Christ by examining their consciences and preparing for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** that will be administered **next Sunday morning (December 18th)** from 9:30 – 10:30 in the school and again on **next Monday afternoon (December 19th)** from 4:15 – 5:15 in the church. The invitation is opened to you, your families and parishioners to go to confession before the Feast of Christmas.

CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE TERMINALLY ILL WITH CANCER

Rosary Hill Home, owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, NY, since 1901, is committed to providing loving, one-on-one palliative care to those suffering from terminal cancer. Free to all who meet the Admission requirements. The Sisters depend solely upon the "providence of God and the hourly mercy of the charitable public;" no payment is accepted from patients, their families, private insurance or from the government. For information call 914-769-0114 or visit www.rosaryhillhome.org.

SUPPLEMENTING RETIREMENT WITH A PLANNED GIFT

Are you nearing retirement or are already retired and are looking to make a year-end gift? If so, a Charitable Gift Annuity can be a way to supplement your retirement income and help your parish at the same time. Also, if you are 70-1/2 or older, don't forget about the IRA Charitable Rollover. Let the Archdiocese of Newark help you set up a Charitable Gift Annuity. Contact Theresa Lynch in the Planned Giving Office—973-497-4042 or lynchthe@rcan.org.

CLOTHING BINS

Through the turbulence of your many demands, would you be willing to take a few minutes to gather your unwanted clothing and shoes to help the poor? Please drop them in the donation bins located on the Church grounds. Your donations help Catholic Charities and Mt. Carmel Guild.

OLV PARISH REGISTRATION

If you are presently not on our mailing list, receiving envelopes and the various parish mailings, chances are that you are not a registered member of our parish. You are **NOT automatically** a registered member because you were married here or even if you were brought up here and lived in the parish with your parents - or went to school here. Membership is by **FORMAL** registration **ONLY**. Call the Parish Office - (201) 768-1706 to see if you are registered and if not, let us help you become an official member of Our Lady of Victories Parish. Thank you.

A COURAGEOUS CHOICE

Over 2000 years ago, an angel announced the pregnancy of a young unmarried girl. The courageous choice made by that young woman to give birth in difficult circumstances, supported by a man named Joseph, still stands as a model of God's way to handle unplanned pregnancy.

SERIOUS PROBLEM

A worried woman went to her gynecologist and said: "Doctor, I have a serious problem and desperately need your help! My baby is not even one year old and I'm pregnant again. I don't want kids so close together." So the doctor said: "Ok, and what do you want me to do?" She said: "I want you to end my pregnancy, and I'm counting on your help with this." The doctor thought for a little while, and after some silence he said to the lady: "I think I have a better solution for your problem. It's less dangerous for you too." She smiled, thinking that the doctor was going to accept her request. Then he continued: "You see, in order for you not to have to take care of two babies at the same time, let's kill the one in your arms. That way, you could rest some before the other one is born. If we're going to kill one of them, it doesn't matter which one it is. There would be no risk for your body if you chose the one in your arms." The lady was horrified and said: "No doctor! How terrible! It's a crime to kill a child!" "I agree", the doctor replied. "But you seemed to be ok with it, so I thought maybe that was the best solution." The doctor smiled, realizing that he had made his point. He convinced the mom that there is no difference in killing a child that's already been born and one that's still in the womb. The crime is the same!

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe

8:00 Michael Keene R/b Joan Gaffney
12:00 Lucy Ulisse R/b Don and Liz Ulisse

Tuesday, December 13–St. Lucy of Syracuse, Italy, virgin, martyr

8:00 John T. O'Neill R/b the Budda Family
12:00 Kevin O'Halloran R/b the Farley Family

Wednesday, December 14–St. John of the Cross of Spain, priest

8:00 Intentions of Ryan Bolton R/b the Bolton Family
12:00 William Jenkins R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara

Thursday, December 15 – St. Nino of Georgia, virgin

8:00 Intentions of Charlie and Tyler Madison-4th Birthday R/b Esty Parlanti
12:00 Living and Deceased Members of Rosary Society

Friday, December 16 – St. Adelaide of Burgundy-Queen of Germany

8:00 Maria Tarabocchia R/b Nick Tarabocchia
12:00 James McConnell R/b Peter and Eileen Kruimer

Saturday, December 17–St. Olympias-Widow

8:00 Frank Urgo R/b Clara Urgo
12:00 George Moeser Jr. R/b the Bolton Family
4:00 Angela Commerford R/b the Williams Family
5:00 Francis X. and Catherine Beirne R/b Richard and Mary C. O'Brien

Sunday, December 18–St. Gatian, Bishop of Tours, France

7:30 George Gill R/b Winnie Gill
8:15 Charles Morgan R/b Tony and Marylene D'Jamoos
9:30 Robert Meehan R/b the Klingenberg Family
10:45 Victorio Torres R/b Julie Torres
12:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
1:00 Intentions of Janice del Carmen Gil—16th Birthday
6:00 Stephen Mancision R/b Barry and Pat Foschino
7:00 Maria Tarabocchia R/b Nick Tarabocchia

Sanctuary Memorials

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Bartram Lee Reeves**, r/b the Anzalone Family.

The Church Sanctuary Lamp and the St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the repose of the soul of **Mildred Yelli**.

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns for the souls in Purgatory.

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns for the unemployed.

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Today is Gaudete Sunday – Rejoicing Sunday, we light the pink candle on the Advent Wreath as we rejoice in the Lord's coming. From His promise of Savior to Adam and Eve, God never abandoned His people. Through signs and symbols, sacred omens and oracles, God gave hope and direction to His people through the prophets. Many prophets had a difficult job of calling the people from their sinful ways to God's way – from the road to death to the way of salvation. God now entrusts that duty to the Church: through its sacraments and preaching, God calls us from sin to salvation, from death to life.

SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

It is through the generosity of our advertisers that we are able to place this bulletin into your hands, each week, without cost to the Parish. Why not get into the habit of looking through the ads and giving your neighbors/merchants a chance to serve your needs. Tell them you read about them in the OLV Parish Bulletin.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. Nazareth. 2. Bethlehem. 3. Egypt. 4. House of Bread.
- 5. A manger—which is a container that holds an animal's food.

HOW TO STAY YOUNG

Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay "them". Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever.. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's. Enjoy the simple things. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is... Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. Worry about nothing, pray about everything!!

QUESTION?

What is a votive candle? The act of lighting a candle when offering a special prayer has long been a cherished tradition. As a way to help advance the works of the Church and to offer a sacrifice to Christ, it has been customary to give an offering for the candle. The word *votive* comes from the Latin verb *voveo*, meaning *I desire*. It signifies an offering in which a gift is linked with a prayer intention, as a sacrificial dedication of oneself to God, submission to His will, and reliance on His mercy and providence. A votive candle is a sentinel that we leave burning heavenward at a sacred place as a visual sign of our prayer of thanks or request.

I'm Fine

There's nothing whatever the matter with me. I'm just as healthy as I can be. I have arthritis in both my knees and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze. My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. I think my liver is out of whack, and a terrible pain is in my back. My hearing is poor, my sight is dim; most everything seems to be out of trim, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. I have arch supports for both my feet, or I wouldn't be able to go on the street. Sleeplessness I have night after night, and in the morning I'm just a sight. My memory is failing, my head's in a spin; I'm peacefully living on aspirin. But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. The moral is, as this tale we unfold, that for you and me who are growing old, It's better to say, "I'm fine" with a grin than to let them know the shape we're in. *by Cardinal Cushing*

BEEFSTEAK DINNER - 1/28/17

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians - men studying for the priesthood and other charitable works. Please support this event. It is a fun evening, and last year it was a great success. If you would like to be a placemat advertiser send your business card and a check payable to the OLV K of C c/o The OLV K of C, PO Box 145, Harrington Park NJ 07640 or call Greg Evanella 201-784-5752.

Office of Concern Food Pantry at St. Cecilia

We are always in need and if you wish to contribute specific holiday foods such as cranberry sauce and other fixings, that is fine, but there are also **three areas of year-round foods that are especially valuable: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta (spaghetti, rigatoni, etc) and breakfast cereals.**

WORKERS NEEDED

The Harvest is great but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest. Become a Priest or Religious Brother or Sister or Permanent Deacon. For info see Fr. Bryan or call the Vocations Office 973-497-4365.

The Infinite Value of the Holy Mass

The Holy Mass is the highest form of worship. It is the sacrifice of Calvary renewed. One Mass gives God more praise and thanksgiving, makes more atonement for sin, and pleads more eloquently than does the combined and eternal worship of all the souls in heaven, on earth and in purgatory. In the Holy Mass, it is Jesus Christ, God as well as Man, who is our Intercessor, our priest, and our Victim. Being God – as well as Man – His prayers, merits, and His offerings are infinite in value.

Why We Should Attend Holy Mass

- The Mass is the best means we have:
- To render God the highest form of worship.
- To thank Him for all His blessings.
- To make reparation for all our sins.
- To obtain all the blessings we desire.
- To release souls from purgatory and to shorten our own time there.
- To preserve us from all dangers to soul and body.
- To be consoled at the hour of death, for at that moment their memory will be our greatest consolation.
- To intercede for us at the Judgment Seat of God.
- To bring down God's blessings; therefore, try to attend at Mass every day, or as often as possible, and of course, on Sundays.
- To better understand the sublimity of the Passion of Christ, and therefore, to increase our love for Him.

CHRISTMAS TREE ROOTS

Egyptians brought palm tree branches into their homes in late December as a symbol of growing things. Romans trimmed trees with trinkets and topped them with an image of their sun god to celebrate Saturnalia, which occurred at the end of the year. Druid sorcerers hung golden apples and lit candles on oak trees to celebrate the winter solstice. Our Christmas Tree custom began long ago with the Germanic tribes that existed thousands of years before Christ's birth. These pagans believed in a god named Woden, who was thought to reside in fir trees. Therefore, they put fir trees in their homes during this time of year to receive the benefits of Woden's presence and to be protected from evil in the coming year. Also, evergreens are thought to represent life and immortality; thus they were a safeguard against the cold lifelessness of winter. In the Middle Ages, the Feast of Adam and Eve was celebrated on December 24; a fir tree hung with red apples called the "Paradise Tree" was its symbol. It is generally agreed that the use of an evergreen tree as part of the Christian Christmas celebration started 400 years ago in Germany and spread to Northern Europe.

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.

SURGERY

An older gentleman was on the operating table awaiting surgery and he insisted that his son, a renowned surgeon, perform the operation. As he was about to get the anesthesia he asked to speak to his son. "Yes, Dad, what is it?" "Don't be nervous, son; do your best and just remember, if it doesn't go well, if something happens to me, your mother is going to come and live with you and your wife."

KIDZ KORNER

1. What city did Mary reside in?
2. What city was Jesus born in?
3. What country did Mary and Joseph flee with the baby Jesus?
4. What does the translation of the name Bethlehem mean?
- 5..After He was born where did Mary place baby Jesus?

Answers on page 4