

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

WELCOME

SUNDAY, February 25, 2018 A.D.

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KCHS

Pastor

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KCHS 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 Evanella

Religious Education

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Gulfo

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Michael Flynn & Meagan Mullany
Jr. High School Ministry

Curtiss & Katie Stella
High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:00pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

First Saturday: 8:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Mass for Souls in Purgatory

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 & 12Noon Mass.

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 12:30pm-3:00pm

Thursday-Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction: 7:00pm

Friday-Exposition & Adoration: 12:30pm-3:00pm



THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am.

First Friday at 6:30pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:30pm

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.

Latin Mass every Sunday 8:15AM

Spanish Mass every Sunday 1PM



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
201-768-1400
olvhpccd@gmail.com

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**: Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Gloria Genovese, Tom Giuliano, Marylou Goreb, Vincent Gulfo, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Lisa LoSchiavo, Anne Matthaedi, Roseann Placey, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Kathie Sendra, Frances Sykes, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, and Jim Walsh.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"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.

ADDITIONAL FRIDAY MASS

During LENT there will be an additional Friday evening Mass offered at 7:00PM followed by the **Stations of the Cross—The Franciscan Version** which will be led by one of the adult ministries of OLV parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross, followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, on Thursday evenings at 7:00p.m. Each week the Thursday evening **Stations of the Cross by St Alphonse Ligiouri** will be led by OLV's Confirmation Class. Also, **The Scriptural Stations of the Cross** will be held after 8:00a.m. Mass on Saturday mornings during Lent.

ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays from 12:30PM—3:00PM, Thursday night from 7:00PM—8:00PM, and Fridays from 12:30PM—3:00PM.

So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.

2018 Wedding Anniversary Masses

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage in 2018. Couples deserving of such recognition are urged to participate. These liturgies will be celebrated at 3:00p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

Sunday, April 29, 2018— 5 & 25 years

Sunday, May 6, 2018—50 years

Please call the OLV Rectory to register at 201-768-1706.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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

Food Collection

Every month OLV collects assorted non-perishable canned foods for St. Cecilia's Food Bank. Please bring your donation to the Church or leave at the rectory garages. Thank you.

"No one is entitled to accept a label without its contents. To be a Catholic means to be attached to the Church, a sincere and total profession of the faith of which she has the deposit."
Pope Paul VI

St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale

Catholic Daughters of the Americas will have a St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale the weekend of March 10th/11th after each Mass. If you would like to donate baked goods, please contact Reneeetingali@gmail.com or 201-913-2580.

BREAKFAST CEREAL COLLECTION

Please remember the needy as you shop. OLV will be collecting breakfast cereal during the month of March for St. Cecilia's food pantry.

Toiletries Collection for the LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR

The Annual Toiletries Collection will be the weekends of March 3/4 and March 10/11 and March 17/18 Please see the shopping list below for suggested donations. Small and medium size toiletries are especially useful. REQUESTED ITEMS FOR THOSE IN NEED:

Toothpaste	Soap	Disposable razors
Toothbrushes	Lip Balm	Body Lotion (unscented)
Dental Floss	Shampoo	Shaving Cream
Deodorant	Talcum/Baby Powder	Combs/Brushes
Denture Adhesive/Cleanser	Individual Packets of Tissues	

Please leave your donations in the Church vestibule.

2018 LENTEN REGULATIONS

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 18, 2018** to the **Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 27, 2018**.

*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.*

QUESTION?

The dates for Lent and Easter change all the time. Who determines when these feasts will be celebrated each year? Though there is some divergence in parts of the Christian world, our celebration of Easter is on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the vernal equinox. The vernal equinox, which we ordinarily refer to as the first day of spring, is on or about March 21. The dates for Lent, Ascension and Pentecost are determined by counting backward or forward from the date of Easter.

Some Lenten Tips on What to Give up

Give up complaining...focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism...become an optimist. Give up harsh judgments...think kindly thoughts. Give up worry...trust Divine Providence. Give up discouragement...be full of hope. Give up bitterness...turn to forgiveness. Give up hatred...return good for evil. Give up negativism...be positive. Give up anger...be patient. Give up pettiness...become mature. Give up gloom...enjoy the beauty that is around you. Give up jealousy...pray for trust. Give up gossiping...control your tongue. Give up sin...turn to virtue. Give up giving up...hang in there.

The Heart of Christ is a Temple of Divine Love."

St. John Eudes

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Feb 27 - Tue - Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
Feb 28 - Wed - Bible Study Group 10M
Feb 28 - Wed - OLV Needlers 6:30PM
Mar 1 - Thu - Holy Hour 7:00PM
Mar 2 - Fri -Mass/Stations led by Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors 7:00PM
Mar 10/11 - Sat/Sun - CDA St. Patricks Bake Sale

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Private First Class Matthew Brady, U.S. Marine Corps;
Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
Captain Ben Clemente, US Army;
Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
Specialist Peter Dippolito, U.S. Army;
Major Michael Franson, US Army;
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
Lance Corporal Thomas Iafrate, U.S. Marine Corps;
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
SN Daniel T. LoVecchio, U.S. Navy;
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
Captain John G. Miele, US Army.

PRE-CANA COUPLES NEEDED

The Archdiocese needs to increase it's pool of Archdiocesan team couples to present the new Archdiocesan Pre-Cana program. Training is provided by the Archdiocesan Family Life Office. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Jill Cherrey 973-497-4325 or email jillc@joyfilledmarriagej.org.

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 3:00-3:30PM. Monday thru Friday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6:30PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

OLV Prayer Power House

Become one of our prayer team members. There are no meetings, so this apostolate is wonderful for all, including those parishioners who are homebound. For information, please phone Maria at the rectory.

Are YOU new to the AREA?

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by OLV 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.

OLV K of C Council #14483

All men over the age of 18 are cordially invited to join the OLV Knights of Columbus Council. The Knights are the largest Catholic Fraternal Organization in the world. For info' contact Greg Evarella at 201-784-5752.

SAVE USED EYEGLASSES

The Knights of Columbus collects used and old eyeglasses for the less fortunate. Old or "retired" glasses may be left in the basket in the atrium.

DID YOU KNOW?

Queen Anne, the wife of King James I of England, was not allowed to live in Britain because the English court advisors feared her recurring interest in Catholicism. Queen Anne eventually did become a Roman Catholic, and the British anti-Catholic laws were not repealed until June of 1829.

2018 Sharing God's Blessings Appeal

Your contribution to the 2018 Sharing God's Blessings Appeal makes a difference in the lives of so many in our community. Funds raised through the appeal help to educate children in our inner-city Catholic schools, serve the spiritual needs of people at parishes located in poor neighborhoods, and assist Catholic Charities in running its programs, which help the poor overcome the many obstacles in life. In addition, the appeal assists with seminarian and priest retirement costs. Please consider making a generous gift. **IF YOU MAKE A PLEDGE DIRECTLY TO THE ARCHDIOCESE, PLEASE INFORM THE RECTORY SO THAT WE CAN CHECK AND VERIFY THAT OLV GETS THE CREDIT.**

FOUR WORDS

A king called all of his wise men and counselors together for a meeting. He addressed them and said, "I want you to go and think, read, and research. Consult the wisest and most learned men in the land. Spare no expense." "I want you to find the ONE statement that will get me through all situations in life. Whether I am on top of the world or in the pits, find that statement." "Find me a Mountain Wings Moment statement." "I don't want to learn long and complicated philosophies. I want one simple statement. Find it or write it; I don't care, just bring me the statement." The men left and consulted for months. They finally returned and handed the King a scroll. The King unrolled the scroll. On it was written four words. "THIS TOO SHALL PASS" That was it.

The wise men explained. When you are on top of the world, that is but a fleeting moment, things change, always remember, this too shall pass. When you are in the pits, all nights are followed by day, at your lowest moments remember also, this too shall pass. All external circumstances and material things change. No matter what your circumstances, remember, THIS TOO SHALL PASS!

The wise men reminded the great King that this would get him through his earthly things, but the truly wise knew there were things beyond this earth and life ... things that were eternal. True wisdom, they reminded the King, was in the ability to recognize the fleeting temporal things of the material world from the truly eternal things. "O Great King", they said, "Most of the things that you worry or gloat about are temporary, and our four words apply." For most of your situations...THIS TOO SHALL PASS!

Contribution Statements

2017 Contribution Statements are now available. To obtain a copy of your 2017 donations, please call Maria at the rectory 201-768-1706.

FRIDAY ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 12:00Noon – 3:00PM.

So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.

CCD Corner

There will be **NO CCD CLASSES next week (March 4th and 5th)** because many of our teachers will be on our parish pilgrimage in the Holy Land. If you get an opportunity to walk in the halls of our school and in our CCD classrooms, you will see crosses hanging on the walls. Our students have written on them what special things they are doing to make this Lent more meaningful. Our little ones are going to be more helpful and obedient around the house and our older students are using this time to share their time and talents with those in most need of them. Our children are responding to the challenge of making Lent a time of Christian action and we are very proud of them!

THE POPULATION BUST

Underpopulation, not overpopulation is the greater threat to the world today. More, than 70 countries representing over half the world's population have below replacement-rate fertility (2.1 children per woman). Today the populations of the developed nations are either static or declining.

By 2050, the UN predicts Russia's population will decline by 25 million people, Japan's by 21 million, Italy's by 16 million, and Germany's and Spain's by 9 million each. The UN forecasts that Europe and Japan will lose half their population by 2100.

By 2050, people aged 65 and above will be twice as numerous as children 15 years and younger. The economic consequences of this rapid aging of the population will be closing schools, declining stock markets and morbid economics. Countries accustomed to steady economic growth will have to scramble as their populations dwindle, and economies slide into recession. Ignoring these inconvenient facts, the population controllers continue to spread their myth of overpopulation.

Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 8:00am-4:30pm, Cost: \$25, Seton Hall University. This year's theme is **"Be Not Afraid: The Victory is Christ's!"** His Eminence **Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin** will be celebrating the Mass! Register at www.NJCatholicMen.org.

St. Zita's Villa for Women

When your loved one needs a Home away from Home, NYS certified St. Zita's Villa for women in Airmont, NY provides affordable private rooms with nutritious, tasty meals in a clean, comfortable Catholic setting with 24/7 personal care nursing and medical assistance. 845-356-2011.

CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE 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; there is no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex or handicap. 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 info' call 914-769-0114 or visit www.rosaryhillhome.org.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Do you want to give your Valentine something that will be remembered for a lifetime? The **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** is a great romantic get away! **Military families**, are you getting ready to deploy? Is your family trying to reconnect after deployment? Marriage Encounter offers tools of communication that have kept many military marriages strong and happy throughout the ups and downs of military service. Contact your local chaplain or call Mike and Janet Turco at 973 427-7016 for more information.

LENT – SACRIFICE – CLOTHING BINS

Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we do so, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, and children's books to the Catholic Charities clothing bin? If you do, you have made the connection and you have moved closer to Christ. Thank you .

Congratulations!

to OLV parishioner Jude Rossmann, who achieved second honors for the second quarter at Paramus Catholic High School. Jude is a sophomore.

The wage of sin is death – repent before payday.

Mass Intentions

Monday, February 26 – St. Victor, Hermit

8:00 Mary Turnbull R/b Rita McNamara
12:00 Patrick Henderson R/b the Bland Family
7:00 (Convent) Rev. Zachary H. Monet, O.Carm. R/b Pat Consoli

Tuesday, February 27 – St. Leander of Seville, Bishop

8:00 Kathleen Musante R/b Pat Duggan
12:00 Robert Nesbitt R/b Bill and Cathy Ryan

Wednesday, February 28 – St. Hilary, Pope

8:00 John Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family
12:00 Thomas Izzo R/b the Izzo Family

Thursday, March 1 - St. David, Bishop-Patron of Wales

8:00 Intentions of Rita McNamara
12:00 Thomas Curry R/b Mary Corrigan

First Friday, March 2 - Bl. Angela of the Cross Guerrero

8:00 Emma Lombardi
12:00 Intentions of Sandra Giron R/b the Giron Family
7:00 Joseph McLarnon R/b the McLarnon Family

First Saturday, March 3 - St. Katharine Drexel, Heiress

8:00 Jim Spillane R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 Souls in Purgatory

4:00 Joseph Gramuglia R/b Bob and Renee Tringali
5:00 Thomas Zanetti R/b the Zanetti Family

Sunday, March 4 - St. Casimir – Patron of Poland

7:30 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b the Ottomanelli Family
8:15 Sofia Aguirre R/b Roseanne Morgan
9:30 Larry Longo R/b the Bentivegna Family
10:45 Martino Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family
12:00 Donald Fannon R/b Kathleen Magarro

1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 John Bolger Jr. R/b Eileen Fallon
7:00 Thomas L. Duffy R/b Matthew and Mary Ann Donohue Ryan

Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of Emma Lombardi, r/b children and grandchildren.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Lydia de Jesus Mohsenin, r/b the Dunn family

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for a special intention.

The Hosts and Wine used at holy Mass this week have been donated in memory of Margaret Jaworowicz, r/b Julia Cambria.

The Rectory Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for those serving in our military.

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the unemployed.

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week in loving memory of Michael Viapiano - 1st Anniversary, r/b the Purcell Family.

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns this week for the souls in Purgatory.

THE LOVE OF GOD

No matter how long it has been, the Love of God knows no time. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **First Friday** at 6:30PM, **Saturday** at 11AM until Noon, and from 3:00PM – 3:30PM. **Monday thru Friday** at 7:25AM – 7:50AM.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. Jonathan. 2. The Tree of Knowledge. 3. God.
- 4. Judah and Israel. 5. He recovered his eyesight.

**God's love is for anybody anywhere,
and everybody everywhere.**

February is dedicated to the Passion.

Cardinal Tobin

The National Congressional Call-In Day for Dreamers Campaign

The Bishops of the United States are calling on Catholics across the country to join in a national "Call-In Day" to Congress on Monday, February 26, 2018 to spur our federal representatives to support a legislative solution for Dreamers before the March 5 deadline that President Trump has set for ending the executive branch protection called "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" – also known as DACA. As many of you know, this is an issue very near and dear to our Archbishop. Cardinal Tobin strongly urges each of you to spread the word about the purpose of the Call-In Day. He encourages all parishioners to add their voices to the millions of Catholics calling on lawmakers to find a just and humane solution for these young people who are Americans in every way.

"There is an urgent, longstanding need to provide relief for Dreamers," says Cardinal Tobin. "Congress must not delay or hinder this relief by adding unrelated and controversial provisions to any DACA legislation." The Cardinal also notes that here in New Jersey, many Dreamers are neighbors and active members of our parish and school communities. "We support these young people who contribute to our parish life, our local, regional and national economies, and we need to demonstrate to our lawmakers in Washington in this special way our support and solidarity for them."

Further information is available at the Justice for Immigrants website – www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

There will be a modified vigil for the 40 Days for Life in Hackensack this Lent on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (days when abortions are performed), 7AM-2PM at 10 Zabriskie St., Hackensack. Vigil will start on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and end on Palm Sunday, March 25. Please consider giving one hour per week during Lent to join us in prayer. To sign-up please contact Margaret at 201-805-0937.

A MEDITATION

God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission - I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I shall do His work.

Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am. I cannot be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me - still He knows what He is about.

KIDZ KORNER

1. Who was King Saul's oldest son and David's closest friend?
2. Adam and Eve were forbidden to eat from which tree?
3. Who said, "I AM WHO I AM?"
4. What were the two ancient kingdoms that the Jews founded?
5. What happened when Jesus put mud on the blind man's eyes?

ANSWERS ON PAGE FOUR

"Lent is the time for "entering" into oneself.
It is the period of a particular intimacy with God."

Pope John Paul II

ANOINTING MASS AT OLV

On Saturday, March 17, at 12noon OLV parish will have a Mass for the Sick which will include the Anointing of the Sick during Mass. Afterward there will be a light lunch in the lower church. All elderly and sick are invited – please contact the rectory at 201-768-1706 so we can properly plan for the event— our church is handicap accessible. **Fr. Innocent of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal** will celebrate the sacrament. Participants will be able to venerate a relic of St. Peregrine, patron saint of those suffering from cancer and the relics of the 12 Apostles.

EASTER DUTY

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty), that is the obligation of receiving the Eucharist for Easter extends to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 27th. No one conscious of committing a serious or mortal sin should receive Holy Communion until they have first gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation a.k.a. Confession. Confessions are heard EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 3:00-3:30PM, every weekday morning at 7:30AM, and Fridays from 6:30-6:50PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Cast Out the Leaven of Malice

Like yeast that causes the dough to rise as it changes into a gas, leaven also causes the dough to rise. But unlike yeast, a small amount of leaven, taken from the last batch of dough, was kneaded into the new dough; before it was left to rise and was baked, a small amount was kept to add into the next batch of dough. Eventually this led to leaven with less "rising power" – and it became a source of harmful bacteria; so in the Bible, leaven is a negative symbol. The Jews were divinely mandated to destroy all leaven and be "leaven-free" for one week during the annual Feast of Unleavened Bread, after which they started anew with fresh leaven. The Passover or Seder meal took place during this weeklong "leaven-free" time. To this day the Church uses unleavened hosts or the purest bread for the Eucharistic sacrifice, for Christ was sinless!

LENT

Lent is usually the Liturgical Season when most of us begin to rethink our lives with an eye toward reconciliation with God. It is the time of the year when the Church asks us to repent and to reform our behavior. Some, of course, reject such an idea. Think how many people in today's world deny sin in general and their own sins in particular. Consider, for example, how people manipulate language in order to justify their behavior: Many politicians, for example, think we are stupid. When they wish to indicate to the voting public that they are for abortion, a strong word which they prefer to avoid, they say they are for a "woman's right to choose". A woman's right to choose what? +No one steals anymore; they simply lift something, or in the case of some large corporations, someone simply made an error in judgment. +No one lies anymore; they simply misrepresent the facts. +No one kills an unborn child; they simply terminate a pregnancy. Who is kidding whom here? All this represents a clever way of candy-coating the reality of sin because we don't like to admit that we sin. Well of course we don't! It's hard to admit our sins; it hurts our pride. If we close our eyes to sin in our lives, we don't see ourselves as sinners; we don't feel a personal need for Jesus. And if we don't see a personal need for Jesus, then we are surely lost! In one of his first letters, St. John said: "If we say that we have not sinned, we make a liar out of God..." And that's because God sent His Son for our sins. If we have not sinned, then something is wrong with God for sending His Son to be sacrificed. And that simply is not so!