

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

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. Brian Muzás

Weekend Assistants

Br. Innocent CFR

Charles Niece

Parish Seminarians

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evanella Betty Ann Niece

Religious Education

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Curtiss & Katie Stella

High School Ministry

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. John O'Connor

Latin Mass Assistants

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

In Residence-Convent

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

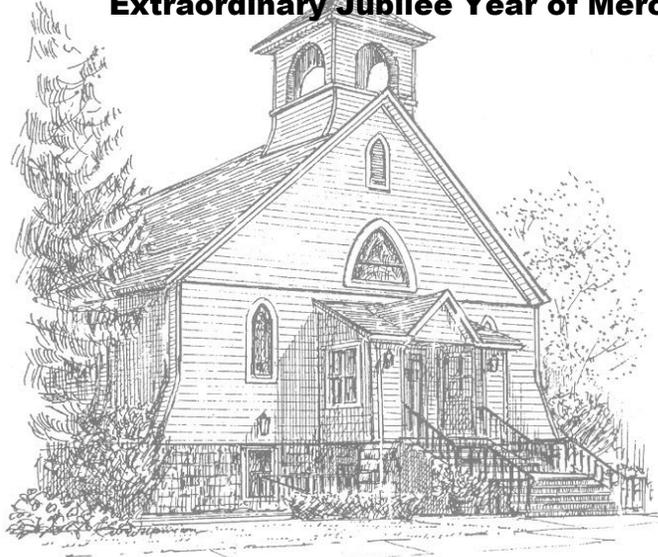
Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee

SUNDAY, April 17, 2016
Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy



WELCOME

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

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4pm, 5pm, 6pm (Spanish)

Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)

**9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,
6:00pm & 7:00pm**

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

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:30pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

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

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

Sundays: at 3PM Group Rosary

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

Rosary: Recited M - Sat after 8:00am & 12Noon Mass.

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 2:00-3:00pm

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

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

Nocturnal Adoration: First Friday evening 8pm to Saturday 8am

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am. First Friday at 7:00pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:25pm

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.



Find us on
Facebook

OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
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OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
201-768-1400
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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**: little Niamh Devlin, Larry Dolce, Br. Pius, Joseph Accardi, Isabella Ruggiero, Maria Aleman, William Biasi, Michael Conmy, Mario Gobbetti, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Ken Mosier, Kathleen Musante, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie and George Rush, Cynthia Simonelli, Mildred Speck, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Mike Weber, Darien Wesler, Al Wiese, Roy Wurst, Marian Zanetti, Elaine Zito.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"Blessed is he who knows what it is to love Jesus and to despise himself for the sake of Jesus. We must quit what we love for this Beloved, because Jesus will be loved alone above all things."

Thomas A Kempis, THE IMITATION OF CHRIST Book 2, Chapter 7.

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 22**. 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 3:00-3:25PM, every weekday morning at 7:30AM, and Fridays from 6:30-6:50PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

MY OATH TO YOU...

When you are sad...I will dry your tears.
When you are scared...I will comfort your fears.
When you are worried...I will give you hope.
When you are confused...I will help you cope.
And when you are lost...and can't see the light,
I shall be your beacon...shining ever so bright.
This is my oath...I pledge till the end.
Why you may ask?...Because you're my friend.

Love,
GOD

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 Catholic Charities? Please drop them in the Catholic Charities donation bin located on the Church grounds. Your donations help Catholic Charities and Mt. Carmel Guild. Thank you.

OPEN HOUSE

Our Lady of Mercy Academy, Park Ridge, on Wednesday, April 20, 9:00-11:00AM, 1:00-2:00PM and 5:30-7:00PM. Classroom visitations/tours for parents interested in grades PreK-4-3rd. For info' please call 201-391-3838.

Academy of the Holy Angels, Wednesday, April 20, 6:30-8:30PM. Formal presentation begins 6:30 and last tour leaves at 8PM. For more info or to register: www.holyangels.org/admissions.

Academy of Holy Angels/Sneak Peek for 6th grade girls & parents, Monday, April 25, 9:00-11:45AM. Register at holyangels.org/6th-grade-sneak-peek.

Saint Joseph Regional H.S., Wednesday, May 4, 6:30-9:00PM, for prospective students (6th, 7th and 8th grade boys) and their families. SJR students will provide tours starting promptly at 6:30PM. For more info' and directions call 201-391-3300 or pre-register at www.sjrj.org.

**Check out OLV's website olvhp.org
and find us on Facebook:
Our Lady of Victories Parish**

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 Rich at pockets5197@aol.com, or use the contact page on our website: www.olvknights.org.

TRAVELING STATUE

OLV has a traveling statue of the Blessed Mother that can go from home to home so that prayers and rosaries can be said for the good of the people of the parish and the individual family. The statue will "visit" for a week before it will be sent to the next home. Contact the rectory for information or to have your name placed on the list to receive the statue.

Ladies Breakfast

The Rosary Society will have their annual Communion Breakfast on Sunday, April 24th - the featured speaker will be Full Bird Colonel Fr. Matthew Pawlikowski, a priest of the Newark Archdiocese. Tickets are being sold after Mass this weekend and are available at the rectory.

Marriage Encounter

Think of how tired, discouraged and frustrated the apostles must have been in the Gospel reading today. Then Jesus shows up and tells them to try one more time. Because they were willing and obedient, Jesus blessed them abundantly. It works the same way in our own lives today; if we trust in Jesus and do what He tells us to do we will receive His abundant blessings! Allow the grace of God to strengthen, renew and rekindle your marriage relationship! For more information contact Mike and Janet Turco at 973 427-7016 or 609 335- 6880 or email njwwme@peoplepc.com 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 through out the ups and downs of military service. Contact your local chaplain or call 973 427-7016 or 609 335- 6880 for more information.

Natural Family Planning

Natural Family Planning methods are scientifically proven approaches to help a couple postpone or achieve pregnancy in a way that preserves the true, complete self-gift between husband and wife, the kind of love that brings real, lasting joy and peace. When we embrace God's plan for human sexuality and marriage and follow Jesus, we invite the Holy Spirit into our lives in a powerful way. To learn more, or to hear questions others have asked, please come to an informational session given by the Coordinator of Natural Family Planning for the Family Life Office, Jill Cherrey, May 4, 2016, 7:30-9:00PM, at St. Cassian Church, Upper Montclair.

Bereavement Support Group

A Bereavement Support Group will be starting in the spring on Tuesday evenings in the OLV rectory. If you would be interested in participating, or if you know someone who would find this program helpful, please call Phyllis Rooney at 201-262-8665. **Refreshments will be served.**

HOMEBOUND

If you or anyone you know is homebound, even for a short duration of time, please contact the parish office so I or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion can be scheduled to bring the Eucharist to the sick and homebound.

INTERESTING QUOTE

"We will conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women. If we do not reach that time, then our children and grandchildren will reach it, and they will sell your sons as slaves at the slave market."

Sheikh Abu Muhammad al-Adnani,

Chief Spokesman the Islamic State, 2014 In James Wesley Rawles, Land of Promise (Counter-Caliphate Chronicles Series Book 1)

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Apr 18—Mon—Women of Grace 7:30PM
Apr 19-Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:15-3:15PM
Apr 19—Tue—Catholic Daughters of the Americas 7:00PM
Apr 20 -Wed—OLV Bible Study Group
Apr 20—Wed—OLV Needlers
Apr 22 —Fri– Adoration from 12:30PM-4:00PM
April 23- Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00 Noon 3:00-3:25PM
Apr 24—Sun—Rosary Society Ladies Breakfast
May 1—Sun—K of C Pancake Breakfast
May 14—Sat — First Holy Communions
May 22—Sun—CONFIRMATION -2:00PM
May 30—Mon—Fr. Innocent CFR First Mass & Reception at OLV-2:00PM

Catholic Daughters 2016 Heyliger/Carley Scholarship

The \$1,000.00 Scholarship is opened to any student (female or male) entering a Catholic High School in the Fall of 2016. Details required for entering the essay contest can be found in the CCD office. If you have any questions, please call Renee Tringali at 201-768-0648.

K of C Queen of Peace Scholarships

Queen of Peace Council of the Knights of Columbus, Closter, is accepting applications for the Jim McGahren Memorial Scholarships, form students in the parishes of the Northern Valley. Two scholarships will be awarded, for the 2016/17 academic year; College-\$1000, Catholic High School-\$1000. Applications are available in the rectory or by emailing KofC3679@verizon.net.

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
Midshipman Jon Clemente, US Navy;
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
Captain 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;
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
Corporal Richard McKenna, USMC;
Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

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.

Feeding the Homeless

As part of our parish commitment to the community and to serving those less fortunate, we will be preparing and serving a lunch meal on Saturday, May 7, at St. John's Church Soup Kitchen in Newark. This service is sponsored by our Knights of Columbus council. All parish members (men, women and children) are welcome to participate, even if not a current member of the Knights. For more information, please contact Rich at pockets5197@aol.com or Sergio Minervini (sminervini@starkcarpet.com).

"If I ought to write the truth, I am of the mind that I ought to flee all meetings of bishops, because I have never seen any happy or satisfactory outcome to any council, nor one that has deterred evils more than it has occasioned their acceptance and growth."

St. Gregory Nazianzus ep. 131 - AD 382

This is Canada's Top Ten List of America's Stupidity.

Of course we look like idiots. - We are!

- # 10 Only in America... could politicians talk about the greed of the rich at a \$35,000.00 per plate Obama campaign fund-raising event.
- # 09 Only in America... could people claim that the government still discriminates against black Americans when they have a black President, a black Attorney General and roughly 20% of the federal workforce is black while only 14% of the population is black, 40+% of all federal entitlements goes to black Americans - 3X the rate that go to whites, 5X the rate that go to Hispanics!
- # 08 Only in America... could they have had the two people most responsible for our tax code, Timothy Geithner (the head of the Treasury Department) and Charles Rangel (who once ran the Ways and Means Committee), BOTH turn out to be tax cheats who are in favor of higher taxes.
- # 07 Only in America... can they have terrorists kill people in the name of Allah and have the media primarily react by fretting that Muslims might be harmed by the backlash.
- # 06 Only in America... would they make people who want to legally become American citizens wait for years in their home countries and pay tens of thousands of dollars for the privilege, while they discuss letting anyone who sneaks into the country illegally just 'magically' become American citizens. (probably should be number one)
- # 05 Only in America... could the people who believe in balancing the budget and sticking by the country's Constitution be called EXTREMISTS.
- # 04 Only in America... could you need to present a driver's license to cash a check or buy alcohol, but not to vote.
- # 03 Only in America... could people demand the government investigate whether oil companies are gouging the public because the price of gas went up when the return on equity invested in a major UP.SO. Oil company (Marathon Oil) is less than half of a company making tennis shoes (Nike).
- # 02 Only in America... could you collect more tax dollars from the people than any nation in recorded history, still spend a Trillion dollars more than it has per year - for total spending of \$7 Million PER MINUTE, and complain that it doesn't have nearly enough money.
- # 01 Only in America... could the rich people - who pay 86% of all income taxes - be accused of not paying their "fair share" by people who don't pay any income taxes at all.

MEMORIALS

There are still some items to memorialized for the church and grounds. pews, pavers and benches. If you are interested please call the rectory

PENTEJOY

The play Pentejoy picking up where Godspell ends will be at NVOT High School on April 15, 16, 17, 30 and May 1. See pentejoy.com for more info.

Presto's Pizza

Presto's Pizza in Harrington Park will make a donation to OLV any time you patronize the restaurant and mention you are an OLV parishioner!

CCD Corner

There is an expression that says, *time stands still for nobody*. It is hard to believe that our CCD year is coming to an end. We ask if you didn't **register your children** for next year, you can do so by going to our website at www.olvph.org. This Saturday, **April 23rd at 10:00am** our **First Communion Class** will be participating in their second retreat. On **April 27th at 7:30** in the lower church our **Confirmation Candidates** will attend a presentation on vocations. **First Communion** will be held on Saturday, **May 14th** and **Confirmation** on Sunday, **May 22nd**. Please keep all of our children in your prayers.

AS I AGE, I REALIZE THAT ...

1. I talk to myself, because sometimes I need expert advice.
2. Sometimes I roll my eyes out loud.
3. I don't need anger management. I need people to stop "T-ing me off".
4. My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance of idiots that needs work.
5. The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."
6. When I was a child I thought nap time was punishment. Now it's a vacation.
7. The day the world adopts Sharia law and outlaws wine is just too terrible to think about.
8. Even duct tape can't fix stupid, but it can muffle the sound!
9. Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
10. If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.
11. When the kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".
12. At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.
13. I DO NOT Tweet, however, I occasionally toot!

They Walk Among Us!

I couldn't find my luggage at the airport baggage area and went to the lost luggage office and reported the loss. The woman there smiled and told me not to worry because she was a trained professional and said I was in good hands. "Now," she asked me, "Has your plane arrived yet?"

UPDATE

In March, 2014, we asked you to join our efforts after the United States Air Force Academy violated the religious freedoms of a cadet by coercing him into erasing his whiteboard containing a Scripture verse. The whiteboards are for personal use and hang outside the cadet's dorm room. After AFA raised the issue publicly, congressmen demanded the academy "make every effort to promote and preserve religious liberty for our service members." This month, the Air Force Academy proved it has listened. Here's what happened...

After several Air Force Academy football players voluntarily knelt in prayer before the start of the team's Dec. 5, 2015, game against San Diego State, atheist Mikey Weinstein and his Military Religious Freedom Foundation (MRFF) threatened the institution with a lawsuit if the school didn't ban the practice, and actually referred to the act of Christian prayer by the players as "putrid." In response, the Air Force Academy summarily dismissed Weinstein's rants. Just prior to the Falcons' final game of the season against California, the academy affirmed the cadets' right to pray on the field with this statement:

"The United States Air Force Academy places a high value on the rights of its members to observe the tenets of their respective religion or to observe no religion at all. Recently, the United States Air Force Academy received a complaint about its football players kneeling in prayer. An inquiry was initiated, which found the football players' actions to be consistent with Air Force Instruction 1-1 and its guidance on the free exercise of religion and religious accommodation.

"The United States Air Force Academy will continue to reaffirm to cadets that all Airmen are free to practice the religion of their choice or subscribe to no religious belief at all. The players may confidently practice their own beliefs without pressure to participate in the practices of others."

We applaud the Air Force Academy's stand in protecting religious liberty for its cadets and ask you to join us in thanking them.

"Today's atheism is not passive, like the old-fashioned atheism, which allowed believers to exist alongside of it; it is now militant, active, political, proselytizing, and communistic." **Archbishop Fulton Sheen**

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 18-- St. Apollonius, Martyr

8:00 Sam Burruano R/b Marie DaSaro
12:00 Souls in Purgatory R/b M/M Howard Walsh

Tuesday, April 19--St. Elphege of England-Bishop & Martyr

8:00 Charles Harte R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 George Smith R/b Helen Smith

Wednesday, April 20-St. Marcellinus of Africa-Bishop in France

8:00 Sam Burruano R/b Ron and Adele Filippone
12:00 Mary DePascale R/b the Pedersen Family

Thursday, April 21- St. Anselm - Archbishop of Canterbury

8:00 Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Villavecchia Sr. R/b the Villavecchia Family
12:00 Living and deceased members of Rosary Society

Friday, April 22 -- Ss. Epipodius & Alexander - Martyrs

8:00 Filipa Fizulich R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 Joan Barry R/b Bill and Cathy Ryan

Saturday, April 23--St. George - Martyr

8:00 Bridget Quinn R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Anthony Walsh R/b the Zanetti Family

4:00 Peter and Lena Gobbetti

R/b Mario and Lorraine Gobbetti

5:00 Richard Pearson

R/b Tom and Anne Hackett

6:00 Special Intention

Sunday, Apr. 24--St. Fidelis Sigmaringen of Germany-Martyr

7:30 Alice Pommert R/b Judy Pommert
8:15 People of the Parish

9:30 Steve Juliano

R/b Bob and Dolores Cavagnet

10:45 Frank and Mary Muggeo

R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo

12:00 Intentions of Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

6:00 Sam Napolitano

R/b the Evanelia Family

7:00 Janice Reeves

R/b Carl and Rita Colasuonno

Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Charles Logan, r/b Pat Duggan.

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the souls in Purgatory.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Mary Freese, r/b the Clark family.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Escolastica Bonzon, r/b Esty Parlanti.

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

MOMS, TOTS, & POPS

OLV has a playgroup for infants and children ages 1-5. The group meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30AM to 11:30AM in the lower church. If you have gently used toys and would like to donate them, please contact samreville@hotmail.com 732-371-8130 or Reneetringali@gmail.com 201-913-2580.

PRAY

No one can get to Heaven unless he prays. If you do not eat, you will starve to death. If you do not drink, you will die of thirst. If you do not breathe, you will die for lack of air. But prayer is more necessary for you than food and drink and air. If you do not pray, you shall never see God in Heaven.

Kidz Korner Answers

1. Unknown
2. Adam
3. Adam & Eve
4. Four
5. Cain

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A.

April is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist.

SEX ED FIGHT

Since October, parents in Omaha have been battling with the city's school board over proposed changes to the sex education curriculum. Impassioned parents and grandparents voiced their objections loudly and clearly to the "comprehensive" sex ed program the school board had proposed. Since 1985 sex ed at Omaha public schools has been taught as part of a course called Human Growth and Development. Among other changes, the new program will add discussion of two items to the tenth grade curriculum: abortion and emergency contraception. But it's not just those two hot-button topics that are upsetting parents. "Comprehensive" sex ed, as opposed to "abstinence-based" sex ed, provides kids with a smorgasbord of ways to give and receive sexual pleasure. Students are taught about the risks of sexual activity, and encouraged to reduce those risks. Condoms, in particular, are heavily stressed. Abstinence is almost always mentioned, but only as one choice among many. I remember being taken completely by surprise when my then-9th grader described students putting condoms on bananas in health class. There had been no warning given to parents—not even a clue that sex ed was included in the curriculum. So when it came to my younger child, who happened to attend a different school, I took a pro active approach. The health teacher there was sympathetic about my concerns and willingly described the curriculum. She told me that students were taught the "three different types of sex," how best to reduce the transmission of sexually transmitted infections, and shown various types of birth control, including condoms. Abstinence was one part of the discussion; marriage and morality (heaven forbid!) were not. Thankfully she was also willing to accommodate my desire that my child not participate. Had I not asked, however, I never would have known about any of it.

Valerie Huber is president of Ascend, formerly known as the National Abstinence Education Association. According to her, Sexual Risk Reduction (SRR), or "comprehensive" sex ed, has as its underlying assumption that teens are going to be sexually active, and therefore the emphasis should be on reducing risks. Ascend supports Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) curricula, which focus on encouraging teens to avoid risk by refraining from sexual activity. Sex is treated like every other health risk teens are confronted with, such as drugs, alcohol and tobacco. As the Ascend/NAEA website puts it, students in SRA programs are taught that "waiting for sex eliminates all risk and is always the best and healthiest option."

When it comes to sex ed in non-religious schools, parents are often unaware (as in my case) or apathetic. That wasn't the problem in Omaha. The Archdiocese even got involved, urging parents to attend public forums, and posting this on its Facebook page: "The modern phenomenon of classroom sex education is not designed to warn kids way from permissive and harmful sex experiences. Rather, what they really aim at is breaking down traditional morality and sexual inhibitions in favor of actually encouraging sexual experiences."

Unfortunately the opposition in this case wasn't enough to convince the school board, which voted to implement the new curriculum. But there's some good news in all this. First, Omaha parents have the choice of opting their children out of the classes. And second, parents and the Archdiocese have proven their willingness to make their voices heard. Read more: <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/segelstein/what-every-parent-needs-to-know-about-sex-ed/#ixzz40g1yPKIF>

A little boy went up to his mother and asked: "Mom, where did my intelligence come from?" The mother replied. "Well, son, you must have got it from your father, cause I still have mine."

IT MAY BE FRIDAY, BUT SUNDAY'S COMING

By Fr Jack Smith

Some years ago in a previous parish assignment (St. Thomas More, in Washington D.C.) I was accustomed to taking a Friday afternoon walk in order to focus on my Sunday homily. At the beginning of the walk I'd often stop by the house of an elderly parishioner, Ms. Lillian, and give her Communion. Her mind was beginning to fail and it was difficult for her to get to Church. In mild weather she would often be out on the front porch in her wheelchair. As I approached she'd say, "Oh Father, it must be Sunday!" "No, Lillian," I'd usually reply, "It's actually Friday." And then she'd usually respond, "Oh, I'm sorry to hear that."

When I answered her I was thinking of the calendar, but she was long past worrying about what day the world said it was. And so, Friday after Friday, she'd keep asking me if it was Sunday. It was Friday, but she kept looking for Sunday. "Is it Sunday, Father?" "No, Ms. Lillian, today is Friday." The world has a popular saying, "Thank God, it's Friday." But in the Church, especially among the African-Americans whom I serve, there is an older expression: "It may be Friday, but Sunday's coming." It is a thoroughly biblical context in which Friday represents our sufferings, our personal "Good Fridays," while Sunday represents our rising from the dead, our joy, and the fulfillment of our hopes.

When Ms. Lillian saw her priest she thought of Sunday; she thought of Jesus and Holy Communion. So, in a way, for her it was Sunday, if only for a moment. To be sure, Lillian was in the "Friday" of her life. She suffered from many of the crippling effects of old age: dementia, arthritis, weakness, poor hearing, and eyesight problems. "I's gotten so coooold, Father," she'd say. Yes, Friday had surely come for Lillian.

At her funeral I could think of no better way to begin the Homily than by saying, "It's Sunday Ms. Lillian; it's Sunday." And the congregation nodded. Some just hummed, while others said, "Thank you, Jesus." Lillian had gone to Jesus and Sunday had come. Surely she, like all of us, needed some of the cleansing purgation through which the Lord wipes away the tears of all who have died (cf Rev 21:4) and lifts the burdens of our sorrows, regrets, and sins for the last time. For those who die in the Lord, die in the care of the Lord. The souls of the just are in the hand of God (Wis 3:1). Yes, it's Sunday, glorious Sunday, for all those who trust in the Lord. The Fridays of life will come, but if we trust in Him, Sunday will surely follow. "Oh, Father! It must be Sunday!" "Yes, Ms. Lillian, it is surely Sunday."

PARENTS

YOU are responsible for educating your children in the faith. "Parents have been appointed by God himself as the first and principal educators of their children," writes John Paul II (40). Using a term recovered by the Second Vatican Council, he then calls the family a "domestic church," which "like the greater Church, needs to be constantly and intensely evangelized" (51). Finally, he adds that "the future of evangelization depends in great part on the Church of the home" (52). These beautiful words of John Paul II are a daily challenge to us. They remind us that we are called to become missionaries by instilling a love for the Gospel in our own homes.

KIDZ KORNER

1. In the Garden of Eden, what fruit was the "forbidden" one?
2. Who was created first, Adam or Eve?
3. Who named all the animals?
4. How many rivers were in the Garden of Eden?
5. What was the name of Adam's first son?

Answers on page four

You do not need a parachute to skydive.
You only need a parachute to skydive twice.