

# Our Lady of Victories Church

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

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvh.org

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

Rev. José Rivera, Summer Assistant

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. Brian Muzás

Weekend Assistants

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evanelle Betty Ann Niece

Religious Education

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Gail McElroy & Jerryl Pulis

Jr. High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. John O'Connor

Latin Mass Assistants

Charles Niece

Parish Vocation

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

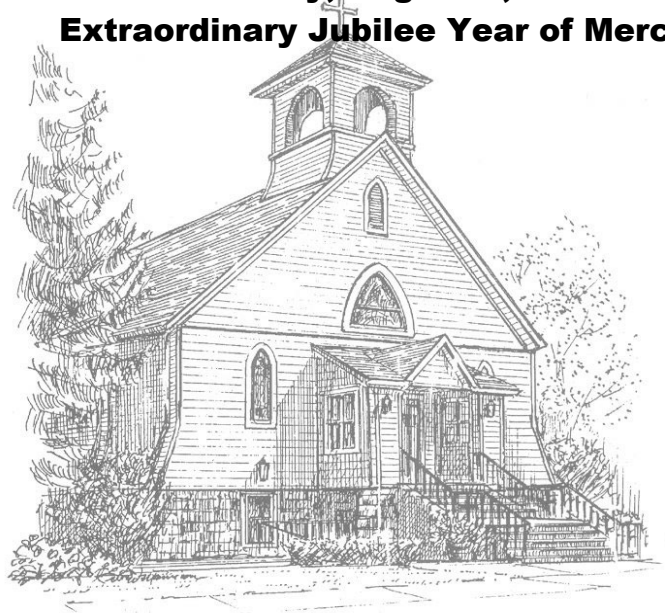
Parish Trustees

Curtiss & Katie Stella

High School Ministry

Sunday, August 7, 2016 A.D.

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: 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**

#### 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 3:00pm 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

#### 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  
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**: Br. Pius, Joseph Accardi, Maria Aleman, William Biasi, Terry Boyle, Michael Conmy, Edward Cornell, Kamal Faris, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Jamie & Kerrie Lein, Joseph LoVecchio, Teresa Meierdierks, Ken Mosier, Kathleen Musante, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Danny Rizzi, Ginny Romeo, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie & George Rush, Cynthia Simonelli, Mildred Speck, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Darien Wesler, Al Wiese, Marian Zanetti, Elaine Zito.

### **SPIRITUAL EXCERPT**

“You want to know on what our faithfulness is founded? I would say, in broad outline, that it is based on loving God, which makes us overcome all kinds of obstacles: selfishness, pride, tiredness, impatience ... A man in love tramples on his own self. He is aware that even when he is loving with all his soul, he isn't yet loving enough.”

**St. JoseMaria Escriva** **THE FORGE** pg 203

### **CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL COOP TEST**

In order to apply to the 32 Catholic high schools in the four counties within the Archdiocese of Newark, students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade must take the 2017 COOP Exam. The exam will be given on Friday, November 11, 2016. For additional information, please call 1-888-921-2667 or visit [www.coopexam.org](http://www.coopexam.org).

### **SUNDAY ATTIRE**

People generally have no real problem wearing proper clothing when entering places that demand such attire. Would you ever consider attending a formal dinner or a wedding dressed in a tee shirt and shorts, or a tank top and swimming trunks? Why be rebellious in God's house?

### **CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION**

This sacrament is offered EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 4:00-4:30PM. Every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 7:30AM as well as every First Friday at 7:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

### **WE ARE AT WAR**

Dear Parents, not only are we at war in the Middle East; we are in a spiritual battle for the souls of our children each and every day. On Tuesday afternoons from 2:00PM-3:00PM we have a group who are praying the **Mary - Mother of All Nations Novena** to help win this war – come join us in this crucial battle. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

### **Jesus asked one thing from us!!!**

On His last night of earth (Holy Thursday) Jesus asked His disciples one thing – to stay awake with Him for one hour. Every Thursday evening we at OLV try to fulfill this request by having a Holy Hour from 7-8PM. Join us in carrying out Jesus' request.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

**MY FAMILY – MY PARISH – MY RESPONSIBILITY**

If you are away for the weekend or are on vacation, please mail Your Weekly Offering to the Rectory. **Our expenses continue even in your absence.**

### **APOLOGETICS**

Defend your Catholic Faith but first learn more about it. Visit [www.biblechristiansociety.com](http://www.biblechristiansociety.com) to learn more about Roman Catholicism.

### **Do You Have a First Grader?**

Time to register for CCD! Please call the CCD Office at 201-768-1400 or email [olvhpccd@gmail.com](mailto:olvhpccd@gmail.com) for a registration form and information. Classes begin in September.

### **FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES**

#### **IN HIGH SCHOOL**

If you are in high school and have not made your Confirmation and would like to — you must be registered ASAP. See or call Deacon Al.

### **OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL**

Did you know that every Monday after the 8:00AM Mass we have a novena to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. We also pray the Rosary DAILY after the completion of the 8:00AM and Noon weekday Mass.

### **What is Opus Dei?**

St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer (the founder of Opus Dei) once defined Opus Dei as "a divine journey made by Christians who want to live like Christians." We do not intend to do anything sensational; we are common people seeking sanctification in our daily life.

### **FIRST CONFESSION**

A priest was being honored at his retirement dinner after 25 years in the parish. A leading local politician and member of the congregation was chosen to make the presentation and give a little speech at the dinner. He was delayed, so the priest decided to say his own few words while they waited. "I got my first impression of the parish from the first confession I heard here. I thought I had been assigned to a terrible place. The very first person who entered my confessional told me he had stolen a television set and, when questioned by the police, was able to lie his way out of it. He had stolen money from his parents, embezzled from his employer, had an affair with his boss's wife, taken illegal drugs, and gave VD to his sister. I was appalled. But as the days went on I knew that my people were not all like that and I had, indeed, come to a fine parish full of good and loving people." Just as the priest finished his talk, the politician arrived full of apologies at being late. He immediately began to make the presentation and gave his talk. "I'll never forget the first day our parish priest arrived," said the politician. "In fact, I had the honor of being the first one to go to him in confession."

### **Sanctuary Offerings**

Mass intentions for the living and the deceased are available for 2017 at Our Lady of Victories Church and Convent. The Altar Flowers, Bread and Wine and the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis. **The offering for ALL MASSES throughout the Archdiocese is \$10.**

### **ST. JUDE AND ST. ANTHONY**

Did you know that every Wednesday after the 8:00AM Mass we have a novena to St. Jude and St. Anthony?

### **Memorial Pavers**

Pavers are still available for memorial inscriptions at \$125 each. For more information contact the OLV Rectory

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Men can read smaller print than women can, but women can hear better.**

### **Upcoming OLV Parish Events**

Aug 7 - Sun - Mass of God the Father and devotions 2:00PM  
Aug 9 - Tue - Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM  
Aug 9 - Tue - Bereavement Group 6:30PM  
Aug 10 - Wed - OLV Needlers 6:30PM  
Aug 12 - Fri - Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM  
Aug 13 - Sat - Confessions 11:00-12:00 Noon 3:00-3:25PM  
Aug 13 - Sat - AA basement of Church 6:30-8:30PM

### **FRIDAY ADORATION**

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays after Noon Mass until 3:00PM. So stop by and adore our Eucharistic Lord.

### **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;  
Captain Michael Franon, 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;  
Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

### **THANK YOU!**

... to Fr. Bryan and to all the wonderful and generous parishioners of Our Lady of Victories for all your support for the Sisters of Charity 50/50 Raffle. The total sale of raffle tickets was \$6,664—tremendous! I hope we have the winner from OLV. God bless all of you.

**Sr. Mary Corrigan and Sr. Elizabeth**

### **LEARN TO KNIT/CROCHET**

The OLV Catholic Daughters meets every Wednesday evening in the rectory and will teach you to knit or crochet. Contact Renee Tringali at 201-768-0648 for more info.

### **FEEL USELESS**

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember... Noah was a drunk, Abraham was too old, Isaac was a daydreamer, Jacob was a liar, Leah was ugly, Joseph was abused, Moses had a stuttering problem, Gideon was afraid, Samson had long hair and was a womanizer, Rahab was a prostitute, Jeremiah and Timothy were too young, David had an affair and was a murderer, Elijah was suicidal, Isaiah preached naked, Jonah ran from God, Naomi was a widow, Job went bankrupt, Peter denied Christ, the Disciples fell asleep while praying, Martha worried about everything, the Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once, Zaccheus was too small, Paul was too religious, Timothy had an ulcer... AND Lazarus was dead! And don't forget—Jesus helped 'em all!!!!

### **Are YOU Doing YOUR Part**

#### **to Help THE SOULS in PURGATORY??**

It is very possible that some of our own nearest and dearest ones are still suffering the excruciating pains of Purgatory and are calling to us for help and relief. There is no hunger, no thirst, no poverty, no need, no pain, no suffering to compare with what the souls in Purgatory endure. How YOU can help these souls: **1. Have Masses offered for them. 2. Make the Stations of the Cross. 3. Recite the Rosary. 4. Offer up all your pain and sufferings for the relief of Souls.**

### **SUN/SUN TAN**

During the summer we often go down the shore to "work" on our tans. We may spend an hour in the sun and get "burned" by the sun. Imagine how much good spending an hour before the Son of God will do us. Why don't you stop by the Church on Thursday evenings at 7PM.

### **GOING ON VACATION**

Visit [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org) for the locations of Catholic Churches and a Mass schedule, throughout the USA.

### **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.

### **CCD TEACHERS NEEDED!**

With summer nearly half over, we are in the process of finalizing our CCD Teacher assignments. For our Sunday classes we need one 4th Grade and one 8th Grade teacher. For our Monday afternoon classes we need one 2nd Grade, 7th Grade and 8th Grade teacher. Please consider sharing your faith with our children. If you can help us, please call Deacon Al at the rectory or email him at [deaconalatlv@gmail.com](mailto:deaconalatlv@gmail.com). Thank you!

### **FEAST OF GOD THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND**

Mass on Sunday, August 7 here at OLV at 2PM, followed by devotions to God our Father and consecration. Celebrant will be Fr. Anthony Mastroeni. For more information call 201-967-8442.

### **SUMMER ENVELOPES**

We sincerely thank our parishioners who mail or deliver their weekly envelopes to the parish office while you are out of town on vacation this summer. As many of you understand, our parish expenses and obligations do not take a vacation when you do, so it is very helpful to be able to rely on your continued support even when you cannot personally attend Mass here at OLV.

### **RACHEL'S VINEYARD RETREAT**

"Healing the Pain of Abortion" ... September 9-11, 2016 at the Archdiocesan Youth Retreat Center, Kearny, NJ. Cost: \$150 (Incl. all materials and meals). For information call Cheryl Riley 973-497-4350 or email [rileyche@rcan.org](mailto:rileyche@rcan.org). All calls/emails confidential.

### **Dominican College Information Session**

For those interested in undergraduate and graduate degrees:  
Wednesday, August 10, 5:30-7:30PM in the Hennessey Center.

### **Relevant Radio—1430 AM**

Tune in to Relevant Radio, the largest Catholic radio network in the nation. Its local station 1430AM, has fast become a growing Catholic radio presence here in the Archdiocese of Newark and the greater New York/Tri-State area, sharing news and insights into our Catholic Faith. Listen online at [www.relevantradio.com](http://www.relevantradio.com) and on the FREE mobile app.

### **CLOTHING BINS**

Summertime is a time to relax. During this leisure time, would you be willing to go through your closets to get rid of all those unwanted heavy winter clothes and shoes which served you so well during the winter season? Please donate them to the Catholic Charities bin located on the Church grounds. Thank you for helping Catholic Charities continue its mission.

**Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.**

### What God did at Pearl Harbor that day

From "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.  
Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do you mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained:

#### Mistake number one:

The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

#### Mistake number two:

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

#### Mistake number three:

Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST.

### SUNDAY SERMON

One particular Sunday the priest began his sermon ..."Dear Lord," the priest said, with arms extended toward heaven and a rapturous look on his upturned face. "Without you, we are but dust..." He would have continued, but at that moment a little girl in the pews leaned over to her mother and asked quite audibly in her shrill little four year old girl voice, "Mom, what is butt dust?"

### 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.

### SAVE USED EYEGLASSES

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

"The words of God will never cease."

St. Lucy

### Mass Intentions

#### Monday, August 8 – St. Dominic of Calaroga, Spain-Priest

8:00 Souls in Purgatory R/b Howard and Eleanor Walsh  
12:00 Michael Giotta R/b the Giotta Family

#### Tuesday, August 9-St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

8:00 Elaine Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran  
12:00 Maria Hildebrandt R/b the Zaccaro Family

#### Wednesday, August 10– Saint Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

8:00 Joann Taylor R/b Kathleen Steinwehr  
12:00 Frank Fonte R/b Joan Crowley

#### Thursday, August 11 – St. Clare, Virgin

8:00 Cangialosi Family R/b Ruth Cangialosi  
12:00 Alice Ruiz R/b the LoSchiavo Family

#### Friday, August 12– St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious

8:00 Julia M. Smith R/b Jon and Jen Fischer  
12:00 Margarita Bernardo R/b the Pacia Family

#### Saturday, August 13– Sts. Pontian, Pope, & Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs

8:00 Blanche Vespucci R/b the Poggi Family  
12:00 Helen Lombardi R/b the Collins Family

4:00 John Kevin Smith R/b Family  
5:00 Stephen and Mary Fogarino

R/b Josephine J. Fogarino and Marie Michaels

#### Sunday, August 14–St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr

7:30 Sam and Clare Burruano R/b Mary Spillane  
8:15 James Loftus R/b the Bolton Family

9:30 William Ellis R/b Joanne Ellis  
10:45 Martino and Antonio Busanic R/b the Busanic Family

12:00 Helen Green R/b the Zwerle Family  
1:00 People of the Parish

6:00 Hedwiz Zellner R/b Tom and Anne Hackett  
7:00 Michael A. Casenta R/b Colleen Connors-Casenta

### Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Marie Dolan Georgina, r/b Friend.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Ruth Hunt, r/b Kathy Hedenberg.

The St. Joseph Votive Votive Lamp burns this week for the unemployed.

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns for the intentions of the men and women who serve in defense of our country.

### JUST A REMINDER

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.

### Jesus asked one thing from us!!!

On His last night of earth (Holy Thursday) Jesus asked His disciples one thing – to stay awake with Him for one hour. Every Thursday evening we at OLV try to fulfill this request by having a Holy Hour from 7-8PM. Join us in carrying out Jesus' request.

### KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1.Unity, Sanctity, Catholicity, Apostolicity. 2.The Church Militant (Christians on Earth), The Church Suffering (Christians in Purgatory), The Church Triumphant (Christians in Heaven). 3. Vestibule, Nave, Sanctuary. 4. Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell. 5. Honey.

**Saint Joseph: Strong and Silent**

~ George Bernanos, "Our Friends the Saints"

It is no easy thing to write about sanctity. Nor should anyone wish it to be so, since glibness is the last thing we need when confronting the mysteries of grace. This is particularly the case when the writer himself has so little to boast of in the way of sanctity. But, then, not even the great Bernanos, whose voice gave expression to the soul of Catholic France, could escape the limitations imposed by that fact. On being invited to lecture a group of nuns—all devout daughters of the martyred Charles de Foucauld—on the subject of sanctity, he confessed his complete inadequacy, telling his audience how "rash" it was of him "to speak about a country in which I have never set foot..." And although, by his own admission, he was "a seasoned traveler" along the many byways of the Catholic world, he readily admitted that he had "never met a single true inhabitant of this country, a single native...."

The risk, of course, of appearing completely ridiculous, of finding oneself totally out of one's depth, is all the more obvious in the case of those truly extraordinary specimens of sanctity. For example, the sheer holiness of Saint Joseph's life we rightly judge to have been higher than that of any other mortal being. Excepting, to be sure, Our Blessed Lord and his Holy and Immaculate Mother, who were far more blessed than even he could aspire to become. How off-putting that must have been for the poor man, finding himself sandwiched day after day between the Incarnate Word and the Immaculate Conception! Is it any wonder he was at a loss for words? That reticence remained his calling card?

On the other hand, was Joseph ever a chatterbox? Silence surely must have been his strong suit throughout his entire life. Even after the angel appeared to advise him in a dream not to refuse to allow Mary to live in his home, because the child she bore was the Son of the living God, who had come down out of heaven to "save his people from their sins," Joseph still does not speak. Instead he acts, and with the most admirable and amazing alacrity, too. But it could hardly have been an easy thing for him to do. Nevertheless, in biting that particular bullet, he reveals a most just and resolute heart. Indeed, in his readiness to serve the woman he loves, rather than expose her to the law, we see the grandeur of the man, his life seared with the memory of an ancient promise delivered to God's people, which he as a true son of David longs to see fulfilled. And who will shortly see, amid the most prosaic details of a perfectly ordinary life, hidden away all those years in Nazareth, all that had been promised by God between a Mother and her Child—whom he, Joseph, is being asked to preserve and protect with his very life.

Why else would the Church apply all those titles to one as obscure and unassuming as Joseph? There is no other in the heavenly pantheon whose patronage includes both the Domestic and Universal Church. Or to whom those who labor, or are about to die, may turn with the utmost confidence because he is their patron? It is only Joseph whom we are asked by the Church to honor as model of Fortitude and Perfection, or to regard as Father to all who call upon him.

And yet for all that his own part in the incredible story of our salvation looms so large in the telling, he will not tell it, proving an eloquence of humility greater than words. What drove him, I wonder, to such an extremity of oblation, in which his whole life and every instant of it were spent in perfect and unremitting devotion to Mary and the mysterious Child she bore? An acquiescence, let us not forget, he was in no way obliged to undergo?

Father Jacques Philippe, in a wonderful little book called Interior Freedom, reminds us that very often the experience of genuine freedom requires acceptance of that which we simply cannot change. He calls it "the paradoxical law of human life," which grows out of the recognition that "one cannot be truly free unless one accepts not always being free." In other words, the moments when we are most likely to mature as human beings—enlarging the scope of our own sanctity, as it were—are precisely the times when room to maneuver and master the situation do not exist.

But that since life is primarily a gift, why should it matter that we're unable to manage things?

How piercing the light of that paradox falls upon the life of St. Joseph. Could he, for instance, have imagined a situation in which he was outwardly less free than the one resulting from the fact that his intended bore him a child that did not belong to him? To submit to a situation not of own making? Speaking lines of a script he hadn't himself written? Had he no other options? Fr. Philippe tells us that when faced with circumstances we do not choose, especially when they appear dangerous and intrusive, there are three possibilities that present themselves to us. There is, to begin with, the option of rebellion, of brazen refusal and revolt in the face of a summons we did not solicit and are loath to welcome. To recoil from the reality before us, says Fr. Philippe, "is often our first, spontaneous reaction to difficulty or suffering. But it has never solved anything." Then there is the posture of resignation, which amounts to "a declaration of powerlessness that goes no further. It may be a necessary stage," he adds, "but if one stops there it also is sterile."

That leaves option number three, which is an attitude of receptivity leading to real and lasting assent. "We say yes to a reality we initially saw as negative, because we realize that something positive may arise from it." And the quality of hope hidden in the gesture, as in the willingness of Joseph to extend himself in trust, becomes the grace that ultimately saves. Fr. Philippe is most adamant about the point, assuring us that "the most important thing in our lives is not so much what we can do as leaving room for what God can do. The great secret of all spiritual fruitfulness and growth is learning to let God act."

How very steep and swift is the learning curve of Joseph's life. He must learn to let go of his life in order to let God take charge of that life. And he must do it at once; then, over and over again. There are not many prepared to surrender that much of themselves. Instead, like Eliot's Prufrock, they prefer a life "measured out in coffee spoons." Joseph was not like that. His was the true mark of sanctity. To resolve to empty out everything, because nothing less will do. "Most people," says Bernanos, "engage only the feeblest part of themselves in life, a ridiculously tiny part of their being, like those wealthy misers who will spend only the interest their income earns. A saint doesn't live on the interest of his income, or even on his income; he lives on his capital, he gives all of his soul... To engage one's soul! O, that is not merely a literary image." And so Joseph, sustained by a faith given him by God, will set sail in complete darkness. And while he may not see the harbor whose warmth and safety beckon him, he is yet buoyed by the grace of hope in his very longing to reach that other shore. Like the voice in Eliot's Four Quartets, he will say to his soul, "be still... For ... there is yet faith".

## **PARENTS**

Every Friday we have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from noon to 3pm – now that it is summer stop in and bring your child/children and let them spend some quiet time with the Lord. It is never too late to start making "visits" to the Blessed Sacrament.

## **Norwood PreSchool at OLV**

Norwood PreSchool is now at Our Lady of Victories. If you have a child and need daycare, call 201-767-9909.

## **KIDZ KORNER**

1. What are the four marks of the Church?
2. Name the three parts of the Church Universal.
3. Name the three parts of a physical Church building?
4. What is the only food that doesn't spoil?
5. Name the four last things?

**Answers on page four.**