

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 18, 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

Lesa Rossmann

Martin Coyne II

Ministers of Music

Parish Trustees

Jerryl Pulis & Meagan Mullany

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
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OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
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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, William Biasi, John Bolger, Joey Bulger, Ellen Dunn, Catherine Fallon, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, 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

"You cannot visit the child without visiting the mother; you cannot, in life, approach the child except through the mother. If we are to think of Christ in this aspect at all, the other idea follows as it is followed in history. We must either leave Christ out of Christmas, or Christmas out of Christ, or we must admit, if only as we admit it in an old picture, that those holy heads are too near together for the haloes not to mingle and cross."

G.K. Chesterton: *The Everlasting Man*.

THE UNBELIEVER

Once upon a time, there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He wasn't a Scrooge. He was a very kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealing with other men. But he didn't believe all that stuff about an incarnation which churches proclaim at Christmas. And he was too honest to pretend that he did. "I am truly sorry to distress you," he told his wife, who was a faithful churchgoer, "but I simply cannot understand this claim that God became man. It doesn't make any sense to me." On Christmas Eve, his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. "I'd feel like a hypocrite," he explained. "I'd much rather stay at home, but I'll wait up for you." Shortly after his family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier. "If we must have Christmas," he reflected "it's nice to have a white one." He went back to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper. A few minutes later, he was startled by a thudding sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living-room window. When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm, and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his window. "I can't let these poor creatures lie there and freeze," he thought. "but how can I help them?" Then he remembered the barn where the children's pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter. He quickly put on his coat and galoshes and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on the light. But the birds didn't come in. "Food will bring them in," he thought. So, he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn. To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction except into the warm, lighted barn. "They find me a strange and terrifying creature," he said to himself, "and I can't seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me. If only I could be a bird myself and for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety." Just at that moment, the church bells began to ring. He stood silently for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow. "Now I understand," he whispered. "Now I see why You had to do it."

I WANT I WANT

Everyday we hear people saying what they want. Well, this is what I want: I want people who are sick to be healed. I want children with no families to be adopted. I want people to never have to worry about food and shelter and heat. Most of all, I would like to see our people start to care for one another.

My Dear Friends in Christ:

As this most special season of Christmas approaches and we look back on this past year, it is most appropriate to pause and consider the many gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon us and our loved ones throughout the year.

The birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ is celebrated at Christmas and establishes Christmas as a Season of Gift Giving. Tradition holds that the three Wise Men brought gifts to the new born Savior. A generous gift to the Christmas Collection or a Special Christmas and Year End Gift not only supports our educational and parish ministries, but also positively affects your taxes and other financial considerations for 2016.

For many years, hospitals and universities have encouraged gifts at Christmas and year end. It is important that our parishioners be aware of these types of gifts that can be made to the parish. The experts tell us that gifts of stock and other securities make excellent tax-oriented gifts, particularly if they have appreciated in value.

In the spirit of Christmas and gift-giving, please consider your parish and its mission to proclaim the Gospel message and provide ministries 365 days a year. Thank you and God bless you. **Fr. Bryan**

PEWS TO BE MEMORIALIZED

The parish has a few pew benches that were never memorialized. The cost of a 1/2 pew to be memorialized is \$1750 a pew - call Maria or Deacon Al at the rectory if you would like to donate in the name of your family or a loved one.

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.

HOLY HOUR AT OLV

Every Tuesday from 12:30-3:00PM. **Every Thursday** at 7:00PM 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 12:00Noon to 3:00PM. Stop by and make a visit to our Eucharistic Lord.

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 Deacon. For info see Fr. Bryan or call the Vocations Office 973-497-4365.

**"We are here on earth to do good unto others.
What the others are here for, I have no idea."**

Jonathan Katz

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Dec 20 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
Dec 21—Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
Dec 21 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
Dec 23-Fri— Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
Jan 28—Sat—K of C Beefsteak Dinner
Jan 28/29—Sat/Sun—Rosary Society Baby Item Collection
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.

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; there are also **three areas of year-round foods that are especially valuable: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta (spaghetti, rigatoni, etc) and breakfast cereals.**

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 Roll-over. 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.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The search is underway for Longest Married Couple in the U.S. Do you think you know who they are? Maybe it's your parents... grandparents... That nice couple who live down the street... Nominating a couple is easy! Just send their names, wedding date and where they live and your contact information to: wwmelmc2017@gmail.com Nominations accepted until January 8, 2017. Winners will be announced February 2017 to celebrate World Marriage Day. Nominate a couple you know today!

Natural Gas Generator Available

OLV has a never-used 35K natural gas generator in the event one loses electric power. If you are interested call the rectory or see Fr. Bryan or Deacon Al.

Christmas Prayer

Come Lord Jesus, Our Prince of Peace and Beloved Savior; come into our homes and settle in our hearts this Christmas, filling us with gifts of love and joy. With Mary and Joseph we rejoice and thank God for You. We sing with Angels, "Glory to God in the highest." Dear Emmanuel enable us to follow You faithfully and to share Your Good News of redemption to everyone we meet, not only in this season but always. Amen.

BIRTH DATE OF JESUS

Without a doubt, the birth of Jesus is the most important event celebrated in the history of the world, but there is plenty of confusion about WHEN Jesus' birth took place. There is no clear historical record of the date and year of Jesus' birth. Although two of the Gospels record incidents pertaining to the event, neither assigns a date. Two main theories surround the choice of December 25 to commemorate the Nativity. The first theory looks to a third century pagan Roman celebration coinciding with the winter solstice. As the days began to lengthen each year, December 25 became a festival for the rebirth of the unconquered sun. Christians, who believe Christ was the real unconquered source of light, put His birth date on the same day. The second theory looks to the passion of Jesus. According to early conjectures, the actual day of Christ's passion fell on March 25 in the year Jesus died. Some Christians believed that Jesus died on the anniversary of His conception. For this reason, March 25 became the celebration of the Annunciation. Looking forward nine months, the birth of Jesus was placed on December 25. The traditional year of Jesus' birth was fixed in the mid-sixth century by Dionysius Exiguus, a monk and scholar who set the calendar according to the system we know as AD (anno domini "in the year of our Lord"). However, Matthew and Luke say that Jesus was born "before Christ". Although the actual birth date of Jesus cannot be known, He was born, and the millennium commemorates his birth by recognizing that all of time hinges on the life of Jesus.

Developing a Strong Soul

By Servant of God Mary Teresa Tallon, Foundress

We are never too young to learn. There were thousands of children who gave their lives for the Faith of Christ. They had the same feelings that I have. A long life was before each of them, perhaps. But long or short, it is the hardest thing in the world to give up our life. We may think of this as we look at the first Station of the Cross. Our Lord is the Master of life and death; yet He stood bravely and gave His life for me. He knew all that He was about to suffer, and He did not refuse any of it. Every child that died for the Faith knew this and remembered it at all times. Their heavenly bravery did not begin at death; they were brave in doing their duty every day. Because they had denied themselves they were ready to suffer death when it came, and sometimes then it was a terrible thing to think about. Many of them were beaten to death. Others were tied to wild horses and dragged to death. And others had to suffer months of torture before they got the last blow.

CCD CORNER

With one week to go before we celebrate and remember the birth of our Savior in Christmas, our students are busy preparing their hearts and souls for the coming of Christ. There are things within all of us, like that of the inn keeper in Bethlehem, that prevent us from welcoming Jesus and taking Him into our lives. Today our children will be going to Confession and have those sins and obstacles removed through the miracle and power of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Tomorrow evening, our Monday group will experience this joy as well. You are invited to go to Confession today, from 9:30–10:30 in the school or on Monday (in the church) from 4:15–5:30. On behalf of our teachers, staff and children, we would like to wish you a Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

READ BEFORE

YOU MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS

As you open your pockets to do a good thing and make yourself feel good, please keep the following facts in mind:

The American Red Cross - American Red Cross President and CEO Gail McGovern was paid a \$517,000 salary in 2015.

MARCH OF DIMES - about 66 percent goes to program expenses directly supporting its mission, 22 percent went to fundraising, and just about 10 percent went to administrative expenses .

The United Way - President Brian Gallagher's salary was in 2014 \$1.3 million, along with numerous expense benefits.

UNICEF - CEO Caryl M. Stern earned a \$476,000 base salary in 2013 and about \$515,000 in 2015,

GOODWILL - CEO Jim Gibbons, earned \$585,604 in reportable compensation and \$126,598 in "other compensations" from the organization in 2015, according to tax forms.

The Salvation Army Commissioner, William A Roberts, the organization's chief executive, earned \$131, 243 in compensation and benefits.

The American Legion National Commander A tax form reveals that its top officers received about \$201,000, \$152,000 and \$162,000 in compensation in 2009

The Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander VFW National Commander Richard Eubank received a \$238,221 salary in 2009. Richard Freiburghouse, manager of the VFW Foundation, also earned \$75,000 that year.

The Disabled American Veterans National Commander Ronald Hope, a veteran of the Vietnam War, is listed as the national commander of DAV, and his salary information isn't made clear in tax documents. But J. Marc Burgess is the national adjutant and chief executive of the organization, and his compensation is listed at about \$319,000 per year.

The Military Order of Purple Hearts National Commander The group paid Stephen Ruckman, its chief financial officer, about \$150,000 in 2009. That year, the group also reported a \$40,000 severance payment to its former executive director

Vietnam Veterans of America In 2009, the group paid President John Rowan \$69,874 and CFO Joseph Sternberg \$137,000, according to tax documents.

Make a Wish: For children's last wishes— David A. Williams, the president and CEO of the Make-A-Wish Foundation, earned \$479,676 in 2013.

Ronald McDonald Houses - operates very efficiently. The organization dedicated about 89 percent of its budget to programming in 2013. Administration accounted for less than 1%, and fundraising accounted for about 9% of its operating budget.

Lions Club International - Lion's Club International dedicates about 83% of its budget to programs for the blind, deaf and others. Administration accounts for about 8% and fundraising accounts for about 7% of its total budget.

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 please call 914-769-0114 or visit www.rosaryhillhome.org.

"As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind - every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder."

John Glenn

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 19—Blessed Urban V-Pope

8:00 Alice Pommett R/b Judy Pommett

12:00 Benjamin Mattesich R/b the Izzo Family

Tuesday, December 20—Ss. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob-Patriarchs

8:00 Mickey Corcoran R/b Dennis and Janet Smith

12:00 James Hellrigel R/b Hellrigel Family

Wednesday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius of Holland-Priest

8:00 Intentions of Diane Moeser R/b the Bolton Family

12:00 Samuel Burrzano R/b Winnie Gill

Thursday, Dec. 22-Ss. Chaeremon and Ischyryon, Martyrs of Egypt

8:00 Michael Keene R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh

12:00 Joseph Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran

Friday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty, Poland-Priest

8:00 Sr. Matthew Cola R/b Antonietta Cuomo

12:00 George Gill R/b Winnie Gill

Saturday, December 24– St. Adele, Queen and Abbess

8:00 Alberto Bellini R/b Carole Bellini

12:00 John and Barbara Hackett R/b William and Carole DeBrino

Christmas Eve Masses

2:30 *Pageant & Mass (gym)* Intentions of Reagan McElroy R/b Family

4:15 Quinn and Lawten Families R/b Richard and Deborah Quinn

4:15 (gym) Irene Ricciardi R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi

5:30 Stephen and Mary Fogarino R/b Josephine J. Fogarino and Marie Michaels

5:30 (gym) People of the Parish

7:30 Eleanor Eckert R/b Family

9:00 Evanella and Toleno Families R/b the Evanella Family

Midnight Frank and Patricia Adamcik R/b the Adamcik Family

Sunday, December 25 – Nativity of the Lord

7:30 Adam Tobia R/b the Mahoney Family

9:30 Jorden and Evelyn Pedersen R/b the Pedersen Family

10:45 Edward and Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family

12:00 Zanetti and Walsh Families R/b the Zanetti Family

6:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias

Sanctuary Memorials

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of Emerlinda Colarullo, r/b the Colarullo Family.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the repose of the soul of William Tristano, r/b Josephine Tristano.

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

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

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.

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

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Nazareth
2. Bethelam.
3. Egypt.
4. House of bread.
5. In a manger; a container one puts food for animals in.

LOVE IS TRUTH

The greatest lies always possess an aspect of truth. Nobody believes a bold-faced lie that lacks even the semblance of truth. These are the weakest of lies. Who would believe that two plus two equals seven? On the other hand, good lies sell themselves. They are effective and forceful to the degree that they appear to be true.

I am afraid we find ourselves in the midst of the grandest of lies. One that is in full force. What makes it especially insidious is that it bears not only the appearance of truth; it bears the appearance of love itself. What is this greatest of lies? Simply put, it is the new social doctrine that the greatest commandment is to love thy neighbor. This lie is so powerful that you may think that I am the deceived one. You may even be so offended that you are tempted to stop reading this article. This is the point! Because the lie so powerfully resembles the truth, it is difficult to see the dishonesty. This is what makes it the greatest lie.

Yes, we are in fact commanded to love our neighbor. This is part of the two-fold commandment that Christ gave us when he summed up the Law and the Prophets. But the lie, the untruth, in this new social doctrine is that love thy neighbor is the greatest commandment. It is not. The Lord said that the greatest commandment is to love the Lord God with your entire mind, heart and soul; and that the second commandment is like it: love thy neighbor as your very self. To say that we are to love our neighbor is true. To say that we are to love our neighbor without regard to God and His plan for the human family is not true. In short, this formidable lie enlists the truth and beauty of the second greatest commandment to nullify, or subordinate, the first. This leads one to believe that we should love our neighbor even if it means ignoring God.

-Consider euthanasia. Nobody wants to see another suffer a slow agonizing death. My heart breaks when I see this suffering. Advocates for physician-assisted suicide are compassionate people. Doubtless, they believe they are being faithful to the commandment love thy neighbor. But what about the first and greatest commandment, to love the Lord God with your entire mind, heart and soul? Is there any regard for God and His plan in euthanasia? Are we to ignore the first commandment and only obey the second? I cannot. As a Christian I must ask if mercy killing is part of God's plan for the human family. Do I love God when I end the life he brought into existence? For Catholic Christians the answer is clear: no. The Lord's two-fold law of love compels me to ease the suffering and console the sick, but not to end their lives.

-Consider abortion. Nobody wants a woman to be in the position of having an unwanted or difficult pregnancy. My heart breaks when I see a woman, or a couple, in fear when faced with a challenging pregnancy. I would love nothing more than to remove the problem. Doubtless, pro-choice advocates believe they are being faithful to the commandment love thy neighbor in helping to make the problem go away. But what about the first and greatest commandment, to love the Lord God with your entire mind, heart and soul? Is there any regard for God and His plan? Are we to ignore the first commandment and only regard the second? I cannot. As a Christian I must ask if an abortion is part of God's plan for the human family. Do I love God when I assist in extinguishing a developing life in the womb? For Catholic Christians the answer is clear: no. The Lord's combined, two-fold law of love compels me to help the woman, the couple and the child, to aid in dispelling their fears, and to help find a loving way forward that minimizes the harm to all involved.

-Consider gay "marriage." Nobody wants to interfere with another's pursuit of happiness. My heart breaks when I see anyone suffering from isolation and loneliness. Advocates for gay marriage truly believe they are being faithful to the commandment love thy neighbor when they recognize as spouses those who are emotionally and physically drawn to others of the same sex. But what about the first and greatest commandment, to love the Lord God with your entire mind, heart and soul? Is there any regard for God and His plan? Are we to ignore the first commandment and only regard the second? I cannot.

As a Christian I must ask if gay marriage is part of God's plan for the human family. Am I loving God when I ignore Him, the One who made the human family, as though He has revealed nothing regarding marriage and its essential properties? For Catholic Christians the answer is clear: No. We must take seriously the fact that whenever Jesus was asked about the topic of marriage, He consistently directed us to read the pages of Genesis: "In the beginning" it was so. Like a red flag Jesus uses these first words of Genesis to teach us about marriage and its divine construction. And so combined, the Lord's two-fold law of love compels me to reach out to my brother or sister who for one reason or another is not equipped for a natural marriage, but love does not compel me to undo the divinely constructed reality of marriage.

We live in the midst of the reign of the greatest lie precisely because it bears such a strong resemblance to the truth. The social doctrine of our day asks us to love our neighbor to such a degree that we must liberate ourselves from God. Haven't we been here before? Haven't we been invited to liberate ourselves from the constraints of God already? Recall the ominous words, "You certainly will not die" if you eat of the fruit of the tree. I am afraid that we have returned to the Garden of Eden, ironically to the place where marriage was first defined. I am afraid that we are no match for the greatest of liars. But I am not afraid for those who stay close to Our Lord who has already crushed the head of the serpent. The greatest of liars is no match for the One who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. As Christians we can never forget the words of Jesus:

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Finally, as this article goes forth into the blogosphere I would like to say a word to those who engage in social media. A few tweets and colorized Facebook pics is hardly Christian persecution. Here is my advice. First, thank God for your clarity of vision. Second, engage when you think you can do some good, always loving God and your neighbor. Aside from this article I would like to make one further contribution, a new hashtag in response to #loveislove (...which is only partially true. We all know that there is a difference between how we love our mothers, friends and spouses.) I propose the alternative hashtag #loveistruth. Perhaps this can help organize those who seek to address the slick and fashionable lie of loving neighbor to the detriment of loving God.

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 7PM, **Saturday** at 11:00 AM until Noon, and from 3– 3:25PM. **Monday thru Friday** at 7:25AM – 7:50AM.

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.

KIDZ KORNER

1. What city did Mary reside in?
2. What city was Jesus born in?
3. To 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

"After the game, the King and the pawn go into the same box."
Old Italian proverb