

# 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, KCHS *Pastor*

**SUNDAY, December 10, 2017 A.D.**

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 Evarella**

*Religious Education*

**Deacon Al McLaughlin**

*Parish Catechetical Leader*

**Selena Piazza**

*Ministers of Music*

**Lesa Rossmann**

*Ministers of Music*

**Elizabeth Gulfo**

**Martin Coyne II**

*Parish Trustees*

**Michael Flynn & Meagan Mullany** **Curtiss & Katie Stella**

*Jr. High School Ministry*

*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:** 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 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.

## **CHRISTMAS CONFESSION**

**Monday thru Friday December 18-22**

7:20am - 7:50am in Church

## **CHRISTMAS MASSES**

**Christmas Eve, December 24 (**

**Christmas obligation)**

4:00pm English Mass

5:30pm English Mass

7:30pm English Mass

9:00pm Sung Latin Mass in Church

**11:30pm Christmas Carols in Church**

Midnight English Mass

**Christmas Day, December 25**

7:30am English Mass

10:00am English Mass

12:00Noon English Mass

1:00pm Spanish Mass

***OLV Church and Gym have handicap access.***



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**: William Biasi, Joey Bulger, Rich Ferrara, Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Gloria Genovese, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Lisa LoSchiavo, Anne Matthaei, Emmi O'Shea, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Mary Youngmans.

### **SPIRITUAL EXCERPT**

#### **BRILLIANCE IS NOT REQUIRED**

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

**Mother Angelica, Little Book of Life Lessons page 43**

### **Blessing of Water, Salt and Oil**

After the Marian Novena prayers on Tuesday, December 19th, there will be blessing of water, salt and oil.

### **GIVING TREE**

**Giving Tree Gifts are due back today! December 10th**

### **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.**

### **BEEFSTEAK DINNER - 1/27/18**

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians - men studying for the priesthood and other charitable works. It is a fun evening, and last year it was a great success. Please support this dinner. 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 45, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 or call Greg Evanello 201-784-5752.

### **Congratulations**

To OLV parishioner Jude Rossmann, a sophomore at Paramus Catholic High School, who achieved First Honors for the First Quarter.

### **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.

### **47TH ANNUAL CANDLELIGHT CAROL SING**

The Cathedral Choir and Instrumental Ensemble will perform on Wednesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 14. Performances begin at 8:00PM—doors open at 7:00PM. Ramped entrance on Ridge Street secure parking—Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Park and Clifton Avenues, Newark. For information please call 973-484-2400.

### **GOD'S HOUSE**

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

### **CRECHE**

Francis called it a "crèche", the French word for cradle. Francis created the first crèche using real people, a real manger, a real ox and ass, and real shepherds. The Incarnation – Christmas – was a key component in the spirituality of Francis. He wanted to celebrate the Incarnation in a special way. He wanted to do something that would help people remember the Christ Child and how He was born in Bethlehem. Francis wanted people to see and experience how the Christ Child lay on the hay in a manger with an ox and an ass standing by.

It was Christmas Eve in the year 1223. At the appointed time, Franciscan Brothers came to the new Bethlehem. Men, women, and children from the area also came to celebrate. The torches they carried lit up the night as they approached the crèche. Once again shepherds were walking in the night to come and adore Him. All were filled with joy over the mystery of the Incarnation. And a great tradition began.

As you look upon your Nativity set, may you remember and celebrate again God's love for His creation. To show His abundant love, mercy and forgiveness, He became a person like us. This is what the crèche symbolizes. From The Life of St. Francis by Thomas of Celano.

### **ADVENT WREATH**

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

### **ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?**

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

### **Silent Night, Holy Night**

*Silent Night, Holy Night* will be held at OLV on Tuesday, December 19, from 6:00PM to 9PM. During the season of Advent we ask everyone, young and not so young, to stop for 10 minutes from all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, and visit Jesus in His Church. The gift of time is so precious, but sometimes, especially around Christmas, we are so busy with last minute preparations that we forget about preparing our hearts and souls for the holy celebration of Christmas. As a family, what greater example can we give to our children than to come to God's house and in the silence of the night offer our prayers to Emmanuel — God with us. Please make the effort to come and allow the music of the season to prepare you for the Feast of Christmas.

### **A COURAGEOUS CHOICE**

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

## Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Dec 10 - Sun — **GIVING TREE GIFTS DUE BACK TODAY.**  
 Dec 10—Sun—Junior Youth Group  
 Dec 12 -Tue—Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM  
 Dec 13 - Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM  
 Dec 13 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM  
 Dec 14 - Thu – Holy Hour 7:00PM  
 Dec 16- Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00Noon & 3:00-3:25PM  
 Dec 16 - Sat—AA - lower Church 6:30-8:30PM  
 Dec 19 - Tue - Blessing of Water, Oil and Salt after Novena  
 Dec 19 - Tue - Silent Night, Holy Night 6:00-9:00PM in church.  
**Moms Pops and Tots will recess until January 10, 2018.**

## PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Private First Class Matthew Brady, U.S. Marine Corps;  
 Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;  
 Lieutenant 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;  
 Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

## 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 Marian Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

## 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.

## HOLY HOUR AT OLV

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

## SILENT NIGHT

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

## OLV SCRIPTURE STUDY

The OLV Scripture Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00a.m. in the OLV Church conference room. All are welcome to join us.

## WHO STARTED CHRISTMAS?

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

## Christmas Greens

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

## CCD CORNER

As we move closer to the celebration of our Lord's birth, our CCD children are busy using this season of Advent to prepare their hearts and souls for this great feast day. **Mrs. Koch's 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class** constructed an Advent chain where each link of the chain was made of construction paper and symbolizes the days of Advent leading up to the birth of our Lord Jesus. Each day, the student will remove one link and say a prayer or do a kind act, etc. What a great way for a family to come together in faith. **Mr. Perricelli's 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class** took a tag off the *Giving Tree* (in church) and as a class contributed enough money to purchase the gift that was being requested. Sharing our gifts with the poor and needy is living proof that the Gospel is alive and well in the hearts of our young people! This Advent, may we suggest that you as a family follow the lead of our children and perform a spiritual and corporal work of kindness as you prepare for the holiday and holiday we call Christmas!

"Without humility, we cannot be pleasing to God."  
**Saint Faustina Kowalska.**

**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; 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](http://www.rosaryhillhome.org).

**God's plan for aging**

Most seniors never get enough exercise. So In His Wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

-Then God saw there was another need. In His Wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch. And God looked down and saw that it was good.

-Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise. God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest, even though you mutter under your breath.

**Nine Important Facts to Remember as You Grow Older**

- #9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.
- #8 Life is sexually transmitted.
- #7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- #6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- #5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, years.
- #4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- #3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- #2 In the 60's, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- #1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.

**SERIOUS PROBLEM**

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

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 11 – St. Damasus I of Rome, Pope**

8:00 Bartram Lee Reeves R/b the Reeves Family  
12:00 Virginia Savistano R/b Peter and Carole Stonitsch

**Tuesday, December 12– Our Lady of Guadalupe**

8:00 Frieda Heimbuch—1st Anniversary  
12:00 Lucy Ulisse R/b Don Ulisse

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

8:00 Anna Smyth R/b the Spillane Family  
12:00 Rev. Zachary H. Monet, O.Carm. R/b Pat Consoli

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

8:00 Sam Burruano R/b Joe and Johanna Healy  
12:00 Catherine A. Trainor R/b George and Paula Sikoryak

**Friday, December 15 – St. Nino of Georgia, virgin**

8:00 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b Family  
12:00 Ann Robolino R/b Chris and Mary Oakes

**Saturday, December 16- St. Adelaide of Burgundy-Queen of Germany**

8:00 Graziano and Smith Families R/b Theresa Smith  
12:00 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b Family

4:00 Patrick Pepe R/b Dennis and Janet Smith

5:00 James McConnell R/b Pete and Eileen Krumer

**Sunday, December 17–St. Olympias-Widow**

7:30 Br. Edward Beyer, CFC R/b the Youngmans Family  
8:15 Mariano D. Obias R/b Laura Villena

9:30 Frank Urgo R/b Clara Urgo

10:45 Wilma Longo R/b the Bentivegna Family

12:00 Deceased members of Bator and Davies Families R/b Family

1:00 People of the Parish

6:00 Mario Sirois R/b Domenica Glielmi

7:00 Rev. Joachim Schweitzer, OSB R/b Joe and Johanna Healy

**SANCTUARY MEMORIALS**

**The Church Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the men and women who serve in defense of our country.

**The Convent Sanctuary Lamp** burns for the souls in Purgatory.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of Lorenzo Cafasso, r/b loving family.

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** burns this week for a special intention, r/b the Werner Family.

**The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp** burns this week for the unemployed.

**The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp** burns this week for an increase in religious vocations.

**The St. Peregrine Votive Lamp** burns this week for the intentions of Carla, Clare, Debbie, Jim, Margoth, and Rich.

**OLV PARISH REGISTRATION**

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

**KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS**

The L is missing - No L - NOEL

"We have been placed in the world for one purpose only, to do God's will." **St. John Eudes**

**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."

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Christmas Cards began in 1843 when a young British civil servant, who had no time to write Christmas letters to all his friends and relatives, asked an artist to design a card for him with the words: "Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you." The card showed a family raising their glasses in a toast, which angered English Puritans who declared it promoted drunkenness! But 1,000 cards were sold at a penny a piece, and since the first 'cheap' stamp had been introduced in Britain in 1840, a new tradition began! A few years later, an American of German descent, Louis Prang, the "father of American Christmas Cards," designed and printed beautiful, but rather expensive, cards. Eventually, mass produced, less expensive cards flooded the market; US companies began to make them when German products were 'taboo' during WWI and WWII, and a 165 year-old tradition began!

**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

**Confession Definition**

For a sin to be mortal, three conditions must together be met: "Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 1857).

**Grave Matter**

What constitutes "grave matter"? Some common sins, according to the bishops: missing Sunday Mass, sex outside marriage (including pornography and masturbation), serious theft, abortion, defamation of character and purposely getting drunk.

**Concerns & Answers**

**Can't I talk to God directly, not a priest to get forgiveness?** Not according to the Bible. Read John 20:21-23; 2 Corinthians 2:10; and 2 Corinthians 5:18

**If God knows everything we do, then how come we have to go to confession?** You may know your friend broke your iPod, but wouldn't it be aggravating if he knew you knew, but still didn't say "I'm sorry"?

**Doesn't God forgive no matter what?** If we think of sin as merely breaking rules, it is hard to understand why God can't just "look the other way." But sin is real; it hurts us and makes us distant from Him – and unable to enter heaven. We can only be restored if we confess.

**Confession just gives people the idea that it's all right to sin as long as you're sorry later.** If a man is confessing drunkenness while he has plans with his buddies to go barhopping and get drunk again the coming weekend, he can't be forgiven. He has to have decided to stop. Confession stops sins; it doesn't start them.

**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, every morning at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6:30PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

**FAMOUS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

- James J Braddock** aka the Cinderella Man (1905-1974) - Boxer
  - James Connolly** (1868-1957) First American Olympic Gold Medalist
  - Vincent Lombardi** (1913-1970) Green Bay Packers Coach - Vincent studied for the Priesthood for 2 years
  - Connie Mack** (1862-1956) Manger and Owner of the Philadelphia A's
  - Floyd Patterson** (1935-2006) Boxer and was an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
  - George Herman (Babe) Ruth** (1895-1948) Baseball "Great"
- If you want to join the "Greats" who make up OLV Council call Greg at 201-784-5752**

**KIDZ KORNER**

**THE SIGN IN FRONT OF CHURCH**

ABCDEFGHIJKLMN OPQRSTUVWXYZ - What does this have to do with Christmas?

**Answers on page 4.**

**If you're far from God in life,  
you'll be far from God in death.**