

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 24, 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

In Residence-Convent

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

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

Jr. High School Ministry

Curtiss & Katie Stella

High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee



SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

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

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

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

Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

St Peregrine: First Friday of the Month

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

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 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 MASSES

Christmas Eve, December 24

(Christmas obligation)

4:00pm	English Mass
5:30pm	English Mass
7:30pm	English Mass
9:00pm	Sung Latin Mass
11:30pm	Christmas Carols
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

Phone:

OLV Rectory

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, Kamal Faris, Rich Ferrara, Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Gloria Genovese, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Lisa LoSchiavo, Anne Matthaei, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Mary Youngmans.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND LOVE

Unless we continue to transform ourselves to the image of Jesus, we remain spiritual children. As Scripture says, "Jesus advanced in wisdom, and age, and grace before God and men" (Luke 2:40). Many Christians today are, spiritually, about twelve years old. They shoot up prayers to the big Father and they know somehow that He will answer them. This is the level of growth that they have achieved. You were not created to be a complacent bump on a log. Not in this life. What you want to do is advance in holiness.

St. Josemaria Escriversa EVERYDAY HOLINESS + 53

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.

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.

DEFEND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Over the course of the last generation, Christianity and in particular our Catholic Faith has been under attack. Anti-Catholicism is the last acceptable prejudice. What can we do about it? Besides prayer, all Catholics should join The Catholic League at www.catholicleague.org or 450 Seventh Avenue, NY, NY 10123 and receive the journal, The Catalyst, which has articles detailing where Catholicism is under attack and by whom. As Christmas approaches, we will see secularism creep in and try to wrestle and strip the season of its Christian elements.

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

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 2017.

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**

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.

PEWS & BRICKS

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 also we have bricks to be memorialized at \$125 a brick- call Maria or Deacon Al at the rectory if you would like to donate in the name of your family or a loved one.

HIGHER POWER

A Sunday school teacher said to her children, "We have been learning how powerful kings and queens were in Biblical times. But, there is a Higher Power. Can anybody tell me what it is?" One child blurted out, "Aces!"

DID YOU KNOW?

How can a candy treat be a birth announcement? Many years ago a candy maker had an idea. He wanted to show, through the candy he made, that Jesus Christ was born among us, lived and died to save us all. So, through the use of color and shape, he created a piece of candy that told the story of Jesus from Christmas to Easter. He created the candy cane. The white stripes on the candy cane stand for the fact that Jesus was sinless and pure. The small red stripes stand for the scourging Jesus endured before He died. The large red stripes stand for Jesus' blood, shed on the cross. The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's staff, reminding us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Turn it upside down, and it is a letter "J", the first letter of Jesus' name. We can learn a lot from the candy cane - both to look at it and see Jesus, and, like the candy maker, to share the story of Jesus in whatever we do.

THE LOVE OF GOD

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

UNTIMELY ANSWERED PRAYER

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you do such a thing?" Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

- Dec 26 -Tue - Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
- Dec 27 - Wed - OLV Needlers 6:30PM
- Dec 28 - Thu – Holy Hour 7:00PM
- Jan 3 - Wed - Bible Study Group 10:00AM
- Jan 10 - Wed - Moms, Pops & Tots 9:30-11:30AM
- Jan 27 - K of C Beefsteak Dinner

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.

OLV SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

CDA is a national organization dedicated to prayer, good works, and the helping of others less fortunate. You will make new and dear friends and have fun while enriching your life and others. Regular meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month in the lower church at 7:00PM. For info, contact ReneeTringali@gmail.com/201-913-2580.

SENIOR MOMENT

While on a road trip, an elderly couple stopped at a roadside restaurant for lunch. After finishing their meal, they left the restaurant, and resumed their trip. When leaving, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the table, and she didn't miss them until they had been driving about forty minutes. By then, to add to the aggravation, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place to turn around, in order to return to the restaurant to retrieve her glasses. All the way back, the elderly husband was the classic grouchy old man. He fussed and complained, and scolded his wife relentlessly during the entire return drive. The more he chided her, the more agitated he became. He just couldn't let up one minute. To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. As the woman got out of the car and hurried to retrieve her glasses, the old coot yelled after her, "While you're in there, get my hat and the credit card."

Eight Gifts That Do Not Cost a Cent

- 1) The Gift of *Listening*...But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.
- 2) The Gift of *Affection*...Be generous with the appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back, and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.
- 3) The Gift of *Laughter*...Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your friends will say, "I love to laugh with you."
- 4) The Gift of a *Written Note*...It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note, or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.
- 5) The Gift of a *Compliment*... A simple and sincere, "You look great in red," or "You did a super job," or "That was a wonderful meal," make someone's day.
- 6) The Gift of a *Favor*...Go out of your way to do something kind for someone.
- 7) The Gift of *Solitude*...There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.
- 8) The Gift of *Cheerful Disposition* ... The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone. It is not that hard to say: *Hello* or *Thank You*. Friends are a very rare jewel indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.

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

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.

THANK YOU!

To our Altar Angels who dusted and cleaned the church for Christmas: MaryAnn Torre and Phyllis Donohue. To our youth who decorated the church: Matt Coyne, Mary Rose Evanelle, Thomas Evanelle, Anthony Ragucci, Alison Sumereau and Brian Sumereau.

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.

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.

Thank you!

St. Vincent de Paul, Social Concerns thanks the parish for its generous response to the Giving Tree Collection. Because of your help our ministry is able to provide gifts for many area families who are in need.

Question??

Is the occult the same as superstition? Superstition and the occult are not one and the same. While the Church rightly condemns superstition, it is not in the same league as the occult, which the Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear. The former is a deviation of religious feeling that emphasizes external objects and actions over interior dispositions, such as fearing bad luck if a black cat crosses your path. The various manifestations of the occult are much more serious, since they have their origin in Satan's kingdom, regardless of how innocent they might appear to the unformed.

GOSSIP

By Father Mark Nolte

One of the things that tears at the fabric of a parish is gossip. People talking and pulling things down, complaining, bickering, you name it. Gossip is like tearing open a feather pillow in a 25 mph wind ... you can never retrieve all the feathers. The negative talk does not help. Many people in this (every) parish give so much to make the place hum with positive activity but a couple of complaining words wipe out whatever good was done. And it takes the wind out of the sails. When I hear of such talk I get discouraged and my energy level is sapped. And there is no way to respond to the gossip because, like pillow feathers, they just get scooted along and kept in the air by others. Gossip is another way of saying: rash judgment, detraction and calumny. Rash judgment is assuming as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor. Detraction, without an objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who did not know them. Calumny are remarks, contrary to the truth, that harm the reputation of others and give occasion for false judgments concerning them. If we all held to the high principle of making sure our words never ventured into these there sins against the 8th commandment we would all do a lot less talking. The cure to gossip – which may be mailed, spoken, written, emailed, sign-languaged, texted, broadcast, etc. – is charity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says: The Apostle Paul has given an incomparable depiction of charity: "Charity is patient and kind, charity is not jealous or boastful; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Charity bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Cor 13:4-7)

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 25—The Nativity of the Lord

7:30 Frank and Patricia Adamcik R/b the Adamcik Family
 10:00 Jorden and Evelyn Pedersen R/b the Pedersen Family
 Edward and Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family
 12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
 Deceased of the Gill Family R/b Winnie Gill
 1:00 *Spanish* Thomas F. Lagatol II R/b the Lagatol Family

Tuesday, December 26—St. Stephen—first martyr

8:00 Intentions of Anna Heaney R/b John Heaney
 12:00 James P. Spillane R/b Mary Spillane

Wednesday, December 27— St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

8:00 Ann Robolino R/b Christina and Santa Maria
 12:00 Michael Murtaugh R/b the Gaffney Family

Thursday, December 28—The Holy Innocents—Martyrs

8:00 Jeannette F. Maher R/b the Mahoney Family
 12:00 James McGrath Jr. R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

Friday, December 29—St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

8:00 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b the Ottomanelli Family
 12:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo

Saturday, December 30 – St. Anysius of Greece, Bishop

8:00 Alfred Fedorowicz R/b Richard and Maureen Ferrara
 12:00 Donald P. Youngmans R/b Jim and Rose Youngmans
 4:00 Sven Carlson—20th Anniversary R/b Peter and Linda Wayne
 5:00 George W. Smith R/b Peggy Kane

Sunday, December 31—The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

7:30 Pat Corcoran R/b Peter and Eleanor Moylan
 8:15 In thanksgiving for the recovery of Augustine Ahn R/b OLV KofC
 9:30 Frank and Elsie May Reeves R/b the Anzalone Family
 10:45 George W. Smith R/b William and Dianne Smith
 12:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
 1:00 People of the Parish

Vigil of Solemnity of Mary

5:30 William J. Sweeney R/b George and Gail Fabiano
 7:00 Margaret and John Rogan R/b John and Eileen McAdams

Monday, January 1, 2018—Solemnity of Mary

7:30 Ann Benish R/b the Poggi Family
 8:15 *Latin* Reginald G. Johnson R/b Michelle Palmieri
 10:00 Jim Spillane R/b Joe and Cheryl Carley
 12:00 Alphonso Elentrio R/b Lisa Guercio
 1:00 *Spanish* Intentions of Fr. Bryan
 6:00 Edward Milano Jr. R/b the del Grande Family

Sanctuary Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp, the Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp and the St. Joseph Votive Lamp burn this week for the intentions of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns for those serving in our military.

The Rectory Sanctuary Lamp burns for the Souls in Purgatory.

The Hosts and Wine used at the celebration of the Mass this week have been donated for the intentions of Anna Heaney, r/b John Heaney.

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

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

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

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Raphael, Michael, Gabriel
2. Jesus, Mary and Joseph
3. Egypt
4. King Herod.
5. The Shepherds.

Pearl Harbor: what God did that day

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 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 . But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

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

Why have we forgotten?

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

PARENTS & TIME

If your son or daughter were to be asked, "What was most important in your mother's or father's life", how would your children answer this question? What does your child perceive as most important in their parent's lives? Would the response of the most important be jobs or career, the pursuit of money and material wealth, or themselves over the correct answer of family? Parents, think about it, because your actions speak louder than words.

THE NATIVITY SCENE

One of the most beautiful and popular teaching tools of the Christian Faith is the Nativity Scene, or "Crèche," an Old French word for manger. The "Book of Blessing" says that St. Francis of Assisi began the custom of displaying figures to depict the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Eve, 1223. However, there are wall paintings depicting the Nativity of the Lord, based on the Gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke, dating from as far back as the fourth century! Some of the ancient Nativity scenes even include the prophecies of Isaiah and Habakkuk, which foretold the Messiah would be born in the midst of animals in a manger. "Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping watch over their flock." **LUKE 2:8**. The good news of the birth of the Good Shepherd was given to the poor, uneducated shepherds. This is in keeping with St. Luke's Gospel theme that the lowly are singled out as recipients of God's favors and blessings. One thousand years earlier, while out in the fields shepherding the flock, David was called to be the King of Israel. From then on, God continually promised an even greater shepherd, One who would lead the people and be a Son to Him. "And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **LUKE 2:12** The manger, or animals feeding trough, gives us much "food for thought" – pun intended! How appropriate that Jesus, the Bread of Life, was placed in a feeding trough! Animals know where to go to be fed by INSTINCT, but we know where to go to be fed by FAITH! By faith, we are much smarter than animals. Or are we? That's what St. Francis asked by placing two special animals in the crèche. "An ox knows its owner, and an ass, its master's manger, but Israel does not know me, my people have not understood." **ISAIAH 1:3** These "dumbest" of animals are placed in the crèche to "chide" us into realizing what THEY were smart enough to know: that the Holy Child was the One through Whom all things were made! Jesus, God's Son in human flesh, is their Owner and Master! Another explanation for their presence is that the ox, an animal often sacrificed, was a sign of the supreme sacrifice Jesus would offer on His cross; the ass was a sign that the donkey would carry Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, so He could become our Sacrifice. The people of Bethlehem (means house of BREAD) represent us! Like our ancestors, we cry out in need to the Lord, waiting for His reply. As they went about their daily routine, some found room for the Lord in their hearts-- but others did not. Those who took the time to stop, to look and to reflect found the Lord; those who were so preoccupied with work, earthly concerns or whatever, probably missed Him! Will we find room for Him in our hearts and our lives today?

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

1. Name the three angels mentioned in scripture?
2. Who makes up the Holy Family?
3. Where did Jesus flee to as an infant?
4. What King wanted baby Jesus dead?
5. Who were the first visitors to see baby Jesus?

Answers on page 4.

Remember: freedom is never free!