

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

WELCOME

SUNDAY, February 18, 2018 A.D.

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KCHS

Pastor

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

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 & 12:00Noon Mass.

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 12:30pm-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.

Latin Mass every Sunday 8:15AM

Spanish Mass every Sunday 1PM



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**: Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Gloria Genovese, Tom Giuliano, Marylou Goreb, Vincent Gulfo, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Lisa LoSchiavo, Anne Matthaedi, Roseann Placey, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, and Jim Walsh.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"THE STRUGGLE

I don't want any of you to ever think that you are not going to have a struggle. Holiness is a constant struggle. It is not something you arrive at and enjoy while the rest of humanity wallows in imperfections. We are an imperfect, miserable bunch of people - and we're gonna be that way until we die. Sinners? Let's hope not. Imperfect? You bet.

You're going to have inclinations, temptations to anger, lust, gluttony. Don't blame it all on the devil. You have a lot to do with it too, sweetheart. I think the old guy gets more credit than he deserves. So examine your own heart and keep struggling to make the right choices.

Mother Angelica, Little Book of Life Lessons

ADDITIONAL FRIDAY MASS

During LENT there will be an additional Friday evening Mass offered at 7:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross which will be led by one of the adult ministries of OLV parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross, followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm. Each week the Thursday evening Stations will be led by OLV's Confirmation Class. Also, Stations of the Cross will be held after 8:00am Mass on Saturday mornings during Lent.

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.

2018 Wedding Anniversary Masses

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage in 2018. Couples deserving of such recognition are urged to participate. These liturgies will be celebrated at 3:00pm at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

Sunday, April 29, 2018— 5 & 25 years

Sunday, May 6, 2018—50 years

Please call the OLV Rectory to register at 201-768-1706.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00pm - 3:00pm members of OLV parish meet and pray the Mary Mother of All Nations Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

SOUPER BOWL Food Collection

For the month of February OLV will be collecting assorted non-perishable canned foods for St Cecilia's Food Bank. Please bring your donation to the Church or leave at the rectory garage. Thank you.

**TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN
YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE
SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.**

2018 LENTEN REGULATIONS

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (or Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence. On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and **two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.** Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

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.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 27, 2018.**

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

Humanae Vitae @ 50

This year, 2018, is the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of Pope Bl. Paul VI's controversial encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, which reaffirmed the Church's traditional teaching against the use of contraception. For Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, Paul VI was much more than just a great moral teacher – he was a prophet.

"That section of the encyclical," Bp. Barron explains, referring to section 17 in which Paul VI predicts the social consequences of contraception, "I will confess to you, jumped out at me as I reread it, because I thought 'Wow, 1968, but this man was looking very clearly into our time.'" He then goes through Paul IV's three big predictions about what a world that widely accepts contraception would look like: (1) more marital infidelity and lower moral standards for young people, (2) men feeling more free to objectify women, and (3) governments imposing contraception on their citizens.

Today, 50 years since the sexual revolution, it's clear all of these have come true: sexual morality and marriage has collapsed, women are widely viewed as mere sex objects by men, and the Little Sisters of the Poor and others in the US have suffered from the HHS mandate, not to mention the much more severe population control policies in places like China. Looking at our world today, it's amazing how accurate Paul VI was. Which makes it all the more tragic that so many people, both within and without the Church, haven't more closely heeded his warnings.

Contribution Statements

2017 Contribution Statements are now available. To obtain a copy of your 2017 donations, please call Maria at the rectory 201-768-1706.

FRIDAY ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 12:00Noon – 3:00pm.

So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Feb 20 - Tue - Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
Feb 20 - Tue - Catholic Daughters of the Americas 7:00PM
Feb 21 - Wed - Bible Study Group 10:00AM
Feb 21 - Wed - OLV Needlers 6:30PM
Feb 22 - Thu - Holy Hour 7:00PM
Feb 23 - Fri - Mass/Stations led by Rosarians/Catholic Daughters 7:00PM
Mar 10/11—Sat/Sun - CDA St. Patrick's Bake Sale

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

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

PRE-CANA COUPLES NEEDED

The Archdiocese needs to increase its pool of Archdiocesan team couples to present the new Archdiocesan Pre-Cana program. Training is provided by the Archdiocesan Family Life Office. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Jill Cherrey 973-497-4325 or email jillc@joyfilledmarriage.org.

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 3:00PM-3:30PM. Monday thru Friday at 7:30AM, as well as every First Friday at 6:30PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

OLV Prayer Power House

Become one of our prayer team members. There are no meetings, so this apostolate is wonderful for all, including those parishioners who are homebound. For information, please phone Maria at the rectory.

Are YOU new to the AREA?

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by OLV 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.

OLV K of C Council #14483

All men over the age of 18 are cordially invited to join the OLV Knights of Columbus Council. The Knights are the largest Catholic Fraternal Organization in the world. For info' contact Greg Evanello at 201-784-5752.

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 basket in the back of Church.

2018 Sharing God's Blessings Appeal

Your contribution to this appeal makes a difference in the lives of so many in our community. Funds raised through the appeal help to educate children in our inner-city Catholic schools, serve the spiritual needs of people at parishes located in poor neighborhoods, and assist Catholic Charities to run its programs, which help the poor overcome the many obstacles in life. In addition, the appeal assists with seminarian and priest retirement costs. Please consider making a generous gift. ***If you pledge directly to the Archdiocese, please inform the rectory so that we can verify that OLV gets the credit.***

GRACE

A visiting Priest was attending a men's breakfast in Ohio farm country. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began: "Lord, I hate buttermilk." The Priest opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going. Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the Priest was overly worried. However without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, "And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour." Just as the Priest was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued, "But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits." "So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till you are done mixin', and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits." Amen.

STORY OF HOPE!

The Elkhoueirys had just moved into their new home in Virginia a month ago and hardly knew their neighbors yet. But when a fire in the house was visible from the street, a man driving by rushed to the door and alerted them. The neighbor then ran upstairs and helped get their children out of the house. Other neighbors sheltered them in their homes and have since raised more than \$30,000 on GoFundMe. Talk about a great neighborhood! But there was another sign of hope: one of the only things that survived the fire was the wife Rita's rosary, which was inside her nightstand, which somehow survived the fire when everything else around it was destroyed. "My angels are watching over us!" Rita told their local news station.

MASS EXPECTATIONS

So it goes with meals AND WITH MASS. Many of us come to weekly Mass with certain expectations. We sit down and select (in our minds) from the pre-fix menu. We expect certain things to happen at certain times, and it usually goes off without a hitch. I have noticed over the years, and at different churches, that we get through the meal okay, but then we leave right before dessert. The end of Mass is really important. Not only do we get a great hymn from our great choir, but more important we get to hear the announcements which tell us just what is important, even if you think you are too full. If you stay and partake, you just might get your glass refilled with the sweetest drink. Sure our Mass is like a big meal so stay for all the courses ... not only is everything included, but the best part about the Mass the check has already been paid in full for each and every one of us by Jesus Christ.

CCD Corner

It's hard to believe that we have just entered into the holy season of Lent. As a family this a wonderful time to participate in one of three traditional Lenten practices of fasting, almsgiving or prayer. In their classes our children will be working on Lenten Projects that will help reinforce what this time of the church year is all about. On Thursday evening our Confirmation Candidates will lead the Stations of the Cross during Holy Hour. Throughout the 5 weeks of Lent our students will pray the Stations as well. May the Lord bless our families and during this holy season may He enlighten our hearts and minds to be true disciples of his love and mercy. Amen.

Catholic Men's Conference

Saturday, March 10, 2018, 8:00am-4:30pm, Cost: \$25, Seton Hall University. This year's theme is **"Be Not Afraid: The Victory is Christ's!"** His Eminence **Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin** will be celebrating the Mass! Register at www.NJCatholicMen.org.

Women's Commission Day of Reflection

Saturday, March 3, 2018, 8:00am-4:00pm, Cost: \$25, Seton Hall University. This year's theme is **"Alive in Christ ... Renewing Our Families"**. Register at www.rcan.org/womenscommission. His Eminence **Joseph W. Cardinal Tobin** will celebrate Mass at 4:00PM. *Registration for both events is \$25. Priests and religious are free.*

Both events include continental breakfast and lunch. For more information, visit: www.rcan.org/womenscommission and www.NJCatholicMen.org.

St. Zita's Villa for Women

When your loved one needs a Home away from Home, NYS certified St. Zita's Villa for women in Airmont, NY provides affordable private rooms with nutritious, tasty meals in a clean, comfortable Catholic setting with 24/7 personal care nursing and medical assistance. 845-356-2011.

CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE 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.

SUN/SON 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. During these long cold winter nights, we all yearn for the warm days of summer. Why don't you stop by the Church on Thursday evenings at 7:00PM and **bask in the brilliant rays of our Eucharistic Lord.** Join us and pray away those winter blues.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

Do you want to give your Valentine something that will be remembered for a lifetime? The **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND** is a great romantic get away! **Military families**, are you getting ready to deploy? Is your family trying to reconnect after deployment? Marriage Encounter offers tools of communication that have kept many military marriages strong and happy throughout the ups and downs of military service. Contact your local chaplain or call Mike and Janet Turco at 973 427-7016 for more information.

LENT – SACRIFICE – CLOTHING BINS

Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we do so, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any used clothing, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, and children's books to the Catholic Charities clothing bin? If you do, you have made the connection and you have moved closer to Christ. Thank you.

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 basket in the back of Church.

Mass Intentions

Monday, Feb. 19–St. Conrad of Piacenza, Italy-Noble, Husband, Hermit
8:00 Eleanor Mullins R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Christine Clevenger R/b Rita McNamara

Tuesday, February 20–St. Eucharius of Orleans, France-Bishop

8:00 Dustin James
12:00 Domenica Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family

Wednesday, February 21– St. Peter Damian of Italy-Bishop

8:00 Lilly and Maria Piana R/b Carole Bellini
12:00 Ivan Busanic R/b the Busanic Family

Thursday, February 22 – Chair of St. Peter the Apostle

8:00 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b the Ottomanelli Family
12:00 Intentions of George Fabiano R/b George and Gail Fabiano

Friday, Feb. 23 –St. Polycarp-Disciple of St. John-Bishop, Martyr

8:00 Carol Curcio Mertz R/b Liz Gulfo
12:00 Peter T. Stonitsch R/b Peter and Carole Stonitsch
7:00 Clifford Keenan Jr. R/b loving family

Saturday, February 24 – St. Ethelbert-King of Kent, England

8:00 Charles Harte R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Filomena Zaccaro R/b the Zaccaro Family
4:00 Irene Louise Ricciardi R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
5:00 Infant Nicholas Robert Barbieri R/b Jerry and Sherry Ikalowych

Sunday, February 25 - St. Tarasius - Patriarch of Constantinople

7:30 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b the Ottomanelli Family
8:15 Patrick O'Connor R/b Marita Morgan
9:30 Pasquale Giuliano R/b OLV Staff
10:45 Intentions of Joseph Monaghan R/b Sr. Elizabeth
12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Kathleen Belloise R/b John Walsh
7:00 Jacqueline Maalouf R/b the Pedersen Family

Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of

Robert John Maynes IV, r/b Deborah and Michael Agnello.

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

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for a special intention.

The Rectory Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Emma Lombardi, r/b her children and grandchildren.**

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns this week in loving memory of **Emma Lombardi, r/b her children and grandchildren**

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Emma Lombardi, r/b the Leyden Family.**

The Hosts and Wine used at holy Mass this week have been donated for the intentions of **Mrs. Anne Cambria, r/b Louis Cambria.**

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 11:00AM until Noon, and from 3:00PM - 3:30PM. **Monday thru Friday** at 7:25AM - 7:50AM.

The 2019 Mass Book is Open!

The 2019 Mass book is now opened; however due to the demand there is now a limit of 8 Masses per person, out of which only 3 can be Saturday vigil / Sunday Masses. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. John. 2. Mary Magdalene, Mary (the mother of James and John), Salome and Joanna. 3. Joseph of Arimathea. 4. Jesus. 5. Isaac.

February is dedicated to the Passion.

HOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH CREATED PRETZELS

BY RYAN SCHEEL

The commonly accepted story for the origin of the pretzel begins around A.D. 610, when Italian monks presented their young students with treats of baked dough twisted in the shape of crossed arms (then a common prayer posture). They called them "pretiolas" or "little rewards," and were a reward for children who had memorized their prayers. An alternate explanation for the word pretzel is that they were originally called "bracellae," the Latin term for "little arms," from which Germans later derived the word "bretzel."

As the custom spread through medieval Europe, the pretzel's three holes came to represent the Holy Trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—and the twisty baked good became associated with good luck, long life and as a way of providing them with both spiritual and literal sustenance. Pretzels, made of a simple mixture of water, flour and salt, were an ideal food to consume during Lent, when all types of meat, dairy and eggs were prohibited. By the 16th century, it had become popular tradition to eat pretzels on Good Friday in Germany, and Catholics once considered them the "official food of lent." To this day there are still many Catholic traditions surrounding the pretzel.

In southern Germany and adjoining German-speaking areas, pretzels have retained their original religious meanings and are still used in various traditions and festivals. In some areas, on January 1, people give each other lightly sweetened yeast pretzels for good luck and good fortune. Sometimes children visit their godparents to fetch their New Years pretzel. Especially Catholic areas, such as Austria, Bavaria or some parts of Swabia, the "Palm pretzel" is made for Palm Sunday celebrations. An old tradition on Palm Sunday dating back to 1533 is the outdoor pretzel market (Brezgenmarkt) in the Hungerbrunnen Valley near Heldenfingen.

On Laetare Sunday in Luxembourg, the fourth Sunday in Lent, there is a festival called "Pretzel Sunday". Boys give their girlfriends pretzels or cakes in pretzel form. The size symbolizes how much he likes her. In return, if a girl wants to increase his attention, she will give him a decorated egg on Easter. The pretzel custom is reversed on Pretzel Sunday during leap years.

Popular during Lent in Biberach are "Lent pretzels", which are shortly boiled in water before baking and afterwards sprinkled with salt.

TROUBLED MARRIAGE???

If your marriage has become troubled or stressed, unloving or uncaring, if your relationship has grown cold and distant, if you're thinking of separation or divorce, BUT you want to try again – then try the Retrouvaille program, it can help you. For more information, contact Family Life Ministries, at 973-497-4327. You may call anonymously. Please be assured that all inquiries are kept in confidence.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

There will be a modified vigil for the 40 Days for Life in Hackensack this Lent on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays (days when abortions are performed), 7:00AM-2:00PM at 10 Zabriskie St., Hackensack. Vigil will start on Ash Wednesday, February 14, and end on Palm Sunday, March 25. Please consider giving one hour per week during Lent to join us in prayer. To sign-up please contact Margaret at 201-805-0937.

KIDZ KORNER

1. Which of Jesus' friends remained with him at the crucifixion?
2. Name the four women who arrived at the tomb to anoint Jesus' body.
3. Who asked Pontius Pilate for the body of Jesus?
4. Who brought Lazarus back to life after he had been dead for 4 days?
5. Name the son who was born to Sarah when she was 90 years old?

Answers on page 4.

DECEMBER 25

You'll often hear people say that Jesus wasn't born on December 25th, that he was likely actually born in the Spring, and that Christmas is really just a Christianized pagan holiday. Here's the truth: the early Church celebrated Christmas on December 25th because that's the day they thought Jesus was born. They had two arguments for this date.

First, they believed that Jesus was crucified on March 25th (given when Passover normally falls), and there was a tradition that Jesus died the same day he first entered the world (his conception). Nine months later from March 25th is December 25th.

Second, and most importantly, Scripture provides strong evidence that December 25th, or a date near that, is when Jesus was born. The Gospel of Luke tells us the angel Gabriel revealed to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth would conceive John the Baptist while Zechariah was performing his priestly duties on the Day of Atonement, also known as Yom Kippur. That Jewish holy day always falls in late September or early October. Luke also tells us that, after Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive Jesus, she went in haste to visit Elizabeth, and that Elizabeth was in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Now just do the math: If Elizabeth conceived in late September, and Mary visited her in her sixth month, that means Mary conceived Jesus and visited Elizabeth in late March. And if Mary conceived Jesus in late March, that places his birth in late December. So it's very possible the early Church got it right, and December 25th really is Jesus' birthday!

DON'T DESPAIR

Sitting by the window of her convent, Sister Barbara opened a letter from home one evening. Inside the letter was a \$100 bill her parents had sent. Sister Barbara smiled at the gesture. As she read the letter by the window, she noticed a shabbily dressed stranger leaning against the lamp post below. Quickly, she wrote, "Don't despair. - Sister Barbara," on a piece of paper, wrapped the \$100 bill in it, got the man's attention and tossed it out the window to him. The stranger picked it up, and with a puzzled expression and a tip of his hat, went off down the street. The next day, Sister Barbara was told that a man was at her door, insisting on seeing her. She went down, and found the stranger waiting. Without a word, he handed her a huge wad of \$100 bills. "What's this?" she asked. "That's the \$8,000 you have coming Sister," he replied. "Don't Despair paid 80-to-1."

Remember Your Victories

When you think about your past, what events do you remember? What memories do you allow to play over and over in your mind? In the Old Testament, they had what they called memorial stones. These were used to remind the people about the good things God did in their lives—their victories. Today, we need to remind ourselves to focus on our victories, too. Sure, we've all had setbacks, but when you meditate on your disappointments and failures, it only drains you of valuable energy. It steals your confidence and joy. But when you focus on your victories, it builds your strength and confidence. It feeds your faith and gives you a reason to give God praise. I encourage you today to get into the habit of focusing on your victories. Remember, every good and perfect gift comes from Him. As you praise and thank Him for His favor and victory in your life, He'll pour out His blessing on you. He'll open up doors for you to move forward in strength to fulfill the dreams and desires He has placed in your heart!

"By taking the time to stop and appreciate who you are and what you've achieved - and perhaps learned through a few mistakes, stumbles and losses - you actually can enhance everything about you. Self-acknowledgment and appreciation are what give you the insights and awareness to move forward toward higher goals and accomplishments."

Jack Canfield