

# 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](http://www.olvhp.org)

PREPARE THE WAY  
FOR THE LORD!

*St. John the Baptist*

Sunday, December 5, 2021 A.D.  
Second Sunday of Advent  
In the year of St. Joseph

COME, LORD JESUS



**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:**

Mon.-Sat.: 7:30-7:50am. Saturday: 11:00-11:50am; 3:00-3:45pm

**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.

**HOLY DAY (of OBLIGATION) MASSES for the  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
DECEMBER 8th**

**Tuesday 7:00PM Vigil Mass Live Stream  
and conclusion of the Year of St. Joseph  
Wednesday 6:15AM, 8AM, 12:00Noon,  
4PM Family Mass, 5:30PM, 7PM Latin**



OLV Rectory  
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OLV Fax  
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OLV Convent  
201-768-1705  
145 Parkway

## Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Last Sunday we began Advent. Numerous families participated in the wreath-making with their children. It was great to see that these families (some even with their grown-up children) took time and broke their regular routine to be together and to live this Advent as a family. I commend all for coming.

Next Wednesday we will celebrate the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Holy day of Obligation). On Tuesday night at 7PM we will celebrate the Solemn Vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and conclude with that Mass the Year of St. Joseph.

This **Second Sunday of Advent** is always about **Saint John the Baptist** and his role of going before the Lord to prepare His ways. John the Baptist becomes the symbol of this same invitation to each of us. We are invited to prepare the way of the Lord in our souls. May this Advent season be a time of a true preparation of our homes, gifts, food, etc., but MOST IMPORTANTLY OUR SOULS, that is THE HOME Christ yearns to live in the most.

**NEXT SUNDAY** we continue our tradition at the **10:45 Family Mass in the Gym of Bambinelli Blessing** – the baby Jesus that will be in our home manglers. Please bring your Infant Jesus figures with you to that Mass.

### Advent specials

**Bible study with Fr. Ed and Deacon Tom 10:30-11:30AM**

Week 2: The History of Salvation - December 9

Week 3: The Birth of the Savior-Narratives - December 16

The final week will be left open.

**Advent Holy Hour 7-8PM with Deacon Al**

*The Stories of Advent and Christmas.*

Week 2: The Visitation - December 9

Week 3: The Journey - December 16

Come join us as we escape the hustle and bustle of this time of the year to peacefully reflect on the glory and true meaning of the Coming of Christ!

**The Catechism Lectures** at OLV 7-9PM  
with Fr. John A. Perricone - December 15

**GIVING TREE Tags w/Gift Cards**  
**MUST be returned by Sunday December 12th.**

### THANK YOU

OLV Social Concerns thanks you for donating all the groceries and 70 Turkeys which were collected at Thanksgiving for the less fortunate.

*20th Seminary  
Christmas Concert & Dinner*

at the Redemptoris Mater Seminary

Friday, Dec. 17 - Food 6:00pm-Concert 7:30pm

Saturday, Dec. 18 - Food 1:30pm-Concert 3:00pm

Sunday, Dec. 19 - Food 6:00pm-Concert 7:30pm

See Fr. Ed for more information.



Oh my Jesus!

Let me climb to You on the steps of humility,  
on which You came down to me.

—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

## As the Year of St. Joseph comes to an end

**Come, Lord Jesus! Come into our world that we might again contemplate the Holy Family — model of human stability in faith and love. Come that we may imagine Joseph, the protector; Joseph, the provider; Joseph the loving guide and servant — the strong foundation upon which Salvation was able to grow and flourish until the appointed time — the model of manhood our world needs today. Amen.**

### THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

“The Immaculate Conception” is a title reserved for Mary, the mother of Jesus, the Christ. The expression means that MARY was conceived without sin. The conviction that Jesus was born of a virgin is a distinct belief, even though many Catholics erroneously believe that the Immaculate Conception refers to Jesus. Contributing to the confusion is the celebration of the Immaculate Conception during the season of Advent. While the faithful are preparing to honor the birth of their Savior Jesus, we commemorate the conception of Mary. The choice of December 8 for the Immaculate Conception does not directly relate to Advent; it corresponds more to the traditional date for the feast of the Birth of Mary, September 8. The feast of the conception of Mary is backed up from that day by nine months. In a similar way, we celebrate the Annunciation on March 25, nine months before the birth of Jesus. Belief in the Immaculate Conception asserts that God preserved Mary from all sin from the moment of her conception, thus preparing a pure vessel for the incarnation of the Son. Although the Immaculate Conception of Mary has been affirmed since the earliest centuries of Christianity, it was not formally proclaimed until 1854. December 8 is now a Holy day of Obligation in the United States, which is placed under Mary's patronage with this title. Mary, the Immaculate Conception, is the exalted Queen of Heaven who manifests God's power over sin.

### 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.

### 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.

In the active life all the vices are first of all to be removed by the practice of good works, so that in the contemplative life a man may, with now purified mental gaze, pass on to the contemplation of the Divine Light. **St. Isidore of Seville**

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Private First Class Sean Keohane
Captain Shawn Linn
Lieutenant Gigi McElroy
Colonel John McLaughlin
Captain John G. Miele
1st Lieutenant Joseph W. Niece

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Sergeant Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Private Mark Fredrick
Lance Corporal Thomas lafrate
Captain Stephen Ikalowych
2nd Lieutenant J.P. Maher
Private Cody McGrath

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Ensign Jon Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
Airman Cody Massa

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Pray for Our Sick

Please Pray in the name of JESUS, the Healer, that the sick of the 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 Will: baby Cordelia, baby Emmet Fischer, baby James Amicucci, baby Jonathan, baby Joseph, little boy Antonio, Michael Baruch, Phyllis Bloomer, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Paul Brennan, Dominic Carini, Sal Cenicola, Kevin Columbo, Paul Corbett, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Roseann Dennehy, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Christine Flatt, Mary Foley, Jason Harris, Amy Hartwell, Dianne Kaiser, Gerald Kasper, Peter Kellar, Pat Kissane, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Michael McMahon, Robert Milli, Gianina Moscatello, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan Phalon, Canice Prince, William Ragu, Debra Rendon, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Samantha Sconzo, Peggy Shedden, Charles Touw, Aileen Vassar, Hope White, Maria Williams, Mary Young, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Margaret, Michelle, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sean, Sharon, Tina W., Tom, Tara M., Mary D.

Spiritual Communion composed by Cardinal Rafael Merry del Val

As I cannot this day enjoy the happiness of assisting at the holy Mysteries, O my God! I transport myself in spirit at the foot of Thine altar; I unite with the Church, which by the hands of the priest, offers Thee Thine adorable Son in the Holy Sacrifice; I offer myself with Him, by Him, and in His Name. I adore, I praise, and thank Thee, imploring Thy mercy, invoking Thine assistance, and presenting Thee the homage I owe Thee as my Creator, the love due to Thee as my Savior.

Apply to my soul, I beseech Thee, O merciful Jesus, Thine infinite merits; apply them also to those for whom I particularly wish to pray. I desire to communicate spiritually, that Thy Blood may purify, Thy Flesh strengthen, and Thy Spirit sanctify me. May I never forget that Thou, my divine Redeemer, hast died for me; may I die to all that is not Thee, that hereafter I may live eternally with Thee. Amen.

FRIDAYS outside Lent

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of Penance. Each individual should abstain from meat or may substitute some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

This sacrament is offered every weekday at 7:30AM-7:50AM, Saturdays from 11:00AM-11:50AM and 3:00PM-3:40PM, First Friday at 6PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment. The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works. -St. Augustine

Mass Intentions

Monday, Dec. 6--St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra aka St. Nick

8:00 Fr. Eugene Hazewski R/b Ken and Kathy Berlinghieri
12:00 Marie Piazza R/b Charles and Kay Maurice

Tuesday, December 7--St. Ambrose-Bishop of Milan, Italy

8:00 Mary and Albert Latz R/b Maureen McMahon
12:00 Jerry Robertson R/b the Creagh Family

Vigil Mass for the Immaculate Conception

7:00 People of the Parish / Lydia Mohsenin R/b the Dunn Family

Wednesday, December 8--IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY

6:15 Richard Ferrara R/b Family
8:00 Anna Grassi R/b Bill and Peg Walsh
12:00 Burke, Walsh, Melbourne Family R/b Mary Bardsley
4:00 Family Mass Robert Bardsley - 1st Anniversary R/b Gigi McElroy
5:30 Cookie Laignelet R/b Gigi McElroy
7:00 Latin Deceased Priests and Religious Sisters of OLV

Thursday, December 9--Saint Juan Diego

8:00 Kathleen Naughton R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Helen Smith R/b the Oakley Family

Friday, December 10--St. Romaric-Abbot

8:00 William McGinnis R/b Pete and Carole Stonitsch
12:00 John Nicoletti R/b Rose Nicoletti

Saturday, December 11 -- St. Damasus I of Rome, Pope

8:00 Rosemary O'Brien R/b Judy Pommert
12:00 Bartram Lee Reeves R/b Barbara and Scott Anzalone
4:00 Virginia Savistano R/b Pete and Carole Stonitsch
5:00 Hilda & Jerry Michaels & Josephine J. Fogarino R/b Marie Michaels

Sunday, December 12-- Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 Ralph Miele R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel
8:00 Jose Barral R/b the Flynn-Fallon Family
9:30 Rev. Henry Goodwin R/b the Zwerle Family
10:45 Giavanna and Corrado Iozzia R/b Mike Zocco
10:45 (Gym) Mary Sweeney R/b Deacon Al and Mary Clare McLaughlin
12:00 Lucy Ulisse R/b Don Ulisse
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Charles G. Barila R/b the Giron Family

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the Souls in Purgatory.
The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns for the repose of the soul of Lydia DeJesus Mohsenin, r/b the Dunn Family.
The Saint Joseph Votive Lamp burns for the souls in Purgatory.
The Altar and Baptismal Font Flowers have been donated in honor of the Baptism of Mackenzie Marie Morales, r/b her parents Walter and Kristen Morales.
The Flowers for the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph have been donated in memory of Martha Spillane Krapels.

Flower & Sanctuary Offerings

If you would like to donate flowers for the Altar, Bl. Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, call the rectory. Flowers, Bread and Wine, the Bl. Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

My Parish--COVID-19--My Responsibility

Thank you to those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some have been laid off from their work or are experiencing decreased income and are unable to continue their donations at this time. Donations / offering envelopes may be mailed to OLV Rectory, 81 Lynn Street, Harrington Park, NJ 07640. Thank you for your generosity.

Relevant Radio 1430AM.

**REQUIREMENTS for GODPARENTS**

Godparents play a very important role in your child's spiritual life as role models of the faith. They should support not only the child, but the parents as well. Additionally, in their role as godparent, they represent the larger Church community and this is a tremendous responsibility. The Church has provided guidelines to help parents choose the best possible godparents for their children in recognizing the importance of the godparent and their duties:

- Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old.**
- Godparent/Sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.** Must be a practicing Catholic (*Attend Sunday Mass weekly*). Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. If single, not living with significant other, nor married civilly only.
- Godparent/Sponsor cannot be the candidate's parent. Each child only requires one Godparent. If you wish to have two Godparents, there must be one female and one male.** (Canon Law 872-874)

**Respect Life**

Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance? should never feel that abortion is her only option.

Personal and confidential assistance is available at the following:  
Archdiocesan Respect Life Office: 973-497-4350  
Gateway Pregnancy Center: Phone: 908-353-0604  
Catholic Community Services: 201-246-7379  
Birthright: 800-550-4900 Lifecall: 800-662-2678

Are you an **ADULT** without

**Confirmation, Communion or Baptism?**

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For information, phone the rectory. *Adult Catholics* who have not yet celebrated *Confirmation* or Holy Communion should contact the rectory for preparation class/information.

**“wedding” at the venue (without dispensation) is not a valid Sacrament**

**Best way to start your married life is with God in Sacramental Marriage.** In this Sacrament, God's own divine life can be experienced and lived. **Were you married only civilly** by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? Contact Fr. Wojciech for details.

**CCD Office Hours**

**Monday - Wednesday - Friday 10AM-2PM**  
*every Sunday Family Mass every Sunday*  
**10:45AM at OLV GYM**

**OLV Needlers** If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, everyone is welcome. We meet Wednesdays in the lower church at 6:00PM.

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas** Meet at OLV the second Wednesday of every month (October-April) at 7PM in the lower church. For info' contact Marie 201-741-0499.

**Clothing Bins** Please help Catholic Charities in its mission by donating clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books. Please place your donations INSIDE the bins (you may have to push it in). Do not leave items outside.

**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."

**ADVENT RESOLVE**

The More I Speak ... The Less I Hear ...  
The Less I Speak ... The More I Hear ...

**ADVENT=PREPARATION FOR FINALS**

**SIMPLE ADVENT TEST:** One of the signs that John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila give that we're growing in holiness is that we're becoming less and less afraid. We're becoming more and more free. We're becoming less afraid of suffering, less afraid of death, less afraid of failure, and less afraid of what other people think. We are becoming more confident and joyful in the Father's Love. We are more able to love, worship, and serve. -RALPH MARTIN from *Transformation in Christ*

**KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS**

1. King Saul.
2. King David.
3. King Solomon.
4. The Queen of Shebah.
5. Israel and Judah.

**SAINT LUCY** was, and still is, a very popular saint in Naples, and, of course, the most popular in her native Sicily. She was born of noble Christian parents in the late third century in the city of Syracuse on the island of Sicily. Not far from her birthplace, in Catania, about fifty miles away, was the tomb of the virgin martyr Saint Agatha, who was slain for her Catholic Faith a half century earlier during the Decian persecution (249-253). So revered was Saint Agatha that numerous Christians came to venerate her relics, risking their lives in doing so, and many (God knows how many) were cured of various illnesses.

As a young girl, Lucy's Catholic faith and devotion to Christ grew strong, and so did her longing to give all the material goods she had to the poor and, like Saint Agatha, she was determined to consecrate her virginity in service to God. These intentions were kept secret by her, for a while, from her mother, but after her father's early death, her mother, Eutychia, began suffering from a serious hemorrhage. Her daughter convinced her to come with her to Catania and ask Saint Agatha for a cure. She agreed, and, upon venerating the martyr's relics, she was cured. So grateful was Eutychia for this miraculous favor that, upon hearing of her daughter's holy resolve, she gave her a Catholic mother's full support. However, there was one problem. Prior to this, and without Lucy's knowledge, her mother had arranged for her to marry a young pagan. When this man noticed Lucy's largess with the poor, he became very upset.

Life of Saint Lucy, by Quirizio di Giovanni da Murano: The year was 303, and a new emperor, Diocletian, had passed an edict declaring Christians to be "enemies of the state." Two years of a persecution equal to, if not surpassing, that of Decius in its cruel intensity, ensued. The rejected betrothed reported Lucy to the governor of Syracuse. First, she was condemned to a brothel, but, when they tried to drag her there, her body became rigid and immobile. Then, an executioner attempted to burn her alive, but the fire did her no harm. Finally, her neck was pierced with a sword, and her virginal soul was taken to heaven where she received the martyr's crown.

## **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.

## **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.

## **O Christmas Tree!**

The tradition of the Christmas Tree began in Germany in the 1600's. German immigrants and Hessian troops during the Revolution brought the tradition to America. In fact, legend has it that the Hessian troops were so reminded of home when a tree was candlelit in December of 1776, that they abandoned their posts to celebrate. That night George Washington and his army attacked and defeated them at the Battle of Trenton, a turning point of the American Revolution.

It wasn't until the 1890's that Christmas trees and ornaments became a part of the traditional American Christmas. By then one in five American families had a Christmas tree. Twenty years later, the custom was pretty much universal in the United States.

The National Christmas Tree stands in Washington D.C. near the White House. It was lit for the first time by President Calvin Coolidge in 1923. The tradition has lasted for the past 86 years with little variation. In 1963, following the assassination of President John Kennedy, the lighting was postponed until the 30 day period of mourning ended. In 1979, only the star on the top of the National Christmas tree in Washington was lit to honor American hostages in Iran.

Another tree, called the "Nation's Christmas Tree" is located in King's Canyon National Park near Sanger, California. The tree received its official designation in 1925. It is approximately 267 feet high, 40 feet across its base and is estimated to be between 1500 and 2000 years old. In 1956 it was also declared a shrine to honor those who serve in the U.S. Military. In their honor, Park Rangers place a wreath at its base during the Christmas ceremony held there every year since 1925.

Another very famous tree around Christmas time stands in Rockefeller Center in New York City. The tradition began in 1931 when construction workers at the Center placed a tree in the dirt at the site. That year, in the midst of the Great Depression, the tree symbolized not only Christmas but also hope and the invincible human spirit. The tree was first decorated in 1933, predating the outdoor Skating Rink it overlooks today, by 3 years. Today more than 25,000 lights grace the tree, but there are no ornaments other than the star on top.

The idea of electric Christmas lights to replace candles on the Christmas tree belonged to Edward Johnson, an assistant to Thomas Edison.

The first American President to bring a Christmas tree into the White House was Franklin Pierce in 1856. Christmas Trees are grown in all of the United States. An average acre holds about 2,000 trees. Nearly 80,000 Christmas Trees are planted each year.

## **A Little Humor ...**

- What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar?  
*He got 25 days!*
- Why are Christmas trees so bad at sewing?  
*They always drop their needles!*

## **KIDZ KORNER**

1. Who was the first king of the Jewish nation?
2. What shepherd boy succeeded him?
3. Who was the wisest king of Israel?
4. What famous Queen came to visit this "wise" king?
5. What were the names of the two Jewish kingdoms in the Old Testament? **Answers on page 3**

## **Advent Opportunity - Repentance**

Where sin was hatched, let tears now wash the nest.  
- St. Robert Southwell