

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

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
(The Little Church with the BIG Heart)

Parish Office 201-768-1706

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Pastor

Rev. Edmond P. Ilg
Parochial Vicar

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Maria Hellrigel - Parish Secretary
201-768-1706

Religious Education (CCD)
Susan Evarella Denise Coulter (LSEC)
201-768-1400

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC
In Residence-Convent

Selena Piazza
Lesia Rossmann
Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Gulfo
Martin Coyne II
Parish Trustees

Jorden Pedersen Esq. Jon Fischer CFA
President Parish Council 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. Anthony: Tuesday

St. Joseph: Wednesday

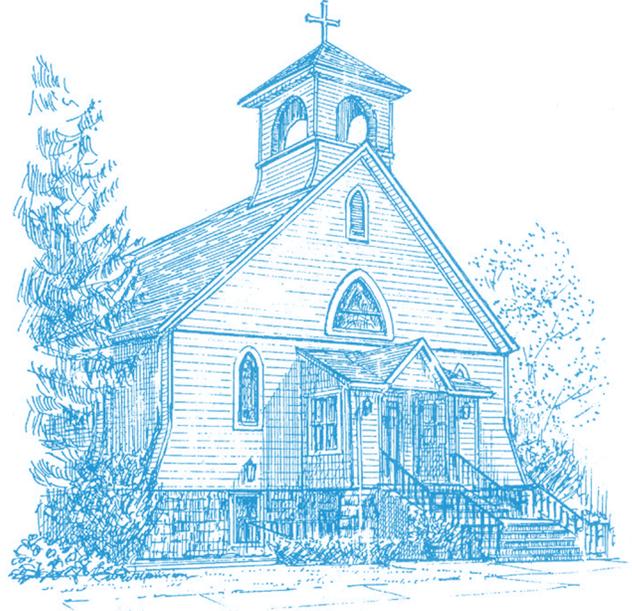
St. Jude: Thursday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

St. Peregrine: First Friday of the Month

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

Sunday, January 23, 2022 A.D.
Word of God Sunday



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.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me...
He has sent me...
...to let the oppressed go free...**

Luke 4:18



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Phone: 201-768-1706
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OLV Convent
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145 Parkway

Fr. Wojciech's Corner ...

This week we start the **2022 Annual Appeal Campaign**; please see more info below or visit the link on parish website. Materials will be also available inside the Church. Thank you for your generosity.

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (today) is called **Word of God Sunday**. It is a day devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God. Saint Jerome devoted his entire life to study the Scriptures that he even learned their original language, Hebrew. He translated most of the Bible into Latin, coming from a strong belief that: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ". May this Sunday remind us of the hidden treasure contained in Sacred Scriptures. As somebody once said, **we don't change the message, the message changes us**. May the powerful story below inspire us all.

What's the SECRET

The story is told of an actor who was known for his readings and recitations from the Classics. He always ended his performance with a dramatic recital of Psalm 23. Each night, without exception, as the actor began his recitation -- "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" -- the crowd would listen attentively and then rise with thunderous applause, in appreciation of the actor's ability to bring the psalm to life.

One night, just before the actor was to offer his customary recital of Psalm 23, a young man from the audience spoke up. "Sir, would you mind, if tonight, I recite Psalm 23?"

The actor was surprised by this unusual request. However, he invited the young man to come onto the stage to recite the psalm, curious to see the how the ability of this youth weighed against his own talent.

Softly the young man began to recite the words of the psalm. When he was finished, there was no applause. There was no standing ovation as on other nights. All that could be heard was the sound of weeping. The audience had been so moved by the youth's recitation that every eye was tearful.

Amazed by what he had experienced, the actor queried, "I don't understand. I have been performing Psalm 23 for years. I have a lifetime of experience and training -- but I have never been able to move an audience as you have tonight. Tell me, what is your secret?" The young man humbly replied, "Well sir, you know the psalm...but I know the Shepherd."

The Catechism Lectures - 2022 Schedule

with **Fr. John A. Perricone**

7:00PM - 9:00PM

January 26, February 2 & 16, March 9 & 23,

April 6 & 20, May 4 & 18, June 1, 15 & 29

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 6:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

**In failing to confess, Lord, I would only hide You
from myself, not myself from You.-**

-Saint Augustine



He opened their minds
to understand the Scriptures
Lk 24:45

This Sunday is **Word of God Sunday**.

To many people, the Bible is simply a giant book that doesn't make a whole lot of sense. That's a shame, because it's actually a beautiful story. In fact, it's our story. It's the story of where we come from, what went wrong, and God's incredible merciful plan to save us and make everything right again. - **Matthew Leonard** from *Genesis to Jesus*

Boulder story...

There once was a very wealthy and curious king. This king had a huge boulder placed in the middle of a road. Then he hid nearby to see if anyone would try to remove the gigantic rock from the road.

The first people to pass by were some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers. Rather than moving it, they simply walked around it. A few loudly blamed the King for not maintaining the roads. Not one of them tried to move the boulder.

Finally, a peasant came along. His arms were full of vegetables. When he got near the boulder, rather than simply walking around it as the others had, the peasant put down his load and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. It took a lot of effort but he finally succeeded.

The peasant gathered up his load and was ready to go on his way when he saw a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The peasant opened the purse. The purse was stuffed full of gold coins and a note from the king. The king's note said the purse's gold was a reward for moving the boulder from the road. The king showed the peasant what many of us never understand: every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

That's how some see the Bible. For some it is an boring obstacle to full living, to some others a treasure of wealth to discover.

For some *obstacle*, for others *opportunity*

**"Sacred Scripture is set up as a kind of lantern
for us in the night of this life"**

-St. Gregory the Great

"I interpret as I should, following the command of Christ: Search the Scriptures, and Seek and you shall find. Christ will not say to me what he said to the Jews: You erred, not knowing the Scriptures and not knowing the power of God. For if, as Paul says, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God, and if the man who does not know Scripture does not know the power and wisdom of God, then

ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

-St. Jerome

**"Nourish your soul with a Bible reading,
it will prepare your soul for a feast"**

-St. Augustine

2022 Annual Appeal

Please prayerfully consider donating to the Annual Appeal. OLV parish goal this year is \$58,174, with a stretch goal of \$65,143. Appeal envelopes are available in the church. To all those who helped us these past years, thank you and to all who will participate this year, we ask you to submit your Appeal donations to the OLV rectory, so we can ensure that our parish receives proper credit for the donations. Please visit the Archdiocesan Website for more information and videos at 2022 Annual Appeal | Archdiocese of Newark (rcan.org). The link will be available on our website.

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dipolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Private First Class Sean Keohane
Captain Shawn Linn
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, Ken Grier, Amy Hartwell, Dianne Kaiser, Gerald Kasper, Peter Kellar, Pat Kissane, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Michael McMahon, Ann Millar, Robert Milli, Gianna 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, Mary, 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.

Do you have questions about your faith?
tune in to RELEVANT RADIO 1430AM

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 24 - St. Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor
8:00 Mary McGrath R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel
12:00 Ray Lawlor R/b Tish Oates and Tim Keohane
Tuesday, January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul, apostle
8:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
12:00 Dorothy Millett R/b Peter and Linda Wayne
Wednesday, January 26 - Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops
8:00 Cynthia Addison R/b the Liik Family
12:00 Thomas James Crowley R/b Joan Crowley
Thursday, January 27 - St. Angela Merici, Virgin
8:00 Mary Warner R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 K.C. Joseph R/b Tom and Ann Thomas
Friday, January 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church
8:00 John Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family
12:00 Joseph Rinaldi R/b Rae Rinaldi
Saturday, January 29 - St. Gildas the Wise of England, Abbot
8:00 William Quinn Jr. R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Dan Cahill R/b Jack and Alicia Chimento
4:00 Dolores Corcoran R/b the Emerson Family
5:00 Joe Barral
Sunday, Jan. 30 - St. Bathildis of England, Queen, Widow, Nun
7:00 Joseph Quinn R/b the Barrett Family
8:00 David McQuoid R/b Greg and Susan Evanella
9:30 Gary Abbate R/b Ralph and Joanne Spinnato
10:45 Frank Lent
10:45 (Gym) Denis Noonan R/b the DerSimonian Family
12:00 Ann Creagh R/b the Creagh Family
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Francis Denninger R/b the Flynn-Tarnowski Family

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for the protection of the unborn.
The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns for deceased of OLV parish.
The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns for the souls in Purgatory.

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

First Catholic Bible printed ever was Gutenberg Bible. It is an edition of the Latin Vulgate printed in the 1450s by a Catholic Johannes Gutenberg in Mainz, in present-day Germany. Using his revolutionary invention - printing from movable type - he made the Scriptures potentially accessible to every person. Gutenberg's printing technology spread rapidly throughout Europe and later the world. His major work, the Gutenberg Bible (also known as the 42-line Bible), was the first printed version of the Bible and has been acclaimed for its high aesthetic and technical quality.

"Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person - among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life."

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 2270

Sunday of the Word of God

Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter, *Motu proprio "Aperuit illis"*, published on 30 September 2019, establishes that "the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God".

September 30 is the Feast of Saint Jerome, the man who translated most of the Bible into Latin, and who famously said: "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ". The title of the document, "Aperuit illis", is equally important. They are its opening words, taken from St. Luke's Gospel, where the Evangelist describes how the Risen Jesus appeared to His disciples, and how "He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures".

Champion of the Bible

St. Jerome

Translated The Holy Bible Into LATIN

BY FATHER CAROTA

St. Jerome was commissioned by Pope Damasus I in 382 to gather and examine all Holy Scriptures, Old and New and translate them into **LATIN** for the good of the Catholic Church. Here is what he responded in a correspondence to Pope Damasus:

"You urge me to revise the old Latin version, and, as it were, to sit in judgment on the copies of the Scriptures which are now scattered throughout the whole world; and, inasmuch as they differ from one another, you would have me decide which of them agree with the Greek original. The labor is one of love, but at the same time both perilous and presumptuous; for in judging others I must be content to be judged by all; and how can I dare to change the language of the world in its hoary old age, and carry it back to the early days of its infancy? Is there a man, learned or unlearned, who will not, when he takes the volume into his hands, and perceives that what he reads does not suit his settled tastes, break out immediately into violent language, and call me a forger and a profane person for having the audacity to add anything to the ancient books, or to make any changes or corrections therein? Now there are two consoling reflections which enable me to bear the odium - in the first place, the command is given by you who are the supreme bishop; and secondly, even on the showing of those who revile us, readings at variance with the early copies cannot be right."

St. Jerome was an extremely brilliant and educated Roman citizen from Dalmatia. He moved to Bethlehem to be close to the source and began examining all the Hebrew and Greek text of the Old testament. There is estimated to be around seven Old Testaments written in Greek. The one St. Jerome worked on most was the "Septuagint" that had been translated from Hebrew into Greek in Alexandria Egypt in the second century Before Christ. The New Testament was originally written in Greek, with some having been translated into Latin already.

Pope Damasus I and St. Jerome knew at this time (390) that Latin was the most common language of the Roman Empire. They also wanted to correct errors that had crept into some translations or hand written transcripts of the Bible. St. Jerome also wanted to make the Bible understandable for the bishops and priests who only spoke Latin. He wanted them to preach the "Word of God" in their sermons.

- continued next column -

So at this time we can already see the universal need for Latin in the Catholic Church. Greek was also spoken at this time in parts of the Catholic Church as we find in the Byzantine Catholic Liturgies today. But the Roman Catholics were using Latin.

As seen in the great writings of St. Jerome and St. Augustine, many of the theological teachings and discourses were written in Latin. The precise explanation of these complex theological discourses was done best in the great language of Latin.

St. Jerome is one of the four Great Latin Doctors of the Church along with St. Augustine, St. Ambrose and St. Gregory the Great (who codified the Latin Mass).

Here is a holy quote from St. Jerome on Chastity for the Love of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. "How very difficult it is for the human heart not to love something! Of necessity, our minds and wills must be drawn to some kind of affection. **Carnal love is overcome by spiritual love. Desire is extinguished by deeper desire.** Whatever is taken from carnal love is given to the higher love."

To the shock of most Catholics, Vatican II kept Latin as the official Language of the Church and is to be kept in a special place of honor. Like St. Jerome, after the third century, most great theological discourses were written in Latin because it is a very accurate language to express theological thought in. Most of these great text are still in their original Latin today.

From <http://www.traditionalcatholicpriest.com/2014/02/04/st-jerome-translated-the-holy-bible-into-latin/>

Food for thought ...

**If only we could use our Bibles
as often as we use our cell phones**

HE alone is the WAY that is worth following,
the LIGHT that is worth lighting,
the LIFE that is worth living,
and the LOVE that is worth loving.

— St. Teresa of Calcutta

The saints are the true interpreters of Holy Scripture. The meaning of a given passage of the Bible becomes most intelligible in those human beings who have been totally transfixed by it and have lived it out.

— **Benedict XVI**, from *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration*

A Little Humor ...

- 1. What time of day was Adam created?**
Just a little before Eve.
- 2. Who was the fastest runner in the race?**
Adam. He was first in the human race.
- 3. Why are atoms Catholic?**
Because they have mass.
- 4. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?**
Because Noah was always standing on the deck
- 5. Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?**
He only had two worms.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Saint Paul.
2. St. Jerome.
3. John (Letter of John and Revelation), and Luke (Acts).
4. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

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

Start your married life with God and receive grace for your married life through Sacramental Marriage in Church. 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 For info' contact Marie 201-741-0499.

Azanmig

I cdnuolt blveiee that I clud aulacly uesdnatnrd what I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid, aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it dseno't mtaetr in what oedr the lteres in a word are, the olny iproamtnt thng is that the frsit and last lteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can still raed it whotuit a pboerlm. This is bcuseaethe huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteer by istlef, but the word as a wlohe. Azanmig huh? Yaeh and I awlyas tghuhot spleng was ipmorantt!

Did Paul fall off his horse on the way to Damascus???



Caravaggio might try to convince you otherwise, but that is not what the biblical text says. Finding St. Paul (or rather Saul) falling off his horse in the Book of Acts while on his way to Damascus is an impossible task. This is not to say, however, that Caravaggio (and other great masters who have painted the passage popularly known as Paul's Conversion which we celebrate January 25th) got it wrong. Whereas there is no mention of Paul riding any animal while traveling to Syria, biblical texts do not say he was traveling by foot either. It is simply not explicitly stated.

The fact that something is not explicitly stated in Scripture does not mean, however, that it did not happen. For example, there is not a single word attributed to St. Joseph in any of the four Gospels. But this silence cannot be interpreted as meaning he was mute, or that he kept a vow of silence. We do not find the Holy Family sharing a meal either, but that provides no grounds to assume they never ate together. We do not find any mentions of Jesus, as a kid, playing with his friends, but that doesn't mean he stayed home all day helping Joseph or Mary with their respective chores.

Now, a passage in the book of Acts (Acts 22, 6-7) might suggest Paul actually fell from something, although not necessarily. Yes, it is commonly assumed that Rabbi Saul fell from his horse on the road to Damascus - an assumption reinforced over and over again by several artistic representations of the passage. And yet, the passage simply presents Paul saying "I fell to the ground" (epesa te eis to edaphos). Nowhere in the text do we find horses, donkeys, or any other means of transportation. The passage might just suggest Paul knelt. Actually, the three different passages referring to Saul's miraculous conversion (Acts 9:3-4; 22, 6-7, 26, 12-14) coincide in saying that, upon seeing the light from heaven, he fell to the ground. This light is of the utmost importance, and there is a reason why Luke mentions it in two of the three accounts of Saul's conversion. The passages read:

'As I made my journey and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone about me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' Acts 22, 6-7

'Thus I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' Acts 26, 12-14

Both passages mention the exact time of the day when the heavenly light that caused Saul to fall appeared: it was "about noon." This seemingly irrelevant piece of information is rather key. Traditionally, some commentators argue Paul (or rather Luke, his scribe) felt the need to mention the event happened at midday to let the audience know this was not a decrease in visibility due to darkness. As it was broad daylight, he knew what was happening. But other commentators give a different explanation.

Some scholars claim Saul was more than likely not riding his horse because noon was an established time of prayer. In fact, Pharisees prayed three times a day, following the (alleged) custom of David, as read in Psalm 55 ("But I call upon God, and the Lord will save me. Evening and morning and at noon." (Cf Psalm 55, 16-17)

Pious men would normally and traditionally recite prayers while standing on their feet, facing toward Jerusalem (Cf. Dan. 6, 10-11). It is then plausible that Saul, being a zealous, pious Pharisee, stopped to observe midday prayer while on the road to Damascus. That is, he might have been standing erect and facing south to Jerusalem when he was blinded by that heavenly light, and fell to the ground. - Aleteia

KIDZ KORNER

- 1. Which apostle brought the Gospel to the Gentiles?
2. Which Saint translated the Bible from its original languages into Latin?
3. Which two evangelists are authors of other Books in the New Testament?
4. Which Saint founded the first Catholic School in the United States?

Answers on page 4.