

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, August 14 2022 A.D.

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
The Little Church with a BIG Heart
Parish Office 201-768-1706



ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED MOTHER
August 15

not a holy day of obligation this year

Masses for the Holy Day: 8am, 12Noon, 5:30pm Latin & 7pm



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.

PLEASE NOTE !!!! -Adoration for Summer Months

For the months of July and August Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration will take place **only on First Friday and First Saturday**. There will be no Tuesday, nor Thursday Adoration, nor First Thursday Holy Hour in July and August.

However

You can always VISIT our Lord PRESENT in the tabernacle.



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Address: 81 Lynn St.
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax 201-768-3962
Religious Education 201-768-1400
155 Parkway
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent
201-768-1705
145 Parkway

Fr. Wojciech's Corner -

These next few weeks our college students will be returning to their respective schools (some of them left already). We wish them all Godspeed!

Every year **Missionary Cooperation Plan Appeal** (Propagation of the Faith) sends us a missionary who will be asking for our assistance. Next weekend, Sr. Liceria Sayon, Vocations Director of the Sisters of St. John the Baptist, will visit our parish. She will speak about the missionary work done by Sisters in the Philippines, where they staff four children's homes, providing the basic needs, good education and faith formation; the Sisters' missionary work goes beyond the children's homes. So the second collection next weekend will be to support the Sisters of St. John the Baptist in their missionary work. Your participation and generosity are greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Even though this year August 15, the **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** with body and soul into Heaven, is not a holy day of obligation in the US, I encourage our parishioners, devotees of Our Lady of Victories to celebrate Her Solemnity. She will not leave us disappointed. Please see the Mass schedule on the cover page.

Jesus asked one thing from us!!!

On His last night of earth (Holy Thursday) Jesus asked His disciples one thing – to stay awake with Him for one hour. Come spend some time with Our Lord Present in the Tabernacle. What a great way to truly REST.

CCD Registration 2022-23 is open. First things first. Register as parish members on our website olvhp.org, click on *Faith Formation*, choose first time registration. Returning students choose renewal registration. For more info' email olvhpccd@gmail.com or call 201-768-1400. Deadline is August 31st. After that, there is a late fee. Classes begin in September.

PRAYER FOR HEALING THE MEMORY

"Heavenly Father, we put our weak selves before Your silent presence, You alone know the things forgotten and hidden that lie on the shelves of our memory. We cannot heal ourselves. We find it hard to forgive, and impossible to forget. Yet, as we are absorbed and surrounded by Your Presence, we stand in that light and watch as the spiritual sores of us lepers disappear. The rotted limbs are restored and our memories, at one time so ugly, are renewed and rejuvenated. Thank you, Lord. Amen."

Mother Angelica - *Little Book of Life Lessons* page 38.

GREAT WAYS TO SPEND SUMMER with kids DAILY MASS & ROSARY

read Bible stories from Books of Genesis, Exodus, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, Judith, Ruth, Esther and Daniel and Jonah **LIVES OF SAINTS** by Alban Butler,

Online resources <http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/lots/index.htm>

Google your birthday saint, Baptism, 1st Holy Communion, Graduation, Confirmation, wedding, etc.

You can also travel virtually to the places where they lived -

SO MUCH FUN + INSPIRATION

DID YOU KNOW?

Blessed objects cannot be thrown away. If possible they should be burnt. If not they should be buried. Some people bury blessed broken or worn out items in the tomb of their loved ones or in the casket.

A COURAGEOUS CHOICE

More than 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.

The Magnificat -The Prayer of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,

DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE

**If you have never heard
Jason and Crystalina Evert speak
You missed great talks, google:
jason and crystalina evert videos
U WILL NOT REGRET**

SUMMER CHURCH DRESS

Dress up for the Lord, HE IS THE LORD. Show Him your love also with your clothes. Love the Lord with all your ... dress.

GOING ON VACATION with God not without

Visit www.masstimes.org for the locations of Catholic Churches and a Mass schedule, throughout the USA.

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Harrington Park
FARMERS MARKET
SUNDAYS 10AM - 2PM
August 14 - October 30
HIGHLAND FIELD, TAPPAN ROAD

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
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 Iafrate
Captain Stephen Ikalowych
1st Lieutenant J.P. Maher
Private Cody McGrath

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Lieutenant Jonathan 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 Jonathan, baby Joseph, little boy Antonio, Michael Baruch, Phyllis Bloomer, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Paul Brennan, Dominic Carini, Kevin Columbo, Paul Corbett, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Christine Flatt, Mary Foley, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Ken Grier, Amy Hartwell, Martin & Mavis Ince, Dianne Kaiser, Gerald Kasper, Peter Kellar, Pat Kissane, Joseph Koch, Mary Lowe, Robert Mayer, James McGary, Michael McMahon, Kim McWilliams, Ann Millar, Gianna Moscatello, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan Phalon, Canice Prince, Elaine Punziano, William Ragu, Phyllis Ragusa, William J. Raymond, Fr. John Renard, Debra Rendon, Bruce Michael Ricciardi, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Roman-chuk, Beth Sacco, Samantha Sconzo, Peggy Shedden, Ken Taylor, Charles Touw, Aileen Vassar, Michael Wallace, Howard Walsh, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, 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, Steven, Tina W., Tom, Tara M..

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

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

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession at a minimum once a month. This sacrament is offered EVERY DAY Monday thru Saturday at 7:30AM-7:50AM, EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM-11:50AM and 3:00PM-3:45PM, as well as every First Friday at 6:00PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions by appointment.

SOLID CATHOLIC RADIO

Relevant radio 1430AM

Listener Supported Talk Radio for Catholic Life

Mass Intentions

Monday, August 15 - ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

8:00 John Kevin Smith R/b Fred and Therese Laurenzo
12:00 Robert Thomson - 8th Anniversary R/b Anne Thomson
5:30 *Latin* Fr. John L. Laskoski
7:00 Marian Zanetti R/b Andrew and Marcia Oakes

Tuesday, August 16 - St. Stephen – King of Hungary

8:00 John Brennan R/b Sr. Elizabeth Holler
12:00 Sharon Lee Thompson R/b Matthew and Mary Ann Ryan

Wednesday, August 17– St. Hyacinth of Silesia, Poland-Priest

8:00 Douglas Fahey R/b Barbara Wiklinski
12:00 Michael Giotta R/b Anne Giotta

Thursday, August 18 - St. Helena, Widow

8:00 Intentions of Dan Brady R/b the Brady Family
12:00 Robert John Maynes IV R/b the Maynes Family

Friday, August 19 – St. John Eudes of France-Priest

8:00 Mary Holler R/b Sr. Elizabeth Holler
12:00 In Thanksgiving R/b George and Gail Fabiano

Saturday, August 20 - St. Bernard of Burgundy, France-Abbot

8:00 George Heath R/b Regina Bond
12:00 Ernest, Mary and Marion Thomson R/b Anne Thomson
4:00 Jennie Bertoglio R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi
5:00 Edward and Vincenza Milano R/b the DelGrande Family

Sunday, August 21 – St. Pius X, Pope

7:00 Maria Mattesich R/b the Izzo Family
8:00 Robert Byers
9:30 Jorden Pedersen Sr. R/b the Pedersen Family
10:45 Joanne Quinn Glaser R/b Jim and Rose Younghans
12:00 Giavanna and Corrado Iozzia R/b Mike Zocco
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 John Connelly R/b Barbara Sita

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the intentions of **Dean Capabianca Jr**

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Lorraine Degerdon**, r/b Bob and Dolores Cavagnet

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Richard Loeb**, r/b Madeline Ubriaco.

The Flowers for the Blessed Mother have been donated in memory of **Paul Joseph Hennessey**.

The Flowers for Saint Joseph have been donated in memory of **Edward Meyers**.

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—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.

NOT REGISTERED YET? NEW TO THE AREA? If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. You may register via our parish website olvhp.org. PLEASE, if you change your address or phone number, let us know! Many times people ask for recommendation letter or sponsor eligibility letter. Become a registered member of our parish.

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)

NEED BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION

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

Catholic Daughters Gladys Heyliger/Mary Carley Scholarship: CDA Court 1639 is offering a \$1000 scholarship to an 8th grade student entering a Catholic High School in September. For an application, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Dr. Marie Woke, 20 Kensington Court, Norwood, NJ 07648.

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.

Cancer Support Group: Prayer-based group meets first and third Thursdays, 4PM-5PM at Our Lady of Sacred Heart School, Tappan, NY. For information call Maureen Barbey 914-646-6014.

Someone You Know Addicted? Nar-Anon Family Groups in North Jersey. www.naranonofnj.org

Array of Hope: Check out all that we have been up to on social media + make sure to follow us on all of our platforms to stay up to date! We are on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

Clothing Bins: Please donate clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books. Please place your donations **INSIDE** the bins (sometimes you have to push it in). Do not leave items outside. If you have any concerns please call the phone number on the outside of the bins.

“No one has access to the Almighty
as His mother has – none has merit such as hers.
Her Son will deny her nothing that she asks
and herein lies her power.
While she defends the Church,
neither height nor depth,
neither men nor evil spirits,
neither great monarchs,
nor craft of man, nor popular violence,
can avail to harm us – for human life is short
but Mary reigns above, a Queen forever.”
- St. Cardinal John Henry Newman

*Not a single sinner who persevered
in praying the Rosary has fallen into hell*

St. Alphonsus recounts a story of St. Dominic in The Glories of Mary. A possessed heretic was brought to St. Dominic in a large crowd. St. Dominic ordered the demons to confess who is the greatest saint, that the crowd might pray for the saint's intercession. The demons screamed, "Mary, the Mother of God is the greatest. Not a single sinner who persevered in praying the Rosary has fallen into hell." St. Dominic had the crowd pray the rosary and at each decade the demons poured out of the possessed man like hot coals. A great peace fell on those gathered as they prayed.

Prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Heavenly beauty and splendor of the Father, You are the most valued Heavenly treasure. New Eve, immaculate in soul, spirit and body, Created of the godly seed by the Spirit of God, You are the spiritual Mother of mankind. Pure Virgin, full of grace then and now, Your whole being was raised Heavenly in full glory, To be elevated above all the hosts within the Kingdom of God.

O Heavenly Mother, Queen of Heaven and earth, I recognize the glory of your highest title, The Immaculate Heart of Mary! Loving Mother, dispenser of endless blessings, You who continuously intercedes on our behalf, Please present my need before your loving Son Jesus.

(make your special request here.)

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, I know that you are now presenting my need before Jesus, For you have never turned away those in dire need. Mother dearest, I await your favorable answer, Submitting myself to the Divine will of the Lord, For all glories are His forever and ever.

St. Bernard - August 20

St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church. St. Bernard was born of noble parentage in Burgundy, France, in the castle of Fontaines near Dijon. Under the care of his pious parents he was sent at an early age to a college at Chatillon, where he was conspicuous for his remarkable piety and spirit of recollection. At the same place he entered upon the studies of theology and Holy Scripture. After the death of his mother, fearing the snares and temptations of the world, he resolved to embrace the newly established and very austere institute of the Cistercian Order, of which he was destined to become the greatest ornament. He also persuaded his brothers and several of his friends to follow his example. In 1113, St. Bernard, with thirty young noblemen, presented himself to the holy Abbot, St. Stephen, at Citeaux. After a novitiate spent in great fervor, he made his profession in the following year. His superior soon after, seeing the great progress he had made in the spiritual life, sent him with twelve monks to found a new monastery, which afterward became known as the celebrated Abbey of Clairvaux. St. Bernard was at once appointed Abbot and began that active life which has rendered him the most conspicuous figure in the history of the 12th century. He founded numerous other monasteries, composed a number of works and undertook many journeys for the honor of God. Several Bishoprics were offered him, but he refused them all. The reputation of St. Bernard spread far and wide; even the Popes were governed by his advice. He was commissioned by Pope Eugene III to preach the second Crusade. In obedience to the Sovereign Pontiff he traveled through France and Germany, and aroused the greatest enthusiasm for the holy war among the masses of the population. The failure of the expedition raised a great storm against the saint, but he attributed it to the sins of the Crusaders. St. Bernard was eminently endowed with the gift of miracles. He died on August 20, 1153.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory.
2. Mary was born into a devout Jewish family. 3. Nazareth. 4. Poland.
5. Pope Pius XII declared the Dogma about the truth of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 1, 1950.

THE ASSUMPTION

August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption. It is the oldest exclusively Marian feast, and her most important day. It is Mary's "Easter". In the Western (Latin) Church it is the only Marian Feast with a vigil Mass; in the Eastern Churches, it is preceded by a two-week Lent-style fast. Although the Church believed in Mary's Assumption since the 5th century, it was not until 1950 that it was universally declared a dogma of the Church. We may never know which came first, the chicken or the egg; perhaps it is not even that important. However, on certain Marian Feasts, like Mary's Assumption into Heaven, we can easily stray into heresy if we do not know who came first; Mary the Mother or Jesus Christ the Son. The Feast of the Assumption commemorates Mary's entrance, body and soul, into heaven. An awesome event which was made possible because Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven! Mary's assumption into heaven is the result or fruit of her Son's Death, Resurrection and Ascension. As the Preface on Christ's Ascension says, "Where Christ has gone, we hope to follow." So why should we doubt that Mary, who was born without Original Sin, now enjoys this hope, and is already in heaven? To the Eastern Churches, this feast is called the "Dormition" or "Falling Asleep" of Mary. Since Mary was free from original sin, she did not have to suffer the worst consequence of Original Sin – Death. According to Eastern Tradition, at the end of Mary's earthly journey, Mary "fell asleep" and was taken body and soul into heaven. An ancient legend about St. Thomas the Apostle, a.k.a. Doubting Thomas, concerns this feast. According to Scripture, St. Thomas did not believe in the Resurrection until he saw the Risen Lord and probed his hand in Jesus' nail prints in his hands, feet and side. According to legend, Thomas would not believe that Mary was assumed into heaven until Mary dropped her belt from heaven to prove that she was "up there". Legends aside, why should WE doubt that Mary is in heaven. This is exactly what Jesus promised to all who follow His Way, and trust in God, and place their lives in His Father's Hands. Mary's Assumption is important and comforting to us because it shows what Jesus promised, what Jesus has done for His Mother, and what He will do for each of US – His faithful people.

SAY A HAIL MARY

Father Gabriel Amorth, Chief Exorcist of the Vatican writes: One day a colleague of mine heard the devil say during an exorcism: "Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end." The secret that makes this prayer so effective is that the Rosary is both Prayer and meditation. It is addressed to the Father, to the Blessed Virgin, and to the Holy Trinity, and is a meditation centered on Christ.

A
little
humor



KIDZ KORNER

1. What is the Assumption of Mary?
2. Into what religion was Mary born?
3. In what city did the Blessed Virgin Mary live?
4. Which European country venerates Mary with the title, "Our Lady of Czestochowa"??
5. The dogma of the Assumption was declared by Pope Pius XII in what year? **Answers on page four.**

MARIAN SYMBOLS

What is perhaps the simplest Marian insignia is her most profound symbol: the letter "M" beneath a simple cross, signifying what is recorded in the Bible: "Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." [John 19:2 Sa,26-27] The late Pope John Paul II put this symbol, which had been on his Episcopal seal, on his papal coat-of-arms. Other bishops with a strong devotion to Mary often do the same to honor our Blessed Mother. There is much debate over the root of her name, rendered in English as Mary. The Hebrew form of her name, Miryam, is also the name of the sister of Moses. Some suggest it is of Egyptian origin since Moses and his sister were born in Egypt as Hebrew slaves, and no other Old Testament woman is named Mary. In Egypt, the name "Mary" suitably means "Cherished" or "Beloved". Some say the Gospel writers used Mariam to differentiate her from other biblical Mary's: Ancient translations of Scripture use Maria or Mariamme from which arose many interesting Marian symbols! One translation of her Jewish name means "Star" - so it became customary to embroider a star atop her veil and/or on the right shoulder of her mantle. This led to such Marian titles as "Star of Jacob" based on this Old Testament prophecy of the promised Messiah: "I see him, though not close at hand: A star shall advance from Jacob." [Number24:17a] For just as the stars once guided travels before the dawn, Mary was the last and greatest "star" to guide us before the birth of the true Light of the World: Jesus Christ our lord ... and Mary's Son. She is also called "Stella Maris" or the "Star of the Sea" that guides sailors through the dark night, and the "Morning Star" that heralds the dawn of the new day. The last biblical book says: "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars." [Revelation 12:1] The dozen "stars" symbolize the Apostles, which gained her the title "Queen of Apostles." (from this some anti-Catholics opposed the European Union's flag which has a ring of twelve stars on a solid blue field, because it's a symbol of the Blessed Virgin Mary! The custom of dressing Mary in radiant, dazzling garments befits one "clothed with the sun." Based on this prophecy, Mary is also shown standing on a crescent moon though one rodeo-loving little guy once asked, "Why is Mary standing on bull horns?" [Can't make this up either for Pete's sake!]. Perhaps Mary's most common image after Madonna and Child is from the "Protoevangelium" or "First Gospel"- the Lord God's warning to the serpent after the Fall of Adam and Eve: I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel" [Genesis 3:15] From this Mary earned the title, "The New Eve" - who stands atop a snake, often with an apple in its mouth. Sometimes [and more biblically accurate] the Child Jesus stands before Mary and He crushes the serpent's head. Mary is also seen as "the Closed Gate" since: "Then he brought me back to the outer gate of the sanctuary, facing the east but it was closed. He said to me: 'This gate is to remain closed,' it is not to be opened for anyone to enter by it since the Lord, the God of Israel, has entered by it, it shall remain closed." [Ezekiel 44: 1-2] Since antiquity this has been to defend her perpetual virginity, for once her womb housed God, it was closed to all others as the prophet foretold! Believe in miracles.

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www.dignitymemorial.com