

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, January 8, 2023

Epiphany of the Lord

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

The Little Church with the BIG Heart

Parish Office 201-768-1706

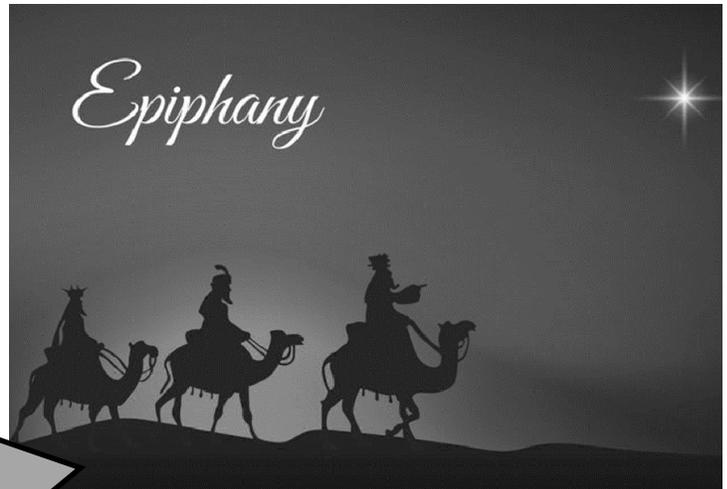
COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech Jaškowiak
Pastor

Rev. Edmond P. Ilg
Parochial Vicar

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Maria Hellrigel - *Parish Secretary*
201-768-1706



BETHLEHEM

Religious Education (CCD)

Susan Evanela Denise Coulter (LSEC)
201-768-1400

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

Selena Piazza
Lesa Rossmann
Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Gulfo
Martin Coyne II
Parish Trustees

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. 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

What are you doing, O Magi?
Do you adore a little Babe,
in a wretched hovel, wrapped in miserable rags?
Can this Child be truly God? ...
Are you become foolish O Wise Men? ...
yes, these Wise Men have become fools
that they may be wise. - Saint Bernard of Clairvaux

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.



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 ...

"Only two classes of people found the Babe: the shepherds and the Wise Men; the simple and the learned; those who knew that they knew nothing, and those who knew that they did not know everything."

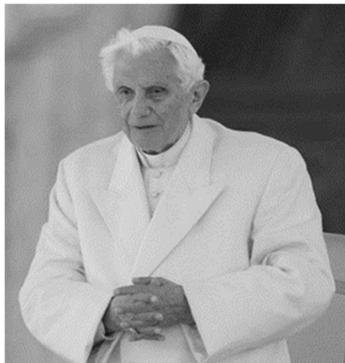
-Ven. Abp. Fulton Sheen

What a great quote to guide us through the year, what a great advice to guide us in life, what a great wisdom to live by, what a great way to find the Lord.

As we embark into this New Year with this great Solemnity of Epiphany; the Solemnity of those who do not stop searching till they find the Lord and all those who are not easy quitters let us be consoled by the Wise Men and encouraged to do the same. May the science not obstruct our way towards Jesus, but may we use the science in life as the Wise Men did to guide us to Jesus.

**To a brave man
good luck and bad
are like his right and left hand.
He uses both.** -St. Catherine of Siena

His Holiness
Pope Emeritus
Benedict XVI
1927-2022
265th successor
of Peter
Pope 2005-2013



Rest in Peace.

Epiphany is the manifestation (revelation) of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1-12).

2023 Catechism Lectures with Fr. John A. Perricone
7PM -9PM
Jan 11 & 25, Feb 8, Mar 8 & 22, Apr 12 & 26, May 10, Jun 7 & 21

Holy Name Society Meeting - January 8

The OLV Holy Name Society is a community of men who attend the 9:30am Mass together on the second Sunday of the month, recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet after Mass, and then gather downstairs for refreshments and reflection. We listen to and learn from each other. We also develop friends with whom we can share our faith journey. Just come to one meeting and try it out.

Toiletries Collection January 14/15

Next Weekend January 14/15 for Little Sisters of Poor, St. Joseph's Home for Elderly in Totowa. Toiletry personal items for men and women. Donated items should be full-size. Most needed: tissues, toilet tissue, baby wipes, body wash for sensitive skin, and mint mouthwash. Other items: toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant are also welcomed .

BEEFSTEAK DINNER - January 21

Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483
7:00PM \$40 per person
Ticket Sales Jan. 7/8 and Jan. 14/15 after Masses

EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING WITH CHALK

The Church has a custom of blessing homes (as well as proclaiming the date of Easter) on the Feast of the Epiphany and the weeks following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. One way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Epiphany liturgy and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 23. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials for the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and 2023 is the year. Adoration for the magi by John Flaxman, Public Domain, Wikimedia Commons: Marking the doorway to one's home is rooted in the Old Testament. Holy Scripture reminds us that God has at times commanded his people to mark their doors. The Israelites marked their doors with the lamb's blood on the night of the Passover (Exodus 12:7). A similar command was given with the Shema Yisrael:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your might.
Keep these words that I am commanding you today
In your heart ... and write them on the doorposts
Of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-6,9)

What Gifts Can We Offer Him?

The three kings are laden with gifts that are not merely precious and expensive. With their offerings, they are recognizing the dignity of the newborn Child: He is King, He is God, He is man. But what gifts can we offer Him on Epiphany (traditionally celebrated on January 6 in many parts of the world)?

Gold, frankincense and myrrh-

To the king belongs gold, a symbol of wealth and splendor. The holy of holies in the Temple of Jerusalem was covered with gold, a way of worshipping God, King of the world: "Solomon overlaid the inside of the house with pure gold. And he drew chains of gold across the front of the inner sanctuary, and he overlaid it with gold. He overlaid the whole house with gold, until all the house was finished. Also the whole altar which was by the inner sanctuary he overlaid with gold" (1Kings 6:21-22)

Incense is a symbol of prayer that goes up to God comes back to him: "May my prayer rise up to you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice" (PS 141:2) *And elsewhere*: "Then another angel with a gold incense burner came and stood at the altar. And a great amount of incense was given to him to mix with the prayers of God's people as an offering on the gold altar before the throne" (Rev 8:3)

Myrrh is both the fragrance of anointing - "Your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else. Myrrh, aloe, and cassia perfume your robes. In ivory palaces the music of harps entertains you." (PS 45:8-9) - **and the announcement of the suffering of the Lord**, true man among us. It is written in the Song of Solomon (1:13): "My beloved is like a fragrant pouch of myrrh spending the night between my breasts." Regarding this verse, **St. Bernard** said: "Ever since my conversion, I have taken care to hold this bouquet of all the Lord's sufferings close to my heart. Among all the branches of the fragrant myrrh, I have been careful not to omit either the myrrh that he was watered with on the cross or the myrrh that was used to anoint his body before burial. The whole of Jesus' life is perfumed with myrrh, from that of the Magi to that of Nicodemus, who "came with a mixture of myrrh and aloe." (Jn 19:39)

We, too, on this day can bow down and worship Jesus by offering Him gold (almsgiving with our material goods); incense (a renewal of our prayer life); and myrrh (our faith in His humanity that saved us).

- Claire Patier, Aleteia Jan 6, 2021

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
Lance Corporal Mark Fredrick
Lance Corporal Thomas Iafrate
Captain Stephen Ikalowych
1st Lieutenant J.P. Maher
Lance Corporal 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*: infants Edith Rose, Cordelia, Emmet Fischer, Jonathan & Joseph; little boys Gabriel Aungst, Antonio and Shane, Michael Baruch, Jim Beardsley, Julie Berbert, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Paul Brennan, Dominic Carini, Kevin Columbo, Eddie Cooper, Marie D'Ascenzo, Cathy Daleo, Maryann Dean, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Steven DiGirolo, Lynne Diorio, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Kathleen Falotico, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Mary Foley, Walter Flaherty, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Leo Gendron, Ken Grier, Amy Hartwell, Martin & Mavis Ince, Dianne Kaiser, Dee Kaiser, Josephine Kasper, Pat Kissane, Christina Kenny, Joseph Koch, Mary Lowe, Robert Mayer, James McGary, Michael McMahon, Kim McWilliams, Gianna Moscatello, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan Phalon, Canice Prince, William Ragu, Dan & Phyllis Ragusa, Ryan Reid, Debra Rendon, Louise & Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Samantha Sconzo, Peggy Shedden, Carole Stonitsch, Charles Touw, Aileen Vassar, Howard Walsh, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Remy and Silvie, Samantha, Sean, Sharon, Steven, Tina W., Tom, Tara M.

Parish Registration All Roman Catholics over 18 years, even those not living on their own, are expected to officially register in their parish. If you do NOT receive the Easter or Christmas mailing, you are probably NOT registered! For more information, or to obtain a registration form, see a priest or deacon or call or email Maria at the parish office. Why register? We strongly encourage you to register, even if you do not wish to receive weekly contribution envelopes, so we can include you on our mailing list. *Only registered members of the parish can enroll a child in Religious Formation, obtain a Sponsor Certificate or Godparent Eligibility Form, or any other recommendations or documentation.* Parents of Catholic School children requesting a parish subsidy are required to be active parishioners both in Mass attendance and financial assistance to this parish. Furthermore, to obtain a Sponsor (Godparent) Certificate, letter of recommendation, or other documentation, you must fulfill any canonical (Church Law) requirements for such documentation.

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 9 - BAPTISM OF THE LORD

8:00 Sr. Regina Suplick R/b Sr. Elizabeth
12:00 Intentions of the McKeon Family R/b the McLaughlin Family

Tuesday, January 10 - St. William, Bishop

8:00 Paul Joseph Hennessey R/b Rae Rinaldi
12:00 Walter Markham R/b Attilio and Rose Viscovch

Wednesday, January 11 - St. Paulinus of Friuli, Italy-Bishop of Aquileia

8:00 In honor of St. Leucio R/b Society of St. Leucio
12:00 Robert John Maynes IV R/b the Maynes Family

Thursday, January 12 - St. Benedict Biscop-Abbot

8:00 James Geraghty R/b the McLarnon Family
12:00 Diane Melchiorre R/b George and Claire Meyer

Friday, January 13 - St. Hilary-Bishop of Poitiers, France

8:00 Edward Vassar R/b Sr. Elizabeth
12:00 Domenico Bandiera R/b Sonny and Anita Garzino

Saturday, January 14 - St. Sava-Bishop of Serbia

8:00 Intentions of Edwina Simonelli R/b Dan and Karen Brady
12:00 Josephine Raymond R/b William Raymond
4:00 Burke, Walsh and Melbourne Family R/b Bill and Peg Walsh
5:00 Jean Bentivegna R/b the Bentivegna Family

Sunday, January 15 - St. Ida of Waterford, Ireland-Virgin

7:00 Gail Wright R/b Fr. Ed
8:00 Antoinette Miller R/b Arianna and Frank Lavinio
9:30 Clifford Keenan Jr. R/b Josephine Tristano
10:00 gym Marian Zanetti R/b OLV CCD
10:45 James Gaffney R/b Joan Gaffney
12:00 Elizabeth A. Pergola R/b Rosanna Zekic
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Margaret Salomon R/b Fr. Ed

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Nemecek r/b Greg Nemecek..

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Paul Hennessey, r/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the souls in Purgatory.

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

Relevant Radio 1430am

Trending with Timmerie - Catholic Principles applied to today's experiences. Jan 2 podcast topic is **How to Stay Happy & Keep Praying** Guest Fr. Robert Spitzer, President of the Magis Center, talks about what the highest form of happiness is and how to maintain it (4:02). He covers the dark night of the soul and how to keep praying. (20:15)

ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?

If you are, why not join our ever growing Parish family. Register to become a member of the OLV Family. Census forms may be found on OLV's website olvhp.org and in the Church vestibule.

Every baptized person should consider that it is in the womb of the Church where he is transformed from a child of Adam to a child of God.

- St. Vincent Ferrer

Baptism by desire and blood

St. Genesius is not the only saint who was baptized by blood: the Holy Innocents whose feast we celebrate on December 28th; St. Emerentiana, the foster-sister of St. Agnes, was martyred before baptism, as were St. Rogation of Nantes (France) and St. Victor of Braga (Portugal) among many other catechumens.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says of **Baptism of blood**: *The Church has always held the firm conviction that those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This Baptism of blood, like the desire for Baptism, brings about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament. (CCC § 1258)*

Numerous Fathers of the Church and theologians have confirmed the Church's teachings and have reflected on the nature of this baptism notably St. Cyprian, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. John Chrysostom, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Bonaventure, Peter Lombard Hugh of St. Victor and St. Alphonsus Ligouri, the Church's great moral theologian.

A number of years ago a priest, Fr. Leonard Feeney, citing the doctrine "outside the Church there is no salvation", denied the possibility of Baptism by blood and maintained that all who died without baptism are lost, even those Saints and other catechumens who were martyred. The Church rejected his opinion in 1949, pointing out that since the beginning, and drawing on Sacred Scripture, those who died without baptism but with the desire for baptism were **baptized by desire** and those put to death for the faith were **baptized by blood**. The Church does indeed believe that outside the Church there is no salvation (cf Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*, § 13) but this teaching is not contradicted by Baptism of desire or of blood and must be understood in terms of how the Church sees herself as being founded by Christ as the Sacrament of Salvation in the world, and that God, in his mercy, desires that all people should be saved. It must also be understood that in Catholic teaching those who are not baptized and not members of the Church are not necessarily lost or excluded from heaven: if they do not know or believe in Christ or his teaching through no fault of their own, but live good lives according to their understanding, God in his mercy will not exclude them.

CROSSING THE RED SEA & THE JORDAN

Origen (2nd century Father of the Church) commenting on the Book of Joshua, shows that the early Church saw the sacrament of baptism not only as the crossing of the Red Sea, but also as the crossing of the Jordan River into the promised land. He says: "You have recently abandoned the darkness of idolatry, and you now desire to come and hear the divine law. This is your departure from Egypt. When you became a catechumen and began to obey the laws of the Church, you passed through the Red Sea; now at the various stops in the desert, you give time every day to hear the law of God and to see the face of Moses unveiled by the glory of God. But once you come to the baptismal font and, in the presence of the priests and deacons, are initiated into those sacred and august mysteries which only those know who should, then, through the ministry of the priests, you will cross the Jordan and enter the promised land. There Moses will hand you over to Jesus, and He Himself will be your guide on your new journey."

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. 2. Gold, frankincense and myrrh.
3. St. John the Baptist. 4. The Jordan River. 5. 30 years old.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

First-Century Christians began making the Sign of the Cross as a reminder and renewal of what happened to them when they were baptized. It still works the same way for us. When we Sign ourselves, we are declaring that in Baptism we died sacramentally with Christ on the Cross and rose to a new life with Him (see *Rom. 6:3-4 and Gal 2:20*). We are asking the Lord to renew in us those baptismal graces. We are also acknowledging that Baptism joined us to the Body of Christ and equipped us for our role of collaborating with the Lord in His work of rescuing all people from sin and death.

!!! Why does the Church forbid and consider a grave sin consulting: horoscopes, astrologers, palm reading, mediums, psychics, cards, etc?

The Bible strongly condemns spiritism, mediums, the occult, and psychics (Lev. 20:27, Deut. 18:10-13).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church:

God can reveal the future to his prophets or to other saints. Still, a sound Christian attitude consists in putting oneself confidently into the hands of Providence for whatever concerns the future and giving up all unhealthy curiosity about it and a desire for power and control over time and history. All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to "unveil" the future. If we are looking to anything other than God for help with the present or future, we are violating the first commandment. Attention: Those who engage in these practices open the door to the evil spirits.

St. Hilary of Poitiers - Jan 13

St. Hilary was one of those great Christian heroes who poured out their lives laboring and suffering in defense of Christ's divinity. Scarcely had the days of bloody persecution ended (313), when there arose, now within the Church, a most dangerous enemy of another sort, Arianism. The heresy of Arianism denied the divinity of Christ; it was, in fact, hardly more than a form of paganism masquerading as the Christian Gospel. The smoldering strife soon flared into a mighty conflict endangering the whole Church; and its spread was all the more rapid and powerful because emperors, who called themselves Christian, proved its best supporters. Once again countless martyrs sealed in blood their belief in Christ's divinity; and orthodox bishops who voiced opposition were forced into exile amid extreme privations.

Among the foremost defenders of the true faith stood Hilary. He belonged to a distinguished family and had received an excellent education. Though a married man, he was made bishop of Poitiers by reason of his exemplary life. It was not long before his valiant defense of the faith precipitated his exile to Phrygia. Here he composed his great work on the Blessed Trinity (in twelve books). It is a vigorous defense of the faith, which, he said, "triumphs when attacked." Finally, after four years he was permitted to return to his native land. He continued his efforts, and through prudence and mildness succeeded in ridding Gaul of Arianism. Because of his edifying and illustrious writings on behalf of the true religion, the Church honors him as one of her doctors.

Here is an example of Hilary's vigorous style: "Now it is time to speak, the time for silence is past. We must expect Christ's return, for the reign of Antichrist has begun. The shepherds must give the warning signals because the hirelings have fled. Let us lay down our lives for the sheep, for brigands have entered the fold and the roaring lion is rampaging about. Be ready for martyrdom! Satan himself is clothed as an angel of light." A favorite motto of St. Hilary was *Ministros veritatis decet vera proferre*, "Servants of the truth ought speak the truth." -from Pius Parsch, *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch -Catholicculture.org

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. For personal and confidential assistance call 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

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

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

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
10AM in 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.

BAPTISM PEBBLES

The Lord was Baptized, not to be cleansed Himself, but to cleanse the waters, so that those waters, cleansed by the flesh of Christ which knew no sin, might have the power of Baptism. **-St. Ambrose of Milan**

The rediscovery of the value of one's baptism is the basis of the missionary commitment of every Christian, because we see in the Gospel that he who lets himself be fascinated by Christ cannot do without witnessing the joy of following in His footsteps ... we understand even more that, in virtue of baptism, we have an inherent missionary vocation

- Pope Benedict XVI

BAPTISMal name...,

Saints' Name so we become saints

Conferring a name in baptism signals an intensity in our relationship with God, who “adopts” us as his sons and daughters. Pope Benedict XVI once baptized twenty-one babies in just one month, and said: “Every baptized child acquires the character of the son of God, beginning with their Christian name, an unmistakable sign that the Holy Spirit causes men to be born anew in the womb of the Church.” So it is salutary to be careful in choosing names that identify with the great saints who have gone before us. The first pope to change his name upon election was John II in 533. He did so because his father had named him for the pagan god Mercury. The more pagan a culture becomes, the more it lapses into pagan and even downright silly names. There is, however, the hope that the grace of baptism can make even someone burdened with a fashionably pagan name, a saint. Saint John Vianney said, “Not all the saints started well, but all of them ended well.”

SAINT WHO mocked baptism

Genesius of Rome is a legendary Christian saint, once a comedian and actor who had performed in plays that mocked Christianity. According to legend, while performing in a play that made fun of baptism, he had an experience on stage that converted him. He proclaimed his new belief, and he steadfastly refused to renounce it, even when the emperor Diocletian ordered him to do so.

Genesius is considered the patron saint of actors, lawyers, barristers, clowns, comedians, converts, dancers, people with epilepsy, musicians, printers, stenographers, and victims of torture. His feast day is August 25.

Did You Know?

Saint Cyril of Jerusalem used to take the newly baptized to Jesus' tomb, and point out that each of them were there when Jesus was buried.

St. Cyril, bishop of Jerusalem (349 – 384 A.D.) had a unique privilege of presiding over the church in Jerusalem immediately after the completion of new buildings begun during Constantine's reign. Cyril preached magnificent sermons within feet of the actual places of Christ's death and resurrection. He said of Calvary, “Others only hear, but we both see and touch.” Cyril wrote: “Here in this city of Jerusalem the Spirit was poured out on the church; here Christ was crucified; here you have before you many witnesses, the place itself of the Resurrection and towards the east on the Mount of Olives the place of the Ascension.”

KIDZ KORNER

1. What are the names of the three kings?
2. What gifts did the kings bring?
3. Who baptized Jesus?
4. In what river was Jesus baptized?
5. How old was Jesus when He was baptized?

Answers on page 4.

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