

# *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)

## **WELCOME**

**To the Parish Family of  
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES**

*The Little Church with a BIG Heart*

**Parish Office 201-768-1706**

## **COME WORSHIP WITH US**

**Rev. Wojciech Jaśkowiak**  
*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 Evanella Denise Coulter (*LSEC*)  
201-768-1400

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

**Selena Piazza Elizabeth Gulfo**  
Lesa Rossmann Martin Coyne II  
*Ministers of Music Parish Trustees*

**Jorden Pedersen Esq.** **Jon Fischer CFA**  
President Parish Council Chairman Finance Committee

### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:**

**Saturday Vigil:** 4pm & 5pm

**Sunday:** 7am, 8am Latin, 9:30am, 9:30am Family Mass (gym),  
10:45am, 12Noon, 1pm Spanish, 6pm

### **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, December 31, 2023 AD  
Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph



**Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God**

Monday, January 1

**NOT A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION** this year.

Mass Schedule: 8am, 10am, 12Noon, 6pm

### **TO ALL FAMILIES**

**HAPPY FEAST DAY  
OF THE HOLY FAMILY  
JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH**

from OLV Family

The family that prays together, stays together, and if they stay together they will love one another as God has loved each one of them. And works of love are always works of peace. —St. Mother Teresa



Phone: 201-768-1706  
Address: 81 Lynn St.  
Email: [olvrectory.hp@gmail.com](mailto:olvrectory.hp@gmail.com)

OLV Rectory  
201-768-3962

OLV Fax  
201-768-1400  
155 Parkway  
[olvhpccd@gmail.com](mailto:olvhpccd@gmail.com)

OLV Convent  
201-768-1705  
145 Parkway

## - 2 - Our Lady of Victories, Harrington Park/River Vale N.J.

### Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Today, we celebrate the feast day of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God began the salvation within the human family. What a grace, what a lesson to learn. If God treasured so much THE FAMILY then we should too. Happy feast day to all our OLV families.

As we come to the close of this year of 2023, I thank God for all the blessings He bestowed in this year on our parish on so many occasions. I thank all of you dear parishioners for the gift that you are to me and to Fr. Ed and to our parish. I thank you for all your kindness, for all your spiritual, material and financial support to us personally and to our parish at large. May the Lord reward you a hundredfold.

With the new year, many people make lots of resolutions. As a parish we want to also make a spiritual difference in this new year. At the beginning of Lent we will begin a special initiative that will help us answer the challenges we live today.

As we embark into the New Year. May that year be ANNO DOMINI, a year of the Lord. May Mary (our Mother with whom we always start a new year) -Our Lady of Victories protect us. *Blessed New Year!*

### Benefits of FREQUENT FAMILY DINNERS

CASA Columbia has surveyed thousands of American teens and their parents to identify situations and circumstances that influence the risk of teen substance abuse. Parental engagement in children's lives is fundamental to keeping children away from tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and that parents have the greatest influence on whether their teens will choose not to use substances. Surveys have consistently found a relationship between **children having frequent dinners with their parents** and a decreased risk of their smoking, drinking or using other drugs, and that **parental engagement fostered around the dinner table** is one of the most potent tools to help parents raise healthy, drug-free, doing-well-at-school children with healthy friendships. Simply put: frequent family dinners make a big difference.

The rights of parents and their primary role in the education of their children in the area of morality and religion must be safeguarded. It is in the family that peacemakers, tomorrow's promoters of a culture of life and love, are born and nurtured.

-(Benedict XVI) from *Faith and Politics*

### next YOUTH GROUP Meeting

Sunday, January 7 after 6PM Mass

#### PARENTS NIGHT OUT

The OLV Youth Group calls all teens! Let's give our Parents a Night Out, Sunday, Jan. 7th after the 6pm Mass. Scan the QR Code or see the parish website for details.



### Holy Name Society - Sunday, January 14

"After Ballot Losses, Where Does the Anti-Abortion Movement Go Next?" is the topic of our January 14 Holy Name Society meeting. 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 right after, and then gather downstairs until 11:45am for refreshments, reflection, and friendship. If you're unable to attend 9:30am Mass and just want to join us for the Chaplet and/or discussion, that's fine. To learn more, email rossmanncharles@gmail.com.

### God & Family

The family is fundamental because that is where the first awareness of the meaning of life germinates in the human soul. It germinates in the relationship with the mother and the father, who are not masters of their children's lives but are God's primary collaborators in the transmission of life and faith." "God had chosen to reveal Himself by being born into a human family and the human family thus became an icon of God!

Benedict XVI

### Evangelist Symbols

The **man**, the **lion**, the **ox** and the **eagle** are symbols of the four evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These symbols adorn many works of art, building and objects used in worship. Each may identify one evangelist, or the four may represent the mystery of Christ's life. They recall in turn the birth, sacrifice, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The symbols derive from the opening of the Book of Ezekiel. There the prophet envisions four living creatures in the middle of a glowing fire from a stormy north wind. The faces of the creatures resemble a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (1:10). Their mystery and their movement made such an impact on the prophet that Christian generations have seen in their appearance a foreshadowing of the Gospels of Jesus Christ. The figures appear again in Revelation 4:7.

The man sometimes represented as an angel signifies St. Matthew, who opens his Gospel account with the genealogy of Jesus. The lion, according to legend, sleeps with his eyes open, making it a symbol of the resurrection. It depicts St. Mark, whose Gospel begins with the leonine John the Baptist in the desert. St. Luke's Gospel account of the infancy of Jesus places the child in the Temple with Zechariah, a priest who offered sacrifice of animals including oxen. The horns of the ox represent the old and new covenant, each with its own sacrifice. St. John, the evangelist whose work intently gazes on the eternal Word who shattered the darkness with His light, recalls the eagle that flies face into the sun. In this way, tradition has assigned each evangelist a proper symbol.

### Thank you!!

OLV St. Vincent de Paul Social Concerns thanks all who gave so generously for the Giving Tree. Over 200 gift cards were collected and distributed to local struggling families, as well as the senior residents at the Linden Housing Authority. Your generous response is remarkable.

A blessed Christmas to all.

### First Thursday, Friday & Saturday

First Thursday-Jan 4- Monthly Holy Hour 7-8pm

First Friday-Jan 5- 12:30PM afternoon adoration, 6PM confessions, 6:30PM devotions to the Sacred Heart, 7PM Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart.

First Saturday-Jan 6- 8AM Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary  
ADORATION 8:30am-11:50am (no adoration after 12 Noon Mass)  
12PM Mass will be offered for the Souls in Purgatory

### What if you are CALLED! ???

Call Fr. Gino, Director of Vocations 973-497-4365, who is always ready to listen - or call Fr. Wojciech at 201-768-1706, ext. 11.

# The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

## Pray for Those in the Military

### US Army

Captain Devin Borland, National Guard  
Captain Ben Clemente  
RRT Specialist James Crumb  
Staff Sergeant 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  
Captain Joseph W. Niece  
1st Lieutenant Jack Ottomanelli  
**National Guard**  
1st Lieutenant Matthew Dinnell

### US Air Force

1st Lieutenant Brian Kearney  
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn  
**US Marine Corps.**  
Corporal Shanna Bennett  
Sergeant Matthew Brady  
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo  
Corporal Mark Fredrick  
Captain Stephen Ikalowych  
1st Lieutenant J.P. Maher  
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 Abigail Jude, Aidan, Olive, Adeline Quarello, Jonathan & Joseph; little boys Gabriel Aungst, Antonio and Shane, little Cordelia and Eileen, little Remy and Silvie, Michael Baruch, Julie Berbert, Richard Bolton, Paul Brennan, Anna Carfagno, Dominic Carini, Kevin Columbo, Eddie Cooper, Paula Criqui, Michael Curran, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Noelle DeJoseph, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Ann Dilelr, Siobhan Donaghi, Whitney Dugan, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Kathleen Falotico, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Walter Flaherty, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Robin Fletcher, Ken Grier, Glenn Hall, Cara Hansen, Amy Hartwell, Mavis Ince, Rolando Joaquim, Rob, Dianne & Dee Kaiser, Josephine Kasper, Austin Kellar, Pat Kissane, Christina Kenny, Robert Knaack, Joseph Koch, Artie Latz, Lisa LeGrand, Lisa LoSchiavo, Mary Lowe, Mary Ann Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Matt McGowan, Michael McMahon, Tom McMullen, Kim McWilliams, David Mercur, Ann Millar, Alice Miller, Len Moriarity, Gianna Moscatello, Kevin Mullane, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, Emily O'Neill, John Pal, Mary Parker, Tom Paskewich, Bob Phillips, Cathy Pommert, Canice Prince, William Ragu, Dan & Phyllis Ragusa, Adolf Rajner, Debra Rendon, Vincent Ricciardi, Herman Rodriguez, Veronica Romanchuk, George Ross, Wendy Ruggiero, Beth Sacco, Samantha Sconzo, Patricia Ann Shalhoub, Peggy and Chris Shedden, Michael Suresh, Angeline Thomas, Mary Ann Torre, Charles Touw, Aileen Vassar, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Stefan Wiklinski, Maria Williams, Craig Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sarah, Sean, Sharon, Steven, Tina W., Tom, Tara M.

## Relevant Radio 1430am

### Listener Supported Talk Radio for Catholic Life

Trending with Timmerie's December 21st podcast walks through the "12 Days of Christmas" song and the hidden Catholic meaning behind the words!

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, January 1 - Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:00 Ann Benish R/b the Poggi Family  
10:00 Special Intention R/b Peter Stonitsch  
12:00 Intentions of the Dalton Family R/b Julia Dalton  
6:00 Craig Williams

### Tuesday, January 2 - Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8:00 William Quinn Sr. R/b the Barrett Family  
12:00 Warren Broom R/b the Garzino Family

### Wednesday, January 3-The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 James P. Walsh R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh  
12:00 Greta Kiernan - 1st Anniversary R/b Kiernan Family

### Thursday, January 4 - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton of the USA

8:00 Mary Connolly R/b the Busanich Family  
12:00 Martino Scrivanich R/b Rita McNamara

### First Friday, January 5 - St. John Neumann, US Bishop

8:00 Mary Turnbull R/b Joan Crowley  
12:00 Giron Family

7:00 Intentions of Daniel and Mary Foley R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

### First Saturday, January 6 - St. Andre Bessette of Quebec-Religious Brother

8:00 Marie Falotico R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

12:00 Souls In Purgatory

4:00 Peter B. Moulin-Malish R/b Joe Tobia

5:00 Anna Hackett R/b Lynn Barral

### Sunday, January 7 - The Epiphany of the Lord

7:00 Jim Beardsley R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey

8:00 Mary Connolly R/b Jack and Alicia Chimento

9:30 Francis Warren Scappa - 5th Anniversary R/b the Purcell Family

9:30 (gym) Silvana Maric R/b Nada and Eugene Camali

10:45 Mary Jane Capobianco R/b Family

12:00 Daniel Rivera R/b Adolph and Margarete Rajner

1:00 People of the Parish R/b Victoria Regina

6:00 Carole Stonitsch

R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey

R/b Jack and Alicia Chimento

R/b the Purcell Family

R/b Nada and Eugene Camali

R/b Family

R/b Adolph and Margarete Rajner

R/b Victoria Regina

## Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the deceased of the Surdel

Family, r/b Judi and Steven Villani.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Theresa Suchar, r/b Judi and Steven Villani.

The Saint Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the deceased of the Suchar Family, r/b Steven and Judi Villani.

## 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.

## 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 Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

## New to the area?

Register to become a member of the OLV Family. Visit OLV's website [olvhp.org](http://olvhp.org) and click on "Parish Registration"

**New address or phone number?** Please inform the rectory.

## Mondays are dedicated to the Holy Angels

### Holy Name of Jesus—Short History of this devotion

Devotion to the Holy Name falls loosely into three periods. The first phase is the very early Church and was encouraged by the Apostles and the early disciples. In this period devotion is to the Name of Christ, to the Name of Christ Jesus, to the Name of the Lord, and to the Name of Jesus.

The second phase is found in the early middle ages. Here devotion to the Holy Name was fixed specifically to the Name of Jesus. Pope Gregory X (1271 - 1276) and the Council of Lyons in 1274 initiated a call of the Universal Church to this special devotion. Through the works of Blessed John of Vercelli, the fifth Master General of the Order of St. Dominic, the Dominicans began preaching on the virtues of the Holy Name and built special altars where the lay faithful could venerate the Holy Name of Jesus.

The third phase was brought to life by St. Bernardine of Siena (1380 - 1444), the Franciscan who reformed his Order and preached fiery sermons all over Italy. St. Bernardine painted a special wooden tablet with the Monogram of the Name of Jesus surrounded by rays of the sun. During these very popular sermons, he would hold up for veneration the monogram of Christ's Name. Because of the influence of St. Bernardine's work, the Name "Jesus" was added to the Hail Mary prayer, and the Feast of the Holy Name was later added to the calendar. The office of this Mass was written by Bernardine dei Busti, and it makes use of the beautiful 12th century hymn, Iesu Dulcis Memoria which speaks of His Name and was written by another who had devotion to it, St. Bernard of Clairvaux (A.D. 1090-1153). St. Bernardine's apostleship of the Holy Name was carried on by St. John Capistran, A.D. 1385-1456, and to them both is attributed the Litany of the Holy Name. St. Bernardine and his contemporary St. John Capistran popularized this devotion and made it so widespread that the monogram of the name of Jesus, even today, stands at the side of the cross as a symbol of Christianity.

Later in 1455, Pope Callistus III asked St. John to preach a crusade invoking the Holy Name of Jesus against the vicious Turkish Moslems who were ravaging Eastern Europe; victory came in their defeat at the Battle of Belgrade in 1456.

In 1597, Pope Sixtus V granted an indulgence to anyone reverently saying, "Praised be Jesus Christ!" Pope Clement VII in 1530 allowed the Franciscans to celebrate a feast day in honor of the Holy Name, and Pope Innocent XIII extended this to the universal Church in 1721. In the liturgical revisions of Vatican II, the feast was deleted, though a votive Mass to the Holy Name of Jesus had been retained for devotional use. With the release of the revised Roman Missal in March 2002, the feast was restored as an optional memorial on January 3.

Pope John Paul II reinstated the feast of the Holy Name of Jesus to be celebrated on Jan. 3. Moreover, the reverential invocation of the Holy Name of Jesus as part of prayer or work, and the recitation of the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus, still convey a partial indulgence for the reparation of sin. The Holy Name Society, first organized in 1274 and granted the status of a confraternity in 1564, continues to promote at the parish and diocesan levels an increased reverence for the name of Jesus, reparation for the sins of profanity and blasphemy against the Holy Name, and the personal sanctification of its members.

### St John Neumann - January 5

John Neumann was born in Prachatice in Bohemia (now the Czech Republic) on March 28, 1811. He studied theology in the seminary of Budweis. Zealous for the missionary life and to lead souls to Christ, he decided to leave his homeland to dedicate himself to the European immigrants in America, who were deprived of spiritual support.

Neumann was ordained a priest by the bishop of New York in June 1836 and gave himself to the pastoral care of people in the vast area around Niagara Falls.

Wanting to live in a religious community that corresponded more to his missionary vocation, in January 1842 he entered the Redemptorists. A tireless missionary, Neumann busied himself with the German immigrants, first in Baltimore, then in Pittsburgh. Having filled the role of vice-provincial superior of the Redemptorists from 1846-49, he became the parish priest of St. Alphonsus Church in Baltimore. In 1852, at the age of 41, he was named bishop of Philadelphia.

Neumann had a strong effect on the religious life of the United States by founding Catholic schools and promoting devotion to the Eucharist. He founded a new religious institute—the Third Order of Saint Francis of Glen Riddle. The School Sisters of Notre Dame likewise regard Neumann as their secondary founder, their "Father in America." In just seven years, he built 89 churches, as well as several hospitals and orphanages. As a bishop, Neumann was untiring in visiting his vast diocese.

On January 5, 1860, at the age of 48, he died suddenly of a heart attack on a Philadelphia street. Neumann was beatified during the Second Vatican Council on October 13, 1963, and was canonized on June 19, 1977. In the homily on Neumann's canonization, Pope Paul VI summarized the activity of the new saint: "He was close to the sick, he loved to be with the poor, he was a friend of sinners, and now he is the glory of all emigrants."

### Did You Know?

**IHS** This monogram of the Holy Name, common among Western Christians, comes from the first three letters in the Greek spelling of Jesus' name. Those letters are iota ("I") eta ("H") and sigma (here rendered as its Roman equivalent: "S"). **Variations:** Sometimes the iota is rendered as a "J" (hence, "JHS"), or one will see the monogram in all Greek letters, or with the final sigman in a "C" shape (hence "IHC"), an alternate way of rendering the letter sigma. All mean the same thing.

**IC XC** This monogram is more common among Eastern Christians. It is composed of the first and last letters of Jesus' Name in Greek (iota and sigma) with the first and last letters of Christos, the Greek word for christ (chi and sigma respectively). The sigmas are both rendered in "C" form, resulting in "IC XC". This monogram is commonly written on icons of Christ near His halo to identify Him, and in the phrase "IC XC NIKA" meaning "Jesus Christ Conquers". The greatest promoters of the monogram were St. Bernardine of Siena and St. John Capistran.

### KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. The Holy Family consists of the Child Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and Saint Joseph.
2. The Church presents us with this feast today so that we might emulate the ideal family, the Holy family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
3. The Feast of the Holy Innocents, also known as Chidernass, is in memory of the massacre of the young children in Bethlehem by King Herod the Great in his attempt to kill the infant Jesus.
4. The Feast of the Holy Innocents is December 28th.
5. Saint John the Evangelist.

**We have been placed in the world for one purpose only, to do God's will. St. John Eudes**

## January is dedicated to the Holy Name

### Octave of Christmas & Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (Holy Day of Obligation USA)

January 1st the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, our Lady's greatest title. The honoring of Mary as the Mother of God can be traced back to the Council of Ephesus in 431. This feast is the octave (8th day) of Christmas. In the modern Roman Calendar only Christmas and Easter enjoy the privilege of an octave. According to the 1962 Missal of St. John XXIII the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, today is the Solemnity of Circumcision of Our Lord. "Mary, the all-holy ever-virgin Mother of God, is the masterwork of the mission of the Son and the Spirit in the fullness of time. For the first time in the plan of salvation and because his Spirit had prepared her, the Father found the dwelling place where his Son and his Spirit could dwell among men. In this sense the Church's Tradition has often read the most beautiful texts on wisdom in relation to Mary. Mary is acclaimed and represented in the liturgy as the "Seat of Wisdom." -*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 721

**DID YOU KNOW?** A plenary indulgence may be gained by reciting or singing the hymn *Veni Creator Spiritus* on the first day of the year. This hymn is traditionally sung for beginnings of things, calling on the Holy Spirit before endeavoring something new.

### Mary the Mother of God



Like the Churches of the East, Rome wished to honor the Virgin Mother of God during the days after Christmas. As a result the *Natale S. Mariae* ("Anniversary of Saint Mary") made its appearance on January 1 in the seventh century; it has accurately been called "the first Marian feast of the Roman liturgy."

### The Church at Prayer

On New Year's Day, the octave day of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Holy Mother of God. The divine and virginal motherhood of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a singular salvific event: for Our Lady it was the foretaste and cause of her extraordinary glory; for us it is a source of grace and salvation because "through her we have received the Author of life" (127).

The solemnity of 1 January, an eminently Marian feast, presents an excellent opportunity for liturgical piety to encounter popular piety: the first celebrates this event in a manner proper to it; the second, when duly catechized, lends joy and happiness to the various expressions of praise offered to Our Lady on the birth of her divine Son, to deepen our understanding of many prayers, beginning with that which says: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, sinners."

In the West, 1 January is an inaugural day marking the beginning of the civil year. The faithful are also involved in the celebrations for the beginning of the new year and exchange "new year" greetings. However, they should try to lend a Christian understanding to this custom making of these greetings an expression of popular piety.

- continued next column -

### Mary the Mother of God (cont'd)

The faithful, naturally, realize that the "new year" is placed under the patronage of the Lord, and in exchanging new year greetings they implicitly and explicitly place the New Year under the Lord's dominion, since to Him belongs all time (cf. Ap 1, 8; 22,13)(128). A connection between this consciousness and the popular custom of singing the *Veni Creator Spiritus* can easily be made so that on 1 January the faithful can pray that the Spirit may direct their thoughts and actions, and those of the community during the course of the year (129).

New Year greetings also include an expression of hope for a peaceful New Year. This has profound biblical, Christological and incarnational origins. The "quality of peace" has always been invoked throughout history by all men, and especially during violent and destructive times of war.

The Holy See shares the profound aspirations of man for peace. Since 1967, 1 January has been designated "world day for peace." Popular piety has not been oblivious to this initiative of the Holy See. In the light of the new born Prince of Peace, it reserves this day for intense prayer for peace, education towards peace and those values inextricably linked with it, such as liberty, fraternal solidarity, the dignity of the human person, respect for nature, the right to work, the sacredness of human life, and the denunciation of injustices which trouble the conscience of man and threaten peace.

Excerpted from the *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy*.

### AULD LANG SYNE

The tune "Auld Lang Syne," is traditionally sung at the stroke of midnight in most English-speaking countries to ring in the New Year. Partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after his death. This old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days." May the Lord bless us all with a peaceful, healthy, and holy 2022! Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne? For auld lang syne, my dear, for auld lang syne, we'll take a cup of kindness yet, for auld lang syne. Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of auld lang syne? And here's a hand, my trusty friend, and gie's a hand o' thine. We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet for auld lang syne.

### A Little Humor ...

**Dieting - New Year Resolutions:** 2020: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds. 2021: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds. 2022: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight. 2023: I will work out 3 days a week. 2024: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

### KIDZ KORNER

1. Who does the Holy Family consists of?
2. Why do we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family?
3. What is the Feast of the Holy Innocents?
4. When is the Feast of the Holy Innocents?
5. What name is given to the author of the Gospel of John?

**Love begins at home,  
and it is not how much we do...  
but how much love we put in that action.**  
**St. Mother Teresa**

**Blessed NEW YEAR With Blessed Virgin MARY**