

# 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 Jaškowiak  
*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 Evanelle Denise Coulter (LSEC)  
201-768-1400

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

Lesa Rossmann  
*Music Ministry*

Martin Coyne II  
Dean Ubriaco  
*Parish Trustees*

Jorden Pedersen Esq.  
*President Parish Council*

Jon Fischer CFA  
*Chairman Finance Committee*

#### SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

**First Friday:** 12:30-7pm Adoration, 6pm Confessions,  
7pm Mass

**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

**Bl. Miriam Teresa Demjanovich:** Friday

**St. Peregrine:** First Friday of the Month

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

Sunday, November 30, 2025 AD

First Sunday of Advent

Jubilee Year of Hope



...you do not know  
on which day...

Matthew 24:42

#### 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.

#### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4pm & 5pm  
Sunday: 7am, 8am Latin, 9:30am,  
9:30am Family Mass (gym), 10:45am,  
12pm, 1pm Spanish, 6pm

#### OLV Rectory

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

#### Religious Education

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

#### OLV Convent

201-768-1705  
145 Parkway



## Fr. Wojciech's Corner...

### **Be watchful! Be alert!**

I'm tired of waiting, we hear so many times... Today we begin the season of Advent, the season of joyful waiting for the Lord and how not to miss Him whether in ordinary events of life, this coming Christmas and the end of times. Good preparation, good celebration. Let Advent prepare us all.

### **Holy Advent to ALL!**

#### **First Thursday - First Friday - First Saturday**

**First Thursday - December 4** - Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 7:00PM.

**First Friday - December 5** - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 12:30 -7:00PM, confessions at 6:00PM followed by Devotions & Mass.

**First Saturday - December 6** -8:00AM Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; 8:30AM-10:30AM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; 12:00PM Mass will be offered for the Souls in Purgatory

### **Advent Journey of Wonder and Awe with Deacon Al**

#### **Thursday evenings in Advent at 7:00PM in our Church**

What a wonderful opportunity to escape for a few minutes each week from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season as we prepare for the Miracle of Christmas. Each evening will have slide show presentation and reflection concluding with Benediction. All are welcome!

### **GIVING TREE**

If you wish to help, please take a tag and return together with a gift card by December 14th. We are asking only for Visa or Mastercard Gift Cards, no presents. There will be a box in the Church on the Blessed Mother side of the altar where you can drop them. There will also be tags for Shop-rite gift cards, which we add to each family's package. Please be sure to write the dollar amount of the gift card on the tag attached to the gift card. Each tag is for a specific individual. If you take a tag and cannot return the tag you took and gift card by Dec. 14th, please return the tag so we know and can provide for that individual.

### **SAVE THE DATE - January 17, 2026**

ANNUAL "Hap Nightingale" BEEFSTEAK

Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483

### **CHRISTMAS GREENS SALE**

Christmas Greens will be available by entrance of the Church

**See the prices by the greens**

Leave your payment in the signed box in the church lobby

**What if you are CALLED! ???** Call the Vocations office 973-497-4365 and ask for Fr. Gino, Director, who is always ready to listen - or call Fr. Wojciech at our parish 201-768-1706, x11.

## **Pray for Vocations**

## **3 Comings of Christ**

St. Bernard of Clairvaux says there are three comings: Advent prepares not just for the first coming of Christ to Israel, or even the second at the end of time. There is a third coming between these two in which Jesus comes in spirit and power for our rest and consolation. We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible.

In the first coming He was seen on earth, dwelling among men; He Himself testifies that they saw Him and hated Him. In the final coming all flesh will see the salvation of our God, and they will look on Him whom they pierced. The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved. In His first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming He comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming He will be seen in glory and majesty. In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord Himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God's word. Where is God's word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.

Keep God's word in this way. Let it enter into your very being; let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength. Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, He will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.

If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the One who makes all things new. This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam's sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all.

### **CLEAN UP YOUR INNER HOUSE**

for CHRISTMAS

**make a GOOD CONFESSION**

This sacrament is offered Monday-Saturday, 7:30AM-7:50AM, Saturdays from 11:00AM-11:50AM and 3:00PM-3:40PM, First Friday at 6PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

*The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.*

-St. Augustine

## **Memory Awakens Hope**

Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope.... It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope.

—Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

# First Sunday of Advent

## Pray for Those in the Military

### US Army

Captain Ben Clemente  
 RRT Specialist James Crumb  
 Staff Sergeant Peter Dippolito  
 Major Michael Franson  
 Sergeant First Class Charles Greene  
 Captain Shawn Linn  
 Sergeant Major Marc Medina  
 Captain John G. Miele  
 Captain Joseph W. Niece  
 1st Lieutenant Megan Niece  
 Private Edward Oakley  
 Captain Jack Ottomanelli  
 Staff Sergeant David Petersen  
 Specialist John Petersen

### US Air Force

1st Lieutenant Brian Kearney  
 Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

### US Marine Corps.

Corporal Shanna Bennett  
 Staff Sergeant Matthew Brady  
 1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo  
 Lance Corporal Nicholas Giron  
 Major Stephen Ikalowych  
 Captain J.P. Maher  
 Corporal Cody McGrath

### US Navy

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 Jack Merritt, Abigail Jude, Aidan, Olive, Adeline Quarello, Jonathan & Joseph; children Gabriel Aungst, Antonio and Shane, Cordelia and Eileen, Remy and Silvie; Annie Baklycki, Kevin Douglas Barry, Michael Baruch, Julie Berbert, Paul Brennan, James Buckley, Kathe Burruano, Joe Cafaro, Anna Carfagno, Bill Clark, Kevin Columbo, Thomas Connolly, Eddie Cooper, Paula Criqui, Michael Curran, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Noelle DeJoseph, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Siobhan Donaghi, Whitney Dugan, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Walter Flaherty, Mary Foley, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Robin Fletcher, Leo Gendron, Ken Grier, Glenn Hall, Amy Hartwell, Richard Hogan, Kristine Leigh Hook, Rolando Joaquim, Austin Kellar, Pat Kissane, Christina Kenny, Tim Keohane, Joseph Koch, Artie Latz, Kenneth Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Michael McMahon, Adolfo Mendoza, David Mercur, Alice Miller, Len Moriarity, Gianna Moscatello, Kevin Mullane, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, Michael Oates, John Pal, Mary Parker, Tom Paskewich, Ronald Peterson, Bob Phillips, Canice Prince, Christina Pulver, William Ragu, Dan & Phyllis Ragusa, Robert Rasmussen, Patrick Ricci, Herman Rodriguez, Veronica Romanchuk, Wendy Ruggiero, Beth Sacco, Blase K Sacus, Samantha Sconzo, Patricia Ann Shalhoub, Peggy and Chris Shedden, Brian Sumereau, Michael Suresh, Maria Tamayo, Ollie Tetlow, Angeline Thomas, Felicia Veneruso, Jim Vlantens, Dennis Ubriaco, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Anthony K., Brian, Carla, Christina, Donna M., Edward, Elba, Jack, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Kathleen V., Kaitlin V. Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Melinda, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sarah, Scott, Sharon, Steven, Tom.

**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 are unable to continue their donations at this time. *Donations may be mailed to OLV, 81 Lynn St., Harrington Park, NJ 07640.* **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.

## Mass Intentions

**Sunday, November 30 – 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - St. Andrew, Apostle**  
 7:00 Margaret Lerobler R/b the Barrett Family  
 8:00 Carol Muzas R/b the Evanelia Family  
 9:30 David and Kathleen Musante R/b Jeannette and Vanessa Musante

### NO MASS IN OLV GYM TODAY

10:45 Intentions of Brian McElroy Jr. R/b the McElroy Family  
 12:00 Dorothy Errico R/b the Oakley Family  
 1:00 People of the Parish  
 6:00 William A. Duby Sr. R/b the Duby Family

### Monday, December 1 - St. Florence of Asia Minor-Laywoman

8:00 Wendy Stollar R/b Barbara Sita  
 12:00 Intentions of Tom and Jeanne Hennessey R/b Joan Crowley

### Tuesday, December 2 - St. Bibiana of Rome-Virgin and Martyr

8:00 Intentions of Pauline Burke R/b Bridie Kiene  
 12:00 Michelle Paparella - 3rd Anniv. R/b loving parents

### Wednesday, Dec. 3 – St. Francis Xavier of Spain-Missionary Priest

8:00 Veronica Kucera R/b Tony and Laura Scott  
 12:00 Michael Lawten R/b Ann Diller

### Thursday, December 4 – St. John of Damascus, priest, doctor

8:00 Anne Bellini R/b Carole Bellini  
 12:00 Carole Stonitsch R/b Pete Stonitsch

### First Friday, Dec. 5-St. Gerald of France-Bishop of Braga, Spain

8:00 James McGrath Sr. R/b Dennis Falotico  
 12:00 Phil Audino Jr. R/b the Berlinghieri Family

7:00 Intentions of Giron Family

### First Saturday, Dec. 6 - St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra aka St. Nick

8:00 Aileen Vassar R/b the Oakley Family  
 12:00 Souls in Purgatory  
 4:00 Beverly Ann Juliano R/b Chris and Wayne Hall  
 5:00 Helen Margiotti R/b Karen Accavallo

### Sunday, December 7 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

#### - St. Ambrose-Bishop of Milan, Italy

7:00 James Clark R/b OLV Knights of Columbus  
 8:00 Ralph Schroeder R/b Rae Rinaldi  
 9:30 Selena Piazza R/b OLV Knights of Columbus  
 9:30 (Gym) Anthony Zaccaro R/b the Evanelia Family  
 10:45 Charles Touw R/b Joan Crowley  
 12:00 Deacon Richard McLaughlin  
 1:00 People of the Parish  
 6:00 Lydia Mohsenin R/b the Dunn Family

### Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

**The Sanctuary Lamp** will burn in thanksgiving for all OLV parishioners, r/b Fr. Wojciech.

**The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** will burn for the repose of the soul of Deacon Richard McLaughlin, r/b OLV St. Vincent de Paul / Social Concerns.

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** will burn for those who serve in defense of our country.

**Flower & Sanctuary Offerings** 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. Contact the rectory for more information.

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## St. John of Damascus - December 4

Eastern Orthodox Christians and Eastern Catholics, whose tradition has been particularly shaped by his insights, celebrate the saint's feast on the same day as the Roman Catholic Church.

Among Eastern Christians, St. John (676-749) is best known for his defense of Christian sacred art, particularly in the form of icons. While the churches of Rome and Constantinople were still united during St. John's life, the Byzantine Emperor Leo III broke radically from the ancient tradition of the church, charging that the veneration of Christian icons was a form of idolatry.

John had grown up under Muslim rule in Damascus, as the child of strongly Christian parents. His excellent education – particularly in theology – prepared him well to defend the tradition of sacred iconography, against the heresy of the “iconoclasts,” so-called because they would enter churches and destroy the images therein.

During the 720s, the upstart theologian began publicly opposing the emperor's command against sacred images in a series of writings. The heart of his argument was twofold: first, that Christians did not actually worship images, but rather, through them they worshiped God, and honored the memory of the saints. Second, he asserted that by taking an incarnate physical form, Christ had given warrant to the Church's depiction of him in images.

By 730, the young public official's persistent defense of Christian artwork had made him a permanent enemy of the emperor, who had a letter forged in John's name offering to betray the Muslim government of Damascus. The ruling caliph of the city, taken in by the forgery, is said to have cut off John's hand. The saint's sole surviving biography states that the Virgin Mary acted to restore it miraculously. John eventually managed to convince the Muslim ruler of his innocence, before making the decision to become a monk and later a priest.

Although a number of imperially-convened synods condemned John's advocacy of Christian iconography, the Roman church always regarded his position as a defense of apostolic tradition. Years after the priest and monk died, the Seventh Ecumenical Council vindicated his orthodoxy, and ensured the permanent place of holy images in both Eastern and Western Christian piety.

St. John of Damascus' other notable achievements include the “Exact Exposition of the Orthodox Faith,” a work in which he systematized the earlier Greek Fathers' thinking about theological truths in light of philosophy. The work exerted a profound influence on St. Thomas Aquinas. Centuries later, St. John's sermons on the Virgin Mary's bodily assumption into heaven were cited in Pope Pius XII's dogmatic definition on the subject.



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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.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

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)

### Sacred Matrimony on Sacred ground

“ceremony” at the venue is not a valid Sacrament

For the Catholic Church the Sacrament of Matrimony is such a sacred matter that the Church requires for two Catholics to be married sacramentally in the Catholic Church, not elsewhere. All the Sacraments except Confession are always celebrated in Church. Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and the Sacred Orders (Priesthood is even celebrated at the Cathedral of a given Diocese). A Catholic priest can only officiate Sacrament of Matrimony of two Catholics on sacred grounds (Church). This wedding at the same time is a civil wedding. For more info contact Fr. Wojciech.

**Respect Life** Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance should **never** feel that abortion is her only option. For confidential assistance call: Archdiocese Respect Life Office 973-497-4350\*Gateway Pregnancy Ctr. 908-353-0604\*Catholic Community Svcs. 201-246-7379 \*Lifecall 800-662-2678\*Birthright: 201-845-4646\*NewHope 201-722-4705.

**OLV Needlers** If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, join us in the lower church Wednesdays at 6PM and/or Thursdays after 12Noon Mass. Yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles supplied.

**OLV Knights of Columbus** All men over 18 are invited to join the Knights of Columbus. As Catholic men we are called to lead, serve, protect and defend our Faith, families, and our parish. The Knights of Columbus will help you grow as a husband, father and Catholic. Join us!

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas** For info' call Marie 201-741-0499.

**St. Joseph's HS theatre:** We are happy to announce that *IS HE DEAD?* will be performed on Friday, Dec. 12 at 7PM, and Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2PM and 7PM in our Rehearsal Studio. All tickets are \$10 and it is general seating. For tickets visit [sjr.booktix.com](http://sjr.booktix.com). "Nosh with the director" at 1PM in the lobby before the Dec 13th 2PM show.

## 54th Candlelight Carol Sing

### Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart

89 Ridge Street, Newark

Wednesday, December 17 - 8PM

Thursday, December 18 - 8PM

For more info [cathedralinfo@rcan.org](mailto:cathedralinfo@rcan.org)

## KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. The word Advent comes from the Latin word that means “coming”.
2. There are four Sundays in Advent.
3. The traditional color of Advent is Purple.
4. First purple candle—Hope. Second purple candle—Love. Pink candle—Joy. Third purple candle—Peace.
5. Christmas.

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. Do not leave items outside.

From Archdiocese: Report Financial Misconduct Confidentially: if you suspect financial misconduct use EthicsPoint, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues while promoting positive parish, school and workplace environments. Visit [www.rcan.org](http://www.rcan.org) for the hotline and reporting link.

### Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath is part of our long-standing Catholic tradition, the actual origins of which are uncertain. There is evidence of pre-Christian Germanic peoples using wreaths with lit candles during the cold and dark December days as a sign of hope in the future warm, longer sunlight days of Spring. In Scandinavia during winter, lit candles were placed around a wheel, and prayers were offered to the god of light to turn "the wheel of the earth" back toward the sun to lengthen the days and restore warmth.



By the Middle Ages, the Christians adapted this tradition and used Advent wreaths as part of their spiritual preparation for Christmas. After all, Christ is "the Light that came into the world" to dispel the darkness of sin and to radiate the truth and love of God (cf. Jn 3:19-21). By 1500, both Catholics and Lutherans had more formal practices surrounding the Advent wreath.

The wreath is made of various evergreen branches, which have long been a symbol of the constancy and faithfulness we aspire to as Christians. Evergreens flourish during every season, remaining unchanged through the harshness of winter. We are called to live our Faith this same way - with holy confidence and fortitude. Holly, with its prickly leaves, represents the Crown of Thorns. Pinecones represent the Resurrection, because they contain the seeds of a new tree and therefore of new life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God, the immortality of the soul and the everlasting life found in Christ. All together, the wreath of evergreens depicts the immortality of our soul and the new, everlasting life promised to us through Christ, the eternal Word of the Father, who entered our world becoming true man and who was victorious over sin and death through His own passion, death and resurrection.

Generally, three candles are violet and one is rose-colored, each representing 1,000 years. Added together, the four candles symbolize the 4,000 years that humanity waited for the Savior. Violet is a liturgical color symbolizing penance, sacrifice, and prayer. During the first, second, and fourth weeks of Advent, we light violet candles as a reminder of the preparation of heart and mind undertaken during this season, which was traditionally known as a "little Lent." The Third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday. On this day, we celebrate that our wait is almost over. Since rose is the liturgical color used to signify joy, we light the rose candle on the Third Sunday of Advent as we rejoice in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding our Lord's first coming into the world and the anticipation of His second coming to judge the living and the dead. The light again signifies Christ, the Light of the world.

### St. Nicholas, Bishop, *REAL Santa Claus* December 6 - Patron of Bakers & Pawnbrokers

It is the common opinion that St. Nicholas was a native of Patara in Lycia, Asia Minor. He became a monk in the monastery of Holy Zion near Myra. He was made Abbot of this house by the Archbishop, its founder. When the See of Myra, the capital of Lycia, fell vacant, St. Nicholas was appointed its Archbishop. It is said that he suffered for the Faith under Diocletian, and that he was present at the Council of Nice as an opponent of Arianism. He died at Myra, in the year 342.

The characteristic virtue of St. Nicholas appears to have been his charity for the poor. St. Nicholas gave many gifts anonymously in his lifetime and became known as the protector of children, and our well-known Santa Clause is a derivative of St. Nicholas. The Dutch settlers brought the tradition of St. Nicholas with them to America, where they celebrated his feast day on December 6<sup>th</sup>, which is near Christmas time. The Dutch version of this Saint was called "Sinterklaas". Santa Claus became an Americanization of that name.

### St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church December 7 - Patron of Candlemakers

St. Ambrose was born in Gaulo, where his father exercised the office of Prefect of the Praetorium, about the year 340. His father died while he was still an infant, and with his mother he returned to Rome, where he enjoyed a good education, learned the Greek language, and became a good poet and orator. Later he moved to Milan with his brother.

Probus, Praetorian Prefect of Italy, appointed Ambrose Governor of Liguria and Aemilia. His virtues in this office and the voice of a child who proclaimed him Bishop, marked him out to the people of Milan as their Bishop on the vacancy of the See. Both Catholics and Arians elected him to the first dignity in the diocese, a dignity which he reluctantly accepted. As he was only a catechumen, he received the Sacrament of Baptism, after which he was consecrated Bishop, in 374, at the age of thirty-four.

After giving his fortune to the Church and the poor, he applied himself to study the Scriptures and ecclesiastical writers, placing himself under the instruction of Simplicianus, a priest of the Church of Rome, who succeeded him in the Archbishopric of Milan. His warfare against the Arians was such that by the year 385 very few still professed that heresy in the diocese.

When Maximus assumed the purple in Gaul, St. Ambrose was sent there, and he succeeded in concluding a treaty with the Emperor. But a second embassy, in 387, was not so successful: Maximus invaded Italy and was defeated by the Emperor Theodosius. St. Ambrose at a later date had occasion to reprehend Theodosius and did so with the greatest apostolical freedom.

He had the satisfaction of witnessing the conversion of the great St. Augustine, whom he baptized in 387. One of his last actions was the ordination of St. Honoratus. After a life of labor and prayer the holy Bishop of Milan died in 397.

### KIDZ KORNER

1. What is the meaning of the word Advent?
2. How many Sundays are in Advent?
3. What is the traditional color of Advent?
4. What do the four Advent candles symbolize?
5. Which feast follows Advent?

Answers on page four.

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