

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)
150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

WELCOME

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
The Little Church with 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. Jon Fischer CFA
President Parish Council 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 12:00Noon Mass

Sunday, December 28, 2025 A.D.
Jubilee Year of Hope



Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Thursday, January 1

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Mass Schedule:

Wednesday Vigil, December 31: 5pm livestream, 6pm Latin
Thursday: 8am, 9:30am, 10:45am, 12pm,
1pm Spanish, 6pm

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

Religious Education

201-768-1400

155 Parkway

olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent

201-768-1705

145 Parkway



Fr. Wojciech's Corner

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. God began the history of salvation with and 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.

At the threshold of the new year I thank you for all kindnesses and for all your spiritual, material and financial support to us personally (me and Fr. Ed) and to our parish at large. May the Lord reward you.

May Mary, Mother of God and our Mother (with whom we always start a new year) - Our Lady of Victories lead us into and through the New ANNO DOMINI 2026.

Thank you!!!

We thank all who gave so Outstandingly! Generously! Your donations helped 88 local struggling families, as well as the senior residents at the Ann Ferguson Towers in Linden. In total, OLV St. Vincent de Paul/Social Concerns collected 139 Visa/Master cards and 300+ Shoprite cards. Your generous response is remarkable.

Blessed Christmas season & Happy New Year.



COLLECT PRAYER

Feast of the Holy Family:

O God, who were pleased to give us the shining example of the Holy Family, graciously grant that we may imitate them in practicing the virtues of family life and in the bonds of charity, and so, in the joy of your house, delight one day in eternal rewards. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and

ever.

The devotion to the Holy Family was born in Bethlehem, together with the Baby Jesus. The shepherds went to adore the Child and, at the same time, they gave honor to His family. Later, in a similar way, the three wise men came from the East to adore and give honor to the newborn King with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh that would be safeguarded by His family.

We can go further to affirm that in a certain sense Christ, Himself, was the first devotee of His family. He showed His devotion to His mother and foster father by submitting Himself, with infinite humility, to the duty of filial obedience towards them. This is what St Bernard of Clairvaux said in this regard, *'God, to whom angels submit themselves and who principalities and powers obey, was subject to Mary; and not only to Mary but Joseph also for Mary's sake [...]. God obeyed a human creature; this is humility without precedent. A human creature commands God; it is sublime beyond measure.'* (First Homily on the 'Missus Est').

-excerpt Catholicculture.org

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

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.

amazing!!!

God, to Whom the angels are subject: Whom principalities and powers obey: was subject to Mary; and not alone to Mary, but to Joseph also, because of Mary. Admire and revere both the one and the other, and choose which you admire the more: the most sweet condescension of the Son, or the sublime dignity of the Mother. For that God should obey a woman is humility without compare; and that a woman should have rule over God dignity without equal.

-St. Bernard

First Friday & Saturday

No First Thursday Holy Hour

First Friday-Jan 2 -12:30PM afternoon adoration, 6PM confessions,

6:30PM devotions to the Sacred Heart,

7PM Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart.

First Saturday-Jan 3 - 8AM Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

ADORATION 8:30am-11:50am

12PM Mass will be offered for the Souls in Purgatory

ANNUAL "Hap Nightingale" BEEFSTEAK January 17, 2026

Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483

VOCATIONS is God calling you?

Mary and Joseph raised their child in a family of love and faith. They directed Jesus to follow God's will for His life. Each of us must assist and allow our children to follow God's will in their lives. This is true even if God calls your child to serve Him as a Priest, or Religious Sister or Brother. 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.

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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
 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 Criquei, 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 LeGrand, Lisa LeGrand, Lisa LoSchiavo, Mary Lowe, Mary Ann Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Matt McGowan, Michael McMahon, 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 Vlantes, Dennis Ubriaco, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Anthony K., Brian, Destiny, 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, 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 and click on "Parish Registration". **New address or phone number?** Please inform the rectory.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 28 - HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH
 7:00 James McGrath Jr. R/b Dennis Falotico
 8:00 Jodi Forcino R/b Rae Rinaldi
 9:30 Selena Piazza R/b Karen Accavallo

NO FAMILY MASS IN GYM TODAY

10:45 Arlene Tagliabue R/b Charles Tagliabue
 12:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
 1:00 People of the Parish
 6:00 Josephine Vitiello R/b Pat Duggan

Monday, December 29--St. Thomas Becket, bishop, martyr

8:00 Richard and Michael Supple R/b the Supple Family
 12:00 Jeanne Avitabile R/b Theresa and Tom Petrucci

Tuesday, December 30-St. Anysius, Bishop

8:00 George Smith R/b the Oakley Family
 12:00 Sven Carlson R/b Peter and Linda Wayne

Wednesday, December 31 -St. Sylvester I, Pope

8:00 George W. Smith R/b Bill and Dianne Smith
 12:00 Frank and Elsie May Reeves R/b Scott and Barbara Anzalone

Vigil Mass - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

5:00 Deacon Richard McLaughlin R/b Tom and Ann Thomas
 6:00 (Latin) Thomas A. Wendelken, Jr. R/b Greg and Susan Evanello

Thursday, January 1 - Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

8:00 Ann Benish R/b the Poggi Family
 9:30 People of the Parish

10:45 Suchar Family R/b Steve and Judi Villani
 12:00 William Quinn Sr. R/b the Barrett Family

1:00 (Spanish) Special Intention

6:00 Villani Family R/b Steve and Judi Villani

First Friday, January 2- Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

8:00 Louis J. Todaro R/b David and Donna Hansen
 12:00 Evan Klein R/b Margarete Rajner

7:00 Ann Millar - 1st Anniversary

First Saturday, January 3-The Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 James P. Walsh R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh
 12:00 Souls in Purgatory

4:00 Ellen McCarthy R/b Sonny and Anita Garzino
 5:00 Jean Bentivegna R/b the Bentivegna Family

Sunday, January 4 - THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

7:00 Thomas Toleno
 8:00 People of the Parish
 9:30 Intentions of John and Linda Russo - Wedding Anniversary

R/b Sue DeSimone
 9:30 (gym) James Pfeifer R/b OLV CCD

10:45 Intentions of Lisa and Rich Michaelowski - 25th Wedding Anniv.
 R/b Bridie Kiene

12:00 Martino Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family

1:00 Neli M. Staudinger R/b the Giron Family
 6:00 Rosanne Stella R/b Stefano Pappalardo

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Melissa Klemer - 1st Anniversary.**

The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Arlene Tagliabue, r/b Charles Tagliabue.**

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of **Thomas A. Wendelken Jr. - 1st Anniversary.**

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.

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. Mariæ* ("Anniversary of St 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.

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.

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 Childermass, 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.

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

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.

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.

Christmas is NOT 1 day long.
It also is NOT 12 days long -
it is a whole season.

We tend to think of Christmas as being just December 25th, but the Christmas season lasts longer than that. Many think of the "twelve days of Christmas," but the Christmas season is actually variable in length, depending on how soon a Sunday occurs after January 6th.

Here is the official rule for when it begins and ends:

33. Christmas Time runs from First Vespers (Evening Prayer I) of the Nativity of the Lord up to and including the Sunday after Epiphany or after January 6.

This year (2020-2021), Christmas Time will run until January 10th (the Sunday after January 6).

—From *9 things you need to know about Christmas* by Jimmy Akin

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 2020! 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.

The Shrine of Holy Innocents

There is a national shrine of the Holy Innocents located at the Church of the Holy Innocents in Manhattan. It is a memorial for all children who have died before birth through miscarriage, abortion, or who were stillborn. This Shrine offers an opportunity for families to honor and remember their children by entering a name into the Book of Life. If you would like to enter a child's name, please send a letter with the name of the child to Church of the Holy Innocents, 128 West 37th Street, NY, NY 10018, or call the Shrine at 212-279-5861 ex 224.

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

St. Basil the Great - January 2

St. Basil (329 – January 1, 379) shares his feast day with his lifelong friend St. Gregory of Nazianzen. These accomplished men fought against heresies that threatened the foundations of the early Church, shaping doctrines around Christ's divinity and the nature of the Holy Trinity.

St. Basil was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family already deeply rooted in Christianity, going back to the time of widespread persecution in the 1st and 2nd centuries. Following in the footsteps of his father, Basil studied in Caesarea as well as Constantinople and Athens, training in the law and rhetoric. He became a popular teacher. However, his sister persuaded him to give up academia for monastic life. Before inviting St. Gregory to start an order with him, St. Basil traveled through Egypt, Palestine and Syria visiting monasteries, learning everything he could and formulating his own ideas about monastic rule. His rule is still followed today, and he is known as the Father of Eastern Monasticism.

His time in the monastery was relatively short, it was only five years before he was called to play a greater role in the Church. Ordained as a priest, by around 370 he was made bishop of Caesaria. It was in this role that he fought against the heresy of Arianism which denied the divinity of Christ, even defying an emperor! He also fought against other early Trinitarian heresies. But these important doctrinal stands were not what defined Basil. He was passionate about caring for the poor and sick, pastoral care, and fighting against institutionalized prostitution. He would preach twice a day to large crowds, and opened a complex with a hospital, orphanage, and shelter for the poor. In addition to influential monastic rules, sermons, and doctrinal treatises, more than 300 of his letters still exist. St. Basil the Great, pray for us! ©LPI

St. Gregory Nazianzen | January 2

The story of St. Gregory of Nazianzen (325 – 390) is a great example of how ordinary people can do extraordinary things! Baptized at the age of 30, St. Gregory eagerly accepted his friend St. Basil the Great's request to join him in a newly founded monastery. But soon after, St. Gregory's father, a bishop at the time, needed help in his diocese. According to the story, St. Gregory was ordained a priest almost forcefully, and only reluctantly accepted the responsibility asked of him.

He managed to avoid a split that threatened when his father made compromises with believers of the Arian heresy. At 41, St. Gregory was chosen Suffragan Bishop of Caesarea, and soon after came into conflict with the Emperor Valens, who supported the Arians. In addition, his friendship with Basil, his archbishop, became strained.

After the death of Valens, St. Gregory was called to rebuild the faith in Constantinople, which had been under Arian teachers for more than three decades. He dreaded being drawn into a vortex of corruption and brutality, but he managed to stay at a friend's home, which soon became the only orthodox church in the city. In such surroundings, he began giving the great sermons on the Trinity for which he is famous today. In time, Gregory did rebuild the faith in the city, but at the cost of great suffering, slander, insults, and even personal violence. ©LPI

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 for the hotline and reporting link.

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