

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

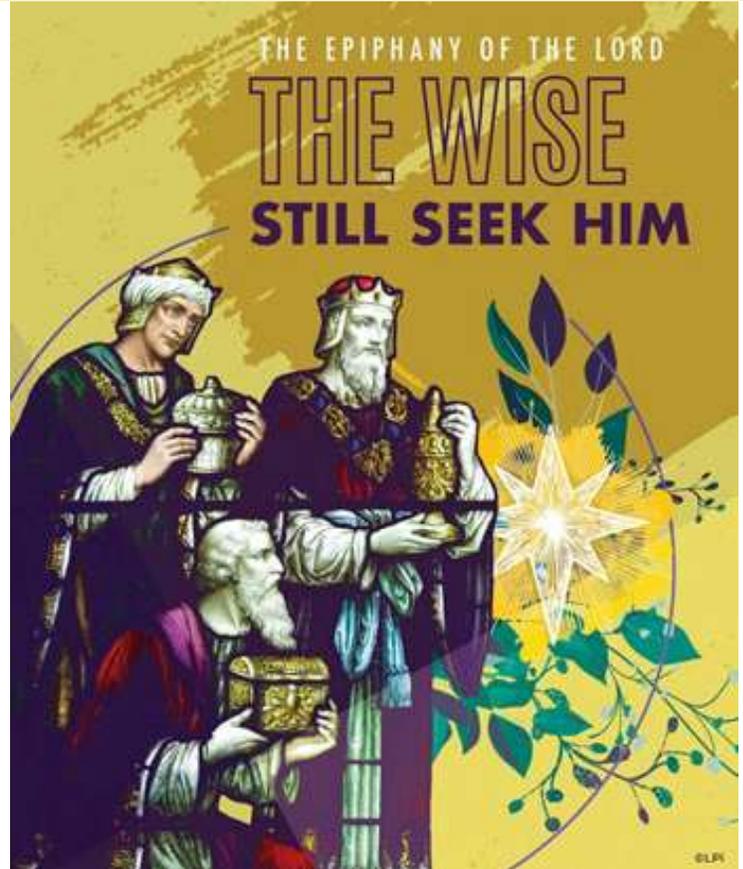
St. Jude: Thursday

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, January 4, 2026 A.D.
First Sunday in New Year
Last Sunday of the Jubilee Year of Hope

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 ...

“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 the Jubilee Year of Hope 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.

It was such a joy to celebrate Christmas with you. I thank all who in different ways participated in preparations and in the liturgies.

THANK YOU ALL!

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 new born 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 worshiping 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” (1 Kings 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 enters tains 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 aloes.” (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). -Aleteia

**Holy Name Society - Sunday, January 11
9:30 Mass and Divine Mercy Chaplet
followed by fellowship in lower church**

**EPIPHANY
HOUSE BLESSING WITH CHALK**

20 + C + M + B + 26

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 + 26. 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 2026 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)

Magi, Three Kings, Three Wise Men...who were they?

We sing songs, give gifts, and move three mysterious men into our manger scenes. There’s a rich heritage in the Catholic Church of celebrating the magi, but their origins are steeped in mystery. The original Greek calls these men *magoi*. The word is translated elsewhere in Scripture to mean “magician,” but a similar word was used in ancient history to describe an entirely different set of people altogether. In what is now modern-day Iran, the ruling empire had a wealthy priestly caste known as the Magi. At the time of Christ, the Magi formed one of the ruling councils of the Parthian Empire. These priests interpreted dreams and read the stars to anticipate major events that could affect the fortunes of the empire.

We’re not exactly sure where the magi of the Gospels traveled from. Matthew simply says “the east.” History tells us that the ancient regions of Persia, Assyria, and Babylon all had a magi priesthood at the time of Christ. Whichever region they hailed from, they likely traveled over one thousand miles over the course of several months to arrive at the Holy Family. Unfortunately for the classic song, there is no concrete evidence these men were themselves kings, though they did bear gifts “from afar” at the prompting of their astronomical calculations. ©LPi

ANNUAL “Hap Nightingale Beefsteak”

Saturday, January 17, 2025

Sponsored by OLV Knights of Columbus Council 14483

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians-men studying for the priesthood, mothers and their babies in need and other charitable works. It is a fun evening! Tickets will be sold outside after Mass this weekend and next: Adults \$40 each and children 12-and-under \$15 each.

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 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 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 Vlantés, Dennis Ubricaco, 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.

Mass Intentions

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

Monday, January 5 – St. John Neumann, US Bishop

8:00 Mary Turnbull R/b Rita McNamara
12:00 Adeline Kofon R/b David and Donna Hansen

Tuesday, January 6 – St. Andre Bessette of Quebec-Religious Brother

8:00 Marie Falotico R/b Dennis Falotico
12:00 Bridget Quinn R/b the Barrett Family

Wednesday, January 7 – St. Raymond of Peñafort

8:00 Biagio DellaCerra R/b the Brackenburg Family
12:00 Roger Visocki R/b Carole Bellini

Thursday, January 8 - St. Appollinaris, Bishop

8:00 Kathleen Freeburn Nemecek - Anniversary R/b Greg Nemecek
12:00 Frank and Ann Diller

Friday, January 9– St. Adrian of Canterbury, Abbot

8:00 Josephine Cacciola R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey
12:00 John McCabe R/b BIA friends

Saturday, January 10 - St. William, Bishop

8:00 Sr. Regina Suplick R/b Sr. Elizabeth
12:00 Intentions of Jim Clune R/b Joan Crowley
4:00 Joseph Tapia R/b Diana and William Lynch
5:00 Mary Amendola R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo

Sunday, January 11-THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

7:00 Richard Bolton R/b Rae Rinaldi
8:00 Edward Vassar R/b Sr. Elizabeth
9:30 Martin and Violet Frka R/b the Hoth Family
9:30 (gym) Joseph Quinn Jr. R/b the Barrett Family
10:45 Alwyn Panthapattu R/b Diana and William Lynch
12:00 Robert John Maynes IV R/b the Maynes Family
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 James Van Duyne Sr. R/b the Romano Family

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Deacon

Richard McLaughlin, r/b Cathy Ryan

The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Doris Lagatol.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Richard Hogan.

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.

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.

Relevant Radio

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Thursdays are dedicated to the Holy Eucharist

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.

WHERE DO WE GET THE NAMES FOR THE MONTHS OF THE YEAR?

Our calendar takes the names of the months from the ancient Roman calendar, which was pagan in origin. The original Roman calendar had only ten months, but in the year 700 B.C. January and February were added to make twelve. March was considered the first month of the year because it was the beginning of the planting season.

January is named for the Roman god Janus.

February is named for the purification festival Februa when Romans prepared for the new year.

March is named after the Roman god of war and agriculture - Mars.

April's name comes from the Latin aperire, which means open. It is in April when leaves and buds begin to open.

May is named after the Roman goddess of growth and living things - Maia, or it could also be derived from the Latin word majores - older men - because it was during this month that they were honored.

June is named after the Roman goddess of marriage - Juno, or it could also be derived from the Latin word juniores - younger men - because it was during this month that they were honored.

July is named after Julius Caesar.

August is named after Caesar Augustus. August was originally Sextillus, the sixth month. At the time of renaming from Sextillus, to August, it had only 30 days. This did not sit well with the new ruler because July, named after his uncle had more days. He took a day from February and gave it to August.

September, October, November and December - their names come from the Latin words meaning seventh (septem), eighth (octo), ninth (novem) and tenth (decem). These names are remnants of the original Roman calendar whose year only had ten months so these names make no sense in our modern day twelve-month calendar.

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 872874)

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.

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.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, & Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*.
2. King Herod.
3. Gifts of gold, frankincense & myrrh.
4. Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

St. John Neumann - January 5

St. John Neumann is the patron saint of educators, immigrants, and, due to the miracles that secured his canonization, sick children. This is a fitting patronage as he was a lover of education and learning from a very young age. In fact, when he was a child, his mother called him "my little bibliomaniac" due to his preoccupation with reading. Born in 1811 Bohemia, in what is now the Czech Republic, he attended the university in Prague preparing for ordination. However, his local bishops were not ordaining new priests at the time because Bohemia was overstocked with priests. He inquired about ordination all over Europe but received the same answer everywhere. Not one to be deterred, John then applied to several United States dioceses. Receiving no immediate responses, the saint took a leap of faith and decided to just immigrate to the United States in 1836, during his 25th year, with only \$40 in his pocket. This risk paid off when he was ordained in New York a month later.

Early in his priesthood he worked primarily as a missionary to German immigrants in Buffalo. His missionary work also created an opportunity for him to spend time in Maryland, Virginia, Michigan, and Ohio. When he was 29, he joined the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer (Redemptorists), a congregation of priests and brothers dedicated to helping the poor and most abandoned. He was their first member to profess vows in the United States.

In 1852, at the age of 41, Neumann became the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia. During this time, he organized the individual parochial schools in his region into a diocesan system. This change allowed Catholic schools to quickly increase the number of pupils enrolled by almost twentyfold. Over the course of his ministry, St. John expanded the number of Catholic schools in his diocese from 2 to 100! His passion for education extended to immigrants, like himself, and his love for learning languages made it possible for him to hear confessions in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Dutch, and Gaelic!

A man of the people, he could often be found outside the church walls visiting people who were sick, staying in taverns and public houses to teach, and celebrating Mass in people's homes at their kitchen tables. He was canonized on June 19, 1977, following three miracles, two of which regarded the healing of youth from grave illnesses. St. John Neumann was the first American man to be canonized a saint.

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.

**Feast of the Most Holy Name of Jesus
January 3**

The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus has been celebrated in the Roman Catholic calendar of saints, at least at local levels, since the end of the fifteenth century. The veneration of the Holy Name was extended to the entire Roman Catholic Church on 20 December 1721, during the pontificate of Pope Innocent XIII.

The celebration has been held on different dates, usually in January, because January 1st, eight days after Christmas, commemorates the circumcision of the child Jesus; as recounted in the Gospel read on that day, "at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb." It is observed on January 3rd by Catholics following the General Roman Calendar. The entire month of January is devoted to the worship of the Holy Name and to Christ's Divine Childhood.

Mystic taught about the Name of Jesus

Richard Rolle, a mystic of fourteenth century England, taught about the Name of Jesus: If you will be well with God, and have grace to rule your life, and come to the joy of love: this name Jesus, fasten it so fast in your heart that it come never out of your thought. And when you speak to him, and through custom say, "Jesus," it shall be in your ear, joy; in your mouth, honey; and in your heart, melody: for men shall think joy to hear that name be named, sweetness to speak it, mirth and song to think it. If you think the name "Jesus" continually, and hold it firmly, it purges your sin, and kindles your heart; it clarifies your soul, it removes anger and does away slowness. It wounds in love and fulfills charity. It chases the devil, and puts out dread. It opens heaven, and makes a contemplative man. Have Jesus in mind, for that puts all vices and phantoms out from the lover.

The Holy Name of Jesus

The month of January is dedicated to the Holy Name of Jesus. "In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10). Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus". It is a name that has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." The very name bespeaks the magnitude of His mission, His infinite love, a love that will cause Him to offer Himself up for us. The name of Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends. Jesus is our all. In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments. In His name she offers all her prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus she casts out evil spirits, and at the hour of our death bids us, "Go forth, Christian soul." She assures us that whoever shall call upon this name will be saved. When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home, the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord."

Pray for Vocations

A Little Humor
What was the GPS the Magi used?
The star of Bethlehem.

KIDZ KORNER

- 1. What does C+M+B stand for?
- 2. What is the name of the king who felt threatened by baby Jesus?
- 3. What gifts did the Magi bring to the infant Jesus?
- 4. Who are the four Gospel authors?

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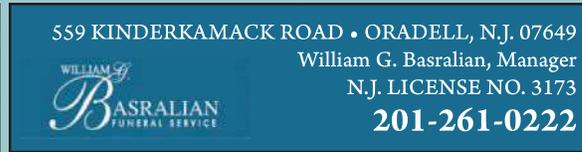
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