

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.ourchurch.com/member/o/olvparish

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KHS Pastor

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. Brian Muzás

Weekend Assistants

Br. Innocent CFR

Charles Niece

Parish Seminararians

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella Betty Ann Niece

Religious Education

Selena Piazza

Lesa Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Curtiss & Katie Stella

High School Ministry

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. John O'Connor

Latin Mass Assistants

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

In Residence-Convent

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

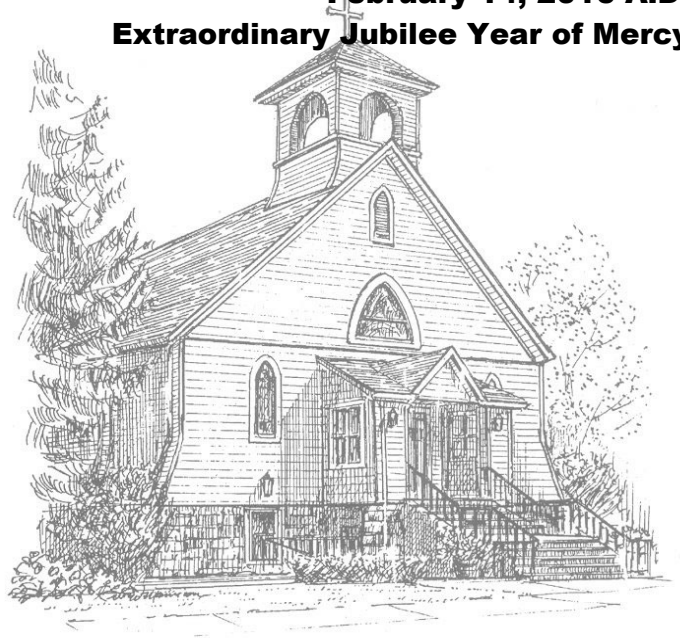
Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee

**February 14, 2016 A.D.
Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy**



WELCOME

**To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES
(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)**

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Mass Schedule

**Saturday: 4:00pm, 5:00pm,
& 6pm (Spanish)**

**Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)
9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,
6:00pm & 7:00pm**

Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00am & 12:00noon

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:30pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

First Saturday: 8:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday: 12:00pm Mass for Souls in Purgatory

Sundays: at 3PM Group Rosary

Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Jude and St. Anthony: Wednesday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

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

Tuesday-Novena Prayer and Adoration: 2:00-3:00pm

Thursday-Holy Hour with Adoration & Benediction: 7:00pm

Friday-Exposition & Adoration: 12:30PM-3:00pm

Nocturnal Adoration: First Friday evening 8pm to Saturday 8am

THE SACRAMENT OF PENANCE/CONFESSION:

Monday - Friday 7:30am - 7:50am. First Friday at 7:00pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm - 3:25pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
201-768-1400
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent
201-768-1705

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Please **PRAY** in the name of **JESUS**, the Healer, that the **SICK** of **OLV 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 GOOD WILL**: little Niamh Devlin, Br. Pius, Joseph Accardi, Isabella Ruggiero, Maria Aleman, William Biasi, Michael Conmy, Mario Gobetti, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellerher, Arnold Kemner, Ken Mosier, Kathleen Musante, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, Cookie and George Rush, Cynthia Simonelli, Mildred Speck, Therese Vaglio, Mike Weber, Darien Wesler, Al Wiese, Roy Wurtz, Marian Zanetti, Elaine Zito.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"THE STRUGGLE"

I don't want any of you to ever think that you are not going to have a struggle. Holiness is a constant struggle. It is not something you arrive at and enjoy while the rest of humanity wallows in imperfections. We are an imperfect, miserable bunch of people-and we're gonna be that way until we die. Sinners? Let's hope not. Imperfect? You bet. You're going to have inclinations, temptations to anger, lust, gluttony. Don't blame it all on the devil. You have a lot to do with it too, sweetheart. I think the old guy gets more credit than he deserves. So examine your own heart and keep struggling to make the right choices.

Mother Angelica, Little Book of Life Lessons.

Many thanks to photographer Melchior Anthony DiGiacomo for the great photo that was included on the cover of OLV's Feb 7 bulletin!

ADDITIONAL FRIDAY MASS

During LENT there will be an additional Friday evening Mass offered at 7:00PM followed by the Stations of the Cross which will be led by one of the adult ministries of OLV parish.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross, followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, on Thursday evenings at 7:00p.m. Each week the Thursday evening Stations will be led by OLV's Confirmation Class. Also, Stations of the Cross will be held after 8:00a.m. Mass on Saturday mornings during Lent.

MASS EXPECTATIONS

So it goes with meals AND WITH MASS. Many of us come to weekly Mass with certain expectations. We sit down and select (in our minds) from the pre-fix menu. We expect certain things to happen at certain times, and it usually goes off without a hitch. I have noticed over the years, and at different churches, that we get through the meal okay, but then we leave right before dessert.

The end of Mass is really important. Not only do we get a great hymn from our great choir, but more important we get to hear the announcements which tell us just what is important, even if you think you are too full. If you stay and partake, you just might get your glass refilled with the sweetest drink.

Sure our Mass is like a big meal so stay for all the courses...not only is everything included, but the best part about the Mass the check has already been paid in full for each and every one of us by Jesus Christ.

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

Am I doing my share to financially support MY parish?
In this day and age is MY parish offering a realistic one?

2016 LENTEN REGULATIONS

- The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wed. and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.
- On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.
- On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.
- The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.
- The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.
- The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 14, 2016 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 22, 2016.

*Canon 920, §1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

Rosary Society Baby Item Collection February 20-21st
OLV Rosary Society will be sponsoring a Baby Item Collection next weekend - February 20th and 21st. The items will benefit Birthright and New Hope, two pro-life organizations in our area, that help young mothers in need. Please leave your items in the lower atrium of the church. Items needed/New Items Only: Diapers of all sizes but especially sizes 4-5-6, baby shampoo, diaper ointment, diaper wipes, receiving blankets, onesies, baby towels, boys and girls clothing sizes Newborn to 3 Toddler but especially sizes 18 months to 3 Toddler. Gift cards to Shoprite, Target, Babies R Us and Toys R Us.

SAVE USED EYEGASSES

The OLV Knights of Columbus collects used and old eyeglasses for the less fortunate. Any old or "retired" glasses may be left at the rectory.

Contribution Statements

2015 Contribution Statements are now available. To obtain a copy of your 2015 donations, contact Maria at the rectory 201-768-1706.

BLESSED BE JESUS CHRIST! SIGN OF GLORY

Catholics often make the Sign of the Cross casually, just as a nice gesture for beginning and ending their prayers. But, when we learn to take this act seriously, signing ourselves frequently with faith and reverence, remarkable results can take place. We find ourselves doing measurably better in our Christian life: Praying with more passion, resisting our bad inclinations more effectively, and relating to others more kindly.

The Sign of the Cross, after all, is not merely a pious gesture. It is a powerful prayer, a sacramental of the Church. Holy Scripture, Church Fathers and saints, and Catholic teaching offer perspectives on the Sign of the Cross that reveal why making it opens us to life transforming graces. Once we grasp them, we can make the gesture with more faith and experience its great blessings.

FRIDAY ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 12noon - 4PM. **So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.**

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Feb 15—Mon—Women of Grace 7:30
Feb 16 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:15-3:15PM
Feb 16—Tue—Catholic Daughters of the Americas 7:00PM
Feb 17—Wed—Bible Study 10:00AM
Feb 17—Wed—OLV Needlers
Feb 18—Thu—Rosary Society Mass & Meeting 12:00
Feb 19—Fri— Adoration from 12:30PM-4:00PM
Feb 20 - Sat—Confessions 11:00-12:00noon 3:00-3:25PM
Feb 20/21– Sat/Sun—Baby Item Collection
Apr 16—Sat—Mass of Anointing 12:00
Apr 24—Sun—Rosary Society Ladies Breakfast
May 14—Sat- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
May 22—Sun—Confirmation 2PM
May 30—Mon—Fr. Innocent CFR First Mass & Reception at OLV-1PM

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
Midshipman Jon Clemente, US Navy;
Sergeant Nicholas Colletti, US Army;
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
Captain Michael Franson, US Army;
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
Corporal Richard McKenna, USMC.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:15-3:15PM members of OLV parish meet and pray the Mary Mother of All Nations Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

**Women’s Commission Day of Reflection
Saturday, February 27, 2016**

Alive in Christ: Celebrating the Jubilee Year of Mercy at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. The day begins at 9:00AM and ends at 1:30PM. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop John J. Myers. Registration is \$20. Continental breakfast included. To register, or for more information, visit www.rcan.org/womcom. Tel. 973-497-4545.

**Catholic Men’s Conference
Saturday, March 5, 2016**

Be Not Afraid... Trust in His Mercy – A Catholic Men’s Conference on Saturday, March 5, 2016, at Seton Hall University in South Orange, NJ. The day begins at 8:00AM and ends around 1:30PM. Mass will be celebrated by Most Reverend Archbishop John J. Myers. Ticket price is \$20 for adults, \$15 for students who provide a Student ID Card. For registration visit our website at www.rcanmenscommission.org.

Bereavement Support Group

A Bereavement Support Group will be starting in the spring on Tuesday evenings in the OLV rectory. If you would be interested in participating, or if you know someone who would find this program helpful, please call Phyllis Rooney at 201-262-8665 or 201-803-3791. Refreshments will be served.

SPANISH MASS

OLV now has a Mass in Spanish on Saturdays at 6PM. Please Get The Word Out.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY at OLV

On Sunday April 3, 2016 from 3-4pm, there will be a Holy Hour conducted by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. At 4:15pm there will be Holy Mass offered by Fr. Bonaventure CFR assisted by Brother Deacon Innocent CFR of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal.

OLV Faith Study Group—Lent 2016

We are assembling an adult group with a purpose of faith study. Learn how to find Catholic answers. We will meet in the church basement at 7PM on Wednesday February 17. Consider spending an hour each week this Lent enriching your faith.

2016 Wedding Anniversary Masses

The Archdiocese of Newark is preparing the annual tradition of honoring those couples who will be celebrating five, twenty-five and fifty years of Christian marriage in 2016. Couples deserving of such recognition are urged to participate. These liturgies will be celebrated at 3:00p.m. at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark as follows:

Sunday, April 24, 2016— 5 & 25 years;
Sunday, May 1, 2016—50 years.

Please call the OLV Rectory to register at 201-768-1706.

Life Issues That Confront Us

The fifth commandment, “You Shall Not Kill,” has many implications for us in modern times. The foundation of the commandment is respect for human life. As such, many human evils are addressed by the precepts of a culture of life:

- Murder • Abortion • In Vitro Fertilization • Stem-Cells of Embryos
• Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide • The Death Penalty
• War • Terrorism • Rights of the Dying

These topics are discussed in an excellent book published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, entitled United States Catholic Catechism for Adults. To purchase a copy, call USCCB at 202-541-3000.

OLV K of C Council #14483

All men over the age of 18 are cordially invited to join the OLV Knights of Columbus Council. The Knights are the largest Catholic Fraternal Organization in the world. For info’ contact Rich at pockets5197@aol.com.

CCD Corner

Although our children are away on a well-earned mid-winter vacation this week, they began planning for the holy season of Lent. Each of us is called to do some kind of almsgiving, fasting and penance to help prepare us for the celebration of Easter. Mr. Dauria’s First Grade CCD Class determined that their goal for Lent is to share God’s grace by being helpful at home, in school and in the community. They will record their acts of kindness and offer them up to God. Our Confirmation students will lead the Thursday evening Stations of the Cross and assist at our Holy Thursday and Good Friday liturgical services. As we move closer to Easter, Is there something that you and your family can do during these next 50 days that will help all of you move closer to God? The bulletin has a lot of suggestions!

"WE ARE LIVING STONES"

The Archdiocese has asked each family to make a financial commitment to their "WE ARE LIVING STONES" Campaign by filling out an envelope in church. Know how grateful I am to those members of our parish who have an unbroken history of generosity to the parish and the Archdiocese. I believe these parishioners have come to understand what all of us should. Their need to give back a portion of the gifts God has given to each of us far exceeds the needs of any parish, diocese or cause, important as they are. These donors, those who share a portion of what they have, are the first ones to benefit from their own sense of gratitude of God. Please consider making a pledge today.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK
DURING HOLY MASS**

"When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard, and from all his distress he saved him." Psalm 34:7

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is administered to Catholics whose physical, spiritual, or emotional health is seriously impaired by sickness or advanced age. Join us at OLV for the Anointing of the Sick during Holy Mass on Saturday, April 16, at 12:00noon in church. Please call the parish office (201) 768-1706 to register or with any questions. All are invited to this place even if you are not going to be anointed. A luncheon will be served afterward.

40 Days for Life

February 10 – March 20. This Lent, pray and fast as Jesus did. Join your brothers and sisters in Christ in peaceful vigil across from the Women's Choice clinic, 10 Zabriskie Street, Hackensack. Your presence will bring hope to the good people who live on Zabriskie Street that God has not abandoned them to shoulder alone the burden that abortions are regular business on their street. For more information or to sign up, call Margaret at 201-805-0937 or email scullyfam@yahoo.com.

FROM OUR TRADITION

If there is such a thing as a Catholic "trademark" it is the sign of the cross, first traced on the senses of catechumens as they begin the journey to baptism, or on the forehead of an infant who is brought to the doors of the church at baptism. As early as the third century, Christians were tracing the sign of the cross on their bodies. At first, the cross was traced on the forehead during times of prayer and daily occupations. We use a similar small cross today as we trace the cross over on the forehead, lips, and heart at the Gospel during Mass. Much later, the full-body sign traced from forehead to heart to shoulders took shape, perhaps copying the priest's gesture of blessing with the consecrated host during Mass. Today, this superb baptismal gift is a sign of belonging to Christ and the community, a way of focusing our attention, of asking for God's blessing, of tracing on our shoulders a willingness to find meaning in life's burdens. In the sign of the cross, we have an ever available means of expressing gratitude for our baptism.

MAKE A GIFT THROUGH—IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through 2015 and was passed permanently into law. This law will allow individuals 70½ or older to move up to \$100,000 from their IRAs directly to qualified charities such as Our Lady of Victories parish, without having to pay income taxes on the donated money. For more information about how you can benefit from an IRA charitable rollover, call Theresa at (973) 497-4042.

Mass Intentions**Monday, February 15—St. Claude De La Colombiere, Priest**

8:00 Charles Morgan R/b Domenic and Marcella Cafarella

12:00 John Zanetti R/b Rick and Debbie Quinn

Tuesday, February 16— St. Onesimus, Martyr

8:00 Ruth Keely R/b Kathleen Schaefer

12:00 Intentions of Fr. John Radwan R/b Joan Crowley

Wednesday, Feb. 17—The Seven Founders of the Order of Servites

8:00 Mike Kovic R/b Jim and Rose Younghans

12:00 Thomas P. Kelly R/b William and Dianne Smith

Thursday, February 18—St. Marie Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin

8:00 Joan Hill R/b Lorraine Bagnoli

12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias

Friday, Feb. 19—St. Conrad of Piacenza, Italy-Noble, Husband, Hermit

8:00 Di Palma Family R/b Mary Warner

12:00 Michael and Helen Dorney R/b Cathy Ryan

7:00 Soledad Tamayo Coraza R/b Zaccaro Family

Saturday, February 20—St. Eucherius of Orleans, France-Bishop

8:00 Maria and Lilly Piana R/b Carole Bellini

12:00 Francis X. Beirne R/b Richard and Mary C. O'Brien

4:00 Pauline Wagner R/b Robert and Denise Wagner

5:00 Anne C. Montagne R/b the Thomas Family

6:00 Josephine Conlon R/b Family

Sunday, February 21— St. Peter Damian of Italy-Bishop

7:30 Eileen McElroy R/b Ralph and Pat Dinnell

8:15 People of the Parish

9:30 Joan M. Fryling R/b William and Theresa Hazelton

10:45 Brian J. McElroy Sr. R/b Family

12:00 Richard Bator—1st Anniversary R/b OLV CCD

6:00 Lillian Zigler R/b Pat and Beverly Borzone

7:00 Ottomanelli Family R/b Nicolo Ottomanelli

Sanctuary Memorials

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Barbara Hartman**, r/b Steve and Robin Hartman.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Barbara Hartman**, r/b Steve and Robin Hartman.

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Robert Shortal**. r/b the OLV K of C.

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Jack Romano**, the OLV K of C. .

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for the repose of the soul of **Violet Carlson**, r/b Peter and Linda Wayne.

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns this week in honor of the **OLV Sisters of Charity**, living and deceased.

Sanctuary Offerings

The Altar Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM Votive Lamp, and St. Joseph Votive Lamp, the Sanctuary Lamp in the Church and in the Convent can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

3:00PM ROSARY

On Sundays at 3:00PM parishioners have organized and will be reciting the rosary. All are welcome.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Ash Wednesday & Good Friday 2. Fridays during Lent and Fridays during the year are days of Penance 3. 40 days 4. Ash Wednesday 5. To atone for our sins and the sins of the world.

February is dedicated to the Passion.

Organizations with Varied Approaches to Life Issues

- Population Research Institute. A non-profit research group whose goals are to expose the myth of overpopulation, to expose human rights abuses committed in population control programs, and to make the case that people are the world's greatest resource. Its growing, global network of pro-life groups spans over 30 countries. [www.pop.org]
- Just Facts. Researches and publishes verifiable facts about the leading public policy issues of our time, including abortion, and sex trafficking. It attempts to accomplish this with impartiality and excellence, and is careful to verify every factual statement. Its vision is to equip individuals throughout the world with facts that empower them to make truly informed decisions. This requires authoritative facts that accurately convey big picture realities, not half-truths or talking points. [www.JustFacts.com]
- Priests for Life. One goal is to galvanize the clergy to preach, teach, and mobilize their people more effectively in the effort to end abortion and euthanasia. A second goal is to reach and enrich every aspect of the pro-life movement, for clergy and laity alike, in a wide variety of activities. They refer to this wider family of ministries as Gospel of Life Ministries, to indicate that what unites them all is the Gospel of Life, the good news that life is victorious over death! [www.PriestsForLife.com]
- Center for Bio-Ethical Reform. As a non-profit educational corporation, CBR works to establish prenatal justice and the right to life for the unborn, the disabled, the infirm, the aged and all vulnerable. It publishes educational resources and conducts seminars to establish the humanity of the unborn and the inhumanity of abortion. CBR believes that abortion represents an evil so inexpressible that words fail us when attempting to describe its horror. Until abortion is seen, it will never be understood. CBR opposes violence against babies and against the abortionists who kill them. Just as Dr. Martin Luther King sought to create a "creative tension" to awaken the nation to the horrible injustice of segregation, we too are creating a "creative tension" to awaken the nation to the horrible injustice of abortion. [www.cbrinfo.org]
- LIFENET. It works at the community level to educate the public on abortion and promote alternative solutions to unexpected pregnancies. It trains speakers and brings its message to youth groups, schools, and colleges. [www.LifeNetEducation.org]

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

The Super Bowl is nothing compared to the Super Marriage relationship you can have after learning the tools for communication on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. **Military families**, are you getting ready to deploy? Is your family trying to reconnect after deployment? Marriage Encounter offers tools of communication that have kept many military marriages strong and happy throughout the ups and downs of military service. Contact your local chaplain or call Mike and Janet Turco at 973-427-7016 or 609-335-6880.

KIDZ KORNER

1. On what days do Catholics Fast?
2. On what days do Catholics abstain from meat?
3. How many days is Lent?
4. On what day does Lent begin?
5. Why do Catholics Fast & Abstain from certain foods?

Answers on page four

If you stop getting thirsty, you need to drink more water.
When a human body is dehydrated, its thirst mechanism shuts off.

What Padre Pio says about the Deceased

- The celebration of Holy Mass is extremely important for the release of a soul from Purgatory.
- The deceased still live among us spiritually.
- We must come to accept the passing of someone we love (and be open to God's grace for such acceptance) because this is very helpful for the happy repose of their soul.
- We are part of the Communion of Saints, so we must help the souls of the departed. We should not forget them in our daily prayers and Masses, and in our works of charity.
- Maybe one day, from their place of joy in Heaven, those same souls will intercede with God for us, and ask Him to bring us into their company.

"Do as I have done. Pray, pray always for the souls of the dear departed. Even if your loved ones are in heaven we must always pray. If they no longer need prayers, they are applied to other souls."

St. Pio of Pietrelcina

At times the Capuchins at San Giovanni Rotondo reported hearing "voices singing in beautiful harmony" in the Friary, and no one could determine the source of these voices. When asked about the singing, Padre Pio responded, "Why are you all so surprised? They are the voices of the Angels, who are taking souls from Purgatory into Paradise."

THE POPE AND ABORTION FORGIVENESS

As it is often mentioned, we must get accurate information about papal statements and other Catholic issues from orthodox, proper sources. The confusion caused by most media by their inaccurate, incomplete reports about Pope Francis' 'abortion forgiveness permission' certainly proves my point. For by omitting all the facts, many media sources caused some to fear they were not forgiven by the Priest to whom they confessed an abortion. Here's 'the rest of the story' as we say. Unlike some countries, most - if not all US Bishops have long granted their Priests the faculty to forgive abortion and the penalty of excommunication IF it was even incurred - for not all who have or procure an abortion are always excommunicated! To learn more about this complex issue, visit the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: usccb.org and read the article Cardinal O'Malley Welcomes Pope's Year of Mercy Plan for Post-Abortion Healing and its attachment: hopeafter-abortion.com. And please pray that all those wounded by abortion or ANY sin will be reconciled to God, His Church and one another NOW or in the upcoming 'Year of Mercy.'

JACKPOT

In our lottery- and sweepstakes-obsessed culture, it is common to ask ourselves or others what they would do if they won. In the Old Testament, Solomon certainly hit the jackpot. What prize could be greater than having God Almighty agree to give you whatever you ask for? Out of all the things he could have asked for, Solomon chose to ask for understanding, and was rewarded with it. We would do well to wonder what we would ask for if God made us the same offer. Actually God does make us the same offer each and every day, by granting us another day of life, a bit of the earth's goods, some gift or ability, some call to goodness, some portion of the divine will. Each of these is a "prize." We should stop and examine what we are going to do with our prize: keep it or use it selfishly, or put it at the service of the spread of the gospel?

Zero is the only number that cannot be represented by Roman numerals.