

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

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

Sunday, April 2, 2017 A.D.

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KHS

Rev. John O'Connor

Rev. Brian Muzás

Latin Mass Assistants

Weekend Assistants

Br. Angelus CFR

Parish Seminarian

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC

Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC

In Residence-Convent

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin

Deacons

Susan Evarella

Religious Education

Deacon Al McLaughlin

Parish Catechetical Leader

Selena Piazza

Lesla Rossmann

Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Ulisse

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Jerryl Pulis & Meagan Mullany

Curtiss & Katie Stella

Jr. High School Ministry

High School Ministry

Maria Hellrigel

Parish Secretary

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA

Chairman Finance Committee



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

Sunday: 7:30am, 8:15am (Latin)

9:30am, 10:45am, 12:00pm,

1:00pm (Spanish)

6:00pm & 7:00pm

Weekdays: M-Sat 8:00a.m. & 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

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

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.



Find us on
Facebook

OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
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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**:

Fr. Apostoli, Br. Pius, a little boy—Finn, Sean, William Biasi, John Bolger, James Brady, Joey Bulger, Kamal Faris, Kathy Freeburn, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Rosanne Kearney, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Joseph LoVecchio, Anne Matthaai, Teresa Meierdierks, Kathleen Musante, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Odalis Recchia, Mary Rinner, Danny Rizzi, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Orville & Yvette Walls, Catherine Wanner.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

"That person is truly blessed who understands what it is to love Jesus and to serve Him with deep humility. Jesus wishes to be loved above all things; everything else must come second. The love of anything other than Jesus is deceptive and fickle; the love of Jesus is faithful and enduring." Thomas Kempis **THE IMITATION OF CHRIST**

LENTEN Reading

We just received a huge new order of interesting books and booklets, so visit our bookrack and check out the vast selection of books, booklets, and pamphlets. LENT is a great time to read and become closer to God. Learn more about your Faith, the Saints, Mary, Jesus, or pick up one of the inspirational books in stock. Check out some of our new and interesting titles. Don't have time to read? Listen to a CD in the car since we also have a wide variety of Catholic CDs.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

On Monday afternoon at 4PM the CCD classes will do a **Children's Version** of the Stations. There will be Stations of the Cross by **St. Alphonsus Liguori**, on Thursday evenings at 7PM. On Friday evenings after the 7PM Mass there will be the Stations according to the **Franciscan Tradition** Stations of the Cross. The **Scriptural version** will be held after 8AM Mass on Saturday mornings.

Presentation: Threats to Freedom of Religion in Contemporary US Society

Monday, April 24, 2017, 7:30PM here at OLV. If Religious Liberty is important to not only you, but also your children and grandchildren, please come to this presentation!

Some Lenten Tips on What to Give up

Give up complaining ...focus on gratitude. Give up pessimism ... become an optimist. Give up harsh judgments...think kindly thoughts. Give up worry...trust Divine Providence. Give up discouragement...be full of hope. Give up bitterness...turn to forgiveness. Give up hatred... return good for evil. Give up negativism...be positive. Give up anger ...be patient. Give up pettiness...become mature. Give up gloom... enjoy the beauty that is around you. Give up jealousy...pray for trust. Give up gossiping...control your tongue. Give up sin...turn to virtue. Give up giving up...hang in there.

"New Hope - Helping Hands" - SAVE THE DATE!

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 6:30-10:30pm. Seasons, 664 Pascack Rd, Washington Twp. 07676, \$85 per person. Cocktail hour, gourmet dinner, silent auction, Tricky Tray, raffle, huge 50/50 and dancing. Your generosity enables us to reach out to first-time single mothers and their babies so please celebrate with us! For reservations contact Kathy: (201) 573-8697 or kturlick@gmail.com

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

BLESSING OF WATER, SALT and OIL

The Blessing of Oil water and salt will take place on Tuesday afternoon April 4 after the 2:15 ADORATION/SPIRITUAL WARFARE NOVENA

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

We are constantly under attack and tempted by the forces of EVIL. Every Tuesday afternoon from 2:00-3:00PM 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.

EASTER DUTY

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty), that is the obligation of receiving the Eucharist for Easter extends to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 11. No one conscious of committing a serious or mortal sin should receive Holy Communion until they have first gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation a.k.a. Confession. Confessions are heard EVERY Saturday from 11:00AM to Noon and 3:00-3:30PM, every weekday morning at 7:30AM, and Fridays from 6:30-6:50PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Divine Mercy Sunday April 23, 2017

On Divine Mercy Sunday 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 Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, Fr. Innocent CFR.**

COMMUNION DRESSES/SUITS NEEDED

The First Communion Day of our child is a very special occasion - a day to be celebrated and always remembered! Please help to make another child's First Communion Day one that will be cherished by donating any communion dresses, suits, headpieces or shoes. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please bring all articles, clean and on hangers, to St. John the Baptist Church Parish Ctr. by April 12th or call Kathy 201-666-4185.

Discernment Retreats for Catholic Men

Quo Vadis Retreat, June 27-30. Discernment retreat for Catholic young men in High School. Cost: \$100. Scholarships available. Register by June 9th. Info and registration at www.NewPriestNJ.com/quovadis.

10:2 Retreat, August 18-25. A week of discernment, discipleship, fraternity, and service for Catholic men ages 18-25. Hosted at Emmaus Farm, Eastern Kentucky. Cost: \$250. Financial assistance available. Info and registration at www.NewPriestNJ.com/102. Archdiocese of Newark—Office of Vocations for Diocesan Priesthood 973-313-6190.

Discernment Retreats for Catholic Women

Friday, April 21 at 7:00PM –Sunday, April 23 at 9:00AM. "Come if you love." **Veni Si Amas Discernment Retreat** with Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George. For women 17—30 years old. The weekend includes talks on discernment and religious life, time in prayer with our Lord, as well as many opportunities to meet, share and pray with our Sisters. Location: St. Francis Convent, Alton, IL. For information or to register contact vocations@altonfranciscans.org (registration by April 17). \$15 suggested donation.

Friday, May 19—Sunday, May 21, optional day with the sisters Monday, May 22 departing Tuesday, May 23 after Mass. Franciscan Sisters of St. Elizabeth, for single women 18-35, at the Delegate House, Parsippany, NJ. For more information or to register www.franciscansisters.com. Look under "Becoming a Sister."

FRIDAY ADORATION

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays from 12:00Noon – 3:00PM.

So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.

Upcoming OLV Parish Events

Apr 4 -Tue—Moms, Pops and Tots 11:30AM-1:30PM
Apr 4 -Tue – Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
Apr 4 -Tue—Blessing of water, salt & oil after 2:00 Novena
Apr 4 -Tue—"Passion of Christ" 7:00PM Lower Church
Apr 5 - Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
Apr 5 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
Apr 7 - Fri – Adoration from 12:30PM-3:00PM
Apr 7 - Fri—Mass & Stations of the Cross 7:00PM
Apr 18—Tue - Cardinal Tobin Mass/Reception 7:30PM St. Mary Church
Apr 24—Mon—Presentation "Threats to Freedom of Religion" 7:30PM
May 21—Sun - 2:00PM -Confirmation

PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY

Private Matthew Brady, U.S. Marine Corps;
Lieutenant Julia H. Cheringal, US Navy;
Lieutenant Ben Clemente, US Army;
Ensign Jon Clemente, US Navy;
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo, U.S. Marine Corps;
Major Michael Franson, US Army;
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
1st Lieutenant Thomas Iafate, U.S. Marine Corps;
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger, US Navy;
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger, US Navy;
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn, US Air Force;
Captain Shawn Linn, US Army;
SN Daniel T. LoVecchio, U.S. Navy;
2nd Lieutenant Gigi McElroy, US Army;
Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

CLOTHING BINS

Lent is a time of sacrifice in order to bring us closer to Christ. As we move closer to Christ, we become more charitable. Would you be willing to sacrifice your time and efforts to go through your closet and donate any unwanted clothing and shoes to the Catholic Charities bin located on the parish property? If you do, you have made the connection.

April Fools

The most popular theory of how April 1 became known as April Fool's Day is this: in the late 1500's, when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, changing the first day of the year from April 1 to January 1. Those who forgot were said to be April Fools. Over the centuries, playing pranks on April 1 became a tradition.

THE LITTLE GIRL

A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "grandpa, did God make me too?" "Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it now, isn't he?"

Dominican College Open House

Wednesday, April 5, 5:30-7:30PM in the Prusmack Center for those interested in undergraduate and graduate degrees. 372 Western Hwy., Orangeburg, NY.

In REPARATION of ABORTION

On Good Friday April 14 at 9:30AM join the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and the Legion of Mary in doing the Stations of the Cross in Greenwood on the way to the Abortion clinic.

MEET CARDINAL JOSEPH TOBIN

Cardinal Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, will visit our deanery on Tuesday, April 18, 2017. All parishioners are invited to attend Mass at 7:30PM at Church of St. Mary in Closter followed by a light reception. Let's have a good representation of OLV parish to welcome Cardinal Tobin.

2017 LENTEN REGULATIONS

- The Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.
- 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 time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 11, 2017.

BOX TOPS COLLECTION

The Archdiocese of Newark is helping the children of St. Joseph's Catholic School in Jersey City to collect Box Tops for Education. This is a program that was launched by General Mills to help support students and schools across the country. St. Joseph School is trying to collect 200,000 box tops which equates to \$20,000 for an outdoor electronic sign. The students want all to know their school as well as using this sign to evangelize. OLV is helping them in this endeavor. If you would like to donate any box tops to this cause, please mail or drop off at the rectory.

The Passion of the Christ

On Tuesday, April 4, at 7:00pm in the lower church auditorium we will be showing Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ". This presentation very powerfully and graphically depicts the suffering and death of Our Lord and Savior, so it might not be suitable for all people. We look forward to seeing you there.

Catholic Daughters Gladys Heyliger/Mary Carley Scholarship
CDA Court 1639 is offering a \$1000 scholarship to an 8th grade student entering a Catholic High School in September 2017. For an application, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Dr. Marie Woke, 20 Kensington Ct, Norwood, NJ 07648. Deadline for application is May 1st.

High School Open Houses

Friday, April 7, Academy of the Holy Angels (Demarest, NJ) 12:30-2:00PM. *6th Grade Sneak Peek*: 6th grade girls and their parents are invited to tour the campus and "peek in" 9th grade classes in session. Register online: www.holyangels.org/admissions/6th-grade-sneak-peek.

Tuesday, April 25, Don Bosco Prep (Ramsey, NJ) 6:30-8:30PM, for prospective freshmen and transfer students. For information, contact admissions@donboscoprep.org and 201-327-8003. Register online at www.donboscoprep.org.

The Infinite Value of the Holy Mass

The Holy Mass is the highest form of worship. It is the sacrifice of Calvary renewed. One Mass gives God more praise and thanksgiving, makes more atonement for sin, and pleads more eloquently than does the combined and eternal worship of all the souls in heaven, on earth and in purgatory. In the Holy Mass, it is Jesus Christ, God as well as Man, who is our Intercessor, our priest, and our Victim. Being God – as well as Man – His prayers, merits, and His offerings are infinite in value.

CCD Corner

With Holy Week fast approaching, our children are working on their Lenten Class Projects. This Sunday and Monday they will be going to Confession. The Confirmation Candidates will assist with our Holy Week services. Last week our 5th and 8th grades participated in the ACRES, which is an evaluation and survey of our Catholic faith. We are all joyfully waiting for the Easter season!

Eucharistic Awareness

Christ gave us His flesh to eat in order to deepen our love for Him. When we approach Him, then there should be burning within us a fire of love and longing... The wise men paid homage to Christ's body even when it was lying in a manger...They only saw Christ in a manger, they saw nothing of what you now see, and yet they approached Him with profound awe and reverence.

You see Him, not in a manger but on an altar, not carried by a woman, but offered by a priest; and you see the Spirit bountifully poured out upon the offerings of bread and wine. Unlike the wise men, you do not merely see Christ's body; you know His power as well, and the whole divine plan for our salvation...

Let us then awaken in ourselves a feeling of awe and let us show a far greater reverence than did those foreigners so that we do not approach this Sacrament casually, without thinking of what we do.

St. John Chrysostom

THE NIGHT JESUS VISITED

It was the night Jesus came and all through the house, not a person was praying, not one in the house. The Bible was left on the shelf without care, for no one thought Jesus would come there. The children were dressing to crawl into bed, not once ever kneeling or bowing their heads. And Mom in the rocking chair with babe on her lap, was watching the Late Show as I took a nap... When out of the east there rose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters and lifted the sash. When what to my wondering eyes should appear, but Angels proclaiming that Jesus was here. The light of His face made me cover my head, was Jesus returning, just like He'd said; and though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself. In the Book of Life which he held in his hand, was written the name of every saved man. He spoke not a word as he searched for my name, when He said "it's not here" my head hung in shame. The people whose names had been written with love, He gathered to take to his Father above. With those who were ready He rose without sound, while all of the others were left standing around. I fell to my knees, but it was too late, I'd waited too long and thus sealed my fate. I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight, Oh, if only I'd known that this was the night. In the words of this poem the meaning is clear the coming of Jesus is now drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call, We'll find out that the Bible was true after all.

- B - Basic**
- I - Instruction**
- B - Before**
- L - Leaving**
- E - Earth**

Cast Out the Leaven of Malice

Like yeast that causes the dough to rise as it changes into a gas, leaven also causes the dough to rise. But unlike yeast, a small amount of leaven, taken from the last batch of dough, was kneaded into the new dough; before it was left to rise and was baked, a small amount was kept to add into the next batch of dough. Eventually this led to leaven with less "rising power" – and it became a source of harmful bacteria; so in the Bible, leaven is a negative symbol. The Jews were divinely mandated to destroy all leaven and be "leaven-free" for one week during the annual Feast of Unleavened Bread, after which they started anew with fresh leaven. The Passover or Seder meal took place during this weeklong "leaven-free" time. To this day the Church uses unleavened hosts or the purest bread for the Eucharistic sacrifice, for Christ was sinless.

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 3 – St. Richard, Bishop

8:00 John Patrick Tully R/b David and Kathleen Musante
12:00 Kim Robles R/b Tom and Tara Oakley

Tuesday, April 4 – St. Isidore, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 John Pat Bland—30th Anniversary R/b the Bland Family
12:00 George McNamara R/b Rita McNamara

Wednesday, April 5 – St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest

8:00 Michael Andreano, Sr.
12:00 Lizette Donnelly R/b Tom and Tara Oakley

Thursday, April 6 – St. William of Eskilsoe, Denmark- Abbot

8:00 Thomas F. Lagatol II R/b the Lagatol Family
12:00 Intentions of George and Gail Fabiano-49th Wedding Anniversary

First Friday, April 7 – St. John Baptiste de la Salle - Brother

8:00 Intentions of Rose Spincken
12:00 Giron Family R/b Rafael and Margoth Giron
7:00 Lois Linn R/b Jim and Michele Linn

Saturday, April 8 – St. Julia Billiard of France - Nun

8:00 Joseph Maimone R/b Bill and Cathy Ryan
12:00 In gratitude R/b Amanda Oddo
4:00 Frank Muggeo R/b Susan Polles
5:00 John Plinio R/b Stephen and Robin Hartman

PALM SUNDAY, April 9–St. Mary of Cleophas

7:30 Kevin Lagatol R/b the Lagatol Family
8:15 Frank and Rose Evanella R/b the Evanella Family
9:30 Living and deceased of Holy Name Society
10:45 Richard Harrison R/b Ralph and Pat Dinnell
12:00 Giovanna and Corrado Iozzia R/b Mike Zocco
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Bernard O'Connor R/b John and Mary Dunlea
7:00 Joseph Cerbasi R/b John and Linda Russo

The Church Sanctuary Lamp burns for the **Souls in Purgatory.**

The Convent Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the **deceased OLV Sisters of Charity.**

The Rectory Chapel Sanctuary Lamp burns this week for the **deceased priests of OLV.**

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns this week for an **increase in religious vocations.**

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns this week for the **men and women who have given their lives in defense of our country.**

The Infant of Prague Votive Lamp burns this week for the **unemployed.**

The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp burns this week for the **intentions of those who will be confirmed at Easter.**

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.

Kids Korner Answers

- 1.Divine Mercy Sunday 2.St. Faustina 3. Fifty days 4.Your Easter duty is to receive Holy Communion at Easter. You should go to the Sacrament of reconciliation (Confession/Penance) and confess your sins prior to receiving the Eucharist so you will receive it worthily.
5. Holy Trinity Sunday, which will be on June 11th this year.

April is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist.

COVERING CROSSES AND STATUES

They say half of today's Catholics never experienced the traditional custom of shrouding holy images in purple during Lent! This report shocked me --- not because 50% of Catholics never saw 'covered statues' -- but because I'm in the older half that DOES remember! Why did we cover holy images? Why did we stop doing it? And, why are we doing it again? For centuries before the Second Vatican Council's reform of the liturgy in the 1960's, Lent was mostly a prolonged meditation of the Lord's Passion and Death. Lent was marked by forms of the Stations of the Cross highlighting the physical sufferings of Our Lord, the sorrowful mysteries of the rosary, somber music with little or no accompaniment, stark devotions, acts of self-mortification, self-denial and fasting. Lent seemed more of a preparation for Good Friday than Easter! In fact, before Vatican II, the Lord's Passion was proclaimed numerous times during Lent, and the last two weeks of Lent were called 'Passion of the Lord -- Week I' and 'Week II.' Now, the Lord's Passion is proclaimed only twice; Saint John's account is read on Good Friday, and one of the other versions (Saint Matthew in Year A, Saint Mark in Year B, and Saint Luke in Year C) are read on Passion (Palm) Sunday -- since not everyone (sadly) can attend Good Friday's main service. But back then, when Christ's sufferings were proclaimed so often, the Church literally put on robes of mourning; crosses and crucifixes were veiled in red, statues, icons and holy images were cloaked in purple --- from the 5th Sunday of Lent (Passion I) until during the Gloria on Holy Saturday night. The rubrics even called for the old "Easter Vigil Mass" to begin at such an hour to make the Gloria begin exactly at midnight; then, since it was technically 'Easter morning', the crosses, statues and images were unveiled. Thus, uncovered images were, for many, the main 'sign' of the end of Lent and Easter's beginning!

When Vatican II researched the origins of Lent, they found it began as a time of intense preparation for those adults preparing for initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist on Easter. At first, only these 'converts' received ashes and performed the traditional Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. While the whole Church was encouraged to spiritually join them in Lenten devotions --- it was not required to do so. Then, when infant Baptism became the norm, and Confirmation and First Eucharist were celebrated at a later age, Lent's baptismal nature was lost, and Lent's focus and purpose became what 'older' Catholics like me, remember: intense self-denial and signs of sadness. One of the main liturgical reforms of the Council was reinstating the ancient RCIA; the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults by which adults become full members of the Church. And it seems that, in the 1970's, the American Bishops were so intent on implementing the RCIA and helping it grow, they intentionally downplayed other aspects of Lent, such as the option of covering statues. For although the rubrics of the 'new' Mass in the 1970's still called for images to be covered from the 5th Week of Lent until Easter, each nation's Conference of Bishops could 'suppress' the custom --- as our Bishops did, a decision not welcomed by all Catholics. In the revised Roman Missal (2003), the American Bishops neither suppressed the custom (as they did in the 1970 Missal) nor required it; this issue of 'lesser importance' is left to the pastor's discretion.

The Church is very clear on the 'Important Issues' no pastor or Bishop can change the type of bread used for Eucharist; who purifies sacred vessels; admitting non-Christian godparents or to the Eucharist. But as a mere custom, the covering of statues and holy images may take place from before the 5th Sunday of Lent until before the beginning of the Easter Vigil so that it does not become a focal point of that Mass, which should be the Word of God and the Sacraments of Initiation. And crosses and crucifixes may be covered from before the 5th Sunday until after the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday.

While no color is suggested, red is traditionally used for crosses and crucifixes, and purple for all other things. And, as always, liturgy should not be changed or altered without first giving a good catechesis or explanation. So, having read this, you should be ready to experience or be reacquainted with an ancient custom! **Why cover holy images?** In Lent, we 'fast' from many things: festive music, the Gloria, Alleluias, flowers and other signs of joy; some 'fast' from certain foods, activities, habits, etc. And so as the Lord's Passion draws near, the Church removes, covers or 'fasts' from anything that takes our focus off of the awesome, grace-filled Triduum liturgies in which we join ourselves to Christ's Last Supper -- His Passion, Death and Burial -- and His glorious Resurrection!

CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Penance is the sacred *sign* by which Jesus tells us that our sins are forgiven. In the Confessional, the Priest acts with the authority of our Lord when he says "I absolve *forgive* you of your sins in the *name* of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Confession not only takes away our sins, but it gives us a chance to do better. This is the most important part of confession -- to be sorry for our sins and by resolving not to commit them again. Every time we go to Confession, Jesus is present to tell us that our sins are forgiven as long as we sincerely try to do better in the future.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

We recall our sins to confess them so that we may be forgiven and come closer to Christ our beloved Savior. Sin means not to love God and our neighbor. When was your last confession? Was this a month ago -- three months -- a year or more?

The 10 Commandments are a basic guide as we question ourselves in our examination of conscience. The first three tell us to love God -- time for prayer? Respect for His Name -- presence for Mass on the Lord's Day. Through the seven other Commandments we examine ourselves on how we treat our neighbor and ourselves.

Be truly sorry for your sins. Make a sincere resolution (promise) to do better in the future. (Then say the Act of Contrition which is the prayer by which we tell God that we are sorry for our sins and that we resolve (promise to try) not to commit them again.)

ACT OF CONTRITION

O, my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you. I detest all my sins because of your just punishment, but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Accept (take and agree with) the penance the priest gives you whether it is a prayer, or else maybe it might be something he asks you to do to help you to strengthen your intention.

KIDZ KORNER

1. What is the name of the feast that is celebrated the Sunday after Easter?
2. To what Saint did Jesus reveal this new feast?
3. How many days does the Church celebrate Easter?
4. What is your Easter duty?
5. What is the last day to fulfill your Easter duty obligation?

ANSWERS ON PAGE FOUR.