

# 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, KCHS Pastor

**SUNDAY, December 17, 2017 A.D.**

Rev. Duverney Bermudez

Rev. Anthony Mastroeni

Rev. Christopher M. Ciccarino KCHS

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 Gulfo

Martin Coyne II

Parish Trustees

Michael Flynn & 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



## CHRISTMAS CONFESSION

Monday thru Friday December 18-22

7:20am - 7:50am in Church

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve, December 24

(Christmas obligation)

4:00pm	English Mass
5:30pm	English Mass
7:30pm	English Mass
9:00pm	Sung Latin Mass
<b>11:30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Carols</b>
Midnight	English Mass

Christmas Day, December 25

7:30am	English Mass
10:00am	English Mass
12:00Noon	English Mass
1:00pm	Spanish Mass

**OLV Church and Gym have handicap access.**

### SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

**First Friday:** 7:00pm, 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

**St Peregrine:** First Friday 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 6:30pm

Saturday at 11:00a.m.-Noon; 3:00pm -3:30pm

**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**: William Biasi, Joey Bulger, Kamal Faris, Rich Ferrara, Kathy Freeburn, Marietta Flahive, Gloria Genovese, Marylou Goreb, Thomas Haring, Peter Kellar, Arnold Kemner, Lisa LoSchiavo, Anne Matthaei, Emmi O'Shea, Canice Prince, Dan Ragusa, Mary Rinner, Suzanne Rothschild, Wendy Ruggiero, George Rush, Kathryn Turrell, Therese Vaglio, Jim Walsh, Mary Younghans.

### **SPIRITUAL EXCERPT** **AVOIDING GOD'S WILL**

"What is it in your life that makes you run once you begin to feel that God is after you? I'll tell you why you run, because you're afraid He's going to take everything away from you that's dear. There's a beautiful line in a poem by Frances Thompson, and it says, "What I took from thee, I took not for thy harm, but only that you would seek it in My arms." Remember that! Don't ever be afraid to follow Jesus, to be a real Christian on fire with what you believe."

**Mother Angelica, Little Book of Life Lessons page 65**

### **Blessing of Water, Salt and Oil**

After the Marian Novena prayers this Tuesday, December 19, there will be blessing of water, salt and oil.

### **ADORATION**

Just a reminder we have Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays from 12:30PM—3:00PM, Thursday night from 7:00PM—8:00PM, and Fridays from 12:30PM—3:00PM.

**So stop by and adore Our Eucharistic Lord.**

### **BEEFSTEAK DINNER - 1/27/18**

This is a major fundraiser for the Knights of Columbus to fund our seminarians - men studying for the priesthood and other charitable works. It is a fun evening, and last year it was a great success. Please support this dinner. If you would like to be a placemat advertiser send your business card and a check payable to the OLV K of C c/o The OLV K of C, PO Box 45, Harrington Park, NJ 07640 or call Greg Evanello 201-784-5752.

### **SAVE USED EYEGLASSES**

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

### **GOD'S HOUSE**

The Church is God's special dwelling place and some people come to pray, so please be aware of this and please refrain from idle chatter before and after Mass. We should behave differently in God's House as opposed to being at home, at the mall, a grocery store or a civic center.

### **QUESTION?**

**What is a votive candle?** The act of lighting a candle when offering a special prayer has long been a cherished tradition. As a way to help advance the works of the Church and to offer a sacrifice to Christ, it has been customary to give an offering for the candle. The word *votive* comes from the Latin verb *voveo*, meaning *I desire*. It signifies an offering in which a gift is linked with a prayer intention, as a sacrificial dedication of oneself to God, submission to His will, and reliance on His mercy and providence. A votive candle is a sentinel that we leave burning heavenward at a sacred place as a visual sign of our prayer of thanks or request.

### ***My Dear Friends in Christ:***

As this most special season of Christmas approaches and we look back on this past year, it is most appropriate to pause and consider the many gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon us and our loved ones throughout the year.

The birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ is celebrated at Christmas and establishes Christmas as a Season of Gift Giving. Tradition holds that the three Wise Men brought gifts to the new born Savior. A generous gift to the Christmas Collection or a Special Christmas and Year End Gift not only supports our educational and parish ministries, but also positively affects your taxes and other financial considerations for 2017.

For many years, hospitals and universities have encouraged gifts at Christmas and year end. It is important that our parishioners be aware of these types of gifts that can be made to the parish. The experts tell us that gifts of stock and other securities make excellent tax-oriented gifts, particularly if they have appreciated in value.

In the spirit of Christmas and gift-giving, please consider your parish and its mission to proclaim the Gospel message and provide ministries 365 days a year. Thank you and God bless you. *Fr. Bryan*

### **ARE YOU NEW TO THE AREA?**

If you are, why not join our ever-growing Parish family. Stop by the Rectory any weekday and meet Maria and register to become a member of the OLV Family. Census forms are also located in the Church vestibule.

### **Silent Night, Holy Night**

*Silent Night, Holy Night* will be held at OLV this Tuesday, December 19, from 6:00PM to 9:00PM. During the season of Advent we ask everyone, young and not so young, to stop for 10 minutes from all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, and visit Jesus in His Church. The gift of time is so precious, but sometimes, especially around Christmas, we are so busy with last minute preparations that we forget about preparing our hearts and souls for the holy celebration of Christmas. As a family, what greater example can we give to our children than to come to God's house and in the silence of the night offer our prayers to Emmanuel — God with us. Please make the effort to come and allow the music of the season to prepare you for the Feast of Christmas.

### **A COURAGEOUS CHOICE**

Over 2000 years ago, an angel announced the pregnancy of a young unmarried girl. The courageous choice made by that young woman to give birth in difficult circumstances, supported by a man named Joseph, still stands as a model of God's way to handle unplanned pregnancy.

### **Good People Did Nothing ...**

A wise man once said "All that needs to happen for evil to prevail is for good people to stand aside and do nothing". Sadly, we've seen this proven too many times here in America.

*Good People did nothing* and prayer was banned from our Public Schools.  
*Good People did nothing* and Roe vs. Wade opened the door for abortion on demand.

*Good People did nothing* and they outlawed the Ten Commandments in courthouses all over our Country.

*Good People did nothing* and now you have to be careful about even saying "Merry Christmas".

**We just can't afford to do nothing anymore.**

**Upcoming OLV Parish Events**

- Dec 18 - Mon - Confessions 4:15-5:15PM
- Dec 19 -Tue—Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
- Dec 19 - Tue - Blessing of Water, Oil and Salt after Novena
- Dec 19 - Tue - Silent Night, Holy Night 6:00-9:00PM in church.
- Dec 20 - Wed—Bible Study Group—10:00AM
- Dec 20 - Wed—OLV Needlers 6:30PM
- Dec 21 - Thu – Holy Hour 7:00PM

**Moms Pops and Tots will recess until January 10, 2018.**

**PRAY for THOSE in the MILITARY**

- Private First Class 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;
- Specialist Peter Dippolito, U.S. Army;
- Major Michael Franson, US Army;
- Sergeant First Class Charles Greene, US Army;
- Lieutenant Tara Harris, US Air Force;
- Lance Corporal Thomas Iafrate, 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;
- Colonel John McLaughlin, US Army;
- Lieutenant John G. Miele, US Army.

**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 Marian Novena which focuses on this daily battle. All are welcome. Join us.

**THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

Lord, Jesus, every Christmas, I need a quiet moment, just one silent moment. A moment outside of time, a moment without bells. Without carols or cards. A moment away from worrying about presents and parties. Just ONE quiet moment, either in Church or when all have gone to bed. A moment when I can be still and picture myself, one by one, as a shepherd, wise man, Scrooge, inn keeper, Little Drummer Boy, as George Bailey discovering "It's a Wonderful Life," a moment when I can experience You with me as the Christmas Present.

**CONFESSIONAL BOX**

A Catholic guy goes into the confessional box after years of being away from the Church. There's a fully equipped bar with Guinness on tap. On the other wall is a dazzling array of the finest cigars and chocolates. Then the priest comes in. "Father, forgive me, for it's been a very long time since I've been to confession, but I must first admit that the confessional box is much more inviting than it used to be." The priest replies: "Get out. You're on my side."

**Office of Concern Food Pantry at St. Cecilia**

We are always in need and if you wish to contribute specific holiday foods such as cranberry sauce and other fixings, that is fine, but there are also **three areas of year-round foods that are especially valuable: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta (spaghetti, rigatoni, etc) and breakfast cereals.**

**GAUDETE SUNDAY**

Today is Gaudete Sunday – Rejoicing Sunday, we light the pink candle on the Advent Wreath as we rejoice in the Lord's coming. From His promise of Savior to Adam and Eve, God never abandoned His people. Through signs and symbols, sacred omens and oracles, God gave hope and direction to His people through the prophets. Many prophets had a difficult job of calling the people from their sinful ways to God's way – from the road to death to the way of salvation. God now entrusts that duty to the Church: through its sacraments and preaching, God calls us from sin to salvation, from death to life.

**SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US**

It is through the generosity of our advertisers that we are able to place this bulletin into your hands, each week, without cost to the Parish. Why not get into the habit of looking through the ads and giving your neighbors/merchants a chance to serve your needs. Tell them you read about them in the OLV Parish Bulletin.

**“HOW TO STAY YOUNG**

Throw out nonessential numbers. This includes age, weight and height. Let the doctors worry about them. That is why you pay "them". Keep only cheerful friends. The grouches pull you down. Keep learning. Learn more about the computer, crafts, gardening, whatever. Never let the brain idle. "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." And the devil's name is Alzheimer's. Enjoy the simple things. Laugh often, long and loud. Laugh until you gasp for breath. The tears happen. Endure, grieve, and move on. The only person who is with us our entire life, is ourselves. Be ALIVE while you are alive. Surround yourself with what you love, whether it's family, pets, keepsakes, music, plants, hobbies, whatever. Your home is your refuge. Cherish your health. If it is good, preserve it. If it is unstable, improve it. If it is beyond what you can improve, get help. Don't take guilt trips. Take a trip to the mall, even to the next county, to a foreign country, but NOT to where the guilt is. Tell the people you love that you love them, at every opportunity. AND ALWAYS REMEMBER: Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. Worry about nothing, pray about everything!!

**CLOTHING BINS**

Through the turbulence of your many demands, would you be willing to take a few minutes to gather your unwanted clothing and shoes to help the poor? Please drop them in the donation bins located on the Church grounds. Your donations help Catholic Charities and Mt. Carmel Guild.

**OLV SCRIPTURE STUDY**

The OLV Scripture Study Group meets on Wednesdays at 10:00a.m. in the OLV Church conference room. All are welcome to join us.

**CCD CORNER**

There is definitely a feeling of Christmas in the air as our children celebrate **Gaudete (or joyful) Sunday** on this the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. The students will prepare a place for Jesus in their hearts and souls by going **to confession** today (Sunday morning 9:30 – 10:30am, Monday afternoon 4:00 – 5:15pm). All are welcomed to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation at this time as well. Our classroom decorations have started to reflect this beautiful time of the year as we prepare for the holyday and holiday that we Christians proudly profess as Christmas. This **Tuesday** our parish will once again be holding **Silent Night/Holy Night** from 6:00 – 9:00pm in the church. Come out of the cold and get away from the hustle and bustle of the season and spend a few moments to reflect on what Christmas means to you and your family. Since there will be **no CCD next weekend**, on behalf of the CCD Staff, we would like **to wish you and your families a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE TERMINALLY ILL WITH CANCER**

Rosary Hill Home, owned and operated by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, NY, since 1901, is committed to providing loving, one-on-one palliative care to those suffering from terminal cancer. Free to all who meet the Admission requirements; there is no discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex or handicap. The Sisters depend solely upon the "providence of God and the hourly mercy of the charitable public;" no payment is accepted from patients, their families, private insurance or from the government. For info' call 914-769-0114 or visit [www.rosaryhillhome.org](http://www.rosaryhillhome.org).

**Taste of Atria**

Atria Senior Living in Norwood (Tappan Road) will open soon to serve older adults in the area. Enjoy a sampling of the delightful cuisine our residents will experience every day, as you explore our model apartments. Thursday, December 21, 3:30-6:30PM. RSVP by December 15 to Lisa 201-768-0208.

**OLV PARISH REGISTRATION**

If you are presently not on our mailing list, receiving envelopes and the various parish mailings, chances are that you are not a registered member of our parish. You are **NOT automatically** a registered member because you were married here or even if you were brought up here and lived in the parish with your parents - or went to school here. Membership is by **FORMAL** registration **ONLY**. Call the Parish Office - (201) 768-1706 to see if you are registered and if not, let us help you become an official member of Our Lady of Victories Parish. Thank you.

**I'm Fine**

There's nothing whatever the matter with me. I'm just as healthy as I can be. I have arthritis in both my knees and when I talk, I talk with a wheeze. My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. I think my liver is out of whack, and a terrible pain is in my back. My hearing is poor, my sight is dim; most everything seems to be out of trim, but I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. I have arch supports for both my feet, or I wouldn't be able to go on the street. Sleeplessness I have night after night, and in the morning I'm just a sight. My memory is failing, my head's in a spin; I'm peacefully living on aspirin. But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in. The moral is, as this tale we unfold, that for you and me who are growing old, It's better to say, "I'm fine" with a grin than to let them know the shape we're in. *by Cardinal Cushing*

**DID YOU KNOW?**

How can a candy treat be a birth announcement? Many years ago a candy maker had an idea. He wanted to show, through the candy he made, that Jesus Christ was born among us, lived and died to save us all. So, through the use of color and shape, he created a piece of candy that told the story of Jesus from Christmas to Easter. He created the candy cane. The white stripes on the candy cane stand for the fact that Jesus was sinless and pure. The small red stripes stand for the scourging Jesus endured before He died. The large red stripes stand for Jesus' blood, shed on the cross. The candy cane is shaped like a shepherd's staff, reminding us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Turn it upside down, and it is a letter "J", the first letter of Jesus' name. We can learn a lot from the candy cane - both to look at it and see Jesus, and, like the candy maker, to share the story of Jesus in whatever we do.

**KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS**

- 1. Nazareth. 2. Bethlehem. 3. Egypt. 4. House of Bread. 5. A manger—which is a container that holds an animal's food

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, December 18—St. Gatian, Bishop of Tours, France**

- 8:00 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b Family
- 12:00 Inez Feliciano R/b Tom and Janice Lagatol

**Tuesday, December 19—Blessed Urban V-Pope**

- 8:00 Alice Pommert R/b Judy Pommert
- 12:00 Benjamin Mattesich R/b the Izzo Family

**Wednesday, December 20—Ss. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob-Patriarchs**

- 8:00 Jim Hellrigel R/b Family
- 12:00 Madeleine Boyd R/b the Hennessey Family

**Thursday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius of Holland-Priest**

- 8:00 Ann Robolino R/b Rich and Connie Luzzi
- 12:00 Michael Barrett R/b John and Anna Heaney

**Friday, Dec. 22-Ss. Chaeremon and Ischyrion, Martyrs of Egypt**

- 8:00 Joseph Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran
- 12:00 Michael Coviello R/b the Supple Family

**Saturday, December 23 – St. John of Kanty, Poland-Priest**

- 8:00 Alberto Bellini R/b Carole Bellini
- 12:00 In Thanksgiving—50th Wedding Anniversary

- R/b Peter and Linda Wayne
- 4:00 Irene Louise Ricciardi R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi

- 5:00 Intentions of Norma DiCocco R/b Bernie Burruano

**Sunday, December 24— St. Adele, Queen and Abbess**

- 7:30 Theodore and Margaret Seifriz and Family R/b John and Linda Russo
- 8:15 *Latin* Deceased of the Serridge Family R/b the Gill Family

- 9:30 William Tristano R/b Josephine Tristano

- 10:45 Michael Coviello R/b the Supple Family

- 12:00 William Desmond R/b the Desmond Family

- 1:00 *Spanish* People of the Parish

**Christmas Eve Masses**

- 4:00 (Church) Irene Louise Ricciardi R/b Bruce Michael Ricciardi

- 4:00 (Gym) Intentions of Reagan McElroy R/b the McElroy Family
- Quinn Family R/b Rick and Debbie Quinn

- 5:30 (Church) Stephen and Mary Fogarino R/b Josephine J. Fogarino

- 5:30 (Gym) Thomas F. Lagatol II R/b the Lagatol Family

- 7:30 (Church) James P. Spillane R/b Mary Spillane

- 9:00 *Latin* Toleno and Evanella Families R/b the Evanella Family

- 12:00 (Church) Zanetti and Walsh Families R/b the Zanetti Family

**Monday, December 25—The Nativity of the Lord**

- 7:30 Frank and Patricia Adamcik R/b the Adamcik Family

- 10:00 Jorden and Evelyn Pedersen R/b the Pedersen Family
- Edward and Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family

- 12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
- Deceased of the Gill Family R/b Winnie Gill

- 1:00 *Spanish* Thomas F. Lagatol II R/b the Lagatol Family

**SANCTUARY MEMORIALS**

**The Church Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of Lydia Mohsenin, r/b Jeanne Marie Walsh.

**The Convent Sanctuary Lamp** burns for the souls in Purgatory.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns this week for those who serve in defense of our country.

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** burns this week for a special intention, r/b the Werner Family.

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

**The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp** burns this week for an increase in religious vocations.

**The St. Peregrine Votive Lamp** burns this week for the intentions of Carla, Clare, Debbie, Jim, Margoth, and Rich.

**CHRISTMAS COLORS**

The liturgical color for Christmas is white, often trimmed in silver and gold, but the 'secular' colors for Christmas are red, white and green. Some say that this is because of how the red and green poinsettia plant and holly of wintertime contrast with the white snow. (Is St. Valentine's Day red, and St. Patrick's Day green, so stores can get rid of all their green and red stuff?) Red symbolizes love (the heart) and reflects our warmth (fire) and love for each other. It is also the color that is considered the greatest excitement. As a religious symbol it stands for fire, blood, and charity. Red vestments are worn twice during the octave of Christmas: 12/26, the feast of the first martyr, St. Stephen, and 12/28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents, martyrs. Green symbolizes hope, the eternal longing for spring, and all the promises of the future. Green is the symbol for nature, youth, and the hope of eternal life. Since Christmas is a feast of hope, with a newborn child as its central symbol, green plants like holly, pine trees, ivy, and mistletoe are all closely associated with Christmas. White stands for purity and is represented by the crystalline form of water and the snowflake. White is the religious symbol which stands for light, purity, joy and glory. White is seen in the robes of Christmas angels and the clergy, in Santa's beard, in Christmas snow and snow flakes.

**CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS**

Poinsettias are native to southern Mexico, Central America, Africa, and even in the wild in Hawaii and Puerto Rico. They are named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first US ambassador to Mexico. As a statesman and a botanist, he introduced the American elm to Mexico – and brought the beautiful Mexican shrub with large red flowers he found growing on the roadside to the USA in the 1820's. Although South Carolina was their first 'home,' they were first sold in Pennsylvania; currently the leading producer of poinsettias is the State of California. Ancient Mayan Indians believed poinsettias were powerful creatures from another world. A legend with many variations tells how they became a Christmas flower. In each version a poor child - who could not afford a gift to offer to Christ on Christmas Eve - picked weeds from the roadside; the child had been told that any humble gift, given in love, would be acceptable to God. Once inside the church the weeds bloomed into red and green flowers, which many proclaimed a Christmas miracle! From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the "Flores de Noche Buena" or "Flowers of the Holy Night" - for they always bloom during Christmas.

**DID YOU KNOW???**

The Chair of Peter was once vacant for three years. From 1268 to 1271, after the death of Pope Clement IV, the cardinals met at Viterbo, but could not agree on a successor. Trying to resolve the deadlock, the civic officials resorted to confining the cardinals under lock and key until they elected a sovereign pontiff. (From this originated the "Conclave of Cardinals," the Latin CLAVIS meaning key.) This was not the only measure taken to compel the cardinals to act. Their daily food allowance was curtailed. St. Bonaventure, one of the prelates, being asked when the cardinals would give the Church a new Pope, facetiously responded, "As soon as the Holy Ghost can get into that assembly." With that, the town officials removed the roof of the episcopal palace where the cardinals were confined

Though God hates sin more than any other thing, He loves us poor miserable sinners. He ardently desires the welfare of our souls as if His own happiness depends on "it".

**Saint John Neumann**

**Confession Schedule**

**Monday December 18**

7:20am - 7:45am in Church

4:30pm - 5:30pm in Church CCD

**Tuesday-Saturday December 19-23**

7:20am - 7:45am in Church

11AM-12noon

**CHRISTMAS BANNED!**

Can you imagine not being permitted to freely say "Merry Christmas?" Can you imagine having to conceal your beliefs by describing them in seemingly unrelated words, like singing an apparently happy, almost nonsensical song when it is really about your beliefs? For Catholics those conditions did occur in England as well as other places between 1558 and 1829.

The Christmas carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, in fact, is a result of Catholics needing to conceal their beliefs in this way, according to *The Handbook of Catholic Sacramentals* by Ann Ball (Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, Ind.). Written in England as a catechism for young Catholics, *The Twelve Days of Christmas* contains hidden meanings intended to help children remember lessons of faith. Instead of referring to an earthly suitor, the "true love" mentioned in the song really refers to God. The "me" who receives the presents is symbolic of every baptized person.

**The partridge in a pear tree** is Jesus Christ. In the song, Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, a bird that feigns injury to decoy predators away from its helpless nestlings.

The meaning of the other symbols are:

**Two turtle doves** - The Old and New Testaments

**Three French hens** - Faith, hope, and charity

**Four calling birds** - The four Gospels

**Five golden rings** - The first 5 books of the Old Testament

**Six geese a-laying** - The six days of creation

**Seven swans a-swimming** - Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Eight maids a-milking** - The eight Beatitudes

**Nine ladies dancing** - Nine fruits of the Holy Spirit

**Ten lords a-leaping** - The Ten Commandments

**Eleven pipers piping** - The eleven faithful disciples

**Twelve drummers drumming** - The twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed.

**DEFEND YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH**

Over the course of the last generation, Christianity and in particular our Catholic Faith has been under attack. Anti-Catholicism is the last acceptable prejudice. What can we do about it? Besides prayer, all Catholics should join The Catholic League at [www.catholicleague.org](http://www.catholicleague.org) or 450 Seventh Avenue, NY, NY 10123 and receive the journal, *The Catalyst*, which has articles detailing where Catholicism is under attack and by whom. As Christmas approaches, we will see secularism creep in and try to wrestle and strip the season of its Christian elements.

**Remember Christ is the Reason for the Season.**

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. What city did Mary reside in?
2. What city was Jesus born in?
3. What country did Mary and Joseph flee with the baby Jesus?
4. What does the translation of the name Bethlehem mean?
5. After He was born where did Mary place baby Jesus?

**Answers on page 4**