

# 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

SUNDAY, January 14, 2018 A.D.

## WELCOME

To the Parish Family of  
**OUR LADY OF VICTORIES**

(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

### COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Bryan F.J. Adamcik SFO, KCHS

*Pastor*

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

*Jr. High School Ministry*

Curtiss & Katie Stella

*High School Ministry*

Maria Hellrigel

*Parish Secretary*

Jorden Pedersen Esq.

*President Parish Council*

Jon Fischer CFA

*Chairman Finance Committee*

#### 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:** 12:30-3:00pm

**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.



Find us on  
Facebook

Phone:

OLV Rectory

201-768-1706

Email:

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OLV Fax

201-768-3962

Religious Education

201-768-1400

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

### **SPIRITUAL EXCERPT**

“Let nothing disturb you; let nothing dismay you. All things pass, God never changes. Patience attains all it strives for. The one who has God finds they lack nothing. God alone suffices.” **St. Teresa of Avila**

### **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 Evanella 201-784-5752.

### **WORKERS NEEDED**

The Harvest is great but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest. Become a Priest or Religious Brother or Sister or Permanent Deacon. For information see Fr. Bryan or call the Vocations Office 973-497-4365.

### **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.

### **CLOTHING BINS**

Can you predict the events of 2018 with accuracy? Who would dare to make such a claim? Here we are at the beginning of a new year and no one knows what the future will bring...unprecedented joy or deep sorrow? Many families and individuals have the resources to cope with whatever comes along. Catholic Charities reaches out to those who have very limited resources. Help us to continue our mission by contributing to our clothing bin. Any questions or comments, please contact Maria Biancheri at 973-596-3985 or mbiancheri@ccannj.org.

### **God knew our Greatest Need**

If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator. If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist. If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist. If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer. But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

### **OLV SCRIPTURE STUDY**

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

## **THE LOVE OF GOD**

No matter how long it has been, the Love of God knows no time. We celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **First Friday** at 6:30PM, **Saturday** at 11AM until Noon, and from 3:00 – 3:30PM. **Monday thru Friday** at 7:25AM – 7:50AM.

## **WORRY**

Is there a magic cutoff period when offspring become accountable for their own actions? Is there a wonderful moment when parents can become detached spectators in the lives of their children and shrug, "It's their life," and feel nothing?

When I was in my twenties, I stood in a hospital corridor waiting for doctors to put a few stitches in my daughter's head. I asked, "When do you stop worrying?" The nurse said, "When they get out of the accident stage." My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing. When I was in my thirties, I sat on a little chair in a classroom and heard how one of my children talked incessantly, disrupted the class, and was headed for a career making license plates. As if to read my mind, a teacher said, "Don't worry, they all go through this stage, and then you can sit back, relax and enjoy them." My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

When I was in my forties, I spent a lifetime waiting for the phone to ring, the cars to come home, the front door to open. A friend said, "They're trying to find themselves. Don't worry, in a few years, you can stop worrying. They'll be adults." My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing.

By the time I was 50, I was sick and tired of being vulnerable. I was still worrying over my children, but there was a new wrinkle. There was nothing I could do about it. My dad just smiled faintly and said nothing. I continued to anguish over their failures, be tormented by their frustrations and absorbed in their disappointments.

My friends said that when my kids got married I could stop worrying and lead my own life. I wanted to believe that, but I was haunted by my dad's warm smile and his occasional, "You look pale. Are you all right? Call me the minute you get home. Are you depressed about something?" Can it be that parents are sentenced to a lifetime of worry? Is concern for one another handed down like a torch to blaze the trail of human frailties and the fears of the unknown? Is concern a curse or is it a virtue that elevates us to the highest form of life? One of my children became quite irritable recently, saying to me, "Where were you? I've been calling for 3 days, and no one answered. I was worried." I smiled a warm smile. The torch has been passed.

## **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.

## **CCD Corner**

On behalf of all the staff and teachers of our CCD Program we would like to wish you and your families a healthy and blessed New Year! As we journey into the Ordinary Time of the Church year, our children will continue to grow in their knowledge of our faith and the gift of the Mass. During the Holy Hours on Thursday evenings, the **middle school students** serve as Prayer Leaders. With Lent just a little more than a month away, our **Confirmation Candidates** will lead us in the recitation of the Stations of the Cross. Our **2<sup>nd</sup> Graders** will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time (February 3<sup>rd</sup>). On the first Sunday in February we will be celebrating **Grand Parents** at our 10:45 Mass followed by a Coffee/And. Tomorrow, **January 15<sup>th</sup>, there will be NO CCD classes** due to the holiday observance.

**Upcoming OLV Parish Events**

- Jan 16 -Tue - Marian Novena Prayer 2:00-3:00PM
- Jan 16 - Tue - Catholic Daughters of the Americas 7:00PM
- Jan 17 - Wed - Moms, Pops & Tots 9:30-11:30AM
- Jan 17 - Wed - Bible Study Group 10:00AM
- Jan 17 - Wed - OLV Needlers 6:30PM
- Jan 18 - Thu – Rosary Society Mass & Meeting 12:00Noon
- Jan 18 - Thu – Holy Hour 7:00PM
- Jan 27 - Sat - K of C Beefsteak Dinner

**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 lafrate, 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.

**Marriage: An Imitation of God the Father**

In the spousal relationship between man and woman we see the divine plan of God unfold and at the same time, we see an example of divine love itself. Marriage is an institute and covenant that does not end except by death. This relationship is supposed to produce fruit. Other than death, there is nothing that can break this bond. This imitates God’s love for us, only His does not end at our death.

Biblically, God is often depicted as being in a spousal relationship with His people. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised that no matter the circumstances, unfaithfulness or betrayal, for example, the Lord would always be espoused to Israel, his beloved. At the same time, Israel could always count on the Lord as its God and protector. This “marriage” of God and Israel was permanent and indissoluble. Jesus maintains a similar relationship with his Church. Jesus is often-times called the Bridegroom and the Church his Bride. All Catholic Christian marriages are to model themselves after these examples of permanency, faithfulness and fruitfulness. For more info’ visit [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org).

**REMINDER**

I’ve been asked to remind people to refrain from using cologne and perfume before coming to Mass as some people are allergic and have to leave Mass because of their condition.

**RESPECT LIFE**

“There are undoubtedly thousands of women now getting abortions who believe it must be moral because it is legal. We should not underestimate the pedagogical force of the law – laws reflect moral judgments. Even when those judgments cannot be effectively enforced, they can be effectively taught. The law is one of society’s most potent teaching instruments.” **Fr. Richard Neuhaus**

**FROM THE PASTOR by Fr. George W. Rutler**

In the nineteenth century, the poet Adam Mickiewicz dramatized the theme of his suffering Poland as the “Christ of Nations” and, in an image used by many others, Poland was crucified in the twentieth century between the two thieves of Soviet Russia and Nazi Germany. It was not the West’s proudest moment when President Roosevelt complained to Stalin at the Yalta Conference that “Poland has been a source of trouble for over five hundred years.” Pope John Paul II lamented Yalta in the encyclical *Centesimus Annus*. That will resonate in the annals of papal teaching more than recent magisterial concerns about the responsible use of air conditioning and the like.

On July 6 in Warsaw, the President spoke of a culture with which a generation of “millennials” have been unfamiliar: “Americans, Poles, and the nations of Europe value individual freedom and sovereignty. We must work together to confront forces, whether they come from inside or out, from the South or the East, that threaten over time to undermine these values and to erase the bonds of culture, faith and tradition that make us who we are.”

Comfortable journalists, for whom the “Christ of Nations” is an enigma, resented “a tiny speech, a perfunctory racist speech,” “xenophobic” and “a catalogue of effrontery,” and a comparison was made with Mussolini. Solzhenitsyn once was pilloried for similar themes, and Reagan was advised by his Chief of Staff and National Security advisor not to tell Mr. Gorbachev to take down the Berlin Wall.

The Warsaw speech mentioned three priests: Copernicus, John Paul II and Michael Kozal. The latter was the bishop of Wloclawek who was martyred by the Nazis in Dachau along with 220 of his priests in 1943.

Among the irritations in the Warsaw speech were these words: “We put faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, at the center of our lives.” As that was being said, the parents of a gravely ill child, Charlie Gard, in London were tussling with government officials who did not want to release their infant to them.

A Polish philosopher, Zbigniew Stawrowski has written: “The fundamental cleavage is not the West v. Islam or the West v. the rest, but within the West itself: between those who recognize the values of Judaeo-Christian, Graeco-Roman culture and those who use terms like “democracy,” “values,” “rights” but pervert the latter. So it means democracy of the elites, values of secularism, rights to kill Charlie Gard, marriage that has nothing to do with sex, sex that ... is a “private” matter to be funded by the confiscatory state and your duty to support this incoherence...”

The Polish king Jan III Sobieski rescued Christian civilization at the gates of Vienna in 1683. That was one of the “troubles” that Poland has caused in the past five hundred years. We survive because of such behavior.

**PRAYER for the Forgotten Dead**

O merciful GOD, take pity on those Souls who have no particular friends and intercessors to recommend them to THEE; those who through the negligence of the living or through length of time, are forgotten by their friends and by all. Spare them, compassionate Lord, and remember Thine own mercy, when others forget to appeal to it. Let not the Souls which Thou hast created be parted from Thee, Their creator. They are Thy work and, though they have sinned, they have been redeemed by Thee. Vouchsafe therefore, to look upon them and to deliver them from the intolerable pain of absence from Thee, the light and LOVE of all Thy CREATURES. Oh, place them in the number of Thy blessed Saints and Citizens through Jesus Christ, Their Savior. AMEN.

**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.

**Immaculate Heart Academy invites you**

Thursday, January 18, 7PM in IHA Performing Arts Ctr, Washington Township. Immaculate Heart Academy invites you to a presentation by nationally-recognized speaker, Dr. Leonard Sax, author of *Girls on the Edge*. Dr. Sax will present advice and insight into the issues facing young women today. For more information call 201.445.6800.

**Men's Cornerstone 2018**

**A 26 hour retreat:** Friday, Feb 2 at 7PM through Saturday, Feb 3 at 9PM, Church of St. Mary in Closter. What you can expect: friendship, prayer, good food, reconciliation, laughs, reflection. \$35 contribution will cover cost of retreat, including meals and materials. Financial assistance available if needed. For more information contact Brian Milli 201-256-5122.

**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.**

**CATHOLIC CARE FOR THOSE 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).

**FEEL USELESS**

The next time you feel like GOD can't use you, just remember...

- Noah was a drunk
- Abraham was too old
- Isaac was a daydreamer
- Jacob was a liar
- Leah was ugly
- Joseph was abused
- Moses had a stuttering problem
- Gideon was afraid
- Samson had long hair and was a womanizer
- Rahab was a prostitute
- Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- David had an affair and was a murderer
- Elijah was suicidal
- Isaiah preached naked
- Jonah ran from God
- Naomi was a widow
- Job went bankrupt
- Peter denied Christ
- The Disciples fell asleep while praying
- Martha worried about everything
- The Samaritan woman was divorced, more than once
- Zaccheus was too small
- Paul was too religious
- Timothy had an ulcer..

AND

Lazarus was dead!  
And Don't forget-Jesus Helped 'em all!!!!

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, January 15–St. Ida of Waterford, Ireland-Virgin**

8:00 Bridget Quinn R/b the Barrett Family  
12:00 Clare Amoroso R/b the Redmond Family

**Tuesday, January 16–St. Berard & Companions-Martyrs of Spain**

8:00 Catherine Fallon R/b the Evanelia Family  
12:00 George Stefanco R/b Rae Rinaldi

**Wednesday, January 17– St. Anthony, Abbot**

8:00 Winifred Pavlu R/b the Kip Family  
12:00 Rose and Domenic Cafarella Sr. R/b Vivian Cafarella

**Thursday, Jan. 18 St. Volusian-Bishop of Tours & St. Deicolus-Abbot**

8:00 Jack Kahn R/b Mary Connolly  
12:00 Helen Smith R/b Liz Gulfo

**Friday, Jan. 19–St. Wulstan-Benedictine Monk-Bishop in England**

8:00 Mother Clare R/b the Adamcik Family  
12:00 James Gaffney R/b Joan Gaffney

**Saturday, January 20– St. Fabian-Pope & St. Sebastian-Martyr**

8:00 Gina Ottomanelli Bender R/b the Ottomanelli Family  
12:00 Benjamin Mattesich R/b the Izzo Family

4:00 James Kenneth Laughlin R/b Joe and Diane Meehan  
5:00 Theresa Logan R/b Peg Lohsen

**Sunday, January 21–St. Agnes of Rome-Virgin & Martyr**

7:30 Frank Muggeo R/b Susan Polles  
8:15 Joseph Baig R/b Marita Morgan

9:30 Ivan Busanic R/b the Busanic Family  
10:45 John and Carmela Russo and family R/b John and Linda Russo

12:00 Ginny McCarthy R/b the Zwerle Family  
1:00 People of the Parish

6:00 Joseph Gramuglia  
7:00 Justin Harrington R/b Family

**Sanctuary Memorials**

**The Sanctuary Lamp** burns this week for the intentions of Linda Russo - birthday blessings.

**The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns this week for the repose of the soul of Margaret Tagliaferro, r/b the Borzone and Diceglie Families.

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

**The Convent Sanctuary Lamp** burns for those serving in our military.

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

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

**The Pope John Paul II Votive Lamp** burns for the unemployed.

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

**The Church in Russia**

In 1918, at the time of the Russian Revolution, there were over 200 Catholic Churches in Russia; six years later there were only two left. Many of the Catholic Churches were turned into warehouses, museums, chicken coops, or were demolished. The Catholic Church was outlawed, and more than 50,000 Roman Catholic and Orthodox Priests were killed, approximately the number of Catholic Priests in the US today. Times have changed, and the Catholic Church, again, is legal and growing. **Pray for the Church in Russia.**

**KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS**

1. The Jordan River.
2. St. John the Baptist.
3. The wedding at Cana.
4. Water into wine.
5. His mother - Mary.

**9 Ways You Might Be Sharing in the Sins of Others**

“Sin is a personal act. Moreover, we have a responsibility for the sins committed by others when we cooperate in them...” (CCC 1868)

Did you know that you can be held responsible for the sins committed by others when you cooperate in them?

Upset? Frightened? Perhaps you should be. Apparently, there are nine, count-them-nine, ways to sin without actually putting pedal-to-the-metal, as it were. So, before you rev up your engines and do wheelies in the church parking lot thinking you're in the clear, sacramentally-speaking, check out this ancient list of meta-sins that are just as bad as the sins themselves:

1. *By counsel* (“*You should steal from him.*”)

This one is clear-cut. I don't think anyone could ever think that urging someone into sin wouldn't just simply explode in his face. If you shouldn't commit sin X, then it follows, like night follows the day, that you shouldn't recommend that same sin to others. And yet, the Church needs to point this one out every now and again.

2. *By command* (“*You have to steal from him.*”)

“Well, Officer...as you can see, I really had to do it...” As St. Dominic Salvio reminds us, “Anything but sin!” It's a good bit of advice at this juncture.

3. *By consent* (“*You're going to steal something? Great idea!*”)

Urging someone to sin, even if you and the perspective sinner agree it's a “great idea” to do so (i.e., to right a wrong, etc.) is always a bad idea. Always. I don't mean sometimes or if you look at the situation in the proper light. I mean really: it's a really, really bad idea.

4. *By provocation* (“*I bet you can't steal that!*”)

Playing off someone's pride and foolishness is, similarly a bad idea. You call the sin upon your own head if you were to do that. Imagine your defense when you stand before God's throne at your Judgment. “Well...I didn't think he'd actually do it!”

5. *By praise or flattery* (“*That was so cool the way you stole that!*”)

We've all fallen in to this one from time to time when we praise someone who's “said/did what [we] couldn't.” Nope. Sorry. By any other name, a sin is a sin. It should be an obvious clue to you that if you wouldn't want to do something bad, you should then avoid urging someone else to do the same exact thing.

6. *By concealment* (“*Don't worry...I won't tell anyone you stole it.*”)

Ha! This is a great one. Promises like this are worthless and always blow up in your face but, regardless, you shouldn't assure someone of your compliancy in a conspiracy of sinful acts. Consider exactly *Who* is listening when you make a promise like this and get thee to a confessional quick smart!

7. *By partaking* (“*I'll give you a hand stealing it.*”)

This one is also a no-brainer. Yes... if you are conspiring in a sin, you are the sinner. This also means buying fenced goods from a disreputable source. If someone is selling you top-of-the-line products at low! low! low! bargain basement prices, chances are it's not because of a fire sale but rather a felonious act.

8. *By silence* (“*I know you stole it, but I won't tell anyone.*”)

Covering up for someone's sin is a sin also. If not, why exactly did God give us the Sacrament of Reconciliation? If it is wrong for someone to engage in sin X, then it's wrong for us to acquiesce to or silently condone that sin. There is no compassion in helping a sinner to sin. Help him instead to feed the homeless—it'll get you farther, spiritually speaking.

9. *By defense of the sinful action* (“*He deserved to have it stolen.*”)

When you defend the indefensible, you are actually sinning no matter how much the target of your displeasure supposedly “deserves it.” You're not God and, frankly, He's doing a great job as it is and doesn't need your help in separating the sheep and goats. But, either way, you're assuring yourself an eternity with the goats and the Infernal Goatherd if you're not careful. (Mt 25:31-46)

**Don't Be Lukewarm**

Sin isn't a black-and-white thing. Or, should I say, it is a black-and-white thing, but a lot of the gray area in between can be just as sinful as well. Let the Golden Rule be your guide—it's the reason Jesus gave it to us in the first place (Mt 7:12, see also Lk 6:31). If you wouldn't mind others egging your enemies on to do horrible things to you, why would you think Jesus is kosher with allowing you to do it to others?

Most of us won't be in situations in which we will recommend grand theft auto to our love ones, but the above understanding of the insidious nature of sin gives renewed meaning and urgency for those who believe “abortion is a bad thing, but I don't want to force someone not to have access to an abortion.”

In such situations, Jesus reminds us, “I know what you have done; I know that you are neither cold nor hot. How I wish you were either one or the other! But because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am going to spit you out of My mouth!” (Rev 3:15-16) He reminds us of this for the sake of our salvation. Good and evil exist in the world. God's nature as Love Itself informs us of what is good. Evil exists when we live in contradiction to God's nature.

**The Lord Be With You**

**THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus is the final WORD of God.

In times past, God spoke through prophets.

In these days, He speaks through His son. (John 1:1-17)

Jesus is present in His disciples.

“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I shall be there in the midst of them.”

Jesus is present in the Scriptures as we listen to His words.

Jesus is present in the treatment given to His followers.

“As often as you did it to others, you did it to Me.”

Jesus is present in His Pope, bishops, priests and deacons.

“He who hears you hears Me.”

Jesus is present in the **Seven Sacred Signs** of the **Sacraments**.

A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Christ to give us grace.

He is present in BAPTISM to make us children of God, as our “Father”.

He is present in the HOLY EUCHARIST to nourish us with His Body and Blood.

He is present in PENANCE to forgive us our sins.

He is present in CONFIRMATION to strengthen us with the Holy Spirit.

He is present in ANOINTING OF THE SICK to bring His healing power to those suffering from illness.

He is present in MATRIMONY to bless the couple beginning their married life.

He is present in HOLY ORDERS to bestow and share His priesthood for the continuation of His Church.

**Contribution Statements**

2017 Contribution Statements are now available. To obtain a copy of your 2017 donations, please contact Maria at the rectory (201-768-1706).

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. Where was Jesus baptized?
2. Who performed the baptism of Jesus?
3. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle?
4. What was Jesus' first miracle?
5. For whom did Jesus perform this miracle?

**Answers on page 4.**

“The Holy Virgin has brought us forth twice, in the incarnation and at the foot of the cross; she is then doubly our Mother.”

**Saint John Vianney**