

OUR VISION

OUR LADY of VICTORY
PARISH

PARISH AND SCHOOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER, 2015

Reaping the Gifts of Volunteerism Becca Sontag

The Bible is laden with references to gardens and gardening, cultivating of seeds, tending to soil. The parish, also like a garden with grounds to tend and grass to mow, and her landscaping needs brought Paul Hanneken and Joe Dunn to begin their volunteer service to Our Lady of Victory in 1995. The grass needed cut and Paul stepped in to do it. No one asked but readily, having recently retired, he volunteered his time. The first go around with a small patch of tall grass was an ill fated three hour attempt with a push mower. Soon the benefits of a lawn tractor became clear.



Paul was joined that same year by a fellow retiree, Mr. Cornelius Joseph Dunn, and the two, who in fact were childhood acquaintances from Covington, took on additional jobs from pruning and trimming, planting occasional flowers and raking and disposing of leaves. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Hanneken credit this common work and service for others that gave these Delhi transplants and devoted parish members the opportunity for the friendship that developed.

Twenty years of service to the parish has brought Mr. Dunn and Mr. Hanneken many insights from the favored nesting grounds of the brown rabbits that prefer the grass in front of the Convocation Center to the careful and selective pruning of an Oriental yew so the needles don't die on the inside of the shrub. But more significant than horticultural wisdom is the spiritual gains some of which Paul speaks.

Mr. Hanneken tells us that it is through his work for the church where he feels most close to God. Giving of himself, his time and labor, in the sunshine and in the rain, eating lunch with the maintenance crew before the kids come tramping into the cafeteria, week in week out. Giving to God, giving to our community is where Paul feels the spiritual gifts that come from selfless giving.

Here is also where Mr. Joe Dunn (who once repaired stock market tickers for downtown brokerage houses) tirelessly planned for upcoming seasons keeping in mind what gets trimmed in the Spring and what gets pruned in the Fall and what gets chopped down to the ground. Joe tells us of the satisfaction of seeing the work come together and being pleased with offering this to the Church and to us all-- a happiness in seeing your hard work shine as a witness to God's love.

We thank you, Joe and Paul, for your hard work and dedication and the love you have clearly shown in your labors. The campus of Victory has twinkled under your care.

Welcome New Staff Members: Michael Mazzei

Each year we see some familiar and some new faces wherever we go. This year we are excited to welcome 6 new members to Our Lady of Victory's parish office, school faculty and staff.



On the parish side we have a new Business Manager and two hardworking maintenance men.

The new Business Manager is Mr. Matthew O'Neill. Mr. O'Neill grew up on the west-side having gone to Our Lady of Visitation for grade school and remembers many CYO battles with Victory teams. He comes to us bringing experience as Director of Administrative Services at Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton, OH and Senior Accountant at Xavier University for 11 years. He has an undergraduate degree in Accounting and Finance from Miami University and a Master's degree from Xavier University. Mr. O'Neill is a member of St. Cecilia Parish in Oakley and his favorite activity is running. He has also completed four Flying Pig marathons and more than a dozen half marathons across the country.

Mr. Tommy Youngman started in January of this year prepping to become the head maintenance man around OLV. Last month he took over the reins from Joe Lipps. He enjoys spending his summer weekends with his grandchildren. He likes to golf, hunt and do projects around his house.

Some may recognize another of our new maintenance men, Mr. Tom Ohmer, who began part-time at OLV in 2013. He started full-time in June of last year. Tom has three children, two boys and a girl, and four grandchildren. He likes sports, walking his dogs, going to church on Sunday, and helping young people out when time allows. Fun fact: Tom went to OLV from grades 3-8. His first tax paying job was working around here the summer of 1974 after his 8th grade graduation.

On the school side of things we say hello to Mrs. Berning, Mrs. Hillebrand, and Mrs. Shad.

Mrs. Beth Berning is the school's new art teacher. She is married to Mike Berning and has five sons. One is married, one is getting married this September, and another is newly engaged. Mrs. Berning enjoys flowers, tennis, piano, and watercolor painting. She is excited to be teaching art to the boys and girls at Our Lady of Victory this school year.

Mrs. Kelly Hillebrand is our new vice-principal and junior high teacher. She has worked for the past five years at St. Dominic teaching 7th and 8th grade Language Arts. A few degrees are within her possession: a bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education from the College of Mount St. Joseph and a Master's degree in Administration from Xavier University. She and her husband, Erik, will celebrate four years of marriage in October. The Hillebrands like to take their dog, Louis, on walks, attend Reds and Bengals games, and traveling. They love the beach and try to get to the ocean as much as possible. They have gotten three passport stamps since being married and hope to add many more. Mrs. Hillebrand said "I look forward to getting to know the parish and staff of Victory. I know there are great things happening here and I am excited and honored to be a part of it."

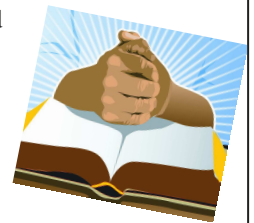
Mrs. Bridget Shad is the new face to our school's front office working part-time assisting the Administrative Assistant, principal, staff, and students. Mrs. Shad has been married to her husband, Mark, for 25 years. They have three children-Adam, 24, Christopher, 21, and Abby, 17. They are long-time parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes, where She, and also her children, attended school. Mrs. Shad resides in Western Hills and is excited for the arrival of her first grandson any day!

We welcome our new members and welcome back the many familiar faces of Our Lady of Victory. May it be a great year!

Drawing Closer to Jesus

Jonathan Schaefer

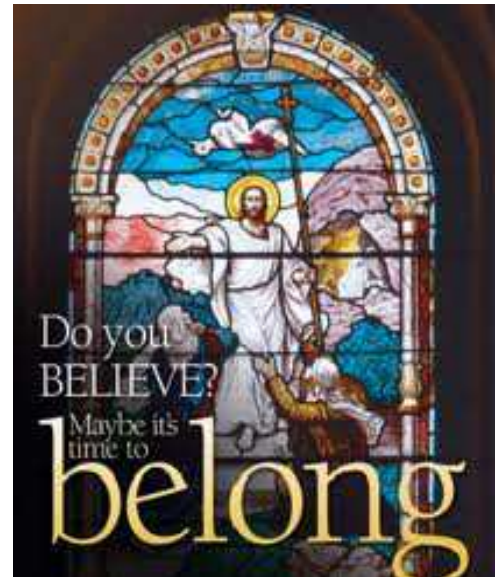
Jesus is calling each one of us to himself. All of us have this longing within us that is calling us. It is a calling for joy and peace. Not a temporary joy that we receive from earthly things but a true never ending joy and happiness that can only be found in Jesus Christ. How do we find this joy? This joy is found by continually drawing closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Each day we should set time aside to talk with him and share our lives with him. When we do spend time with God each day in prayer we then can find more peace and settle into the rest of our day knowing that Christ is with us. I know when I start each day with prayer I am in a better mood throughout the day and I am more productive in the tasks that I do have to accomplish for that day. The days I miss the morning prayer time, I am more tired and irritable. Even if you can just spend 10 minutes in the morning or afternoon then you have set some time aside for God. If we truly love God we would set time aside and make it a priority. We make it a priority to talk with spouses or close friends because we love them. Then that is where God should be as well. I used to say that I don't have time to spend praying. There is no one that will notice if I skipped it for the day but when prayer is there, people will notice something different about you. Matthew Kelly says, "We become what we celebrate." When we are celebrating God he dwells within us and can act through us more. What are we doing that is drawing us closer to God? Are you taking time each day to talk with him and draw closer?



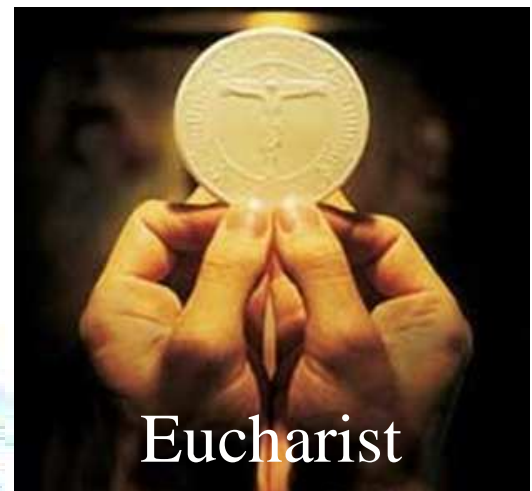
Interested in Becoming Catholic?

RCIA

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



As people journey through life, sometimes they realize that they are wanting something more from life. Many times that something more is a faith community. If you are searching and want to inquire more about Catholicism, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Join us in spreading the word and inviting Non-Catholics to join the Catholic Church next year at the Easter Vigil Mass. Meetings for RCIA begin on September 17th at 7 PM in the Chapel. Call the Office of Religious Education with your name and phone number to sign up to join us next year. Or if you forget to call then just join us at the first meeting.

We would love to talk with you!!

Call us at 513-347-2071

Or e-mail at jschaefer@olv.org

We welcome all of our students and families to a new school year. For the families that are joining us for the first time, we are so happy to have you join our OLV community. We look forward to our 2015-2016 school year where our students will continue to grow in their faith and love of God.



Thank you to all of the faculty and staff for all of their time and dedication as we begin a new school year. A big thank you to all of the Victory families you entrust us with your children to our care.

To all Victory parish members, thank you for your generosity in supporting our parish school. We ask that you keep all of our faculty, staff, students, families, and graduates in your prayers this year.

What does Victory spirit mean? How do you live your life to follow Christ? Here are some thoughts by current Victory eighth graders.

Blue and Gold Spirit days are simply signs of Victory Spirit, and are not difficult to show. True spirit takes much more thought. It is important to be proud of our accomplishments, as a school, and as a school in our community. School spirit is participation and pride in our school, for everyone who works so hard, for our school to be the positive learning environment that it is. I try to become as involved as I can in the school, from being involved in sports, to being part of the clubs Our Lady of Victory offers. Having a positive learning environment is one of the many things that make the students and staff embrace the school spirit. Victory school spirit is the pride and sense of accomplishment we feel as a school and community when our Principal obtains the Distinguished Principal award and our teachers continue their education to better our learning experiences. School spirit creates a positive learning environment for both students and teachers. I work to keep a positive attitude in everything I do at Victory. It is important for all students to feel that they have the support of other students, who want them to do well. School spirit can improve a students' commitment to education. School spirit is about showing your support and appreciation for your school. And in the end, it is the friendships, and the bond that develops over the years. School spirit gives people something to come back to. Our Lady of Victory has created this spirit of pride within my family.



“School spirit is something everyone wants but few are willing to take independently.”-Unknown. One way I express my school spirit is by participating in Blue and Gold days. But school spirit goes beyond wearing your school colors, cheering for your school team as loud as you can, and loving them even if they don't win. School spirit is praying and supporting the causes your school believes in. At Our Lady of Victory we support Caring and Sharing, The Walk, and the festival. It takes time and effort in making sure a school project or campaign is done. I share my school spirit by helping carry boxes for Caring and Sharing Day which helps provide food for the needy. Also, I share my school spirit by participating in sporting events like baseball, basketball, and golf. I show support for my teammates, and represent Our Lady of Victory with good sportsmanship. These are all ways of how I share school spirit and what I think school spirit is.

I live my life to follow Christ because this is how I was raised. My parents sent me to a Catholic school because they wanted Victory to teach me the morals and values that Jesus gave me, and how you should use them. For example, Jesus taught us to make the right choices and to think before doing. Also, I go to church regularly so I can learn something from every Mass and take something from it to apply to my life. Another way I follow Christ is I spread the message of God when we have class discussions. Lastly, I believe that Jesus came on Earth and saved us from sin, and started the church that we live and breathe today. These are all the reasons why I live my life to follow Christ, and will continue my life with Christ.

I live my life to follow Jesus by attending Church regularly. As a school, we attend Mass weekly, but attending every weekend with my family is equally important. One way I try to live my life to follow Christ is by being a server at Mass. I enjoy the participation during Mass when I serve. Jesus gave his life for us, I try to find ways to help others and to give them my time and help if they need it. I will often babysit my brothers or neighbors without accepting money to help out for a couple of hours. I try to live one day at a time and depend on God that everything will turn out the way it should. I put my trust in Jesus that he will help me through difficult times and situations. I often share my thoughts and prayers of intention with my family. I believe by telling others about Jesus I can share my experiences and encourage others to pray to Jesus too.

Religious Education Jonathan Schaefer

The summer is over and our kids are back into full swing with school. We want to invite every child not attending a Catholic school to attend our Monday night classes from 6:45- 8 PM. Our Monday night classes are for all students in 1st through 8th grade. Religious Education classes begin on Monday, September 14th. If you haven't registered, you can find the registration forms on our parish website under the Faith Formation tab, Religious Education. Please return this form ASAP so that we can have everything ready for them on the first day of class. Learning the faith as the child grows can help them understand their faith better but then also puts a level of importance on faith that will have an impact on how they look at religion in the future.



Volunteers are also needed- your help is needed for the Monday Night Program. We are looking for a few classes helpers for the catechists each week and we are in need of one catechist as of mid-August. Are you interested in sharing your faith and helping to teach children in the parish the Catholic faith? Then call the Religious Education Office at 347-2071 for more information. Join Victory's great team of Catechists!



Join Kidz2Saints!

Starting Sunday, September 20th
during the 11:15 AM Mass

No Registration is required! Kids ages 4-6 are invited to gather after the announcements to leave the church right before the opening Mass song begins and gather in the Convocation Center. In Kidz2Saints the children will be led in song, dance and a children's teaching of the Gospel reading of the day. This is a great opportunity for the children to learn more about the first part of the Mass and to learn how God speaks to us through the Bible each week. Each session will be led by two adults and junior high and high school age student volunteers. The children will then be brought back over to church to join their families for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This way they can receive the grace of being in God's presence in the Eucharist. Let us all thank the Lord Jesus for speaking to us each week in the scripture and help these little ones say YES to the Lord.



**PLEASE
JOIN US!**

New Ministry Lends a Helping Hand to OLV Parishioners Michelle Menner

Helping Hands is a new commission at Our Lady of Victory consisting of parishioners who care deeply about the well-being of our parish community. This ministry provides assistance to parishioners in a variety of ways. Welcoming new parishioners has become our constant outreach by delivering welcome boxes and organizing new parishioner events throughout the year. Helping Hands also provides meals and prayers to grieving or struggling parish families. We recruit volunteers and collect donations for parish activities and encourage our parish family to cultivate an inviting environment around the parish and school. In addition to our core commission members, Helping Hands has a volunteer list which is emailed periodically when needs arise. All parishioners are welcome to be involved with our ministry! This is a wonderful first step to volunteering in our parish or an easy way to add to your current volunteer responsibilities. The volunteer list requires no obligation, just help when you can! Please email olvhelpinghands@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering. If you would like to request help from Helping Hands, please contact Jennifer in the parish office at 922-4460.



**Our Lady of Victory
Helping Hands**

An Interview with Our Seminarian Intern

Jennifer Reinkemeyer



During the 2015-16 school year, Our Lady of Victory will be host to Jarred Kohn, a seminarian at Mount St. Mary's Seminary who has entered the internship year of his priestly studies. Each seminarian spends the year before he is ordained a transitional deacon assigned to a parish in order to learn more about parish life and the everyday duties of being a pastor.

Jarred began his work with Victory in late August, and will be here through May 2016. I had a short interview with him so parishioners could learn a little bit about him as he starts his year of service here with us.

Jennifer Reinkemeyer: Where did you grow up?

Jarred Kohn: I grew up in a small town called Philothea, Ohio outside of a "larger" small town named Coldwater, Ohio. While my parents were not farmers, my area was agriculturally centered.

JR: What school did you attend?

JK: I attended Coldwater Public Schools from Kindergarten through high school.

JR: How old are you?

JK: I am 25 years old.

JR: When will you be ordained?

JK: I am studying at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary of the West in Cincinnati. Priesthood is set for 2018.

JR: How many siblings do you have? Where are you in the line?

JK: I have one sister. I am the oldest by 3 years.

JR: When did you first hear the call to the seminary? Share a little about your vocation story.

JK: I first felt called to the priesthood in the year after I graduated from high school. I was working as a welder, and had never wanted to attend college. I had been laid off and during this time I began to explore my faith. Then one evening in Eucharistic Adoration, Jesus put on my heart that he wanted me to be a priest, a conviction I have never been able to shake. After one year of seminary I took one year off and went back to work as a welder. I then realized that I was still being called to the priesthood. I have been back in seminary for over 4 years now. It has been a great blessing and I have met many amazing people. I expect my internship at Our Lady of Victory will be more of the same.

JR: What do you like most about the seminary? Least?

JK: The community at seminary is my favorite part. We work and have fun together. The seminarians at the Mount are some of the most amazing men I have ever met. I also appreciate having the opportunity to talk with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament in communal and private prayer. My least favorite part is the studies. While I enjoy reading, academia is not my forte. I also enjoy working with my hands and see progress - such progress can be hard to see in academics.

JR: What are some of your hobbies/interests/free time activities?

JK: In my free time I enjoy to work out and do a number of other activities outside. For example right now I am training for a half-marathon that I am running to help support a religious order I worked with over the summer. I also enjoy to camp and hike. I actually enjoy doing manual labor as I mentioned before. Reading something that I am not assigned is also a favorite activity of mine.

JR: Who is your favorite saint?

JK: I cannot pick one favorite saint, but I can choose the top two. St. Josemaria Escrivá and St. Therese of Lisieux. They have provided wisdom and intercession that have rocked my life.

JR: Any other interesting tidbits about yourself you would like to share?

JK: I was a wrestler in high school.

JR: What do you hope to gain from your internship year here at Victory?

JK: I hope to gain many things from my internship at Victory. Most importantly I hope to gain continued confirmation of my vocation. I know I will also be surprised by what I learn and get from this experience, which will be undoubtedly amazing and grace-filled.

Feel free to stop by to see Jarred in the parish office sometime over the next year. Please make him feel welcome in his temporary home when you see him around the parish!

Memorial Mass Fund

*Urban Besl
Mary Barnhorn
Peggy Heringer
Jeanne Keegan*

St. Vincent de Paul

*Gus Brewer
Peggy Heringer
Bill Sanders*

Food Pantry

Jean Abrams

In Loving Memory

*Jeanne Keegan
Peggy Heringer
Lawrence Schobert*

OUR LADY OF VICTORY MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

The Memorial Association is another way of remembering family members and friends who have died. One Mass a month for a year is offered for those enrolled. All donations provide seasonal church decorations and furnishings.

During the month of November our OLV Book of Remembrance is placed in the atrium of the church. The book is inscribed with the names of all those enrolled in the OLV Memorial Association since 1983.

TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

The Tuition Assistance Fund has been established to help OLV parishioners afford a Catholic education for their families.

Baptisms

*Casper Martindale Sontag - child of
Michael & Rebecca Sontag
Grace Ann Wagner - child of
Zachary Wagner & Alison Stricker*

OLV's FRIDAYS at the FIELDS by Genevieve Kenney

The OLV ball fields will be in full use Friday nights this fall. In the early evening you can usually find packs of preschoolers and Kindergarteners chasing soccer balls from one goal to another on mini fields. This year, the atmosphere will shift from friendly competition to just plain friendly as tiny athletes, families and friends get together after games at OLV's Fridays at the Fields.

For a few years now, Parish Council has been looking for ways to build community within our parish and welcome prospective families. As a few Parish Council members lingered with their families and friends after mini soccer games last season, the idea formed to organize a gathering after games each Friday. OLV's Fridays at the Fields was started to welcome new families to the parish, reach out to families who have not yet chosen a parish or school for their little ones, and engage current parishioners here at Victory.

our lady of victory
**FRIDAYS
AT THE
FIELDS**

On Fridays following Labor Day through October 23, the parish will host family friendly events around 6:30p.m., weather permitting. Something special is planned for each of the Fridays at the Fields events: a pizza party with LaRosa's pizzas available for purchase, a grill out featuring the grill masters of OLV's Athletic Association, or a costume party for Halloween! All events are bring-your-own-beverages and a side or dessert to share. Make sure to check the bulletin each week to see what's coming up next and for more information. If you are interested in helping with the events, contact the parish office at 922-4460.

ALL parishioners, family and friends are invited to join in the fun. We hope to see you Fridays at the Fields!

**Our Lady of Victory
810 Neeb Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45233**

Our Lady of Victory Parish is a part of the Roman Catholic Church, which we believe is the institutional continuation of the church founded by our Lord Jesus Christ when he sent out his apostles after his resurrection with these instructions: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son,



and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to carry out all that I have commanded of you, and know that I am with you always, until the end of the world." By the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, members of the church are promised eternal life and are equipped to serve God and their neighbor, according to the gifts and talents which each of them have received. In this way, we worship God in Spirit and Truth and welcome his Kingdom into our hearts and into the world.

Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:00, 9:30, 11:15 a.m.

Daily Mass: 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Mondays: 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 3:30 p.m.

513-922-4460

www.olv.org

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CONFIRMATION

SUPER SUNDAY

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7:00 - 9:00 P.M.



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Deadline is 9 a.m. the 10th of each month, except Dec. and June.

Articles and information can be emailed to baweber@olv.org

Becky Weber, Editor

If you would like more information about what is happening at Our Lady of Victory, please visit our website www.olv.org