



*Our Faith. Our Family. Our Future.*

## A READY AND WILLING SERVANT



**Congratulations** to our very own Deacon Mark Machuga on his November 2016 appointment to the Cincinnati Archdiocese position of Director of the Diaconate. The diaconate has been calling men, such as Mark, of the Catholic community into permanent service to God, the Church, and the priesthood since the early days of Christianity. As Diaconate Director at the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Mark not only works to support and develop

current deacons in their Church! Most deacons multi-faceted roles serve their parishes in throughout the community by providing opportunities for these men to flourish in their vocations, but also conducts and oversees the selection and admissions process (in conjunction with the Athenaeum) for all of the men in the diocese interested in becoming deacons.

It was quite recently that Mark himself was going through the discernment process, which lasts about six years, being ordained just six months ago in April of 2016. Deacon Mark, like most deacons, is assigned to his own parish, and this position does not change that at all. He is still our very own deacon here at Our Lady of Victory



Deacon Mark and Our Lady of Victory, pray for us! ●

**By Becca Sontag**

2017  
**FEBRUARY**

**FEATURED IN  
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# Das KARNEVAL

**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 25, 2017**

Wondering what to expect of the OLV175 anniversary gala, "Das Karneval?"

After the 4:30 Mass on Saturday, February 25, festivities begin with dinner in the Convocation Center, featuring roast chicken, apple glazed pork and a variety of accompaniments and desserts. Each guest will receive two drink tickets at the cash bar complete with domestic & craft beer and wine. Following dinner, a few fundraising games boast prizes such as an authentic Black Forest cuckoo clock, elegant jewelry and a split the pot. The evening closes with German-themed horderves at 9:00pm and live music from the Klüberheads.

We look forward to celebrating Our Lady of Victory's heritage with our parishioners and friends!



## LAST CALL FOR OLV175 GALA TICKETS!

Due to an amazing early response only a limited amount of tickets are still available! Individual ticket price is \$75 or purchase an eight-seat table for \$580. If you are interested in purchasing your ticket, please email [olv175anniversary@gmail.com](mailto:olv175anniversary@gmail.com) or call the parish office at 922-4460.



I first heard of Mary, maybe more than I do, the Undoer of Knots when I was asked to help with the activity at Victory in which we tied knots in fabric onto a chain-link fence. Before then I'd never heard of her or the prayer, but I was intrigued when I read the prayer and heard its purpose. I was surprised how much sense it made to have Mary as our liaison to Jesus with our prayers, particularly those most tangled. I'd asked for Mary's intercession before, but didn't know of the Undoer of Knots historical prayer practice.

I've always felt a closeness to Mary since I was a young girl. I always felt she understood me as a girl, woman, mother, sister, wife, and a friend. I've often prayed a Hail Mary when I didn't know how to pray. As a mother, I find myself often asking for her intercession with both my joyful and sorrowful prayers. She gives me a concrete image of the mother and wife I can connect with and want to be. As mother of Jesus and wife of Joseph, she understands,

maybe more than I do, the struggles of her duties. I also know her as my own mother. When I need advice or a shoulder to cry on, Mary is my comfort.

I really enjoyed the feast day activity with the students. It was nice to see the children understand the purpose of Mary in our prayers. It allowed them to have a personal connection to our feast day, to our Lady. Hopefully they continue to take their "knots" to Mary each and every day.

We went back to remove the fabric as a group, and as I helped untie the knots on the fence, I offered up each one of those prayers. At times, I felt overwhelmed with how many knots were on the fence. It made me contemplate the amount of prayers Mary hears on our behalf. I felt such sadness to think of how many of us suffer with large "knots", small "knots", scary "knots", sad "knots", overwhelming "knots", and on and on. I thought about how a mother carries the sorrows, joys, burdens, suc-

cesses, and failures of her own children constantly. And while we see our children suffering in different parts of their life, we are called to offer them encouragement and steer them to go to Jesus for guidance and help.

As we took piles of the untied fabric strands and threw them into a fire, I asked Jesus to finish the prayers as He willed and to comfort each adult and child with His Love, and with His mother's love. It was a wonderful, albeit quiet, end to the activity.

I ask that we as individuals, a family, a parish and a community continue to approach our Lady, while we are still sinners, and ask Jesus for help through her untying of the knots that bind us to this world so we may be free to experience the fullness of Christ's love and grace. ●

**By Erin Dean**

**To view photos from the Undoer of Knots Event, visit our website: <http://parish.olv.org/District/Portal/UndoerofKnots>**



# SCHOOL NEWS

At the beginning of February, Catholic schools across the nation celebrate Catholic Schools Week, a time to celebrate our students and the wonderful gift of Catholic education. All of our Victory families make sacrifices to send their children to Catholic schools. We are very grateful to be your children's teachers as we work in partnership to nurture your children's academic, spiritual, creative, and compassionate growth. We are blessed each day, and we thank all Victory parishioners for their support of our parish school and the gift of a Catholic education for our Victory students. Without the support of all parish families, we would not be able to provide the high quality, well-rounded, faith-filled education that has been the tradition at Victory. Thank you.

Congratulations to Isabel Schemmel, our *Spelling Bee* winner! And a congratulations to the following students for their participation in the Spelling Bee: Andrew Costa, Ashley Galbraith, Mariah Mevers, Greg Carlton, Ethan Listerman, Olivia Warren, Anna Schmitt, Julia Nix, Jake Vollmer, Isabel Schemmel, Grace Plagge, Maggie McGrail, Jack Davis, Ben Johnson, Ben Telscher, Matthew Moser, Jill Laub, Emma Camardo, Dominic Schemmel, Emma Austing, Briana Wuebbeling, Brooke Gavin, Meghan

Davitt, Allie Cappel, Audrey DeGregorio, Hailey Doerflien, Sydney Gavin, Zoe Christo, Lauren Lott, Maggie Jones, Elizabeth Schroeder, Sam Jones, Payton Simonson, Connor Accurso, Luke Flowers, Olivia Mohs, Sam Schwallie, Kylie Himmler, Beck Richmond, Mia Wilms, Zola Sontag, Carson Browne, Jaden Walpole, Carson Behrendt, Ava Hoog, Jason Hericks, Chris Pohlman, Joellen Knepfle, Julia Brockmann, John Lutz. We are proud of your hard work!



Our Brilliant Bees! Photo Credit Amy Borgman

Congratulations to Luke Gavin our *Geography Bee* winner! And a congratulations to the following students for their participation in the Geography Bee: John Lutz, Casey Sullivan, Julia Nix, Reagan Niederhausen, Elizabeth Schroeder, Matthew Smith, Grace Plagge, Greg Carlton, Ava Siefke, Luke Flowers, Luke Gavin, Meghan Davitt, Garrett Kessling, Matthew Telscher, Beck Richmond, Jack Davis, Sydney Gavin, Leo Bill, Gabriel Plummer, Elise Kenney, Isabel

Schemmel, Elizabeth Busch, Ethan Vonderahe, Jaden Walpole, Mitch Kelly, Jake Vollmer, Zach Noeth, Nathan Evans, Sabrina Schultz, Ashley Galbraith. We are proud of your hard work!

Our Ambassador Program is a service program that encourages students to put their faith into action. No matter what age our students are, they are learning that they can make a difference in the lives of others. The Ambassador Program extends what our students are learning in their religion classes every day and invites them to put their faith into action. Mrs. Hillebrand, our assistant principal, coordinates all of our Ambassador activities along with a group of junior high students who make up our Ambassador Board. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Hillebrand, our OLV teachers, and our Ambassador Board, OLV students lovingly spread their good cheer with the parish and local community.

Registration for the 2017-2018 school will begin in February. We look forward to welcoming our new and returning OLV students for the 2017-2018 school year! We are also very excited to welcome our Preschool age students to our building for the first time! ●

**Amy Borgman, Principal**



Registrations for the  
OLV 2017-18  
Preschool Year  
will be open  
February 1st-28th!

**Our Lady of Victory Preschool  
5 Day-a-Week Classes Begin Fall 2017**

Registration for OLV K-8th also takes place February 1st - 28th

For More Information, contact...

Amy Borgman [borgmana@olv-school.org](mailto:borgmana@olv-school.org) 513-347-2072



## Family Movie Night



Disney · PIXAR  
**FINDING DORY**

**February 11, 2017  
@ 5:30 PM**

**Please RSVP to [jreinkemeyer@olv.org](mailto:jreinkemeyer@olv.org)  
as LaRosa's Pizza will be provided.**

Bring pillows, blankets, a snack to share,  
and your appetite!



# ASK SEEK KNOCK



When my family was looking for a spiritual home, we weren't sure if Our Lady of Victory would be it, but my wife and I always felt at peace during the Mass here, so after prayer, seeing the facilities, and learning of Our Lady of Victory's history and commitment to the Blessed Mother, it was clear OLV was for us. But I still struggled to find my purpose. Why was I called here? Then, while praying the rosary, a vision came to me: a grotto, rosary walk, outdoor classroom and playground built right here on these grounds. My first reaction was, "Wow, this would be great if someone else would do it!" The Lord is funny, isn't He?

I tried to put it from my mind, but for the next few days, I couldn't stop thinking about what I'd seen. In passing, I mentioned it to a few people who loved the idea, and asked me to present it at the Parish Picnic. I was scared, but remembered the story of the two farmers. Both desperately needed and prayed for rain. Without a sign of certainty, one farmer began to plow his fields trusting God heard his prayer. Who has the greater faith? The farmer who prepared his field

moved on the Word of God and received the rain.

Matthew 7:7: **"Ask**, and it will be given to you; **seek**, and you will find; **knock**, and it will be opened to you."

I couldn't sit back and wait for a sign; it was time for me to ask, seek, knock, and prepare for the rain.

I put the project out there. And an amazing thing happened: the project got rolling! Prominent members of the different Parish associations and community got on board and helped get financially started. We realized we would not only be building a few projects, but we'd leave a lasting legacy at OLV. But how would we pay for this? The few finances we'd acquired were not enough. Then the rain came. Anonymous donors began to give more and more funding. Enough so that our first project (the Grotto to our Lady) would break ground this very year. I still sit back in amazement at God's good will unraveling.

But the story is not over, and even though one project is nearly done,

there is still much work to do. We need your help. I am again kneeling on the prayer of Matthew 7:7 as I ask you to stand with us. We ask you to join the *175 Legacy Club*. When you donate \$175 or more, you will get your name on a plaque outside the Convocation Center to always keep in stone your donation and commitment to Our Lady of Victory.

Please consider making a donation. The OLV Legacy, as a firm and faithful Catholic community, is alive and well. Like the farmer who plowed his field trusting in God's promise, Our Lady of Victory Parish is already praising the Lord for gifts unseen. Below, you'll see a donation form to cut and fill out. Please respond before June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 so we can have your names on the plaque for our Feast Day Mass.

Please pray about this, discern with your family, group or committee. Help us prepare spiritual fields for the next 175 years any way you can, especially through prayer. The Spirit is moving in this parish. Be a part of it! ●

**By Chris Broxterman**

## - JOIN THE 175 LEGACY CLUB -

Please consider supporting these projects by joining the 175 Legacy Club in honor of our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! You and your family will help provide a lasting impact to our parish and school, and will be permanently recognized in the OLV Grotto and Rosary Walk area with your name or memoriam engraved on the donor recognition plaque.

\_\_\_ I would like to join the 175 Legacy Club with a contribution of \$175.

\_\_\_ I do not wish to join the 175 Legacy Club, but would like to make a contribution to these exciting projects.

\_\_\_ I am interested in learning about funding a bench or tree to be located in the Rosary Walk and Grotto areas.

Name: .....

Name for Plaque: .....

(For example, "Mr. & Mrs. John Smith" or "The Smith Family").

Phone Number: .....

Make checks payable to "Our Lady of Victory". Cut along the dotted line and return with your check to the Parish Office, drop in a separate envelope in the collection basket, or give to any member of The Legacy Project.

**THANK YOU!**

For more information or to contact us, visit our website: <http://parish.olv.org/District/Portal/legacyproject>



# CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

In 1842, the same year our parish began with the name of St. Stephen, our long tradition of Catholic education also started. The early parishioners knew it was important for their children to receive a Catholic education early on, so the first log church on Rapid Run was also the first school house. When the first brick church was built in 1853, the log sanctuary stayed put to serve as the school. In 1869, Rev. Henry Thein had a new school built, and in 1899, a newer larger building was constructed. This back half of the current library building was named St. Stephen's School. In 1930, the front half of the building was completed, expanding the educational space. By this point, the school was renamed Our Lady of Victory. Near the front door, the inscription reads "For God and for country."

As the enrollment grew, so did the need for more classrooms. In 1959, the plans for a new building started. The front part of the new building was completed in 1960, the East Wing was added on in 1963, the gymnasium was add-

ed in 1976 then was renovated in 1989 and 1992, and finally, the Convocation Center was added in 2002 which houses the art and music programs.

When the school opened in 1842, it was run by lay teachers. There were only 12 children enrolled that first year, but by 1845, a contract between the teacher, Mr. Leonard Rist stated that 11 cents a month would be paid by the parents for Mr. Rist's promise to teach religion, arithmetic, reading, writing, and German since the school was growing. He taught in the summer as well as the fall, and received free lodgings, but needed to pay for his own food. Fifty years later, the school was turned over to the Sisters of St. Francis of Oldenburg. In 1892, Sister Eleanora Waechter became the first principal from Oldenburg. Sister Emmerentina Kalten-

back came with her. When Mr. Melvin Schlomer became principal in 1978, he had the distinction of being the first lay person to hold that position in 86 years. Our current principal is Miss Amy Borgman who taught at the school

for 17 years before beginning her service as principal.

There are a number of other notable years at OLV. According to "The Metropolitan Catholic Almanac and Laity's Directory", in 1864 the school was for boys only and in 1865, the school was for girls only. In 1868 St. Al's on the Ohio opened its own school, causing a decrease in enrollment at Our Lady of Victory. Enrollment hit the 100 mark in 1920 and the 1,000 mark in 1964. As enrollment continued to increase, and not enough classrooms existed to house all of the students, 1st grade was dropped in 1962 and 2nd grade was dropped in 1966. Enrollment peaked in 1970 at 1,277 students. In 1971 tuition of \$100 per student was added for a year. Tuition started for good in 1976 at \$150 per student. As enrollment decreased, 2nd grade was reinstated in 1982 and 1st grade was brought back in 1986. Kindergarten was added in 2006. Pre-school is set to be added in 2017. ●

**By Kathy Lynn**



Photot Credit OLV Archives



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Photot Credit OLV Archives



# CRHP Men's Weekend Retreat

FEBRUARY 18-19  
OUR LADY OF VICTORY CHURCH

Attending the CRHP (Chris Renews His Parish) weekend was one of the best decisions I've made. Prior to CRHP, I wouldn't have considered myself a spiritual person and didn't know how to have a strong relationship with God. My family and I were new to the community, and I felt a disconnect from the families and faces I regularly saw in the parish. I attended Mass weekly with my family, but only went through the motions, not truly present to the sacrifice of the Mass. I knew I wanted something more in my spiritual life. I owed a deeper spiritual commitment to my family and God,

but made excuse after excuse unable to commit to the CRHP weekend.

My wife and a friend, Jarred Kohn, were instrumental in convincing me to "give CRHP a shot." Not knowing what to expect, I went in with an open mind and a willing heart. Over the CRHP weekend I developed a thirst for my faith, and through the next year, I nurtured a stronger spiritual life with the men of my CRHP Team, positively impacting my relationship with my wife and kids. In addition, I also developed meaningful

relationships with 16 other men in our CRHP Team who were key to my growth in CRHP and the parish community.

I'm glad that others in my life pushed me to attend the CRHP weekend. All of us on CRHP Team 2 hope **you too** will give CRHP a shot. You won't regret it. ●

**By Devin Bennett**

Visit our CRHP webpage to sign up or for more information: <http://parish.olv.org/District/Portal/CRHPMen>

## *An Evening at Our Lady of Victory* **Nurturing Your** *Marriage*

FEBRUARY 12, 2017  
6:00 - 8:00PM

Come enjoy a Wine & Pasta Dinner for you and your spouse at OLV as you listen to encouraging words from couples on how God entered their marriage. This has been a great success in the past and limited space is available, so please sign up! Registration is \$10 per couple.

**RSVP: 347-2071 or  
[jschaefer@olv.org](mailto:jschaefer@olv.org)**

Sponsored By:  
Adult Religious Education

## Welcome to Our New Parishioners

Timothy & Erin Kelly  
Darrell & Kim Barrett  
Michael & Stephanie Barker  
Daniel & Candace Jasper  
Frances Horn  
Andrew & Laura Broermann  
Dennis & Stephanie Bachelier

## OLV Baptisms

Penelope Marie Kinzeler  
*daughter of Charles & Colleen Kinzeler*

Gavin Turner  
*son of Brett & Andrea Turner*

Liam Stanley Edge  
*son of Aaron & Molly Edge*

Ethan Alexander Main  
*son of William & Courtney Main*

Daniel Kent Malloy  
*son of Ethan & Yvonne Malloy*

## In Loving Memory

Virginia Green    Marian Moorman  
Shannon Costa    Laura Ostertag  
Dolores Minning-Bailey

## Memorial Mass

William Kiffmeyer    William Thornton  
Lawrence Brogan

## Tuition Assistance

Shannon Costa

## Food Pantry

Pat Jasper    June Kappen  
Laura Ostertag

## 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. In lieu of flowers and gifts, please consider donating to support Catholic Education.

## New Year, New Journey

As the ball dropped on Times Square this New Year's Eve, it occurred to me that I'd stopped making grand New Year's resolutions. At some point, the focus of my resolutions shifted from the "destination" to the "journey". Maybe that's because the next step in any journey is a lot less intimidating than the prospect of trying to reach the ultimate destination—a point Bill Murray showcased with comic genius using his "baby-steps to the corner" routine in the classic "What about Bob?" With far less comedic spur, my first "baby-step" in helping out at OLV started with a discussion about joining the Finance Committee a little over a year ago. To be honest, I was a bit apprehensive; we were new parishioners with no previous connection to the school or the parish and, given the extent of my travel for work, I wasn't convinced I could make much of a commitment. But Father's response was "Well, come to the first meeting and just see how it goes." So I took the first step and the journey ensued.

As you plan for the "better you" in the year ahead, my fellow Finance Committee members and I ask you to consider taking just one more step towards helping the parish. Your participation—be it in the form of time, talent or treasure—keeps this parish running and makes the community what it is.

There is much in store for Victory in the year ahead. We'll kick off the year with the *Das Karneval* Gala on February 25<sup>th</sup>, and if you can't make that, consider attending even more events throughout the year: the Parish Festival, the Parish Picnic, Fridays at the Fields, or (for the ladies) the LOV Nights Out. Consider getting involved with the variety of ongoing projects and initiatives at Victory, like the PTO, Athletics Association, OLV Legacy Project, booths at the Festival, Finance Committee, etc. Remember, your active participation is what makes this parish a vibrant and welcoming community, and every little bit helps! Thank you for all that you do for Our Lady of Victory, and happy New Year! ●

**By Steve Kane**



## DID YOU MISS YOUR CHANCE FOR THE PHOTO DIRECTORY?

No worries! There will be another opportunity to smile for the camera this summer. Stay tuned for more information about dates and times to sign up.

Contact the parish office with any questions or concerns, or email [olv175anniversary@gmail.com](mailto:olv175anniversary@gmail.com).







# OLV

Our Lady of Victory Parish  
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*Our Faith. Our Family. Our Future.*

OUR LADY *of* VICTORY  
PARISH

## FAMILY MASS & MOVIE NIGHT DUO!

Jesus + Pizza + Dory = Best. Night. Ever.  
Saturday, February 11



We'll start the night with the **4:30pm Family Mass** and follow up with a **Family Movie and Pizza** night featuring *Finding Dory* in the Convocation Center starting at 5:30pm. Be sure to bring blankets, pillows and your favorite fishy food to share (snack, drink, dessert)!



RSVP to [jreinkemeyer@olv.org](mailto:jreinkemeyer@olv.org) for pizza count.

Interested in helping with this Family Mass?  
Sign up to be a lector, greeter, offertory family, etc.  
through our parish website under the  
Family Ministry page  
(Ministries> Family Ministry> Family Mass)

Would you or your OLV Organization  
like to be featured in the Victory Vision?  
Have our editor place you on the Vision  
Contact list!

Email: Erica Trabanino, [admin@olv.org](mailto:admin@olv.org)

AS THE FAMILY GOES, SO GOES THE NATION, AND SO GOES THE WHOLE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE. — POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II