

August 2016

Dear OLV Parents,

Welcome back to the "The **Sunday** Experience" at Our Lady of Victory! We are so looking forward to seeing your children's smiling faces! Classes will begin on Sunday, September 18th for our Pre-school -5th grades and our middle school students, grades 6-8th will start Sunday, September 23rd. Dates and times are on the enclosed schedule. We will have an opening Parent Meeting **that first day for parents of all grades** on Sunday, September 18th at 9:40am in the Parish Life Center. Coffee, donuts, and bagels will be provided.

We will also have a speaker for you that morning. Her name is Emily Jaminet. She has her degree in Mental Health and Human Services. She is a local celebrity here on our local Catholic Radio doing a daily reflection called "A Mother's Moment". She has also been a guest on the Jennifer Fulwiler and Busted halo shows on Sirius XM channel 129, and on the Teresa Tomeo Show on Ave Maria Radio. Emily is a national Catholic speaker and blogger who co-authored a book Divine Mercy for Moms: Sharing the Lessons of St. Faustina. Her book will be available for purchase that day. Oh and did I mention that she has 7 CHILDREN? Please plan to join us that morning and catch up with old friends and meet new ones at 9:40am. You won't want to miss this!

Most of you know me, but for those who don't, my husband Deacon Joseph and I have been in this parish since 1991. My husband was ordained in 2008 and was placed here at OLV. We have raised our two children in this parish. Max is 22 and a senior at Wittenberg University and Alexandra is 18 and a senior at Grandview Heights High School. We will celebrate 30 years of marriage next June!

Religious Education has always been something that Rob and I highly valued for our children and we made it a priority to be involved in church life along with that. We wanted to model to our children how to live an excellent life. In good times and in tough times. Our consistency in making Religious Education and Mass a priority has blessed us in many ways. **Giving your children a foundation in faith is the best gift you can give them!** We have seen that with our own children as they faced challenges with friends and situations they found themselves in. *That faith foundation has kept them grounded, even when they were challenging their faith and beliefs.*

Our son Max questioned his faith at one stage in his maturity. As Max headed out to Colorado last summer to work at an internship, he climbed a beautiful mountain his first day there. He sent me this stunning photo of his view and the caption read, "There is a God!"

You see it only takes a moment for faith to drop into our hearts! It is about 11 inches from our minds to our hearts. Here is your prayer this year for your children to EXPERIENCE faith:

Father, I pray that faith will find root and grow in my children's hearts, that by faith they may gain what has been promised to them. Amen.
Luke 17:5-5, Hebrews 11:1-40

Now for the nuts and bolts of our program this year!

All our Religious Ed classes will be on Sunday mornings and will meet weekly. The times are staggered for the programs. Our Pre-School - 5th graders will start at 9:30am - 10:40am. Our middle school program, newly named "CHOSEN" will start at 9:40am-10:45am and meet weekly. This will hopefully help you get your entire family to Mass! See the enclosed description of each of our programs we offer here at OLV. We want the children in grades K-5th to enter either through the upstairs PLC doors or through the regular Religious Ed doors downstairs. The 6th and 7th graders should enter through the far downstairs doors in the lower parking lot or the upper PLC doors only. All 8th graders should enter through the upper PLC doors and will meet in the PLC main hall each week unless notified.

We do have Parent Expectations here at OLV. Please see below:

1. Parents of children in Pre-school to 3rd grade are to escort their children both to and from the lower Parish Life Center at the beginning and ending of each class for your child's safety. Please do not stop and drop in the lower parking lot ever!
2. Participate in the life of the parish by regularly attending Sunday mass.
3. Contributing financially to the parish according to your ability.
4. Sending your children regularly to Religious Education classes and enroll your children each year in our program until they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This demonstrates to the child that our faith is not something we take lightly nor do we just pick it up when it is convenient.
5. **A minimum of 2-3 hours is expected of parents to volunteer in the program. Opportunities are the November 20th Fall Fundraiser, Spaghetti Dinner, Christmas Play, The OLV Festival, Children's Liturgy of the Word (11:00am mass), etc.**

Always pick up a bulletin at mass each weekend for the most updated information. You will receive communications from me each week on Thursday afternoons with, **This week, Next Week, and Looking Ahead.** Please read those weekly.

We look forward to an awesome Sunday Experience with all of you!

Yours in Christ,

Mrs. Krista Joseph, DRE

Msgr. Romano Ciotola, Pastor