

# VICTORY VOICES

OUR LADY OF VICTORY PARISH NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE #12, SPRING 2017 (MAY 2017)

## Christ is Risen.....Indeed He is Risen!!

**Bishop Frederick Campbell's**

### **Easter Message:**

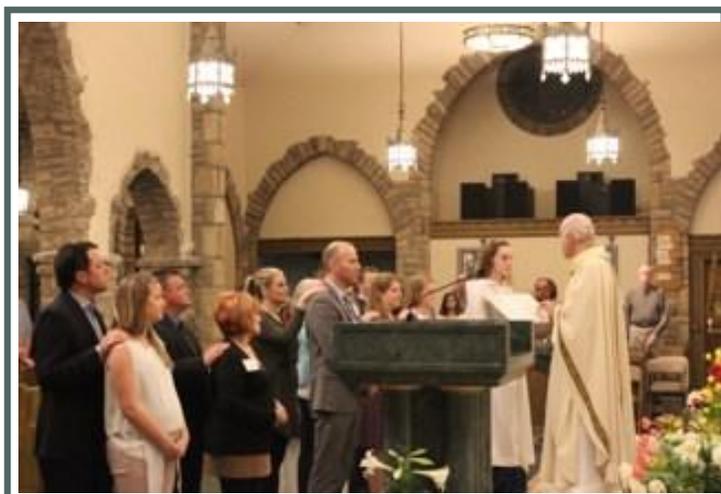
“The Church has been celebrating the Feast of Easter for two thousand years, and even if, in the providence of God, we celebrate it for another two thousand years, each time we shall rejoice over the day of resurrection, new and fresh.”

Holy Week at OLV reminds us of the events that culminated in the central belief of our faith...the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Easter Sunday Mass—Children at the Altar

Monsignor Ciotola, the OLV clergy and staff thank the Choir, Instrumentalists, Ushers, Altar Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers and those who decorated the Church so beautifully for Easter and all the Holy Week services.



**Easter Vigil Mass**

Reception of RCIA Candidates into the Church



**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**

Washing of the Feet

Holy Week continued on Page 4 —>

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### Vacation Bible School

June 19, 20, 21, 22

(evenings)

#### Parish Festival

August 11 and 12

Friday and Saturday



**Krista Joseph,**  
**Director,**  
**Religious**  
**Education**

## Religious Education—Run The Race

Our 5th grade students paired up with “Run the Race”, a community outreach program for low income children in inner city Columbus. The club creates a positive, safe and loving atmosphere where children are encouraged to play, smile, create and learn. It is a second home to the boys and girls...a place to feel safe, loved and accepted. They receive a warm meal each day, engage in fun activities and receive the individual attention they deserve.

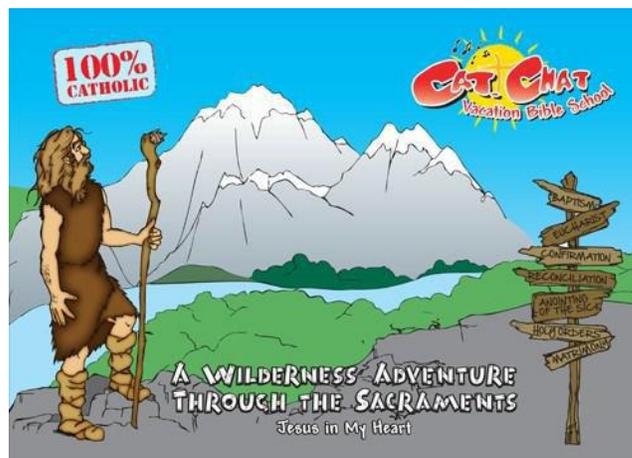
OLV students presented \$1,000 (raised from a Bake Sale) to the “Run The Race” club during a group visit. While there we learned more about the children, or “racers” as they refer to themselves. We were blessed to see lots of smiles as we made Valentine’s Day crafts with the racers.

about making new friends and sharing experiences with us! The OLV students were kind and helpful role models for the racers. It was a touching and emotional experience for everyone involved. The children, families, and volunteers at Run the Race have touched our hearts and we will continue to keep them in our prayers.

## 2017 Vacation Bible School Wilderness Adventure Through the Seven Sacraments

**Monday, June 19 - Thursday, June 22**  
**5:00 - 8:00 pm**

**Our Lady of Victory Parish Life Center**  
**3 year olds through 5th grade**  
**(entering 5th grade in 2017-18 school year).**



*April 2017*



*First*  
**Communion**  
**28**  
**OLV Children**

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**Confirmation**  
**35**  
**OLV Children**

## Youth and Teen Ministry



**Anita Milano**  
**Coordinator,**  
**Youth and**  
**Teen Ministry**

OLV youth and teens (Grades 6-8) have been very busy during the school year. In March they made a visit to the YWCA in Columbus, reading stories and making crafts with the young children. In April the Knights of Columbus needed volunteers to help with an Easter Brunch benefitting the Mid Ohio Workers Association. Our teens were there to work right alongside the Knights.

## OLV Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Piriks, Ed and Marianne, have been faithful and dedicated OLV parishioners for 38 years. Their commitment to their Church and community and their love of God motivates them to contribute their time, talents and resources back to the church they love.

The whole Pirik family (Ed, Marianne, son Michael, daughter Ann, grandchildren and in-laws) is involved in the Parish Festival. Together they run (and that means EVERY aspect, including financial support) a large tent where they prepare Lemon Shake-Ups, Snow Cones, Funnel Cakes and Ice Cream for festival attendees. In addition to the festival, since their arrival at OLV, Ed ushered at Sunday Mass and Marianne cared for altar linens.

The Piriks have a special connection with Father Romano, as Marianne's father and Fr. Romano's father are from the same small village in Italy. They were honored to attend Father's ordination 50+ years ago.

The Piriks were recognized at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner hosted by Father Romano.



**Ed and Marianne Pirik  
OLV Volunteers of the Year**

## News From the Mountain of Light (Montana de Luz)

In December, a central OH group, including OLV members, traveled to Montana de Luz (MdL) to lead the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Advent-themed Vacation Bible School, Campo de Cristo. Over 50 children participated in this event, focused on the gifts of Advent: Love/Amor, Peace/Paz, Joy/Alegría, and Hope/Esperanza. Besides the regular camp activities, we participated at Mass in the church Fr. Romano built and celebrated our first High School Graduation. Diana, who has lived at Montaña since she was 1, is our first teen to graduate from High school. A wonderful role model for the children of MdL, Diana will attend the university and study English in the fall.



There are monthly service trips planned for this Summer and openings in most of these trips for folks to become involved. For information about Montana de Luz, contact Bob or Diana Short:  
  
rshort@columbus.rr.com

Morgan Brown is the new MdL Executive Director. Morgan lived in Mexico, Spain, Brazil and Argentina, is fluent in Spanish and earned a Master's degree in International Development. He brings a deep respect for the Hispanic community. He is dedicated to serving low income areas, minority communities, working families and children from diverse backgrounds.



Jamie Hackbarth is the new In-Country Director. A graduate of Bishop Waterson, Jamie made several service trips to MdL and served in the Peace Corp in Peru. Both Morgan and Jamie bring energy, passion and a fresh vision for the future of this mission.

## Lenten and Easter Season Activities at OLV



### Stations of The Cross

A reflective journey through the path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary.

For us, a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

### Lenten Soup Suppers

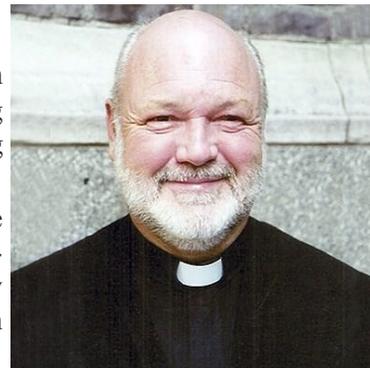


Parishioners met weekly to share soup suppers and discuss talks by Michael Gaitley on ‘Acts of Mercy’. Fr. Gaitley is Director of Evangelization for the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and Director of Formation for the Marian Missionaries of Divine Mercy.

### Parish Lenten Mission

Father Jack Collins led our parish in a Lenten Mission. Three evening talks gave us food for thought during the Lenten Season.

Fr. Collins spent six years at the Newman Center (OSU) and was happy to return to Columbus and renew old friendships. He found our parish enthusiastic and engaged.



Collins noted Father Romano and the parish family made him feel most welcome. Participants in the Mission willingly shared their faith and personal stories with him. Through humor and his knowledge of scripture, Father Collins taught us that, as we make the story of Jesus our OWN story, we change the conversation of our lives.

#### Comments from participants:



Each night the group enjoyed delicious hors d’oeuvres and desserts prepared by parishioners (left), Carolyn Gillie, Heather Campbell and Jackie Milsom.

“I found the Mission very enjoyable. The talks were filled with inspirational teachings, humorous stories and insights into our own spiritual development.” (Marsha Dieker)

“I so enjoyed the Mission. Father Collins was an excellent speaker. The third night’s message really got my attention. Love everyone!!” (Ann Gabriel)



**Leah  
Austin  
Lilya**

### Lenten Fish Fry

An OLV tradition, our Lenten Fish Fry is known as one of the BEST in town. Again this year the crowds spilled out into the parking lot. Kitchen volunteers kept the fish coming out hot and tasty. Dining room volunteers turned the tables quickly. Over 4,000 dinners were served and almost \$20,000 was raised for the parish.

The smiles on the volunteers (pictured above) confirm they enjoyed the experience. Leah, an OSU graduate student away from home, appreciates the friendliness and family atmosphere she finds at OLV. Austin is an altar server and earns service hours for Religious Education. Lilya is a niece of a parishioner and enjoys bringing her family and friends to OLV events.

**Mark your calendar for the 2017 Parish Festival (August 11 and 12).** Make THIS year the first year you decide to volunteer. You will meet parishioners, make new friends, contribute your time and talent to your parish and enjoy the camaraderie and fun that is a PARISH FESTIVAL!

## RCIA – Leadership Changes Hands



Patti Olsen  
Director, RCIA

**Patti Olson** will be the new Director of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) at OLV beginning October 2017. Raised a Lutheran, Ms. Olson converted to Catholicism in 2012 and joined our parish after an intense, personal search to find the right ‘spiritual home’. She found that home here at OLV and now will help to shepherd others along the same journey.

Six adults (along with their sponsors) will spend seven months in study, reflection and instruction in all aspects of Catholic beliefs and practices, including the history of the church, the sacraments, the church’s teaching on Mary and the Mass.

At the Easter Vigil the Elect, who have not been baptized (the Catechumens), are baptized and then join the Elect, who have been baptized (the Candidates), in full initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation. They receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and first Holy Communion at this one sacred ceremony and are then considered full members of the Church.

As Patti prepares to take on her new role, Karen de Laurentis (previous Director) says of her mentee “Patti has been very active in the parish since her conversion to Catholicism in 2012 and I have every confidence that she will do an excellent job. She has demonstrated that she really has a great deal of compassion and a feel for the ministry.”

In reference to her own spiritual search, as well as those in the RCIA Program, Patti quotes from St Augustine, “Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in thee.”

**Karin de Laurentis** served as OLV Director of RCIA, taking over from Sr. Pat Rooks, from 2012-2016. Karin, also a convert to Catholicism in 2005, was reluctant at the time, but was convinced by Sr. Pat to take on the role. It turned out to be a good fit. **(RCIA continued Page 6)**



Karin  
de Laurentis  
Former Dir,  
RCIA

## OLV OFFERS BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

The Mass is central to our Christian faith...but there are many opportunities at OLV to study scripture and grow in understanding our faith. The Bible Study Program at OLV offers these opportunities throughout the year:

**Fall (10-12 week session) and Winter (6-8 week session): Tuesday 9:30-11 am; Wednesday 7-8:30 pm**

**Spring – Lenten Mission and Soup Suppers offer scripture study, group discussion and reflection.**

**Summer – Casual group meetings study scripture, discuss and reflect.**

Leaders/facilitators, Amy Dunn, Pat Feamster and Kati Russell, draw from solid Catholic-based resources, Ascension Press (Jeff Cavins), WordOnFire.Org (Bishop Barron) and Edward Sri. Attend all sessions OR come when you are able...the programs are casual and flexible. Numbers are growing. Consider joining us for the session that fits your schedule. Your knowledge of scripture will grow, your relationships will be enriched and your faith will be strengthened.

Steven Meier, parishioner and bible-study participant, says of the experience: “The Bible studies at OLV are something I look forward to each year. The studies are quite insightful and challenge me to reflect on my relationships with God, spouse, kids and everyone who passes my way. There is a lot of credence in this quote, "Ignorance of the Bible is ignorance of Christ." The studies are suitable for those who have never experienced a group bible study to those who are very experienced. Come join us!”

## OLV Volunteers Serve Dinners to the Homeless at YWCA

Terri Albanese organizes OLV volunteers to serve dinner to homeless families at the YWCA. She shares with us a Thank You note she received from the director of the Family Center:

*Thank you for volunteering your time to provide dinner at the YWCA Family Center! We greatly rely on our community and the support we provide would not be possible without people like you."*



Pictured here are several of the 15-25 volunteers who prepare dinners and serve some 150 families. They comment: "We find it a privilege and joy to care for these families in the midst of very difficult times...all in the name of Jesus Christ."

### RCIA continued...

Says Karin, "I firmly believe that God led me to the Catholic Church specifically here at OLV, led me to my baptism in 2005 and then led me to our RCIA program. I believe it was the mission he had in mind for me.

It has been a privilege to work with such a fabulous pastoral staff. Msgr. Romano is a wonderful teacher and shepherd for the RCIA group along with the many teachers who added so much (Deacon Rob Joseph, George Blubaugh, Deacon Dick Baumann, Mike & Peri Vargo, Kelly & Michael Reidenbach, Rosemary Finneran and Msgr. Missimi).

RCIA at OLV is a vibrant and deeply fulfilling ministry, one that gave as much or MORE to me as I gave to it. I look forward to watching the program grow and meeting the new RCIA faces."