

SERVANT OF THE WEEK—

STAN SIPKA



Happy Anniversary to Servant of the Week Stan Sipka and wife Joanne, who are celebrating their 51st Anniversary this Sunday, June 28. Their family has grown to 3 daughters and 8 grandchildren with the memory of 3 deceased grandchildren. In 1997, Stan retired from teaching the Vocational Machine Trades program at Cuyahoga Falls High School with 34 years of service. Then he continued to be active in the machining apprenticeship adult program until last year when he retired a second time. As a young boy, Stan attended St. Hedwig, but had occasion to visit OLV. "My first visit to OLV was in the late 1940's I remember going to mass with my Aunt and having to walk from North Ave. to the church on a path with mud on each side of the path. It had to be when the church was just beginning." Later, Stan attended St. Joseph for a few years. In 1964,

Stan's young family joined Our Lady of Victory. As for parish participation, Stan occasionally assists with the offertory collection at the 10:45 Mass, and stays involved with the Knights of Columbus. He recently completed a dream project in our June 5th Family Fun Day. He had the idea, got support of the K of C, Pastoral Council and youth groups, and led the project to a fun completion. His story of the event is neat. "I remembered the church picnics we had years ago and it seemed that was a good way for OLV families to meet other families. The idea of a "fun day" started in 2002 but nothing happened. This year with all the bad news about the economy maybe a "fun day" could help families forget and have some fun. The planning started in January and as days went by more details were completed. The main goal was to have families from grandparents to grandkids be able to be a team and compete in safe and fun events. To see a grandma next to a grandchild and being a team made all the effort worth-while. To hear a father say he never had so much fun throwing plastic lids at cardboard boxes. The oldest team member was 80 years old while the youngest was 4 years old. Next year?? I think it will be a go!!! I thanked the good Lord for allowing us such good weather and wondered if the Lord smiled as a 4 year old commented about how grandma got his shirt all wet in the water relay." In speaking of his overall experience of being a part of the community, Stan said, "OLV to me is more than just a building, it's a way of life. At Mass I seem to become myself and remember what I'm here to do. I feel good if and when I can help someone. I have found a home at OLV."