

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org

WELCOME

Sunday, April 18, 2021 A.D.

In the Year of Saint Joseph

To the Parish Family of
OUR LADY OF VICTORIES

(THE LITTLE CHURCH WITH THE BIG HEART)

Parish Office 201-768-1706

COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech B. Jaskowiak
Pastor

Rev. Edmond P. Ilg
Parochial Vicar

Mr. Thomas Lagatol Mr. Albert McLaughlin
Deacons

Maria Hellrigel - *Parish Secretary*
201-768-1706

Religious Education (CCD)
Susan Evanela Denise Coulter (LSEC)
201-768-1400

Sr. Elizabeth Holler, SC Sr. Mary Corrigan, SC
In Residence-Convent

Selena Piazza
Lesa Rossmann
Ministers of Music

Elizabeth Gulfo
Martin Coyne II
Parish Trustees

Jorden Pedersen Esq. Jon Fischer CFA
President Parish Council Chairman Finance Committee

Novenas prayed after 8:00 a.m. Mass:

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: Monday

St. Anthony: Tuesday

St. Joseph: Wednesday

St. Jude: Thursday

Infant of Prague: 25th of the month

St. Peregrine: First Friday of the Month

Rosary: Recited M - Sat after 8:00am & after 12:00Noon Mass

**Why are you troubled?
why do questions arise in your hearts?
Look at my hands and my feet, that
It is I myself.**

Luke 24:38-39



ATTENTION !

no more sign-ups for

Saturday evening / Sunday Mass.

Seating for Mass will be on a "first-come, first-served" basis,
with the assistance of the ushers.

Weekend Mass Schedule:

Saturday evening 4:00PM and 5:00PM

Sunday 7:00AM, 8:00AM *Latin*, 9:30AM - also live-streamed,
10:45AM, 10:45AM Family Mass in OLV GYM

12:00Noon, 1:00PM *Spanish*, 6:00PM. No 7PM Sunday Mass

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Mon.-Sat.: 7:30-7:50am. Saturday: 11:00-11:50am; 3:00-3:45pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism, call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.



OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Address: 81 Lynn St.
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

OLV Fax
201-768-3962

Religious Education
201-768-1400
155 Parkway
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent
201-768-1705
145 Parkway

Fr. Wojciech's Corner

As we continue our joyful celebration of the **RESURRECTION**, I would like to thank all who participated in our Divine Mercy Sunday devotions and Mass. So many have turned from the road of sin to the Lord. Chances for obtaining the graces of His Mercy are not over yet (please see the column on page 4).

I would like to thank **Regal Renovations** and **Plescica Roofing and Crane** for helping repair and install the new cross on the Church tower and also for making it possible on Easter Sunday for our bell to toll **RESURRECTION** after many years.

Over the course of these past weeks we have been receiving so many beautiful and kind cards and notes. Thank you so so much!

I would like also to thank all those who have already contributed to the **Annual Appeal**; to date pledges total \$46,500 of our \$65,143 goal! I am grateful for the generosity of those who contributed.

This coming week we change gears and pray for our **36 First Holy Communicants** who will receive the Body of our Risen Lord under the appearance of bread **for the first time** April 23/24 and April 30/ May 1. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. To them and to their families, we wish that may they be like the disciples in today's Gospel who recognize the Lord in the breaking of the bread.

Let us remember that as the saying goes, *let's break bread together*, the Lord invites us all to meet Him in the **BREAKING** of THE **BREAD-Eucharist**. The Lord says: If you do not eat my Body and drink my Blood you do not have life within you. Let us enjoy this new life the Lord offers every time at Mass.

SPIRITUAL EXCERPT

THE GRACE TO ENDURE THE CROSS

"Let us ask Our Dear Lord for the graces we don't even know we need, the grace to endure the cross with serenity. I think that has to be one of the greatest gifts, and I'm sure nobody asks for it. We are all going to have crosses, so we need the grace to see God's hand in them - the grace to understand the economy of God."

Mother Angelica, *Little Book of Life Lessons* page 121.

**If you are depressed, you are living in the past.
If you are anxious, you are living in the future.
If you are at peace, you are living in the present.**

relevant radio

1430AM

Listener Supported Talk Radio for Catholic Life

2021 Annual Appeal: Please prayerfully consider donating to the Annual Appeal. To date OLV pledges total \$46,500 toward our goal of \$65,143. Appeal envelopes are available in church. Please submit your Appeal donations to the OLV rectory, so we can ensure that our parish receives proper credit. Please make checks payable to 2021 Annual Appeal. For info' visit the Archdiocesan Website at 2021 Annual Appeal | Archdiocese of Newark (rcan.org).

FRIDAYS outside Lent

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of Penance. Each individual should abstain from meat or may substitute some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

EASTER DUTY

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty), that is the obligation of receiving the Eucharist for Easter extends to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, May 30. No one conscious of committing a serious or mortal sin should receive Holy Communion until they have first gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation a.k.a. Confession.

Mothers Day Memorials

Mothers Day is Sunday, May 9. Mass intention cards for the Living and Memorial envelopes for the deceased will be available next weekend. We will be praying for all the mothers, living and deceased, at Mass. It is a greatest gift to offer a Mass for a Mother.

SUFFERING in the Life of St. Therese

St. Therese knew the world of suffering. She lost her mother when she was only four and a half; she had terrible experience at grammar school because she was picked on by the other students. Some of the older students were jealous of her abilities. She lost her second mother, her older sister Pauline, when Pauline entered Carmel. So, Therese went through a period of depression and then several years of extreme sensitivity. Therese lived in a day when Freud was just getting started and the supportive environment that counseling can provide did not exist. Therese did believe in God's love for her and reports in her autobiography that on Christmas Eve, 1886, she was cured of her hypersensitivity. After receiving communion and during her thanksgiving she felt charity enter my soul. The simple fact is that her life did change. She was able to move away from excessive self-preoccupation and begin to accept others into her life and to become interested in the lives of other people. In fact, she understood that humility was a virtue whereby a person could center on other people and recognize the gift that other people are in one's life.

St. Therese suffered in particular from tuberculosis. In fact, it was the very illness that claimed her life. She spent over a year in the gradual erosion of her bodily life. In the very process she was also assailed by severe temptations to doubt her faith, especially the existence of heaven. She described a sense of separation from God in terms of a total lack of consolation. She fought the temptation to despair and made frequent acts of faith in Jesus Christ and God's love for her. St. Therese wrote: while I do not have the joy of faith, I am trying to carry out its works at least. I believe that I have made more acts of faith in this past year than all through my whole life.

In suffering Therese always united her heart to Jesus Christ. She believed that even suffering, however difficult, had a place in God's redemptive love for us. She was convinced that our suffering, in union with the suffering and death of Jesus Christ, could help to transform the world. What is the greatest truth of all may not be the most obvious? There is a hiddenness to the wisdom of God that catches fire in hearts and events and places and over time ever so gradually consumes the earth in love! *By Rev. John F. Russell, O. Carm.*

FASTING before Mass ?

Are Catholics still required to fast prior to reception of Holy Communion? The General Rule is that Catholics **should fast for one hour** from solid food and beverages, with the exception of water, before going to Holy Communion. The period of fast is reduced for those who are sick, in the hospital, advanced in age and for those caring for them. We do not leave full from one restaurant and go to the next restaurant right after. Never heard of. We would not enjoy the second.

Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Specialist Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Private First Class Sean Keohane
Captain Shawn Linn
Lieutenant Gigi McElroy
Colonel John McLaughlin
Captain John G. Miele

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Sergeant Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Thomas lafrate
Captain Stephen Ikalowych
Corporal Joseph Levine
2nd Lieutenant J.P. Maher

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Ensign Jon Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Pray for Our Sick

Please Pray in the name of JESUS, the Healer, that the *sick of the Parish* may be restored to health and all those who *assist and care* for the sick will be given the *strength* to continue *God's Will*: baby Cordelia, baby Emmet Fischer, baby James Amicucci, baby Jonathan, baby Joseph, 5-year old Quinn, Michael Baruch, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Dominic Carini, Sal Cenicola, Helen Choma, Kevin Columbo, Paul Corbett, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Lorraine Degerdon, Roseann Dennehy, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Frank Diller, Mike Donohue, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Jay Filippone, Marie Filippone, Christine Flatt, Mary Foley, Leslie Handler, Amy Hartwell, Peter Kellar, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan and Buddy Phalon, Marie Piazza, Canice Prince, William Ragu, Debra Rendon, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Peggy Shedden, Aileen Vassar, Maria Williams, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Sean, Sharon, Tina W., Tom.

My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world. Who can measure the extent of My goodness? For you I descended from heaven to earth; for you I allowed Myself to be nailed to the cross; for you I let my Sacred Heart be pierced with a lance, thus opening wide the source of mercy for you. Come, then, with trust to draw graces from this fountain. I never reject a contrite heart. Your misery has disappeared in the depths of My mercy. Do not argue with Me about your wretchedness. You will give Me pleasure if you hand over to Me all your troubles and griefs. I shall heap upon you the treasures of My grace.

The Pain of Life is Pure Salt

The old Master instructed the unhappy young lady to put a handful of salt in a glass of water and then to drink it. "How does it taste?" the Master asked. "Very bad," said the lady. The Master then asked the young lady to take another handful of salt and put it in the lake. The two walked in silence to the nearby lake and when the apprentice swirled her handful of salt into the lake, the old man said, "Now drink from the lake." As the water dripped down the young lady's chin, the Master asked, "How does it taste?" "Good!" remarked the apprentice. "Do you taste the salt?" asked the Master. "No," said the young lady. The Master said, "The pain of life is pure salt; no more, no less. The amount of pain in life remains the same, exactly the same. But the amount we taste of the 'pain' depends on the container we put it into. So when you are in pain, the only thing you can do is to enlarge your sense of things... Stop being a glass. Become a lake!"

Mass Intentions

Monday, April 19 - St. Elphege of England-Bishop & Martyr

8:00 Gallagher Family R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Ernest, Mary and Marion Thomson R/b AnneThomson

Tuesday, April 20 - St. Marcellinus of Africa-Bishop in France

8:00 Frank and Norma DelloStritto R/b John and Leslie O'Donnell
12:00 Domenica Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family

Wednesday, April 21 - St. Anselm - Archbishop of Canterbury

8:00 Jordan and Evelyn Pedersen R/b the Pedersen Family
12:00 Frances Semler R/b Kay and Mary Maurice, and Sue Boughter

Thursday, April 22 - Ss. Epipodius & Alexander - Martyrs

8:00 Filipa Fizulich R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 John O'Neill R/b Peggy O'Brien

Friday, April 23 - St. George - Martyr

8:00 Intentions of Michael Hughes R/b Dan and Karen Brady
12:00 Marilyn "Billie" Anzalone R/b Scott and Barbara Anzalone

Saturday, April 24 - St. Fidelis Sigmaringen of Germany-Martyr

8:00 Intentions of Dennis and Kathleen Falotico
12:00 Anthony Walsh R/b the Zanetti Family
4:00 Peter and Lena Gobbetti R/b Lorraine Gobbetti
5:00 Alice Pommert R/b Judy Pommert

Sunday, April 25 - St. Mark the Evangelist

7:00 Doug Blessinger R/b Cathy and Wilfredo Ocasio
8:00 Henderson and Grace Morrison R/b the DeJoseph Family
9:30 Blase Sacus R/b John McDonough
10:45 Crispino Coviello R/b the Ricchiuto/Keady Family
10:45 Gym Frances D. Semler
12:00 Anna Lucia Arias R/b Maria Arias
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Theresa Ryan R/b the Creagh Family

Sanctuary Memorials

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn this week for the **repose of the soul of**

Harold Plog, r/b John Walsh.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn this week for the **repose of the soul of Mary Warner**, r/b Peter and Linda Wayne.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn this week for the **repose of the soul of Michael A. Casenta**, r/b Colleen Connors Casenta.

My Parish—COVID-19—My Responsibility

We thank all those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some have been laid off from their work or are experiencing decreased income and are unable to continue their donations at this time. *Donations / offering envelopes may be mailed to:*

OLV Rectory, 81 Lynn Street, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.

Thank you for your generosity.

MEANING AND USES OF HOLY WATER

Fonts filled with holy water for blessings are for three purposes: As a sign of repentance of sin, for protection from evil, and as a reminder of our Baptism. • The repentance of sin symbolized in the washing with water; • Holy water protects us against evil; • Holy water reminds us of our Baptism. In making the sign of the cross with the holy water, we are mindful that we are called to renew those baptismal promises of rejecting Satan, all his works, and all his empty promises, and to profess our cradle faith. -Fr. William Saunders, Catholic Straight Answers

DID YOU KNOW???

MIRACLES of Pope St. Paul VI-new patron of pregnant women

The miracle attributed to the cause of Paul VI is the healing of an unborn child in the fifth month of pregnancy. The case was brought forward in 2014 for study. The mother, originally from the province of Verona, Italy, had an illness that risked her own life and the life of her unborn child, and was advised to have an abortion. A few days after the beatification of Paul VI on Oct. 19, 2014, she went to pray to him at the Shrine of Holy Mary of Grace in the town of Brescia. The baby girl was later born in good health, and remains in good health today. The healing was first ruled as medically inexplicable by the medical council of the congregation last year, while the congregation's consulting theologians agreed that the healing occurred through the late Pope's intercession.

The alleged miracle closely resembles the one that opened the way for Paul VI's beatification. That first miracle took place in the 1990s in California when an unborn child was found to have a serious health problem that posed a high risk of brain damage. Physicians advised that the child be aborted, but the mother entrusted her pregnancy to Paul VI. The child was born without problems and is now a healthy adolescent. He is considered to be completely healed.

The cause for the canonization of Pope Paul VI, who died in 1978, commenced in 1993 and he was canonized on 14 October 2018. After having been proclaimed a Servant of God and declared Venerable, he was beatified on 19 October 2014, after the recognition of a miracle had been attributed to his intercession, and declared a saint by Pope Francis I on 14 October 2018.

4 PROPERTIES OF GLORIFIED HUMAN BODY

Sacred Scripture and Catholic theology teaches that our glorified resurrected bodies will experience four properties as an outflow of the beatified soul enjoying the vision of God's essence:

1) Impassibility – the glorified body will no longer suffer physical sickness or death, as Saint Paul teaches regarding the glorified body in 1 Corinthians 15:42, "It is sown in corruption, it shall rise in incorruption."

2) Subtlety - meaning that we will have a spiritualized nature in the sense of a spiritual body as did our Lord as we learn at 1 Corinthians 15:44: "It is sown a corruptible body, it shall rise a spiritual," i.e. a spirit-like, "body." We see that Christ's glorified body was able to pass through closed doors.

3) Agility – the glorified body will obey the soul with the greatest ease and speed of movement as we read in 1 Corinthians 15:43: "It is sown in weakness, it shall rise in power," that is, according to a gloss, "mobile and living." Saint Thomas Aquinas says, "But mobility can only signify agility in movement. Therefore the glorified bodies will be agile." We discern agility our Resurrected Lord's ability to bilocate and travel great distances in an instant.

4) Clarity – the glorified body will be free from any deformity and will be filled with beauty and radiance as we read at Matthew 13:43: "The just shall shine as the sun in the kingdom of their Father," and Wisdom 3:7: "The just shall shine, and shall run to and fro like sparks among the reeds." Here clarity refers not being "clear" but to being "bright."

St. Thomas Aquinas at Summa Contra Gentiles, IV, 86 summarized: "thus also will his body be raised to the characteristics of heavenly bodies - it will be **lightsome** (clarity), **incapable of suffering** (impassible), **without difficulty and labor in movement** (agility), and most perfectly **perfected by its form** (subtlety). For this reason, the Apostle speaks of the bodies of the risen as heavenly, referring not to their nature, but to their glory."

It is worth noting that the Virgin Mary has already received her glorified and resurrected body. Hence, she has the four gifts of the resurrection.

-Dr. Taylor Marshall

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY & EASTER DUTY CHANCES NOT OVER YET

Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when "all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened." (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of His Mercy, now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church. Jesus promised that "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary 699) He went on to say "I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy." (Diary 1109) We want to encourage everyone to take advantage of this incredible promise and the additional Plenary Indulgence on this great Feast of Mercy "Divine Mercy Sunday". We want you to benefit fully from these promises, and we also want you to notify all of your family and friends about them too and urge them to return to the practice of their faith! It is required of all Catholics to confess their sins at least once every year. If you haven't had the opportunity to meet this obligation then take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to receive an outpouring of an ocean of graces that Jesus promises. Those who have already confessed sins for Easter could make room for others. **It is allowed for one to go to Confession up to about 20 days, before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.**

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty), that is the obligation of receiving the Eucharist for Easter extends to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, **May 30**. No one conscious of committing a serious or mortal sin should receive Holy Communion until they have first gone to the Sacrament of Reconciliation a.k.a. Confession. Confessions are heard EVERY Monday through Saturday morning from 7:30-7:50AM, Saturday from 11:00AM-Noon and 3:00-3:45PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Vehicle for God to Travel Around His Country

We are all different vehicles created by God to travel around and reach various destinations. Prayer is the fuel that drives Christian life. Just as a vehicle can offer maximum mileage only if it maintains an optimum combination of fuel and oil, the mileage (the souls we gain for Christ) will directly depend on the fuel (prayer) and oil (love) within us. If a vehicle does not give us the mileage that is claimed of it, one of the first things we do is to take it to the service station. The service station, as far as a Catholic is concerned, is the confessional. Another important factor is the amount of air (Word of God) in the tires. A punctured tire can take even a good vehicle nowhere.

Kidz Korner Answers

1. Emmaus.
2. Cleopas.
3. Jesus.
4. While with them at table He took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them.
5. He vanished from their sight.

NEED BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For more information, phone the rectory. *Adult Catholics* who have not yet celebrated *Confirmation* should also contact the rectory for preparation class information.

CONVALIDATION

Best way to start your married life is with God. In Sacramental Marriage God's own divine life can be experienced and lived. Were you married only civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to be married in the Catholic Church? Call Fr. Wojciech for details.

REQUIREMENTS for GODPARENTS

Godparents play a very important role in your child's spiritual life as role models of the faith. They should support not only the child, but the parents as well. Additionally, in their role as godparent, they represent the larger Church community and this is a tremendous responsibility. The Church has provided guidelines to help parents choose the best possible godparents for their children. In recognizing the importance of the godparent and their duties:

Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old. **Godparent/Sponsor** must be in good standing with the Catholic Church. Must be a practicing Catholic (*attend Sunday Mass weekly*). Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. If single, not living with significant other, nor married civilly only. **Godparent/Sponsor** cannot be the candidate's parent. Each child only requires one Godparent. If you wish to have 2 Godparents there must be one female and one male. (Canon Law 872-874)

Jesus asked one thing from us!!!

On His last night of earth (Holy Thursday) Jesus asked His disciples one thing – to stay awake with Him for one hour. OLV has Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday and Thursday - 8:30 to 11:50AM.

CONFESSION/RECONCILIATION

Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession at a minimum once a month. This sacrament is offered every weekday at 7:30AM-7:50AM, as well as First Friday at 6PM, and Saturdays from 11AM to Noon and 3-3:40PM. A Priest is also available to hear Confessions daily by appointment.

Array of Hope - Awakening Hearts: Check out all that we have been up to on **social media**. Listen to our **NEW podcast** episode "*And Forgive Us Our Trespasses*" featuring Immaculee Ilibagiza as we discuss the Lord's command to forgive (even our enemies), the impossibility of doing so without God's grace, and the power of trusting in Divine Mercy. Tune in to our **Instagram Live** Monday thru Friday @ 3pm for a LIVE daily *Divine Mercy Chaplet* !

Several Sources Shelters Children's Charity Golf Classic - Monday, June 7, 2021. Register today or for additional information email kbranach@severalsources.org or call 201-818-9033. Presented by St. James Insurance Group and St. John's Insurance.

WORKERS NEEDED

The Harvest is great, but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord to send more laborers into the harvest. Have you ever considered offering your life to the Lord? Call Fr. Wojciech or Fr. Ed at the rectory or Vocations Office 973-313-6190. Have you ever considered offering your suffering for vocations? You can do that now.

**You do not need a parachute to skydive.
You only need a parachute to skydive twice.**

Saint Wojciech feast April 23

Originally given the name of Wojtech, St. Adalbert was born to a family of nobility in the Central European region of Bohemia during the mid-900s. When Wojtech became seriously ill during his childhood, his parents resolved to offer their son to God as a priest if their prayers for his survival were granted. Wojtech survived and his parents sent him to study with Archbishop Adalbert of Magdeburg, a Benedictine missionary. The archbishop gave the young student his own name at confirmation, setting an example that the boy would follow in his own life as a bishop, missionary and monk. The young Adalbert was 25 when his mentor died. He returned to his native Bohemia, where Bishop Deitmar of Prague ordained him a priest two years later. During his last illness, the bishop became terrified of his impending judgment, confessing that he had neglected his spiritual duties in favor of wealth, honors and pleasure. Adalbert resolved to live his own life in a more penitential spirit than before. Adalbert was consecrated as the Bishop of Prague just months after becoming a priest. "It is an easy thing to wear the mitre and a cross," Adalbert reflected, "but it is a most dreadful circumstance to have an account to give of a bishopric to the judge of the living and the dead." Adalbert slept on the floor, fasted regularly, gave sermons almost daily, and visited poor neighborhoods and prisons. But Bishop Adalbert made little headway among the Bohemians. The low point came when he unsuccessfully attempted to shield a woman convicted of adultery from a mob that sought to kill her. He responded by excommunicating the murderers, but the public seemed to favor them rather than the bishop. Dejected, Adalbert journeyed to Rome and asked Pope John XV for permission to retire from his diocese in 989. He joined a Roman monastery and purposely took on its most undesirable tasks. Five years later, he was asked to return to the diocese of Prague, but Pope John made it clear that Adalbert was free to leave if the residents continued to resist him. Sadly, that was the case, and Adalbert left. Adalbert became a missionary to the Hungarians teaching – among many others – King Stephen I, who would later be canonized as St. Stephen of Hungary. Afterward, he returned to the Roman monastery of St. Boniface, where he served in the office of prior. But at the insistence of Adalbert's consecrator, Pope Gregory V finally ordered Adalbert to once again resume his duties as the Bishop of Prague. This time, however, the citizens defied him openly. A Bohemian prince went so far as to kill several of Adalbert's relatives and burn their homes. Other residents indicated he would be in danger if he chose to come back. Rejected by his own people, Adalbert decided to begin a mission to the pagan tribes in Poland and northeastern Germany. He successfully converted many of them, but eventually encountered the same hostility - partly because he denounced the native practices of tree-worship and human sacrifice, but also because he was suspected of being a Polish spy. A pagan priest eventually took Adalbert and his companions hostage. Adalbert prayed aloud, offering his own life to God and begging forgiveness for his attackers. He was stabbed and died of his wounds on April 23, 997.

A Polish prince ransomed back St. Adalbert's body from the pagans, exchanging his remains for their weight in gold. His relics were transferred to the Polish city of Gniezno, and kept in the church known as Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Adalbert. He is the main patron of Poland.

A Little Humor...

One day at the entrance to heaven, St. Peter saw a New York street gang walk up to the Pearly Gates. This being a first, St. Peter ran to God and said, "God, there are some evil, thieving New Yorkers at the Pearly Gates. What do I do?". God replied, "Just do what you normally do with that type. Re-direct them down to hell." St. Peter went back to carry out the order and all of a sudden he comes running back yelling "God, God, they're gone, they're gone!" "Who, the New Yorkers?". "No, the Pearly Gates."

KIDZ KORNER

- 1. To what village were the two disciples in today's Gospel going?
- 2. What was the name of one of the two disciples?
- 3. Who came and walked with the two disciples?
- 4. What did Jesus do that helped the disciples to recognize Him?
- 5. What happened to Jesus when the two disciples recognized Him?

Answers on page four