

# 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

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 Evanella Denise Coulter (LSEC)  
201-768-1400

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

Selena Piazza  
Lesla 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

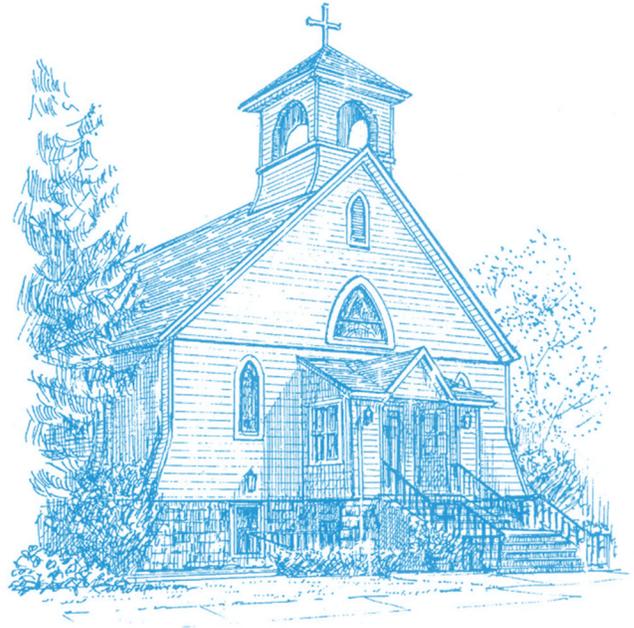
**St. Peregrine:** First Friday of the Month

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

Do not be afraid  
just have faith

Mark: 5:21

Sunday, June 27, 2021 A.D.  
In the Year of Saint Joseph



### **ATTENTION!** DISPENSATION LIFTED

**As of June 5 and 6,**  
the Catholic Bishops of New Jersey have  
**reinstated the general obligation to attend**  
**Sunday Mass and Holy Days of obligation.**

#### **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...

Thank you so much for all the kindness you showed to Fr. Ed and me on Fathers Day. We are so happy to be your spiritual fathers.

Please see below a very important note about CCD registration. It is open now till August 1.

This week we will start the summer months. Let us not forget the Lord this summer. Rest from work, but not from the Lord. Spend vacation in a holy manner.

### CCD Registration 2021-2022

**Registration deadline is August 1st.**

We are pleased to announce that registration for 2021-22 CCD classes has begun! We are even happier to announce that classes will be in-person again! To find out more about our CCD Program and to register your children, please visit OLV's website [olvhp.org](http://olvhp.org) and click on the Faith Formation tab. There you will find an explanation of how our CCD Program works, and Registration Forms for new and existing students. Kindly keep in mind that in order to register a new student, you must first register your family in our OLV parish. You will find a link to our Parish registration in the registration forms as well. **Registration deadline is August 1st.** We look forward to a wonderful year!

## CROSSES

We complain about the cross we bear, but don't realize it is preparing us for the dip in the road that God can see and we cannot. Whatever your cross, whatever your pain, there will always be sunshine, after the rain... Perhaps you may stumble, perhaps even fall; But God's always ready, to answer your call... He knows every heartache, sees every tear, a word from His lips, can calm every fear...Your sorrows may linger, throughout the night, But suddenly vanish, by dawn's early light...The Savior is waiting, somewhere above, to give you His grace, and send you His love. May God fill your day with blessings!!Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle!

### **First Thursday, Friday & Saturday**

**First Thursday - July 1** - Monthly Holy Hour 7-8PM

**First Friday - July 2** -12:30PM afternoon adoration, 6PM confessions, 6:30PM devotions to the Sacred Heart, 7PM Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart.

**First Saturday - July 3**-8AM Mass of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

ADORATION 8:30AM-11:50AM (no adoration after 12 Noon Mass)

12PM Mass will be offered for the Souls in Purgatory.

## 2021 Annual Appeal *Thank you for donating*

**WE ARE ALMOST THERE. WE STILL NEED SOME MORE HELP.**

**We need to meet our goal by the end of June.** Anything over our goal comes back to us! Please prayerfully consider donating. OLV pledges total \$63,000 toward our \$65,143 goal. Envelopes are available in church. Please make checks payable to 2021 Annual Appeal. For info' visit website 2021 Annual Appeal | Archdiocese of Newark ([rcan.org](http://rcan.org)).

"The church is a miniature Heaven. Whosoever takes no delight in entering this little heaven on earth will not be admitted into the great Heaven above." **St. Ambrose**

## Advice to Graduates

Don't sweat the small stuff, and most stuff is small.  
The most boring word in any language is "I".  
Nobody is indispensable, especially you.  
People are more important than things.  
Persistence will get you almost anything, eventually.  
Nobody can make you happy;  
most people are as happy as they make up their minds to be.  
Live by what you trust, not by what you fear.  
Character counts. Family matters.  
If you wait to have kids until you can afford them, you probably never will.  
Baby kittens don't begin to open their eyes until six weeks after birth.  
People generally take 26 years.  
Television ruins more minds than drugs.  
Sometimes there is more to gain in being wrong than in being right.  
Life is so much simpler when you tell the truth.  
People who do the world's real work usually don't wear ties.  
A good joke beats a pill for a lot of ailments.  
There are not substitutes for fresh air, sunshine, and exercise.  
A smile is the cheapest way to improve your looks.  
May you live life so there is only standing room at your funeral.  
Mothers know best, but sometimes fathers know too.  
Forgive yourself, your friends, and your enemies.  
If you don't do anything else in life, love someone and let someone love you.

## The Value of The Mass

Through Holy Mass you are preserved from many dangers and misfortunes which would otherwise have befallen you. You shorten your Purgatory by every Mass. During Holy Mass you kneel amid a multitude of holy Angels, who are present at the Adorable Sacrifice with reverential awe. Through Holy Mass you are blessed in your temporal goods and affairs. When you hear Holy Mass devoutly, offering it to Almighty God in honor of any particular Saint or Angel, thanking God for the favors bestowed on him, etc., you afford that Saint or Angel a new degree of honor, joy and happiness, and draw his special love and protection on yourself. Every time you assist at Holy Mass, besides other intentions, you should offer it in honor of the Saint of the day. At the hour of your death the Holy Masses you have heard devoutly will be your greatest consolation. Every Mass will go with you to Judgment and will plead for pardon for you. Through the Holy Sacrifice, Our Lord Jesus Christ supplies for many of your negligences and omissions. He forgives you all the venial sins which you are determined to avoid. He forgives you all your unknown sins which you never confessed. The power of Satan over you is diminished. One Holy Mass heard during your life will be of more benefit to you than many heard for you after your death. - catholictradition.org

## SAINTS PETER & PAUL

On June 29, we honor the two great pillars on which Jesus built His Church: Saints Peter and Paul, who totally lived for God and His Church. Peter left a fishing career, his wife and family; Paul, a tent maker, left the comforts of family and homeland, to travel to the ends of the know world to spread the news of Jesus Christ. They both died to "self" so that Jesus could work in and through them! Jesus will work in and through each of us - if we die to "self" and live totally for God.

## IT'S IN THE BIBLE

The phrase "*Mark my words*", used in making a prediction to take notice of what I have to say, comes to us from Isaiah 28:23.

**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  
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, Michael Baruch, Phyllis Bloomer, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Paul Brennan, 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, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Christine Flatt, Mary Foley, Leslie Handler, Amy Hartwell, Peter Kellar, Pat Kissane, Mary Lowe, James McGarry, Michael McMahon, Robert Milli, Gianna Moscatello, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan and Buddy Phalon, Canice Prince, William Ragu, Debra Rendon, Louise Ricciardi, Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Peggy Shedden, Charles Touw, Aileen Vassar, Maria Williams, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Michele, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sean, Sharon, Tina W., Tom.

**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.

**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.

**Respect Life - Retreat for Healing**

"Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed, loved, and forgiven." (Pope Francis) The Church can also be a place to heal. We are called to "be merciful like the Father." So many are suffering from the effects of abortion. Where can they heal? The Archdiocese of Newark Respect Life Office will host two Rachel's Vineyard retreats to heal the wounds from abortion: Sept 10-12 (English) and Oct 22-24 (Spanish). Contact the Respect Life Office 973-497-4350 (Spanish option 2) or [Cheyl.riley@rcan.org](mailto:Cheyl.riley@rcan.org) (English) [elvinedoderaquelin@rcan.org](mailto:elvinedoderaquelin@rcan.org) (Spanish) "He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

**A blind person asked St. Anthony:**

**"Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?"**

**He replied: "Yes, losing your vision."**

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, June 28-St. Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr**

8:00 John and Carmela Russo Family R/b John and Linda Russo  
12:00 Robert Thomson R/b Anne Thomson

**Tuesday, June 29– Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul**

8:00 James P. Walsh R/b Jeanne Marie Walsh  
12:00 Intentions of George Fabiano R/b George and Gail Fabiano

**Wednesday, June 30 – First Martyrs of the Church of Rome**

8:00 Intentions of Bridie Kiene R/b Joan Crowley  
12:00 Eleanora Zanetti R/b the Zanetti Family

**Thursday, July 1 – St. Junipero Serra - Priest**

8:00 August Reinfried R/b Norma Reinfried  
12:00 Helen Smith R/b the Oakley Family

**First Friday, July 2 – St. Bernardino Realino of Italy-Priest**

8:00 Irene Moncalieri  
12:00 Intentions of Ralph and Susana Giron R/b the Giron Family  
7:00 Antonietta Durso R/b Joe Tobia

**First Saturday, July 3 – St. Thomas the Apostle**

8:00 Rose de Rosa R/b Andrew and Marcia Oates  
12:00 Philip C. Cheevers R/b Friends

4:00 Kevin LaHiff R/b Lorraine Gobbetti  
5:00 Joseph Russell R/b Judy Pommert and Ali Wilcox

**Sunday, July 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY - St. Elizabeth of Portugal**

7:00 Charles F. Scott R/b Tony and Laura Scott  
8:00 John P. Talerico R/b Greg and Susan Evanela  
9:30 Gill Family R/b Chris Gill  
10:45 Robert Bardsley R/b the Youngmans Family  
10:45 (Gym) Patrick Dolan R/b the Dolan Family  
12:00 Michael Morillo R/b Tony and Mary Yorio  
1:00 People of the Parish  
6:00 Christopher Gillespie R/b Eric Olsen

**Sanctuary Memorials (this week)**

The Sanctuary Lamp burns for all fathers, living and deceased.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp burns for the intentions of Anita Garzino, r/b Ruth Zajkowski.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp burns for the repose of the soul of Joe Barral, r/b Stephen and Robin Hartman.

The Flowers donated by George and Claire Meyers.

**Flower & Sanctuary Offerings**

If you would like to donate flowers for the Altar, BVM and St. Joseph, call the rectory. Flowers, Bread and Wine, the BVM and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis.

**My Parish—COVID-19—My Responsibility**

Thank you to 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 St, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.* Thank you for your generosity.

SOLID CATHOLIC RADIO

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION ?

PATRICK MADRID ANSWERS THEM ALL

**Relevant radio 1430AM**

## Sundays are dedicated to the Holy Trinity.

### REASON, SEASON, LIFETIME

People come into your life for a **reason, a season or a lifetime**. When you know which one it is, you will know what to do for that person. When someone is in your life for a **REASON**, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end.

Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a **SEASON**, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it, it is real. But only for a season.

**LIFETIME** relationships teach you lifetime lessons, things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant. —*Author Unknown*.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The term "**bleeding heart**," often used in a derogatory sense when applied to image-conscious (read *hypocritical*) liberals, had a very Catholic and Incarnational origin. The term came into use not long after the revelations of our Lord to St. Margaret Mary concerning the wounds inflicted by sinful Catholics on His Sacred Heart. In the revelations given to the Visitation nun in 1675, our Lord opened His bosom and exposed before her eyes the very flesh of His human Heart wrapped in a ring of thorns and oozing droplets of His precious blood. "Behold," He said to the saint, "the Heart that has so loved men." Within Catholic Christendom of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a "bleeding heart" was a heart consumed with true Christian charity for the poor and sick.

### A Little Humor ...

#### Secret to a Good Marriage

At St. Peter's Church they have weekly husbands marriage seminars. At a session last week, the priest asked Giuseppe, who said he was approaching his 50th wedding anniversary, to take a few minutes and share some insight as to how he managed to stay married to the same woman all these years. Giuseppe replied to the assembled husbands, "Wella, l'va tried to treata nice, spenda da money on her, but besta of all is, I tooka to Italy for the 25th anniversary!" The priest responded, "Giuseppe, you are an amazing inspiration to all the husbands here! Please tell us what you are planning for your wife for your 50th anniversary?" Giuseppe proudly replied, "I gonna go pick her up."

#### Summer Jokes

What do cats eat for dessert? Mice cream!  
What do you say to a dog on the beach? You are one hot dog!!!!  
What did the pig say on a hot summer day? – I'm bacon!  
Why do bananas use sunscreen? – Because they peel.  
Why are gulls named seagulls? – If they were by the bay, they'd be bagels.  
Why don't oysters share their pearls? – Because they're shellfish.  
Which letter is the coolest? – Iced T.  
What do you call a snowman in July? – A puddle.  
What do sheep do on sunny days? – Have a baa-baa-cue.

### HUMILITY: A PROTECTION AGAINST EVIL

Humility, spiritually speaking, is a protection. Look at the Son of God. Lucifer never saw Him coming because he could not imagine, in his pride, that the Son of God would be born in a smelly, stinking stable. I mean, that really fooled him. The smart aleck didn't catch on. Then when the Holy Family fled to Egypt to escape from Herod, Lucifer had to think: "Aw, that can't be the Son of God. He wouldn't run from anybody." Lucifer never caught on because the Lord was so humble. Satan doesn't know humility, and he doesn't know the truth.

*Mother Angelica, Little Book of Life Lessons page 105.*

### NEED? BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For 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)

### 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.

### CLOTHING BINS

Please donate clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books. Please place your donations **INSIDE** the bins (sometimes you have to push it in). Do not leave items outside.

### KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Jairus was a synagogue official.
2. Peter, James and John (brother of James) accompanied Jesus to the home of Jairus.
3. "Do not be afraid, just have faith"
4. Jesus said, "Talitha kourm," which means "Little girl, I say to you arise!"

### Saint who started a devotion to the Precious Blood



One devotion you don't hear too often is a devotion to the Precious Blood. But St. Gaspar del Bufalo sure was devoted! **Born on the feast of the Epiphany, he was given the full name Gaspar Melchior Balthazar** for the traditional names of each of the three Wise Men who went to adore the baby Jesus. **He founded the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1815.** Their vision and goal was to establish missions, churches, and catechize the people in towns and provinces where bandits had taken over. St. Gaspar and his missionaries were very successful and one time, the saint, armed only with a crucifix, went into the mountains to preach to the bandits and was able to negotiate peace with them. "We must let it be known how the Blood of Christ cleanses the souls and sanctifies them, particularly by means of the sacraments," St. Gaspar said on more than one occasion. He also said things like: "I exert you to speak less and pray more." Or this one: "We are living in times in which the divine Blood must cleanse the entire world." **St. Gaspar was the first to really popularize devotion to the Precious Blood.** St. Gaspar found a unifying theme throughout salvation history, that the Precious Blood always underlined man's relationship with God. He said, "Other devotions which are products of various times have holy and praiseworthy beginnings, but they go back only so far; this devotion is so ancient that it goes back to the moment when Adam sinned, for which reason Jesus was called, 'the Lamb who has been slain from the foundation of the world.'" He also said, "Jesus has given us His Blood even to the last drop. What is there left to do? Jesus is a victim. Behold I am ready, O my God, to be a victim of love!" At his time, many Catholics thought that the name of Jesus as the Precious Blood should be reserved for a sacred few and not "bandied about" on the lips of many, but St. Gaspar thought otherwise. "In every era the Lord has inspired certain devotions to stem the tide of iniquity. We also see that in times past the Church was attacked in this or that doctrine. Today the war is being waged against religion as such and against Christ Crucified. We need, therefore, to reemphasize the glories of the Cross and of our Crucified Redeemer, to reopen the fountains of mercy just when the devil would make us the victim of wrath. Now, more than ever, it is opportune to tell people at what price our souls were redeemed. We must let it be known how the Blood of Christ cleanses the souls and sanctifies them, particularly by means of the sacraments. We must arouse them from their insensibility by reminding them that his Blood is offered up every morning upon the altars and that instead of blasphemy and insult, we should give it adoration and praise," he said. **Though he was of frail health, St. Gaspar served the people during the cholera outbreak in Italy.** He spent the summer of 1837 ministering to and tending the spiritual needs of those in Rome affected by the cholera epidemic. On December 28, he succumbed to his own failing health and died while ministering to others. St. Vincent Pallotti, his friend and founder of the Pallottines, assisted at his deathbed and his doctor described him as a "victim of charity" because of his tireless efforts to serve others up until the very end. St. Gaspar was canonized in 1954 and his feast day is October 21. Because of his own devotion, a Litany of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ was written and all who pray it receive a partial indulgence.

#### **Blood of Jesus, Help Me!**

In every need let me come to Thee with humble trust saying *R. Blood of Jesus, help me!*  
 In all my doubts, perplexities, and temptations, R.  
 In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials, R.  
 In the failure of my plans and hopes; in disappointments, troubles and sorrows, R.  
 When my heart is cast down by failure, at seeing no good come from my efforts, R.  
 When others fail me, and Thy grace alone can assist me, R.  
 When I throw myself on Thy tender love as my Father and Savior, R.  
 When I feel impatient, and my cross irritates me, R.  
 When I am ill, and my head and hands cannot work and I am lonely, R.  
 Always, always in spite of weakness, falls and shortcomings, of every kind,  
*Blood of Jesus, help me and never forsake me.*

#### **KIDZ KORNER** from Sunday's Gospel

1. What was the occupation of Jairus?
2. Which three disciples accompanied Jesus to Jairus' home?
3. What did Jesus say to the father of the 12 year old girl, when he heard that she just died.
4. Jesus took the little girl by the hand and said what words? **Answers p. 4**

### **Solemnity Saints Peter and Paul - June 29**

The Apostles Peter and Paul stand before us as witnesses. They never tired of preaching and journeying as missionaries from the land of Jesus to Rome itself. Here they gave their ultimate witness, offering their lives as martyrs. If we go to the heart of that testimony, we can see them as witnesses to life, witnesses to forgiveness and witnesses to Jesus.

**Witnesses to life.** Their lives, though, were not neat and linear. Both were deeply religious: Peter was one of the very first disciples (cf. Jn 1:41), and Paul was "zealous for the traditions of [his] ancestors" (Gal 1:14). Yet they also made great mistakes: Peter denied the Lord, while Paul persecuted the Church of God. Both were cut to the core by questions asked by Jesus: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" (Jn 21:15); "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). Jesus called them by name and changed their lives. After all that happened, he put his trust in them, in one who denied him and one who persecuted his followers, in two repentant sinners.

There is a great teaching here: the starting point of the Christian life is not our worthiness. The Lord loves us just as we are; he is looking for people who are not self-sufficient, but ready to open their hearts to him. People who, like Peter and Paul, are transparent before God. Peter immediately told Jesus: "I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8). Paul wrote that he was "least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle" (1 Cor 15:9). Throughout life, they preserved this humility, to the very end. Peter died crucified upside down, since he did not consider himself worthy to imitate his Lord. Paul was always fond of his name, which means "little", and left behind his birth name, Saul, the name of the first king of his people. What was the secret that made them persevere amid weakness? It was the Lord's forgiveness.

Let us think about them too as **witnesses to forgiveness.** In their failings, they encountered the powerful mercy of the Lord, who gave them rebirth. In his forgiveness, they encountered irrepressible peace and joy. Thinking back to their failures, they might have experienced feelings of guilt. How many times might Peter have thought back to his denial! How many scruples might Paul have felt at having hurt so many innocent people! Humanly, they had failed. Yet they encountered a love greater than their failures, a forgiveness strong enough to heal even their feelings of guilt. Only when we experience God's forgiveness do we truly experience rebirth. From there we start over, from forgiveness; there we rediscover who we really are: in the confession of our sins.

Witnesses to life and witnesses to forgiveness, Peter and Paul are ultimately **witnesses to Jesus.** In the Gospel for the Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, the Lord asks: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Peter, after saying: "You are the Christ", then goes on to say: "the Son of the living God" (v. 16). Witness arises from an encounter with the living Jesus. At the center of Paul's life too, we find that same word that rises up from Peter's heart: Christ. Paul repeats this name constantly, almost four hundred times in his letters! For him, Christ is not only a model, an example, a point of reference: he is life itself. Paul writes: "For me to live is Christ" (Phil 1:21).

Having met Jesus and experienced his forgiveness, the Apostles bore witness to him by living a new life: they no longer held back, but gave themselves over completely. They were "poured out as a libation" (cf. 2 Tim 4:6). Let us ask for the grace not to be lukewarm Christians living by half measures, allowing our love to grow cold. Let us rediscover who we truly are through a daily relationship with Jesus and through the power of his forgiveness. Just as he asked Peter, Jesus is now asking us: "Who do you say that I am?", "Do you love me?" Let us allow these words to penetrate our hearts and inspire us not to remain content with a minimum, but to aim for the heights, so that we too can become living witnesses to Jesus.

-excerpt from a Homily of Pope Francis, Solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul, June 29, 2019; L'Osservatore Romano Weekly Edition in English 5 July 2019,