

# 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 Evanelle 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

**God bless America.  
and  
America bless God.**

Sunday, July 4, 2021 A.D.  
In the Year of Saint Joseph



#### SUMMER ADORATION HOURS

July and August

Independence Weekend-Labor Day

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be  
**ONLY**

First Thursday 7:00PM-8:00PM

First Friday 12:30PM-6:50PM

First Saturday 8:30AM-11:50AM

**NO TUESDAY/ NO THURSDAY ADORATION**

#### 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 you will be BBQ'ing today and hearing fireworks, and maybe some of you will be even annoyed with the noise they make, let us not forget that there are places in which noise is the sound of violence and war. Let us appreciate our freedom. And let us not forget to thank God who is the source of freedom. Some get deceived by thinking they can find freedom and happiness by excluding God:

"The greatest deception, and the deepest source of unhappiness, is the illusion of finding life by excluding God, of finding freedom by excluding moral truths and personal responsibility."

-Pope St. John Paul II, Homily, World Youth Day, Toronto, July 28, 2002

Let us remember:

**Dependence on God makes us truly independent.**

**Happy Independence Day to ALL!**

See a great idea to spend summer below.

**GREAT WAYS  
TO SPEND SUMMER** with kids  
go to **DAILY MASS** with your kids  
recite daily the **ROSARY**  
and read Bible stories from Book of Genesis,  
Exodus, Book of Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, Book  
of Judith, Ruth, Esther and Book of prophet  
Daniel and Jonah  
Read **LIVES OF SAINTS**  
by Alban Butler, Online resources  
<http://www.sacred-texts.com/chr/lots/index.htm>  
Or online google the saint of your birth day, Baptism,  
1st Holy Communion, Graduation day, Confirmation  
day, wedding day, etc. You can also travel virtually  
to the places where they lived - SO MUCH FUN, so  
much to find out and learn & above all so much  
INSPIRATION  
**SO MUCH FUN + INSPIRATION**

## 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!

## 2021 Annual Appeal *Thank you for donating* **WE ARE ALMOST THERE. WE STILL NEED SOME MORE HELP.**

**Anything over our goal comes back to us.**

Please prayerfully consider donating. OLV pledges total \$63,300 towards OLV's 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. More info' on the Archdiocesan website at 2021 Annual Appeal | Archdiocese of Newark ([rcan.org](http://rcan.org)).

## Sisters of Charity 50/50 Raffle

**Sr. Elizabeth will be selling raffle tickets the weekend of July 17/18** after the Masses to support Maris Stella Retreat Center. Tickets are \$20 each or 3-for-\$50. 1st prize 25%, 2nd prize 15%, 3rd prize 10% of gross receipts. Drawing will be Sept. 5 at Maris Stella. Winner need not be present. Please make checks payable to **Sisters of Charity**.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Independence Day commemorates the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. However, it was not declared a legal holiday until 1941.

Fireworks were made in China as early as the 11th century. The Chinese used their pyrotechnic mixtures for war rockets and explosives.

Uncle Sam was first popularized during the War of 1812, when the term appeared on supply containers. Believe it or not, the U.S. Congress didn't adopt him as a national symbol until 1961.

There are many precise rules for taking care of the American flag. And speaking of flag traditions, we're sorry to report that contrary to legend, historical research has failed to confirm that Betsy Ross sewed the first flag.

Not all members of the Continental Congress supported a formal Declaration of Independence, but those who did were passionate about it. One representative rode 80 miles by horseback to reach Philadelphia and break a tie in support of independence.

The first two versions of the Liberty Bell were defective and had to be melted down and recast. The third version rang every Fourth of July from 1778 to 1835, when, according to tradition, it cracked as it was being tolled for the death of Chief Justice John Marshall.

The American national anthem, the "Star-Spangled Banner," is set to the tune of an English drinking song ("To Anacreon in Heaven").

The iron framework of the Statue of Liberty was devised by French engineer Alexandre-Gustave Eiffel, who also built the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

The patriotic poem "America the Beautiful" was published on July 4, 1895 by Wellesley College professor Katharine Lee Bates.

Father of the country and architect of independence George Washington held his first public office at the tender age of 17. He continued in public service until his death in 1799.

## **Thirteen Stars and Thirteen Stripes**

It was on JUNE 14, 1777, that the Second Continental Congress selected the Flag of the United States. In 1916, Woodrow Wilson signed the Proclamation making JUNE 14 "National Flag Day." On Flag Day, 1942, Franklin D. Roosevelt stated: "The belief in man, created free, in the image of God - is the crucial difference between ourselves and the enemies we face...God of the free...grant us victory over the tyrants who would enslave all free men." On JUNE 14, 1954, Dwight Eisenhower signed Joint Resolution (Public Law 396) adding the phrase "One Nation Under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Eisenhower stated: "From this day forward, the millions of our school children will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural school house, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty. To anyone who truly loves America, nothing could be more inspiring than...this rededication of our youth, on each school morning, to our country's true meaning." President Eisenhower ended: "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource, in peace or in war."

- [AmericanMinute.com](http://AmericanMinute.com)

**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 Iafate  
Captain Stephen Ikalowych  
2nd Lieutenant J.P. Maher

**US Navy**

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

**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, little boy Antonio, 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 Filipone, Jeremy Fillis, 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, Hope White, Maria Williams, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Michelle, Patrick, Paul, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sean, Sharon, Tina W, Tom.

**NO TUESDAY NO THURSDAY**

**ADORATION DURING SUMMER**

**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 Cheryl.riley@rcan.org (English) elvinedoderaquel-info@rcan.org (Spanish)

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

**Mass Intentions**

**Monday, July 5 - St. Anthony Mary Zaccaria - Priest**

8:00 Daniel Fiore R/b Mike and Beth Rota  
12:00 Teresa A. McGahren R/b Rose Nicoletti

**Tuesday, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti, virgin**

8:00 Tony Accavallo R/b Karen Accavallo  
12:00 Intentions of Andrew S. DeJoseph R/b the DeJoseph Family

**Wednesday, July 7-BI. Ralph Milner and Roger Dickenson, Martyrs**

8:00 Veronica Ryan R/b Mary Ann Ryan  
12:00 Rose Bandiero R/b Sonny and Anita Garzino

**Thursday, July 8 - St. Grimbald, Abbot of Newminster**

8:00 Eileen Seneca R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich  
12:00 Francesca Dallorto and Francesco Mollo R/b Judi Villani

**Friday, July 9 - St. Augustine Zhao Rong and companions**

8:00 Patrick Dolan R/b the Dolan Family  
12:00 John Ryan R/b Mary Ann Ryan

**Saturday, July 10 - St. Ulrich of Augsburg, Germany-Bishop**

8:00 Michael Oakes R/b Andrew and Marcia Oakes  
12:00 Joseph Sutter Jr. R/b Carl and Ellen Sutter

**4:00 Burke, Walsh and Melbourne Family R/b Bill and Peg Walsh**

5:00 Alice and James Attas R/b Marie Michaels

**Sunday, July 11 - St. Benedict of Italy - Abbot**

7:00 Madeline Vespucci R/b the Poggi Family  
8:00 Amado Orbeta R/b Marita Morgan

9:30 Clifford Keenan Jr. R/b Josephine Tristano  
10:45 Gino Zocco R/b Mike Zocco

10:45 (Gym) People of the Parish

12:00 James Maher R/b the Oakes, Kelly, Roney Families

1:00 Francisco Tello R/b Nelly Benedetti

6:00 Angelina Coviello DiGiacomo R/b Diana DiGiacomo

**Sanctuary Memorials (this week)**

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

**The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** burns for the repose of the soul of Frances Semler, r/b the Garzino Family.

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** burns for the repose of the souls of Benjamin and Hazel Obutelewicz, r/b Regina Bond.

**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

**Relevant radio 1430AM**

**Listener Supported Talk Radio for Catholic Life**

# Mondays are dedicated to the Holy Angels.

## St. Maria Goretti, Virgin & Martyr July 6.

On June 25, 1950, Pope Pius XII canonized a Saint at a Mass which both the Saint's mother and the Saint's murderer attended. The details are chilling of how this 11-year-old-girl bravely thwarted her attempted assaulter's regular unwanted advances, and then forgave him on her deathbed for his violent attack. But the details of her - and her murderer's - sad family life, the miracle that, after years of being belligerently unrepentant, led to her murderer's conversion and to her mother's acceptance of his apology, are truly amazing!

Born in Italy on October 16, 1890, into a farming family, Maria's father died when she was about 9, leaving her widowed mother, Assunta, with six children. With no social services or other means of support, Assunta 'hired' herself and her children out to a landowner, offering their crops for their rent; a neighbor, Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro, helped the Goretti family. But Giovanni was a drunkard who beat his son who, though many years older than Maria, lusted for her. Maria sought her mother's protection, but Alessandro had threatened to kill them both - setting the scene for a tragic 'ending.'

The then-19-year-old, angry Alessandro forced himself on the 11-year old child who rebuffed his attacks; so he stabbed her - 14 times - leaving her for dead. After lingering in pain for 20 hours, enduring operations with no anesthesia, and being told she would die, she forgave her murderer. On July 6, 1902, Maria died after receiving the Last Rites; the last image she saw in this world was of our Blessed Mother. In art, Saint Maria Goretti is often depicted with our Blessed Mother, holding lilies, a symbol of her virginal purity, and palm branches, a symbol of her triumph over death.

The police nabbed Alessandro as a mob sought to lynch him. With overwhelming evidence against him, he confessed his crime, but as a minor, was sentenced to 30 years of hard labor. He remained obstinate, refused visits from clergy, and seemed hopelessly lost - until after about 6 years in prison - he experienced what some consider Saint Maria Goretti's first miracle. In a vision that melted his heart and changed his life, Maria appeared to Alessandro, offering him 14 white lilies - one for each stab wound - which turned into white flames. Over time, he became a model prisoner, sought sacramental forgiveness, and was released 3 years before his term was up. He immediately sought forgiveness from Maria's mother, who said, "If my daughter can forgive him, and God can forgive him, who am I to withhold forgiveness?" He testified to Maria's holiness in the hearings for her cause for Sainthood. After leaving prison, he entered a Capuchin monastery, serving as a gardener, and remained a lay brother until his death on May 6, 1970.

The canonization Mass for Saint Maria Goretti was so crowded, it was the first held outdoors, in Saint Peter's Square. She still is our youngest canonized Saint, and the only Saint whose mother attended the canonization. May Maria's example of purity and forgiveness move our hearts to reject sin and be more merciful! **Saint Maria Goretti, pray for us.**

## 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.

"The greatest deception, and the deepest source of unhappiness, is the illusion of finding life by excluding God, of finding freedom by excluding moral truths and personal responsibility."

-St. John Paul II, Homily, World Youth Day, Toronto, July 28, 2002

## 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)

## CLOTHING BINS ... Thank you!!!!

**Catholic Charities** received \$3,047 as a result of your donations from (12/01/20 to 05/31/21). These funds combined with monies from other parishes in the same program throughout the Archdiocese enable us to provide light and hope through the darkness of poverty, sickness and rejection. Our food program alone distributed 242,748 pounds of food to 40,459 households (FY 2019/2020) Thank you for enabling us to bring Christ's love to the most vulnerable in our society. **Donations** of clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books may be placed **INSIDE** the bins. (Do not leave items outside bins)

## A little humor ...

What happened as a result of the Stamp Act?

The Americans licked the British!

What did King George think of the American colonists?

He thought they were revolting!



## KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Maryland.
2. Charles Carroll.
3. John Carroll.
4. John F. Kennedy.
5. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

**True Freedom - in being Forgiven**

All peoples have been set free from the powers that held them captive by our Lord Jesus Christ. He it is – yes, He! – who has redeemed us. As the apostle Paul says: «Having forgiven all our transgressions, obliterating the bond against us, nailing it to the cross, He despoiled the principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, leading them away in triumph.» (Col 2,13-15). Yes, we have been released from our bonds, those of us who have been brought together at the Lord's call by the sacrament of baptism...; we have been set free by the blood of Christ and the invocation of His name... Bravely hold fast to what you have received; keep it to your own happiness; sin no more. From henceforth, keep yourselves pure and without fault for the day of the Lord.

**-St Pacian of Barcelona**

**the Price They Paid**

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the revolutionary army, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the revolutionary war. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

What kind of men were they? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and large plantation owners, men of means, well educated. But they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers or both, looted the properties of Ellery, Clymer, Hall, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson Jr. noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. The owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild eyed, rabble-rousing ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of the divine providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

-weeklyregistercall.com/2020/07/02 by Michael W. Smith

**KIDZ KORNER**

1. Which of the original colonies was the Catholic colony?
2. Who was the Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence?
3. Who was the first Catholic bishop in the US?
4. Who was the first Catholic president?
5. Who was America's first native born Saint? **Answers p.4**

**Interesting history!**

Here are some facts about the 1500s.

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. Since they were starting to smell, however, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odor. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married. Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it... hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the Bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs-thick straw-piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof, resulting in the idiom, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed, therefore, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt, leading folks to coin the phrase "dirt poor."

The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way, subsequently creating a "thresh hold."

In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire.. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while, and thus the rhyme, "Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old."

Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could, "bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and would all sit around and "chew the fat."

Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning death. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the "upper crust."

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial.. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up, creating the custom of holding a wake.

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying people alive, so they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift.) to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be, saved by the bell or was considered a dead ringer. And that's the truth. Now, whoever said History was boring? - Waynedalenews.com/McCoy Anderson