

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 Jaśkowiak
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.
President Parish Council

Jon Fischer CFA
Chairman Finance Committee

Sunday, November 13, 2022 A.D.



**The fact that our heart yearns
for something Earth can't supply
is proof that Heaven
must be our home.**

- C.S. Lewis

SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

First Friday: 7:00pm, Mass of Sacred Heart & Devotions

First Saturday: 8:00am, Mass of Immaculate Heart of Mary

First Saturday: 12:00pm, Mass for Souls in Purgatory

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 12:00 Noon 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...

We just celebrated a beautiful Mass for all who died this year from infants to the elderly, from different walks of life. It gave a solace to the grieving families and friends. Thank you to OLV Social Concerns ladies' dream team who prepared such delicious refreshments and Deacon Al for all his help.

As I recently visited the cemetery I was reminded that in **November**, as we pray for all souls, visit the graves of our loved ones, we reflect on life and death. I found the following a great reminder:

Our life on earth is a journey to one of two possible final destinations - Heaven or Hell. During this journey we will be involved in many temptations and spiritual battles with the Devil, lustful passions of the flesh and false attractions of the secular world. We will choose either good or evil, virtue or sin, light or darkness, life or death, holiness or corruption, God or Satan, and ultimately Heaven or Hell. There is no middle ground.

As we prepare for eternity, let us remember, every day is a day closer... and let us not forget to visit the graves. Such a visit, a little prayer, lighting a candle, a flower, sacrifice offered for their souls can do them as well as us so much good.

EXCELLENT !!! podcast about distractions on RELEVANT RADIO 1430AM

Listen to Trending with Timmerie's great podcast on distractions - November 7 with guest Nir Eyal, author of "Indistractable".

OLV Choir invites!!!

Our choir has become missionary, singing at different Masses. They have been gracious to sing now at 10:45AM, in the future maybe even Saturday at 5PM. If you enjoy beautiful choral music, please join us at the 10:45! And if you like to sing, please join the choir! Rehearsals are a lot of fun & only one hour on Tuesdays at 7 in the lower church. See Lesa & Selena for details in the choir loft.

Heads Up...

THANKSGIVING FOOD & TURKEY DRIVE

OLV will host a **ONE DAY frozen Turkey Drive** on Sunday, November 20th. Please bring any frozen turkeys and non-perishable sides to OLV Church by 12:00Noon on Sunday November 20th.

GIVING TREE

Tags will be available November 26th and **MUST** be returned by December 11th. We are asking for Gift Cards, **NO PRESENTS**, for the Giving Tree. Please donate Visa or Mastercard gift cards as they can be used anywhere. There will be a box in the Church on the Blessed Mother side of the altar where you can drop them. There will also be tags for Shoprite gift cards, which we add to each family's package.

*We just started RCIA call asap
Adults who 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.

Parents speak about the loss of their children

St. Zélie and St. Louis Martin had lost four of their nine children, who had died either in infancy or early childhood. **Their ninth child was St. Thérèse of Lisieux.** When Mme. Guérin (*sister in law of St. Zélie Martin*) had just given birth to a son who died immediately, to console the sorrowing mother, Zélie wrote the following words:

"I am deeply grieved at the misfortune that has just struck you. Truly, you are sorely tried! It is one of your first troubles, my poor, dear sister. May our good Lord grant you resignation to His holy will. Your dear little child is with Him. He sees you, he loves you, and you will find him again one day. That is the great comfort I felt and still feel." "When I closed the eyes of my [four] dear children and buried them, I felt the sorrow indeed, but it has always been resigned sorrow. I did not regret the pain and cares I had borne for them. Several people said to me, 'It would have been better if you had never had them,' but I could not endure this sort of language. I did not think that the sufferings and anxieties could be weighed in the same scale with the eternal happiness of my children. Then they were not lost forever; life is short and full of miseries, and we shall find them again up yonder. "It was especially at the death of the first that I was most vividly aware of the happiness of having a child in Heaven. For God showed me in a sensible manner that He accepted my sacrifice. Through my first little angel, I obtained a very extraordinary grace." You see, dear sister, it is a great advantage to have little angels in Heaven, but it is not less painful to nature to lose them. These are the great sorrows of our life."

Sts. Zélie and Louis Martin pray for us.

Best VENUE for the Wedding—THE CHURCH

Best way to start your married life is with God in Sacramental Marriage. In this Sacrament, God's own divine life can be experienced and lived. A married person must be sacramentally married in order to be a Godparent and to receive Holy Communion. Were you married only civilly by a mayor or justice of the peace and would now like to regularize your marriage sacramentally? Contact Fr. Wojciech or Fr. Ed for details.

next YOUTH GROUP Meetings

Sundays after 6PM Mass
November 13, 27 December 4, 18

2022 Catechism Lectures

-with Fr. John A. Perricone
Nov 16 & 30, Dec 14 & 29 7PM -9PM

BAKE SALE

Next weekend, November 19/20, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 1639 will hold a Bake Sale in the lower church. Proceeds benefit the CDA scholarship fund. So stop by after Mass next weekend for some delicious baked goods.

ANNUAL "Hap Nightingale" BEEFSTEAK

- January 21, 2023

Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483

Give Thanks! The Churches of Harrington Park

Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, November 22, at 7:30PM,
St. Andrew Church in Harrington Park (31 Lynn St.)

Called???

For information, call the Vocations office 973-497-4365 and ask for Fr. Gino, Director, who is always ready to listen - even anonymous inquiries or see or call our priests Fr. Wojciech or Fr. Ed.

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
Colonel John McLaughlin
Captain John G. Miele
1st Lieutenant Joseph W. Niece

US Air Force

Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

US Marine Corps.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Sergeant Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Lance Corporal Mark Fredrick
Lance Corporal Thomas Iafate
Captain Stephen Ikalowych
1st Lieutenant J.P. Maher
Lance Corporal Cody McGrath

US Navy

Lt. Commander Julia Cheringal
Lieutenant Jonathan 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*: infants Edith Rose, Cordelia, Emmet Fischer, Jonathan & Joseph; little boys Antonio & Shane, Michael Baruch, Julie Berbert, Richard Bolton, Robert Brawley, Paul Brennan, Dominic Carini, Kevin Columbo, Eddie Cooper, Paul Corbett, Marie D'Ascenzo, Cathy Daleo, Maryann Dean, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Lynne Diorio, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Kathleen Falotico, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Mary Foley, Walter Flaherty, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Ken Grier, Amy Hartwell, Martin & Mavis Ince, Dianne Kaiser, Dee Kaiser, Gerald Kasper, Pat Kissane, Joseph Koch, Mary Lowe, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Michael McMahon, Kim McWilliams, Gianna Moscatello, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, John Pal, Tom Paskewich, Joan Phalon, Canice Prince, Elaine Punziano, William Ragu, Phyllis Ragusa, Ryan Reid, Debra Rendon, Louise & Vincent Ricciardi, Veronica Romanchuk, Beth Sacco, Samantha Sconzo, Peggy Shedden, Charles Touw, Aileen Vassar, Howard Walsh, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Brian, Carla, Chris, Christina, Dierdre, Edward, Elba, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Remy and Silvie, Samantha, Sean, Sharon, Steven, Tina W., Tom, TaraM..

Parish Registration All Roman Catholics over 18 years, even those not living on their own, are expected to officially register in their parish. If you do NOT receive the Easter or Christmas mailing, you are probably NOT registered! For more information, or to obtain a registration form, see a priest or deacon or call or email Maria at the parish office. Why register? We strongly encourage you to register, even if you do not wish to receive weekly contribution envelopes, so we can include you on our mailing list. *Only registered members of the parish can enroll a child in Religious Formation, obtain a Sponsor Certificate or Godparent Eligibility Form, or any other recommendations or documentation.* Parents of Catholic School children requesting a parish subsidy are required to be active parishioners both in Mass attendance and financial assistance to this parish. Furthermore, to obtain a Sponsor (Godparent) Certificate, letter of recommendation, or other documentation, you must fulfill any canonical (Church Law) requirements for such documentation.

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.

Mass Intentions

Monday, November 14 – St. Sidonius of Ireland - Abbot

8:00 Elizabeth Coyle R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 Gary Mioli R/b Anne Thomson

Tuesday, Nov. 15–St. Albert the Great, Germany-bishop-doctor

8:00 Betty Janosky R/b Lorraine Casey
12:00 Josephine Mollinelli R/b Matthew and Mary Ann Ryan

Wednesday, November 16–St. Margaret of Hungary, Queen of Scotland; St. Gertrude-Patroness of the West Indies

8:00 Anthony M. DiBari R/b the Buonomo Family
12:00 Susan Elizabeth Crowley R/b Joan Crowley

Thursday, November 17-St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary-Nun

8:00 Mary Leroble R/b the Barrett Family
12:00 Felicia Iovine R/b Joan Crowley

Friday, November 18–Dedication of the Churches of

Ss. Peter and Paul; St. Rose Duchesne-Virgin

8:00 In Thanksgiving R/b Michael and Barbara Fizulich
12:00 John von Hollen R/b Dennis and Kathleen Falotico

Saturday, November 19 – St. Mathilda of Germany - Nun

8:00 Christina Bellini - 1st Anniv. R/b OLV Rosary Society
12:00 Joseph Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran
4:00 Mario Gobbetti R/b Lorraine Gobbetti
5:00 Scott Latz R/b the Dunn Family

Sunday, November 20 – St. Bernward, Bishop of Hildesheim

7:00 Bob Hamilla R/b Ann Hamilla
8:00 Christina Bellini R/b Mike and Maria Hellrigel
9:30 Frances Semler
10:00 (gym) Frank Prince R/b the Gere Family
10:45 Lucille Ernita - 5th Anniv. R/b the Canlas Family
12:00 Sr. Grace D'Amcio SSND R/b Stephen Kerrigan
1:00 People of the Parish
6:00 Phillip Daniel Trunzo R/b Robert and Marianne Waldron

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Anthony M. DiBari, r/b the Buonomo Family.

The Blessed Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn in Thanksgiving.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Patricia Rube, r/b Tom and Ria Ragusa.

The Hosts and Wine which will become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ at Mass this week have been donated in memory of John D. Kaberle Jr., r/b Tom and Ria Ragusa.

The Flowers for the Blessed Mother have been donated in memory of Christina Bellini, r/b Carole Bellini.

Special Carnations for the Blessed Mother donated In Thanksgiving
The Flowers for St. Joseph have been donated for parents who grieve the loss of their children.

My Parish—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 Street, Harrington Park, NJ 07640.* Thank you for your generosity.

Kidz Korner Answers

1. St. John Lateran. St. Peter's Basilica.
St. Paul Outside the Walls. Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major.
2. The Basilica of St John Lateran is the mother and mistress of all Churches of Rome and the world. It is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica.

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 two Godparents there must be one female and one male. (Canon Law 872-874)

Respect Life

Any woman who is **pregnant and in need of assistance?** should **never** feel that abortion is her only option. Personal and confidential assistance is available at the following:
Several Sources 800-662-2678 (24/7) • Heartbeat Int'l: 800-712-4357 (24/7) • Birthright: 800-550-4900 / Archdiocese Respect Life Office: 973-497-4350

Holy Name Society meeting Nov 13 after 9:30AM Mass. "Thanksgiving & Advent" is the topic. Please join us for prayer, discussions and social. For more information on the Holy Name Society please see our web olvhp.org and go to get involved.

Cancer Support Group: Prayer-based group meets first and third Fridays, 4PM-5PM at Our Lady of Sacred Heart School, Tappan, NY. For info' call Maureen Barbey 914-646-6014.

Someone You Know Addicted? Nar-Anon Family Groups in North Jersey. www.naranonofnj.org.

Senior Citizens Are Invited: Immaculate Heart Academy Senior Citizen Thanksgiving dinner * Tuesday, November 19, 4-6PM in the IHA cafeteria. Free Thanksgiving dinner & raffle. Join us beforehand for 2PM showing of "Lost Girl"-the story of Wendy's return from Neverland. Buy tickets in advance at performingartsattheheart.com or at the door. Senior Citizen tickets for the show are \$10 online or \$15 at the door. Thanksgiving Dinner is free, but those attending the show must purchase tickets. RSVP 201-445-6800 from 8AM-4PM daily. Please do not leave a voicemail.

3rd Saturday Mass for those affected by use of drugs and/or alcohol, Saturday, November 19, 12PM at Church of St. Mary, Closter. Followed by meeting/refreshments in the community hall. We will be collecting new socks and underwear, hats and scarves for the needy in treatment. More info at 201-281-6247 or on website <https://fatherjimmckenna.org>.

Clothing Bins Please help Catholic Charities in its mission by donating clothes, small appliances, shoes, linens, sheets, towels, stuffed animals, novels, knickknacks, toys, and children's books. Please place your donations INSIDE the bins (you may have to push it in). Do not leave items outside.

"For I trust, in whatever manner I die, that I shall not be deprived of the mercy of my God, without which my eternal ruin would be inevitable, whether I die an unprepared death, or whether I have long anticipated my end." **St. Gertrude**

What the Mass can do

St. Paul, the Hermit, stood once at the church door as the people entered. He saw the soul of one man, a great sinner, in such a state of horrible corruption as appalled him. Moreover, he saw a devil standing by his side who seemed to have complete control of him. On leaving the church, he saw the same man so completely changed that he called him aside and asked him confidentially if he was sorry for his sins. The poor man at once confessed that he had committed many and very grave sins, but during the Mass he had read in his prayer book, "if your sins are as red as scarlet, I will make them as white as snow." "I began at once to ask God to pardon and forgive me, and I am very sorry for my sins and I wish to go to Confession at once." St. Paul saw that by his act of sincere sorrow the man was, by the infinite merits of the Mass, pardoned of all his sins.

St. Thomas, the Prince of Theologians, writes wonderfully of the Mass. "The Mass" he says, "obtains for sinners in mortal sin the grace of repentance. For the just, it obtains the remission of venial sins and the pardon of the pain due to sin. It obtains an increase of habitual [Sanctifying] grace, as well as all the graces necessary for their special needs."

Prayer of St. Gertrude the Great

Our Lord dictated the following prayer to St. Gertrude the Great to release 1,000 Souls from Purgatory each time it is said.

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

St. Gertrude's life was the mystic life of the Cloister – a Benedictine nun. She meditated on the Passion of Christ, which many times brought a flood of tears to her eyes. She did many penances and Our Lord appeared to her many times. She had a tender love for the Blessed Virgin and was very devoted to the suffering souls in Purgatory. She died in 1334. Her feast day is November 16th.

Purgatory

The dogma of Purgatory is an all-but-forgotten teaching of the Church, yet it is extremely valuable in supporting the call to perfection. The fundamental purpose of Purgatory is not forgiveness of sins, but making up for sins, reparation. The damage done by sin, especially to our own souls, is "repaired" in Purgatory.

When a boy accidentally throws a baseball through a neighbor's window, it is one thing to be forgiven by the owner, another thing to repair the window. When a man does something terrible to his wife, it is one thing to receive her forgiveness, quite another to make it up to her. True, Jesus has paid most of the price for sin, but we have a relatively small price to pay as well. St. Paul says, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I make up in my own flesh what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his body, which is the Church" (Col 1:24). So, there is a place or state we enter to repair the damage our sins have caused.

Rev. Thomas G. Morrow

KIDZ KORNER

1. Name the four major basilicas in Rome.
2. Which is the Mother Church of all and the Cathedral of Rome?

Answers on page 3

**NEW RELIC St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother,
patron of youth**

St. Gabriel's life reveals that a profound love for the Mother of Sorrows is of the very essence of the Passionist charism, for it was Mary who appeared to young Paul Francis Daneo, the Passionist founder, and called him to found the Congregation.

Francisco Possenti was born in Assisi on March 1, 1838, the eleventh child of Sante Possenti and Agnes Frisciotti. The first year of his life was spent away from his family with a nursing woman who cared for him because his mother was unable. In 1841 Sante moved the family to Spoleto where he was appointed magistrate. In that same year, the youngest Possenti child died at just six months old; Francis' nine-year old sister, Adele, soon followed. Just days later, his heartbroken mother was too called to eternal life. Francis had lost his mother at just 4 years old.



Tragedy continued to plague the family during his youth. In 1846 Francis' brother, Paul, was killed in the Italian war with Austria. Another brother, Lawrence, later took his own life. Such events, however, did not rob Francis of his spirit and cheerfulness. During his formative years, Francis attended the school of the Christian brothers and then the Jesuit college in Spoleto. He was lively, intelligent and popular at school. At sixteen, he suffered a life-threatening illness. Praying for a cure, Francis promised to become a religious. With recovery, however, Francis quickly forgot his promise. But God's call would not be denied, and Francis soon turned his heart to the Congregation of the Passionists.

Sante Possenti was less than pleased with his teenage son's decision. Determined to show Francis the joys of a secular life of theater and society parties, Sante continued to hope Francis would find pleasure in a social life. But the young man was not to be dissuaded. Immediately after completion of his schooling, he left for the Passionist novitiate in Morrovalle. In the novitiate, he cultivated a great love for Christ Crucified. Francis received the Passionist habit on September 21, 1856, which that year was the Feast of the Sorrowful Mother. He was given the name: Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother. A year later he took his vows. His monastic life preparing for the priesthood made Gabriel a secluded, non-public figure. His writings reflect his close relationship with God and His mother.

These were difficult and tumultuous times in Italy. The new Italian government issued decrees closing religious Orders in certain provinces of the Papal States. The new Passionist province of Pieta, to which Gabriel belonged, was in the center of this chaos. By 1860, the Passionists had ceased apostolic work due to the growing threats surrounding the community. During this period various Italian provinces were overrun by soldiers who robbed and terrorized the towns with little mercy.

The people of Isola would always remember him as "their Gabriel." Struck with tuberculosis at the age of 24, Gabriel died on February 27, 1862, before his ordination to the priesthood. His fidelity to prayer, joyfulness of spirit and habitual mortifications stand out in his otherwise ordinary life. Pope Benedict XV canonized Gabriel in 1920 and declared him a patron of Catholic youth. His patronage is also invoked by the Church for students, seminarians, novices and clerics. Thousands of divine favors are attributed to his intercession with Christ Crucified and the Sorrowful Mother Mary.

SPIRITUAL GYM

Train yourself in godliness [*to be spiritually fit*]. For while bodily training [*to be physically fit*] is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise [*prepares us*] for the present life and also for the life to come..

1 Timothy 4:7-8 (St. Timothy was the first Christian bishop of Ephesus)

Souls in purgatory welcome our prayers, especially those who are almost ready for the beatific vision of Heaven.

The Catholic Church teaches that purgatory is a final stage of purification for many souls desiring to enter the gates of Heaven. It is called by some the "washroom" of Heaven, where souls go who want to "clean themselves up" before entering total union with God for all eternity. The Church encourages us to pray for these souls, believing our prayers can somehow shorten the time spent in this stage of purification. Here is a prayer from the *Raccolta* [*Collection of Indulged Prayers*] that directs our prayers to that **soul who is closest to Heaven and is on the verge of entering eternal bliss.**

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in His cruel scourging, deliver the souls in purgatory, and that soul especially amongst them all which is nearest to its entrance into Thy glory; that so it may forthwith begin to praise and bless Thee for ever. Amen.

Some souls in purgatory don't have anyone to pray for them.

For Catholics, the concept of purgatory is a consoling thought, knowing that anyone who reaches this final stage of purification can only go "up." However, it is also a belief that those souls in purgatory benefit from our prayers, which somehow shorten the time they spend in purgatory. **This stage of the afterlife is still a mystery to us, but we try to understand it from various passages in the Bible as well as the teaching of the Church.** Whatever the case may be, in our charity, we can also direct our prayers to souls most forgotten by those on earth, asking God's mercy to be showered upon them. Here is a prayer from the *Raccolta* that directs our prayers to that **soul in most need of our prayers.**

O Lord God Almighty, I pray Thee, by the Precious Blood which Thy Divine Son Jesus shed in the garden, deliver the souls in purgatory, and especially that soul amongst them all who is most destitute of spiritual aid; and vouchsafe to bring it to Thy glory, there to praise and bless Thee for ever. Amen.

TOO much repetition

A woman came to see me one evening after instructions. She said: "I would never become Catholic. You say the same words in the Rosary, over and over again, and anyone who repeats the same words is never sincere. I would never believe such a person and neither would God." I asked her who the man was who was with her. She said it was her fiance. I asked, "Does he love you?" "He told me." "What did he say?" He said, "I love you." "But never before?" "He tells me every night." I said, "Do not believe him." He is repeating; he is not sincere." The beautiful truth, there is no repetition in "I love you." Because there is a new moment of time, another point in space, the words do not mean the same as before. Love is never monotonous in the uniformity of its expression. The mind is infinitely variable in its language, but the heart is not. The heart of man in the face of the woman he loves is too poor to translate the infinity of his affection into different words. So the heart takes but one expression, "I love you" and in saying it over and over again, it never repeats. It is the only real news in the universe. That is what we do when we say the Rosary. We are saying to the Holy Trinity, to the Incarnate Savior to the Blessed Mother, "I love you," I love you, "I love you." **-By Abp. Fulton J. Sheen**

A Little Humor ... Rest In Peace

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven year-old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside him and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex."

Good morning, Father," Alex replied, still focused on the plaque. "Father, what is this?" Alex asked.

"Well, son, it's a memorial to all the men and women who have died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he finally managed to ask, "Which one, the 9:30 or 12:00?"

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