

# 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 a BIG Heart*

**Parish Office 201-768-1706**

### COME WORSHIP WITH US

Rev. Wojciech Jaškowiak  
*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*

Lesia Rossmann  
*Music Ministry*

Martin Coyne II  
Dean Ubriaco  
*Parish Trustees*

Jorden Pedersen Esq.  
*President Parish Council*

Jon Fischer CFA  
*Chairman Finance Committee*

#### SPECIAL MASSES OR DEVOTIONS:

**First Friday:** 12:30-7pm Adoration, 6pm Confessions,  
7pm Mass

**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

**Bl. Miriam Teresa Demjanovich:** Friday

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

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

Sunday, November 16, 2025 A.D.  
Jubilee Year of Hope



### Next Sunday Only

### FROZEN TURKEY & THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Please bring any frozen turkeys and non-perishable sides to OLV Church by 12:00Noon on Sunday November 23rd

#### 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.

#### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4pm & 5pm  
Sunday: 7am, 8am Latin, 9:30am,  
9:30am Family Mass (gym), 10:45am,  
12pm, 1pm Spanish, 6pm

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

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 young to the elderly, from different walks of life. It gave a solace to the grieving families and friends. Thank you to all the ladies who prepared for the gathering afterwards. As I recently visited the cemetery I was reminded that in November, as we pray for all souls, visiting 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 of the deceased and pray for their souls. 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. St. Augustine's mother, St. Monica told him shortly before dying: "When I die, remember to pray for me at the altar."

I would like to point out two great initiatives of our Social Concerns group: Turkey Drive and Thanksgiving Food and Giving Tree. Please help us make a difference to those less fortunate. Our parish has always been generous in helping the poor. What a great opportunity to help.

Thank you in advance for all your donations.

### **Rosary Society Meeting**

**Thursday, November 20 - 12:00Noon Mass & Rosary followed by meeting / social in lower Church**

### **Heads Up... TURKEY DRIVE & THANKSGIVING FOOD**

OLV will host a ONE DAY frozen Turkey Drive next Sunday, November 23rd. Please bring any frozen turkeys and non-perishable sides to OLV Church by 12:00Noon on Sunday November 23rd.

**YOUNG CATHOLIC PROFESSIONALS Executive Speaker Series:** Tuesday, November 18, 7- 9PM. Patrick Manning, Assoc. Professor of Pastoral Theology & Dir. of the Center for Catholic Studies, will speak on *Spiritual Wisdom and Practices for the Workday*. Location: Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ. Register at [ycp.glueup.com/event/executive-speaker-series-spiritual-wisdom-and-practices-for-the-workday-153459](http://ycp.glueup.com/event/executive-speaker-series-spiritual-wisdom-and-practices-for-the-workday-153459)

**What if you are CALLED! ???** Call the Vocations office 973-497-4365 and ask for Fr. Gino, Director, who is always ready to listen - or call Fr. Wojciech at our parish 201-768-1706, x11.

## **Pray for Vocations**

SAVE THE DATE - January 17, 2026  
ANNUAL "Hap Nightingale" BEEFSTEAK  
Our Lady of Victories Knights of Columbus Council 14483

### *Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary November 21*



Mary's Presentation in the Temple is a non-biblical event that is celebrated by the Church each year. On November 21st both Catholic and Orthodox churches celebrate the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple (also known as The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple). Below is the narrative from The Protoevangelium of James that describes exactly what happened when she was entrusted to the care of the Temple.

And the child was two years old, and Joachim said: Let us take her up to the temple of the Lord, that we may pay the vow that we have vowed, lest perchance the Lord send to us, and our offering be not received. And Anna said: Let us wait for the third year, in order that the child may not seek for father or mother. And Joachim said: So let us wait. And the child was three years old, and Joachim said: Invite the daughters of the Hebrews that are undefiled, and let them take each a lamp, and let them stand with the lamps burning, that the child may not turn back, and her heart be captivated from the temple of the Lord. And they did so until they went up into the temple of the Lord. And the priest received her, and kissed her, and blessed her, saying: The Lord has magnified your name in all generations. In you, on the last of the days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the sons of Israel. And he set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her; and she danced with her feet, and all the house of Israel loved her. And her parents went down marveling, and praising the Lord God, because the child had not turned back. And Mary was in the temple of the Lord as if she were a dove that dwelt there, and she received food from the hand of an angel. -aleteia.org

**As the separation of the soul from the body  
is the death of the body,  
so the separation of God from the soul  
is the death of the soul.**

- St. Gregory Palamas

**Pray for Those in the Military**

**US Army**

Captain Ben Clemente  
RRT Specialist James Crumb  
Staff Sergeant Peter Dippolito  
Major Michael Franson  
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene  
Captain Shawn Linn  
Sergeant Major Marc Medina  
Captain John G. Miele  
Captain Joseph W. Niece  
1st Lieutenant Megan Niece  
Private Edward Oakley  
Captain Jack Ottomanelli  
Staff Sergeant David Petersen  
Specialist John Petersen

**US Marine Corps.**

Corporal Shanna Bennett  
Staff Sergeant Matthew Brady  
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo  
Lance Corporal Nicholas Giron  
Major Stephen Ikalowych  
Captain J.P. Maher  
Corporal Cody McGrath

**US Navy**

Commander Julia Cheringal  
Lieutenant Jonathan Clemente  
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger  
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger  
Airman Cody Massa

**US Air Force**

1st Lieutenant Brian Kearney  
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

**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 Jack Merritt, Abigail Jude, Aidan, Olive, Adeline Quarello, Jonathan & Joseph; children Gabriel Aungst, Antonio and Shane, Cordelia and Eileen, Remy and Silvie; Annie Baklycki, Kevin Douglas Barry, Michael Baruch, Julie Berbert, Paul Brennan, James Buckley, Kathe Burruano, Joe Cafaro, Anna Carfagno, Bill Clark, Kevin Columbo, Thomas Connolly, Eddie Cooper, Paula Criqui, Michael Curran, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Noelle DeJoseph, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Siobhan Donaghi, Whitney Dugan, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Walter Flaherty, Mary Foley, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Robin Fletcher, Leo Gendron, Ken Grier, Glenn Hall, Amy Hartwell, Richard Hogan, Kristine Leigh Hook, Rolando Joaquim, Austin Kellar, Pat Kissane, Christina Kenny, Tim Keohane, Joseph Koch, Artie Latz, Kenneth Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Richard McLaughlin, Michael McMahon, Adolfo Mendoza, David Mercur, Alice Miller, Len Moriarity, Gianna Moscatello, Kevin Mullane, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, Michael Oates, John Pal, Mary Parker, Tom Paskewich, Ronald Peterson, Louis Peduto, Bob Phillips, Canice Prince, Christina Pulver, William Ragu, Dan & Phyllis Ragusa, Robert Rasmussen, Patrick Ricci, Herman Rodriguez, Veronica Romanchuk, Wendy Ruggiero, Beth Sacco, Blase K Sacus, Samantha Sconzo, Patricia Ann Shalhoub, Peggy and Chris Shedden, Brian Sumereau, Michael Suresh, Maria Tamayo, Ollie Tetlow, Angelina Thomas, Felicia Veneruso, Jim Viantes, Dennis Ubriaco, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Anthony K., Brian, Carla, Christina, Donna M., Edward, Elba, Jack, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Kathleen V., Kaitlin V. Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Melinda, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sarah, Scott, Sharon, Steven, Tom.

**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 are unable to continue their donations at this time. *Donations may be mailed to OLV, 81 Lynn St., Harrington Park, NJ 07640.*  
**New to the area?** Register to become a member of the OLV Family. Visit OLV's website [olvhp.org](http://olvhp.org) and click on "Parish Registration". **New address or phone number?** Please inform the rectory.

**Mass Intentions**

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

7:00 Oliver and Rosaleen Fitzgerald  
8:00 Margaret Prantis R/b Greg and Susan Evanela  
9:30 Eugene A. Norton R/b OLV CCD  
9:30 (Gym) Anthony Zaccaro R/b Michael and Mary Jane Ferro  
10:45 Zdislaw Kolakowski R/b Julia Dalton  
12:00 Dalton Family R/b Julia Dalton  
1:00 People of the Parish  
6:00 Peter Colonna R/b the Grassi Family

**Monday, November 17 - St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary-Nun**

8:00 Ann Giotta - 2nd Anniversary  
12:00 Ken Berlinghieri - 2nd Anniversary R/b the Berlinghieri Family

**Tuesday, 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 Ivan Tarabocchia R/b the Busanic Family

**Wednesday, November 19 - St. Mechtilde of Germany - Nun**

8:00 Christina Bellini - Anniversary R/b Carole Bellini  
12:00 Joseph Lamendola R/b Jinnie Moran

**Thursday, November 20 - St. Bernward, Bishop of Hildesheim**

8:00 Philip Butler R/b Matt and Mary Ann Ryan  
12:00 Peter Bentivegna Jr.

**Friday, November 21-Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:00 Intentions of Joan Ginny and Brian Amaral R/b Peggy O'Brien  
12:00 Frances D. Semler R/b the Semler Family

**Saturday, November 22- St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr**

8:00 Intentions of Bob and Dolores Cavagnet R/b Joan Crowley  
12:00 Madeline Dunn R/b the Dunn Family  
4:00 Mario Gobbetti R/b Lorraine Gobbetti  
5:00 Michelle Paparella R/b Rose and John Hroncich

**Sunday, Nov. 23-Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

7:00 Harry Barrett R/b the Barrett Family  
8:00 Benedict and Anthony Walsh R/b Bridget Walsh  
9:30 Joseph A. Ceccon R/b Kevin and Paula Cummings  
9:30 (Gym) Barbara Gastaldo R/b the Kalivas Family  
10:45 Jeanne Avitabile R/b Joan Kincaid  
12:00 Ricardo Sabalvaro R/b the Selby Family  
1:00 People of the Parish  
6:00 William A. Duby Sr. R/b the Duby Family

**Sanctuary Memorials (this week)**

**The Sanctuary Lamp** will burn for the repose of the souls of all those who have died this past year.

**The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp** will burn for the repose of the soul of Bob Hamilla, r/b Ann Hamilla

**The St. Joseph Votive Lamp** will burn for the Souls in Purgatory.

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

**Flower & Sanctuary Offerings** Flowers, Bread and Wine, the Bl. Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis. Contact the rectory for more information.

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## Last Rites

There is nothing more important in the world than to die in the state of grace. If we die in a state of grace, we win everything because we win heaven; but if we die in a state of unrepented mortal sin, we lose everything forever.

That's why the Church and her ministers, the priests, are ready at a moment's notice to bring the saving graces of the sacraments to someone in danger of death. The "Last Rites" are known as the "Anointing of the Sick," and part of the ceremony is to give Holy Communion to the person about to die. That Holy Communion is called "Viaticum," a Latin derivation that means "food for the journey."

If a loved one is in danger of death, please call for a priest right away. What does the priest do in that case? He gets the Holy Eucharist from the tabernacle and puts it in a pyx (a little precious metal container with room for a few hosts), and visits the sick or dying person. If the person is conscious, the priest will bless them with Holy Water, hear their confession and perhaps give them the "Apostolic Pardon", anoint them with the Oil of the Sick after praying silently with their hands imposed on the head of the patient, pray the Our Father, and then give them Holy Communion. The grace of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick can restore a person to bodily health or give them great peace as they confront their final battle.

Additionally, as time and circumstances permit, the priest and patient and loved ones in the room can pray the Litany of the Saints, and the sick person can also renew his baptismal vows. The whole experience is deeply spiritual, sublime, and powerful, as if eternity were presenting itself right there in that moment. You can get a profound sense or awareness of the reality of the Communion of Saints when the Last Rites are given and received with faith,

-relevanradio

## 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?"

## KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. The Catholic Church observes The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 21st.
2. St. Cecilia is the Patroness of Musicians.
3. St. Carlo Acutis learned his first prayer from his nanny.
4. Last Rites is known as "Anointing of the Sick".

Are you an **ADULT** without

## Confirmation, Communion or Baptism?

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* or Holy Communion should contact the rectory for preparation class/information.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

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 872874)

### Sacred Matrimony on Sacred ground

"ceremony" at the venue is not a valid Sacrament

For the Catholic Church the Sacrament of Matrimony is such a sacred matter that the Church requires for two Catholics to be married Sacramentally in the Catholic Church, not elsewhere. All the Sacraments except Confession are always celebrated in Church. Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and the Sacred Orders (Priesthood is even celebrated at the Cathedral of a given Diocese). A Catholic priest can only officiate Sacrament of Matrimony of two Catholics on sacred grounds (Church). This wedding at the same time is a civil wedding. For more info contact Fr. Wojciech.

**Respect Life** Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance should **never** feel that abortion is her only option. For confidential assistance call: Archdiocese Respect Life Office 973-497-4350\*Gateway Pregnancy Ctr. 908-353-0604\*Catholic Community Svcs. 201-246-7379 \*Lifecall 800-662-2678\*Birthright: 201-845-4646\*NewHope 201-722-4705.

**OLV Needlers** If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, join us in the lower church Wednesdays at 6PM and/or Thursdays after 12Noon Mass. Yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles supplied.

**OLV Knights of Columbus** All men over 18 are invited to join the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. As Catholic men we are called to lead, serve, protect and defend our Faith, families, and our parish. The Knights of Columbus will help you grow as a husband, father and Catholic. Join us!

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas** For info' call Marie 201-741-0499.

**Array of Hope** Tune in to the Nov 10 "A Reason for Hope" podcast. Fr. Mike Schmitz joins Mario Costabile and speaks on Prayer and Humility. Fr. Mike shares his journey from a teenage encounter with God in confession to discovering his priestly vocation and serving as chaplain at the University of Minnesota Duluth. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Lhm\\_N-PWom](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Lhm_N-PWom)

**To anyone who purchased tickets to St. Joseph's HS production of "Is He Dead?"** Due to a recent flooding incident that has damaged our lobby and theater, unfortunately our production of *Is He Dead?* must be postponed. For anyone who has purchased tickets via Booktix.com, please await further instructions/updates. We hope to reschedule the show in the near future and as always, we appreciate your patronage. Contact [sjrtheater@sjrnj.org](mailto:sjrtheater@sjrnj.org) with any questions.

## Give Thanks!

The Churches of Harrington Park Thanksgiving Service  
Sunday, November 23, at 7:30PM  
Community Church of Harrington Park (1 Spring St.)

### **St. Margaret of Scotland-November 16**

St. Margaret of Scotland was born around the year 1045, Margaret was an English princess who grew up in exile in Hungary. As a child, Margaret developed a great love of reading and prayer. She learned about the duties and manners involved in being a princess. She was also impressed by the importance of the practice of the Catholic faith in Hungary. When Margaret's father became heir to the throne of England, the family returned to England. At this time, Edward the Confessor ruled England. When King Edward died, Norman invader William the Conqueror seized the English throne. Margaret's family decided to return to safety in Hungary. En route, a storm forced the family to land in the kingdom of Scotland, where King Malcolm III welcomed and protected them. Soon, Margaret and Malcolm married, making Margaret queen of Scotland. Malcolm respected Margaret. He valued her help and advice. Though he had a reputation as a fierce warrior and brave protector of Scotland, Margaret directed his attention to the other responsibilities of a king. Together, they improved living conditions within the kingdom and encouraged learning and the arts. Margaret herself supervised the construction of monasteries and made sure the communities had what they needed to thrive. She personally took care of the poor and the sick. Malcolm often joined her in these works of charity. Margaret also cared for their eight children and supervised their education. She knew that they might grow up to be rulers as well, and wanted them to be prepared for that honor and responsibility. Margaret and Malcolm's daughter married the king of England and was known as Good Queen Maud for her kindness to the poor. Their son, David, became king of Scotland, and after his death was canonized a saint. Saint Margaret of Scotland saw her position as queen as an opportunity to help others. She used her resources and influence to improve the lives of her people. Her example inspired her family and the people of Scotland to take seriously their responsibility to others.

### **St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr November 22 - Patroness of Musicians**

According to her legendary Acts, Cecilia was a native of Rome. At an early age she made a vow of virginity, but her parents forced her to marry a nobleman named Valerian. She converted him to the Faith of Christ, and by the Providence of God, preserved her virginity. She also converted Tiburtius, the brother of Valerian. Both these men suffered martyrdom for the Faith, and St. Cecilia died the same glorious death a few days after. Their death occurred probably in the reign of Marcus Aurelius or of Commodus, between the years 161 and 192. The name of St. Cecilia has always been most illustrious in the Church, and since the primitive ages it has been mentioned in the Canon of the Mass (First Eucharistic Prayer). She is honored as the patroness of ecclesiastical music.



### **KIDZ KORNER** - answers on page 4

1. What is another name for *Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple*, which the Catholic Church observes on Nov. 21st?
2. Which Saint is the Patroness of Musicians?
3. Which newly canonized saint learned his first prayer from his nanny?
4. Last rites is known as ???

### **Carlo Acutis' Polish Nanny**

In September 2025, the Italian magazine *Vita* published an exclusive interview with Beata Anna Sperczyńska, the Polish nanny who cared for Carlo Acutis between the ages of two and five. In the conversation, she recalls simple yet profound moments from the saint's childhood and shares her role in introducing Jesus to that extraordinary boy. At the heart of St. Carlo Acutis' childhood was a humble woman from a small village in Poland, who helped him take his first steps - not only in life, but also in faith.

Her name is Beata Anna Sperczyńska. Now an executive in New York, she spent three years as Carlo's nanny in Milan, caring for him between the ages of two and five. It was from her that the young saint learned his first prayer, the "Angel of God", in Polish: "Aniele Boży, stróżu mój..." ("Angel of God, my guardian...") Beata recalls: "Every night, he would recite this prayer as if it were a lullaby. Then we would fall asleep in the same room, and I felt like Heaven was watching over us."

Beata was just 21 years old when she arrived in Italy in 1993. She came seeking work - but found a mission. By chance - or providence - she was hired by Carlo's grandparents to care for him during the holidays. Soon after, his parents, Antonia and Andrea, invited her to live with the family in Milan. "I felt like he chose me. I was the first person to tell him about God. Carlo didn't know who Jesus was - and since then, he's never stopped looking for Him."

Once, Beata says, she took Carlo to the church of Santa Maria Segreta - the same church where, years later, his funeral would be celebrated. "We lit a candle, and I told him about Jesus. When we got back, Carlo told his parents everything, who were apprehensive - they weren't practicing yet. So I told him we wouldn't do it anymore. But the next day, he said to me, 'Bea, I can't miss visiting my friend. This will be our secret.'" Of course, the secret did not last. "Carlo came home happily telling everyone everything! From that day on, he never went a single day without going to church."

Beata says she often took off her shoes with Carlo and walked barefoot on the wet grass of the Pagano gardens in Milan: "I told him that nature is a gift from God, and that walking barefoot reminds us that we are part of creation."

At night, the two prayed the Rosary. Carlo used a small ten-bead rosary that he held as he fell asleep. "In the morning I would find the rosary on my pillow," she recalls, smiling. One instance, in particular, stayed with Beata: "We went to a birthday party. I was wearing my rosary around my neck, and some of the mothers laughed at me. Embarrassed, I hid it in my shirt. Carlo noticed and said, 'Bea, it's the most beautiful necklace in the world! Never hide it!' Even today, when I think about it, I get emotional. He was only four years old, but he already saw things with purity and courage."

"He made me mature." Beata left the family home in 1996 when she got married. "It was painful. He cried a lot. So did I. But the love between us remained." Even afterward, she continued to visit Carlo and his parents, and the boy played with her son, Konrad. "He grew up, but he didn't change. He was still happy, curious, and full of light."

Today, so many years later, Beata sees the little boy she once cared for as a saint: "I feel chosen. Carlo is part of my life, and I thank him every day. I know he's still close to me. His canonization is just the beginning of an extraordinary story."

Perhaps no one could have imagined that the little boy who learned to pray in Polish alongside his nanny would one day become one of the most beloved saints of the digital generation. But as Beata Anna Sperczyńska herself said, in a serene voice: "Carlo's holiness began in the little things. In his smile. In his prayer before bed. In his friendship with Jesus." "The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven." And perhaps, it was a Polish nanny who first showed him the way.

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