

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

Lesa 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, January 18, 2026 A.D.
Special Year of St. Francis



Special Year of St. Francis
Jan 10, 2026-Jan 10, 2027

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 ...

On January 10, 2026 Pope Leo XIV has proclaimed a "Special Year of St. Francis" to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the Saint's death with a decree issued by the Apostolic Penitentiary of the Holy See. This Franciscan Jubilee Year, is an occasion for authentic spiritual renewal. Until Jan. 10 of next year, the faithful can obtain plenary indulgence under the usual conditions — Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Pope — by making a pilgrimage to any Franciscan conventual Church or place of worship dedicated to St. Francis anywhere in the world.

Thursday, January 22, marks the day of prayer for legal protection of the unborn. On Friday, January 23, there will be the March for Life in Washington DC. OLV will be praying a special Pro-Life Rosary on January 22 after 8AM and 12 noon Masses. Please join us. The theme of this year's Pro-Life events is *Life is a Gift*.

**As the family goes,
so goes the nation,
and so goes the whole world
in which we live.**

St. John Paul II

2026 Annual Appeal

The 2026 Annual Appeal has begun! Each year we are invited to participate in the Annual Appeal, which is an opportunity to support essential ministries and programs of our Archdiocese. Your sacrificial support makes it possible for us to carry out the important work that we are called to do as missionary disciples of Jesus.

Our parish goal this year is \$61,858.40 and our stretch goal is \$80,415.92. Reaching that goal benefits our parish in two important ways. First, if we reach our stretch goal in cash by June 30, our parish will be eligible for savings on our Assessment. Second, if we exceed our stretch goal in pledges by June 30, we will receive a rebate that comes back to our parish.

Please consider participating in this year's Appeal to help make a significant difference in many lives within our Archdiocese. Please make a gift online by visiting rcan.org/sharing, scanning the QR code, or join us for In-Pew Weekend on March 7 and 8.



IN CELEBRATION OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL'S WEEK

St. John's Academy - Open House

St. John's Academy, located in Hillsdale provides an academically excellent, Catholic education to students in pre-k 3 through eighth grade. The Academy is a Middle States Accredited, Blue Ribbon School. Certified and dedicated teachers provide an outstanding, faith-filled education to SJA students in a nurturing and safe atmosphere. With a growing enrollment of 365 students from over 50 zip codes, SJA is excited to welcome so many new families to our school community. **Please join us for our Open House which will take place on Sunday, January 25th from 11:30am to 1:30pm.** To register for our Open House, please go to <https://sjahillsdale.org/visit>. Come see the SJA difference!



for details
of events visit
Marchforlife.org

National Prayer Vigil for Life

The National Prayer Vigil for Life is a prayer vigil held on the eve of the March for Life each January. Thousands of pilgrims from across the nation pray for an end to abortion and a greater respect for all human life. It is held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The Vigil Program will be televised by EWTN and livestreamed on the Basilica's webpage. For the most updated 2026 Vigil schedule visit www.usccb.org/prolife/national-prayer-vigil-life-schedule

Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children

On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. Since that time, millions of children have lost their lives, and millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On June 24, 2022, the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect pre-born children. While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to pre-born children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" Not sure how to observe this day of prayer and penance? Pick from the ideas below or offer some other prayer or sacrifice that you feel called to do.

* Go to Mass * Abstain from meat * Pray the *Divine Mercy Chaplet* * Fast
* Pray a decade of the Rosary * Give up TV and movies for the day *
Offer *A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament* * Sacrifice some of your free time to do a small act of service for someone else
*Prayers are also available at <https://www.usccb.org/January-22>

A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.

Pope Saint John Paul II
Evangelium vitae

2026 Wedding Anniversary Masses

The Office for Family Life Ministry will honor couples celebrating their 5th, 25th, 50th or 60th+ wedding anniversary with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Tobin on Sunday, May 3, at 3 pm at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark. Registration deadline is April 14. Please contact the rectory olvrectory.hp@gmail.com to register.

Contribution Statements

2025 Contribution Statements are now available. To obtain a copy of your 2025 donations, please email Maria at olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

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
Private Edward Oakley
Captain Jack Ottomanelli
Staff Sergeant David Petersen
Specialist John Petersen

US Air Force

1st Lieutenant Brian Kearney
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

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

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, Banks Griffin Ricci, 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 Burrano, Joe Cafaro, Anna Carfagno, Bill Clark, Kevin Columbo, Thomas Connolly, Eddie Cooper, Sean Coulter, 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 LeGrand, Lisa LeGrand, Lisa LoSchiavo, Mary Lowe, Mary Ann Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Matt McGowan, Michael McMahon, 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, 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, Angeline Thomas, Felicia Veneruso, Jim Vlantes, Dennis Ubriaco, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Anthony K., Brian, Denise, Destiny, 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, Sharon, Steven, Tom.

What if you are CALLED! ???

Call Fr. Patrick, Director of the Vocations office who is always ready to listen at 973-275-3321 - or call Fr. Wojciech or Fr. Ed at our parish 201-768-1706, x11.

Pray for Vocations

Mass Intentions

Sun., Jan. 18-St. Volusian-Bishop of Tours & St. Deicolus-Abbot

7:00 Brackenbury Family, living and deceased
R/b Nicolo and Marie Ottomanelli
8:00 Lorraine Toleno R/b the Evanella Family
9:30 Dcn. Richard McLaughlin R/b St. Vincent de Paul/Social Concerns
NO FAMILY MASS today

10:45 Edmond Ezra R/b Donna Manzi
12:00 Mary Ceccon – 6th Anniv. R/b the Ceccon Family
1:00 Olga Rosa Guzman Gonzalez R/b the Giron Family
6:00 Alan Bronner R/b Cynthia Picinic

Monday, Jan. 19 – St. Wulstan-Benedictine Monk-Bishop in England

8:00 Rocco A. Franchi R/b Tom and Jeanne Hennessey
12:00 James Gaffney R/b Joan Gaffney

Tuesday, Jan. 20 – St. Fabian-Pope & St. Sebastian-Martyr

8:00 Marie Gorab R/b Guy and Patti Schweizer
12:00 Domenica Scrivanich R/b the Busanic Family

Wednesday, January 21 - St. Agnes of Rome-Virgin & Martyr

8:00 Corrina McPartland R/b Greg and Susan Evanella
12:00 Ivan Busanic R/b the Busanic Family

Thurs, Jan. 22-Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn Children

8:00 Alex Amendola R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
12:00 Martino and Antonia Busanic R/b the Busanic Family

Friday, Jan 23 - St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr; St Marianne Cope, Virgin

8:00 Richard Bolton R/b John and Pauline Teahan
12:00 Robert W. Powers R/b Stefano Pappalardo

Saturday, January 24 - St. Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor

8:00 Rosa and Susan Berlinghieri R/b the Berlinghieri Family
12:00 Mary McGrath R/b the Falotico Family
4:00 Okhee Lim R/b the Sung Family
5:00 Martino Hroncich R/b Marty and Lucy Bussanich

Sunday, January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul, apostle

7:00 People of the Parish
8:00 Michael Evanilla R/b Greg and Susan Evanella
9:30 Dorothy Millett R/b Peter & Linda Wayne
9:30 (gym) James Pfeifer R/b OLV CCD
10:45 Virginia Misa R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
12:00 James John Pankauski R/b the Grassi Family
1:00 Giron Family R/b Rafael and Margoth Giron
6:00 Virginia DiMeglio R/b the Piccinich Family

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the intentions of Fr. Wojciech - birthday blessings.

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

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.

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 and click on "Parish Registration". **New address or phone number?** Please inform the rectory.

St. Sebastian - January 20 - Patron of Athletes

St. Sebastian, venerated as the Patron of Athletes, is one of the most inspiring figures in Christian history. Born in Narbonne, France, and educated in Milan, Italy, his life and martyrdom are testaments to unwavering faith and courage.

St. Sebastian was born around 256 AD. Although little is known about his family or childhood, his education in Milan shaped him into a disciplined and virtuous individual. In 283 AD, he enlisted in the Roman army under Emperor Carinus, driven not by a thirst for power but by a desire to support persecuted Christians discreetly. His bravery and leadership qualities quickly earned him the rank of captain in the prestigious Praetorian Guard, tasked with protecting the emperor.

While serving in the Roman army, Sebastian prudently concealed his Christian faith to aid fellow believers who faced persecution. He provided spiritual strength and encouragement to imprisoned Christians and facilitated their release when possible. However, his faith was eventually discovered in 286 AD during the reign of Emperor Diocletian, a notorious persecutor of Christians. When confronted, Sebastian openly declared his allegiance to Christ.

As punishment for his defiance, Diocletian sentenced him to death by arrows. He was tied to a tree and shot by archers from Mauritania, leaving his body riddled with arrows. Believed to be dead, his executioners abandoned him. A Christian widow named Irene discovered his body, only to find him miraculously alive. She nursed him back to health, an act of compassion that demonstrated the resilience of the early Christian community.

Remarkably undeterred, Sebastian confronted Diocletian again, condemning the emperor's cruel treatment of Christians. Infuriated, Diocletian ordered him to be beaten to death with clubs. This time, Sebastian succumbed to his injuries. His body was discarded into a sewer to prevent veneration. However, a devout Christian woman named Lucina retrieved his remains and buried them in the catacombs along the Appian Way. Today, the Basilica of St. Sebastian stands on this sacred site.

St. Sebastian's story of endurance and faith has made him a beloved saint in the Catholic Church. He is the patron of athletes, not only for his physical endurance but also for his spiritual fortitude. His life exemplifies perseverance and strength in the face of adversity, qualities admired by athletes and believers alike.



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.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

1. Jesus.
2. Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.
3. Saint Agnes. 4. Saint Marianne Cope. 5. Saint Sebastian.

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. (CanonLaw872874)

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. 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: Can Christianity & Stoicism Co-exist? Our hosts break down the rising appeal of Stoic philosophy among modern audiences - especially young adults searching for peace in a chaotic world. arrayofhope.org

Stephanie Cywinski-O'Brien Scholarship - 2026

Student scholarships (partial) are available through the Stephanie Cywinski-O'Brien Trust at St. Joseph Parish in Demarest. Applications are now being accepted from 7th and 8th grade students attending a Catholic grammar school and continuing their schooling at a Catholic grammar school (primary consideration); 8th grade students continuing their education at a Catholic high school (primary consideration); as well as Freshmen and Sophomores attending a Catholic high school and continuing their education at a Catholic high school (secondary consideration). Visit website <https://stjosephdemarest.com> for applications and eligibility requirements. Applications are due February 28 with decisions due about March 28. Demonstrated Financial need is one of the criteria for scholarship eligibility. Email application and all documentation to seeds2trees@aol.com.

St. Joseph Regional HS (Montvale) presents "Pippin" on Jan. 30 (7pm), Jan. 31 (2pm & 7pm), Feb. 1 (3pm), Feb. 5 (7pm), Feb. 6 (7pm) & Feb. 7 (2pm & 3pm) at the Inserra Theater. Tickets (\$20 & \$25) may be purchased at <https://sjr.booktix.net/> or one half-hour before each show. Special Senior Citizen's Preview Performance Tuesday Jan 27, at 4pm for \$15. Email SJRTheater@sjrnj.org or call 201-391-7422 for more information.



January
is
dedicated to the
Holy Name
of
Jesus!

"In the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those that are in heaven, on earth and under the earth" (Phil 2:10).

Christ's name is chosen in heaven, and the Angel Gabriel announces it when he informs the Blessed Virgin of the incarnation: "Behold thou shalt conceive in thy womb and shalt bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus". The name Jesus has marvelous implications, for it means "savior." Jesus is the sweetest of all names, and He who bears it is most worthy of all love. He who calls Jesus his friend can be assured that this friend is the most devoted and unselfish of all friends.

Jesus is our all. In His name we may pray to the Father with assurance of being heard. In His name the Church administers all her sacraments. In His name she offers all her prayers and blesses homes, the fields, and the sick. In the name of Jesus she casts out evil spirits, and at the hour of our death bids us, "Go forth, Christian soul." She assures us that whoever shall call upon this name will be saved. When our soul has departed this life to seek its eternal home, the Church asks in the name of Jesus, "Eternal rest give unto him, O Lord."
- catholicculture.org

St. Agnes - January 21

St. Agnes, whose name means "lamb," is a cherished figure in the history of Christianity, celebrated for her unwavering faith and purity. Born in Rome in 291 AD, she came from a wealthy and noble family. Despite her youth, she demonstrated extraordinary courage and devotion to Christ, becoming a model of steadfast faith in the face of persecution.



Agnes was renowned for her beauty, and many suitors sought her hand in marriage. However, she refused all offers, declaring that she had consecrated her virginity to Christ. She famously said, "He is my spouse whom the angels serve, whose beauty the sun and moon admire, and by whose gifts virgins are crowned." This declaration angered her suitors, who accused her of being a Christian, a crime punishable by death during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. At just 12 years old, Agnes was brought before a judge who attempted to persuade her to renounce her faith through promises of wealth and threats of torture. She stood firm, saying, "You may stain your sword with my blood, but you will never be able to profane my body, which is consecrated to Christ." When Agnes refused to yield, she was condemned to be exposed in a house of prostitution. However, her purity was miraculously preserved. Tradition holds that any man who attempted to violate her was struck blind, including one bold youth who was later healed through Agnes's prayers. Her unwavering faith led to her execution by beheading in 304 AD. Agnes's body was buried in the catacombs on the Nomentana Way. A basilica, Sant'Agnese fuori le mura, was later erected over her tomb by the orders of Emperor Constantine's daughter, Constantina, who had a special devotion to the young saint.

St. Agnes is the patron saint of young girls, chastity, and victims of sexual assault. She is often depicted with a lamb, symbolizing her name and her pure devotion to Christ, as well as a palm branch, signifying her martyrdom.
-thecatholicheroes.com

St. Marianne Cope - January 23



Barbara Koop, later Mother Marianne Cope, was born in Germany on January 23, 1838, and immigrated with her parents to New York when she was 2 years old. In August of 1862 she went to the sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York and took her vows the next year. Her early religious life saw her working as a teacher and administrator for local Catholic schools until she was called upon by the bishop to use her administrative skills as superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York. She devoted herself to the care of the sick and infirm, and the hospital flourished under her leadership. As the Provincial Mother of

her order in Syracuse, Cope, along with six other sisters, answered a call made by the Hawaiian government to run the Kaka'ako Branch Hospital on Oahu that served as a receiving station for people suspected of having leprosy.

Of the more than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada who were asked by the government to help the suffering communities and hospitals for those with leprosy (Hansen's disease) in Hawaii, Mother Marianne and her sisters were the only ones to answer the call. They immediately got to work transforming the hospital environment for those with leprosy and their families. Of this mission, she said —

"I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders...I am not afraid of any disease, hence, it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned 'lepers'."

In 1888, Mother Marianne and two sisters took on an even more challenging assignment and went to the Hawaiian island of Molokai, a leper colony, to open a new home devoted to the protection of girls and women with leprosy as well as to take charge of the home that her friend, Saint Damien de Veuster, had established for men and boys. She helped improve life on the island by introducing pride, cleanliness, and a little fun to the colony. She often provided bright scarves and dresses for the women she served and cheerfully carried out her mission until she died on August 9, 1918. While in service, she was awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government for her selfless love and care of those in need and never contracted leprosy. She was canonized in 2012.

A Little Humor ...

A man becomes a monk at an abbey that requires him to work, study, and contemplate. He is allowed to speak only two words every ten years, so that they be the most concise and profound. After the first ten years he goes through his first ceremony. He walks past the other disciples, kneels before the abbot and says "Bed hard!" Another ten years of devout work and study goes by and it's time again for his ceremony. This time he kneels before the abbot and says "Food terrible!" And yet another ten years of labor, study and contemplation goes by until it's his time to speak again. This time he simply walks up to the abbot and says "I quit!" As the man is walking away, the abbot turns to his assistant and says "Thank God. That guy did nothing but complain anyhow."

KIDZ KORNER

1. In today's Gospel who approached John the Baptist?
2. What did John the Baptist say when he saw Jesus?
3. What Saint has a name that means "lamb"?
4. What female Saint worked with lepers in Hawaii?
5. What Saint survived being shot by archers and is the patron of athletes?

- Answers on page 4 -

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