



The *Victory Voice*



Issue 3 • Fall • 2021

4105 N. DIVISION ST. • DAVENPORT, IA 52806 • (563) 391-4245 • WWW.OLVJFK.COM

A note from Fr. Jake

Since October is the month of our patron, Our Lady of Victory, this time of year is special for our parish. We give thanks to God for all of the blessings that we have received over the last 59 years that our parish has served Northwest Davenport. My five years as Pastor of OLV has shown me how God is truly working through the ministries provided here at the parish. Amazing parishioners like you are the primary source of these blessings, so thank you for all you do for the parish and school!

We began a new fiscal year in July, so in this issue we also provide a summary of the parish sacramental ministry, parish census, and financials for July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. These numbers provide a small snapshot of what has happened in our parish over the last twelve months. The last twelve months of the fiscal year were dominated by the parish's experiences with COVID-19, but there were many blessings that happened over this time frame that should not be overshadowed by the pandemic.

The staff and volunteers of OLV had a busy year preparing families for Baptisms, First Communions, and Confirmations. Some of these celebrations were delayed because of the challenges around COVID-19, but we have had many joyful celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation over the last year. I want to personally thank all of the teachers, catechists, and volunteers that worked so hard to prepare children and adults for the reception of these Sacraments. Our parish is blessed by these amazing men and women who devote their time to serve in this important ministry of Sacramental preparation.

Our parish also had the privilege of celebrating with 19 couples who received the Sacrament of Matrimony here at OLV. The future of the church is bright with these couples' commitment to serving God and neighbor, and I am happy to report that one of these couples is already expecting.

In terms of total numbers of parishioners, we registered 62 new households over the last year. This influx of new parishioners has been a blessing as we also held 41 funerals during the year. To provide some context, our parish hosted less funerals over the last year than in the last two years. People are not celebrating funerals at the same rate as they did prior to the pandemic. These combined realities mean that we are a parish composed of the young and not-so-young, and the number of parishioners

who make-up our parish will always be in flux. If you know of any families who have not registered yet with the parish, please ask them if they want to join. I see new faces all the time, and I do not always get the chance to greet them and inquire about whether they would like to register in our parish. The latter definitely helps with planning the other activities in our parish, especially as we look forward to a time when we are not dealing with the effects of a pandemic.

We also concluded our capital campaign, Cultivating Our Future. As I mentioned three weeks ago at all of the Masses, this campaign was truly a success though we were not able to make the goal of \$1.6 million dollars. The pledged amount of \$1.3 million helped our community to complete the most urgent projects associated with the capital campaign. Thank you very much! Those projects that did not get funded this year will get done through your continued generosity in the years to come. We will be sending out a summary of this campaign in the coming months because we will have a lot of information to share about your generous support of Our Lady of Victory. Thank you for your support! If you still have not given towards this campaign, we will not be working on the final report until December. There is still time to make a pledge or donation to this campaign. Furthermore, we will be sending out reminders to households about their pledges.

I have one final note for this edition of the Victory Voice. Our parish's vision of becoming the most welcoming and vibrant parish in the diocese not only flows from our parish's history, but this vision also reflects how individual parishioners desire to serve God and neighbor. I personally believe that our parish has done a good job during the pandemic to maintain this vision. However, there is still more to do. If you have any ideas on how we as a parish can do more to address the needs of parishioners during these difficult days, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for all of you, and thank you for your continued prayers for our parish. Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!

The Financial Picture

INCOME STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

INCOME

<u>Parish</u>		<u>School</u>	
Envelopes/Offertory	\$1,294,126	Tuition and Fees	\$1,566,327
Building Fund/Facility Rentals	\$94,631	Transfer from Parish	\$600,196
Fundraising/Fees/Misc	\$141,753		
Transfer from Foundation	\$47,241	Gala/Grants/Misc	\$118,448
Total	\$1,577,751	Total	\$2,284,971
GRAND TOTAL INCOME			\$3,862,722

EXPENSES

<u>Parish</u>		<u>School</u>	
Operations/Buildings	\$514,263	Salaries & Benefits	\$1,972,557
Elementary School Transfer	\$600,196	Instructional Expense	\$89,791
Activities/Ministries	\$151,284	Administration	\$102,693
High School Assessment	\$107,760	Plant Operations	\$119,930
Total	\$1,373,503	Total	\$2,284,971
GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES			\$3,658,474

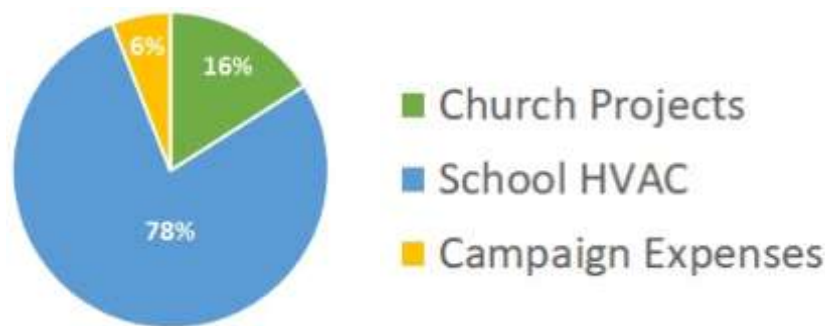
Surplus \$204,248

Thanks to extraordinary generosity of our donors and prudent management of expenses, especially in school areas, a net gain of \$204,000 income was realized. Of this amount, \$24,000 was added to savings and \$65,000 was transferred to Cultivating Our Future capital campaign.

Cultivating Our Future

A capital campaign for Our Lady of Victory Church and John F. Kennedy Catholic School

Summary of Cultivating our Future expenditures:



Cultivating Our Future began in early 2020 to grow our parish, improve our facilities, and provide a quality learning environment for students. As of September 1, over \$1.3 million in gifts and pledges have been received. Donations to this extraordinary effort have allowed us to:

- Install a state-of-the-art heating, air conditioning, and ventilation system in our school building.
- Invest in our worship facility with electrical upgrades, a new sound system, replacement of essential heating/cooling components, ultraviolet technology to improve ventilation and purify the air, and a professional camera system to record and live-stream events inside our church.
- Pay all campaign costs for consultants, materials, and postage without spending normal operating funds.

Thank you for supporting the vision and ministries which have enabled our dynamic parish to thrive! We pray that each donor, parishioner, and school family takes pride in this remarkable accomplishment and knows how grateful we are for your continued commitment to OLV and JFK.

State of the Parish

	Fiscal Year Ending	Actual 6/30/2019	Actual 6/30/2020	Actual 6/30/2021	BUDGET 6/30/2022
Parish Total Income		\$1,606,491	\$1,906,385	\$1,577,751	\$1,514,954
Parish Total Expenses		\$1,425,640	\$1,452,448	\$1,373,503	\$1,512,535
Operating Surplus (deficit)		\$180,851	\$453,937	\$204,248	\$2,419
Applied to Mortgage		\$54,000	\$349,259	\$0	\$0
Capital Improvements		\$112,441		\$0	\$0
Net Surplus (deficit)		\$14,410	\$104,678	\$204,248	\$2,419

Detailed financial statements are available at the parish office. Members of the staff or Finance Council are happy to answer questions about the condition of the parish.

Members of the Finance Council: Fr. Jake Greiner, Pastor; Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler; Bernie Mack, Lay Director; Judy Johnson, Lay Director; Hollie Matthys; Molly Crosby; Matt Osen; Lucas Roth, Board of Education; Steve Frank, Parish Council.

Parish at a Glance (June 30, 2020 - July 1, 2021)

62 Baptisms
91 First Communions
102 Confirmations
19 Marriages
41 Funerals
62 New households, registered 2020-21
1319 Registered households
3583 Individual parishioners

JFK Students Appreciate Air Conditioning - Chad Steimle

The school HVAC project was completed just in time for classes to begin. This \$1 million project included the installation of a high efficiency heating/cooling system, rooftop units for the gym, and mechanical ventilation. Although the primary goal was to resolve the aged heating pipes issues, students are really enjoying the air conditioning:

"With the AC, it's easier to focus on schoolwork because we're not wiping our heads or getting sweat on our schoolwork."

"It may be a hot day outside, but now I have air conditioning so it is not boiling hot in our classroom."

"I'm so grateful for all the people who gave money to us to have air conditioning. Last year in 4th grade, I was so hot and couldn't concentrate. It was so generous that you donated to us. Thank you!"

"Bless everyone who gave us money. Learning is way easier in the air condition. Thanks!"

Even the administration, appreciates the A/C:

"When the heat index hit 106 on Tuesday [the second day of school], we didn't even think a bit about having to close early due to the heat. Air conditioning is a blessing!"

We are so grateful to the many donors of the Cultivating Our Future capital campaign!





Our Lady of Victory Foundation

- Mike Lazio

OLV Foundation How easy to be a part of its legacy?

What exactly is the OLV Foundation? Think of it simply as our parish's super savings account! The Foundation retains and invests the fund's principal and each year returns its **Distribution of Earnings** to OLV and JFK Catholic School! It is a win win, value only added financial vehicle. Donors never have to look back on one's decision to contribute. Our progress is a one way avenue forward towards a more stable financial future. A foundation built on rock as Jesus said to Peter.

As we begin to shift seasonal gears in preparation for winter, think about how easy it is to give to the Foundation. Electronically, envelopes, memorials and estate planning are some primary examples. Those who are 70 ½ years of age can take advantage of the IRA's Required Minimum Distribution. Roll it over as a Qualified Charitable Distribution to support the parish. This is an excellent manner to reap tax benefits as 2021 winds down. Another alternative is to consider Amazon Smiles as we begin to shift seasonal gears in preparation for winter? Either option is a windfall bonus, an easy Christmas gift to the parish!

Many methods exist to participate in the Foundation. If you have any questions about the Foundation, any board member would be glad to respond to your inquiries. The value of giving to the Foundation is beyond rewarding. It helps to create a legacy that enhances the worth and mission of Our Lady of Victory. I encourage you to view Foundation facts and/or our annual reports that are available online at this link: <https://www.olvjfk.com/olv/olv-foundation/foundation-facts/>

Your gifts have enabled OLV to accomplish many worthy projects. The pandemic forced all of us to think outside of the box on several occasions. We have been able to help upgrade the HVAC at church and school to improve air purification, circulation and quality. We continue to strive to make our campus safer for all. The church's sound system is another example of the benefits of your contributions. It is crystal clear making it easier for all to hear God's Word. These are just a couple of improvements made possible by your generosity and support. We are forever thankful for it!

Let us all rejoice in the good news! Despite whatever challenges you confront with how the pandemic impacts your life, try to focus on the positive consequences as we all continue to learn and adapt almost daily to its influence. Our Faith will enhance our lives if we only allow God's message to enter our lives daily. Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who donate and support the Foundation! We encourage all to consider participating in this most worthwhile mission. It's easy to join us.

Stewardship In Action

-Peg Macek

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for our own life but also for the lives of others as well. This stewardship lifestyle has been especially evident in the past 18 months of the COVID-19 Pandemic at OLV. Parishioners received "well-being" phone checks and offers of assistance if needed. Community agencies received food, diapers and other necessities from the multiple drives during this time. Parishioners and the public were able to "attend" Sunday Mass via the OLV YouTube Channel and COZI-TV as well as receive Father Jake's Daily Reflection through a variety of ways. These and many other things were done because they were needed and the need was certainly not always convenient. Sharing is caring and caring is sharing. Thanks OLV Parishioners and Staff for living stewardship and giving of your time, talent, and treasure. It takes a village and OLV has been that village for many in the parish and the community-at-large.



IGNITE Sundays

- Kaye Meyers

The Our Lady of Victory campus came alive for IGNITE Sundays in September. Our first event was held on Sunday, September 12 with over 100 parishioners in attendance. Following the 4:30 Mass, which began the evening, parishioners were able to enjoy a baked potato bar with all the fixins supplied by the Queen of Heaven Circle. The campus then erupted into activity as groups gathered; some discussed God's Creation and Stewardship, others learned how to play Euchre, young adults met with Fr. Andrew on the patio, youth gathered for recreation and then a quick clean up of the campus, some parishioners prayed for the success of the evening, one group created plans for building a free little food pantry, and the youngest enjoyed the playground equipment. And that was just the beginning...



Schedule Of IGNITE Sundays

4:30-5:30 Mass (Church)

5:35-6:05 Meal (Parish Center)

6:10-7:15 Group gatherings (Something for All Ages)

Remember each week stands alone, so join us at any time. You are invited to attend all or part of the events. Make sure to check the website and bulletin for more information prior to each IGNITE.

Themes

Oct. 10: Why does God Let Bad Things Happen?
Oct. 24: What is Hope and Why do you need it?
Nov. 7: Jesus Came for All of Us
Nov. 21: What's my Motivation to go to Mass?
Dec. 12: Finding Your Place in the Advent Story
Feb. 13: Anawim (Hebrew word meaning "poor one")
[Poverty and the Dignity of Work]
March 6: "I Thirst" Lent
March 20: "I Hunger" Eucharist
April 10: Family: The Foundation of Society
April 24: What Does God Want Me to Do?

Wondering how you can help with IGNITE Sundays?

IGNITE Sundays also offers your group a chance to build community and provide service by offering to donate the food for the meal, prepare the food, serve the food, and/or clean up after the meal. If you have a group interested, you have questions or would like more information please contact Jennifer Wemhoff at davolvaff@diodav.org or Kaye Meyers at davolvcre@diodav.org or call 563-391-8384.

Faith Formation Parent Book Club

- Kaye Meyers

There is a great book by Mark and Melissa Hart: Our Not Quite Holy Family. The book offers insight into parenting in a humorous and practical way. Jennifer Wemhoff will be hosting a book club for parents/guardians that will meet once a month during Faith Formation class time. The meeting will take place in the Parish Center. This will be an opportunity to discuss the book, share parenting ideas, and get to know other parents. There is no charge.

Please contact Jennifer (davolvaff@diodav.org) or Kaye Meyers (davolvcre@diodav.org) if you would like to participate or have any questions. We will arrange for you to get a book. Here is the schedule: (It is not too late to join.)

Dates and Chapters for Discussion

September 22; Introduction & Chapter 1
Pros Don't Raise Cons
October 20; Chapter 2
Stuck in Reverse
November 10; Chapter 3
Three Truly is a Crowd
December 1; Chapter 4
Dusting off the Altar

January 12; Chapter 5
Striking a Chord
February 9; Chapter 6
Screen-to Soul Contact
March 23; Chapter 7
Holier Than Thou



We are disciples of Jesus Christ making faith matter and sharing God's love to make more disciples.

In the last Victory Voice, I talked about the difference between the sort of ministry we had been envisioning at the end of 2019 and beginning of 2020 with the stark realities of ministry over the last year and a half. As I write this, it's early September, and it remains difficult to plan youth activities due to the ever increasing demands and stresses of life in the pandemic. Yet we persevere. We've already delivered care packages to all our new freshman, and have started on a round for the sophomores and juniors. We've conducted youth nights, service projects, and begun preparing for NCYC on Wednesday nights. We're back in schools visiting classes and lunches to build relationships. It's still very hard to do ministry, and as always, we need your support.

Sometime before the new year, we will be doing a prayer drive for youth ministry. We'll set up a large display in the Gathering Space with tags hanging from it. These will contain a few names of youth in the parish, and we invite you to take one and pray each day for those teens. We want to see a parish community where all our youth are prayed for by lots of parishioners every single day. If you haven't checked out Assumption high school's new stadium yet, try attending a home game and cheering for Victory youth. And don't forget our teens at Central, North, West, and North Scott! This fall, I want to encourage everyone to enjoy a concert, play, or other event at the local high schools to support our teens. We want the youth of our parish to feel what we already realize - which is that OLV loves its youth.

We'll be launching more evangelistic initiatives and trying to do more to take care of local poor and homeless this fall and winter, so please keep a look out as the seasons change for more opportunities to serve. In the meantime, we haven't given up on utilizing our beautiful parish campus for youth activities. We're starting up a new ALPHA series led by 8th grade students in the coming weeks. And while we may not be able to hold large youth events anymore, we're going to be starting up some after school clubs for smaller numbers of teens to enjoy youth ministry along with their favorite hobbies. So if you love games, anime, sports, books, or some other hobby, and would like to share that love with others, let me know at davolvym@diodav.org. No matter your gift, there's a way for you to make a difference to youth in our parish.

Grow with God. Love your neighbor. Share your faith.

Rejoice Advent Book Study

-Jennifer Wemhoff

What does God want this Advent? Simple. He wants you. He wants a personal encounter with you. This year, as we journey through Advent with Rejoice! Finding Your Place in the Advent Story, we'll learn about the places, people, and events that shaped the story of the very first Advent and shape our own lives today.

Together with the guided meditation videos, this journal will help you to see how the people, places, and events of the first Advent affected Jesus's story. You will take time to look at the people, places, and events in your own life, to see how the Lord is shaping your story, today.

Rejoice! will help you open your heart to the peace and joy of the Advent season as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas. We look forward to journeying with you. Journals may be purchased, cost of the journal is \$5, after all the Masses the weekend of November 20-21 or in the parish office.



You are also invited to join us to discuss the journal meditations on 3 Thursday's in December. We will gather from 6:30-7:30pm in the Gathering Space Meeting Room December 2, 9, and 16 to share our insights and learn from each other. Contact Jennifer Wemhoff with questions at davolvaff@diodav.org.



JFK is in need of substitutes for both long-term assignments (like maternity leaves) and short-term assignments (like when a teacher needs to stay home with his/her own sick child). You do not need a teaching degree to work as a substitute. A minimum of an associate's degree may be enough to qualify. The process to become a substitute teacher includes completion of a 15-20 hour workshop, multiple background checks, and applications with the Iowa Board of Education Examiners and JFK. Workshops are being held almost every week throughout the state, and many of them are virtual so geography does not need to be a limiting factor.

Recognizing the need for substitute teachers, JFK's board has authorized a \$450 bonus at the pay period following the fifth day of substituting at JFK to the first five people to take advantage of this offer. The bonus will essentially cover the workshop fee, license application fee, background check fee, and pay an amount for the workshop time.

If you are interested in being a substitute, please contact Chad Steimle, chad.steimle@olvjfkmail.com, and/or the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency at 563-359-1371.



Our Common Home -Jean Simpson

Social Action/Christian Service Ministry has been supporting people to get into more permanent housing. Our parish heart has been open and generous. We are so grateful for those who prayed, donated goods and money. Our Lady of Victory has lots of caring and sharing with over 70 ministries. Our ministry took a micro approach and helped with some local housing needs. However, recently, I have had a nagging call to look on a more macro housing issue - our common home - Earth.

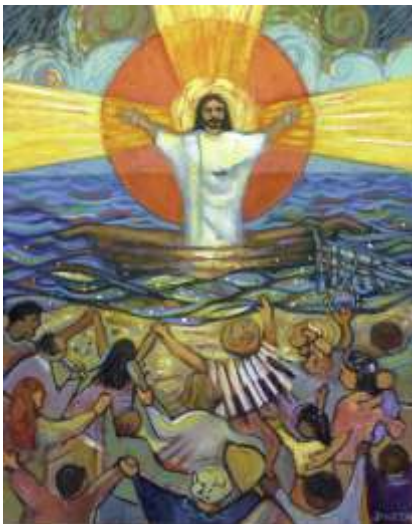
I first was inspired several years ago when volunteering at Our Lady of the Prairie Retreat Center. Sr. Kathleen Storm had such a reverence and awe of our beautiful Mother Earth. She even guided me in designing and prepping a bountiful organic garden. Then Sister was elected for the remarkable honor to be a councilor in Rome for Care of our Common Home. Later, my interest peaked when a video was posted by the Vatican. Pope Francis gave a heartfelt Encyclical Letter of Laudato Si. I treasured both the experiences with Sr. Kathleen and the insightful, compassionate words of Pope Francis. I never gave much more thought but now, I wonder, were these "mustard seed" moments?

In the meantime, I listened to young people who felt dread and hopelessness to the point some stated, it wasn't responsible or safe to have children with the world in such a state. I was shocked to hear how informed they were and how disappointed they felt that adults had not done more. So, when the US Catholic Church held a national virtual conference in July 2021 at Creighton about Laudato Si, I felt a strong calling to attend along with 2,600 others. The event was so informative and passionate about care for God's creation, I asked Deacon Frank Agnoli, who also attended the conference, to come and speak on Tuesday, September 21st, 2021.

August 18th, 2021 Barb Arland-Fye wrote a compelling article in the Catholic Messenger titled "Our Common Home sends out an SOS." A repeated formidable homelessness issue looming is climate refugees. Higher water tables, extinction of wildlife, air/water quality, deterioration of soil, fires, flooding, hurricanes and droughts will kill millions and millions more will lose their homes.

Although, this is an enormous issue and extremely concerning I have faith that "with God all things are possible." As I reflect on 1 John 3:17 "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" I wondered, are there others in our parish, especially the younger members who are getting the same nudging to address this need? Have others had some mustard seeds planted in their heart? If yes, please email jkdreamor@gmail.com.

Here I Am To Worship CEW 2022 -Tracy Ripslinger



Plans are in "full swing" to offer a Women's and Men's Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) in early 2022.

SAVE THE DATES:
WOMENS CEW: February 4-6, 2021
MENS CEW: February 18-20, 2022

The theme "Here I Am To Worship" chosen for the 30th annual set of weekend retreats at OLV, invites participants to join together with eagerness and jubilation in worship of Christ, our Savior, much like the followers shown in this year's logo who praised Jesus 2,000 years ago as He preached from a boat in the sea. (Luke: Ch 5).

For those not familiar with CEW, it can be explained as a spiritual retreat to reconnect with one's faith and one's God, while discovering the joy and sacredness of growing with and worshipping among a community of believers. The weekend provides a unique opportunity to take a break from the demands of everyday life. It includes talks, small group discussions, private reflection time, prayer, Mass, plenty of food, fellowship, fun and much more!!

Please consider signing up for your life-changing CEW by filling out a registration form found in the parish office, kiosk in the Gathering Space or our parish website (<https://www.olvjfk.com/olv/organizations/cew-christian-experience-weekend/>).

If you have any questions about the weekend, please contact:
Women's Lay Director: Tracy Ripslinger - 563-940-7092, tripslinger@gmail.com
Men's Lay Director: Aaron Gunnare - 515-971-4218, aaron.gunnare@gmail.com

OUR LADY OF VICTORY NEWSLETTER

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MISSION STATEMENT:

Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church is a community that lives and shares the preaching, teaching, and healing of Christ."

Trunk or Treat

-Kaye Meyers

Trunk or Treat October 23, 2021

- Trunk or treating will begin after the 4:30 Mass.
 - Please park on the Parish Center side of the parking lot (south side) if participating in Trunk or Treat.
 - Please bring a treat to pass out and decorate your vehicle! (remember to keep the decorations family friendly!)
 - Invite your family and friends to join you at Mass and for Trunk or Treat! All are welcome!
- If you have any questions, please call Kaye Meyers 563-391-8384



Health Ministry Team

- Char Mc Govern



The OLV Health Ministry Team is made up of our parish nurse team: Carol Burns, RN, Char McGovern, Health Advocate and Julie Kilburg, Health Advocate along with the members of the Wellness Committee. Aside from the below listed activities, Carol, Char and Julie are in contact with those in our parish that might be struggling with any health issues, hospitalization, downsizing, any issue that affects your mind, body or soul and visiting those that are homebound. The Wellness committee supports your parish nurse team by volunteering and helping with the various wellness programs that are offered at OLV.

- *GriefShare*, OLV's grief support group started another session in September. If you are struggling from a loss, please come join us in the Gathering Space Meeting Room at 12:15pm on Sunday afternoon. If you are not ready to join us yet, please watch the bulletin for dates and times for our next session in 2022.
- We had 20 parishioners participate in our *Walking For Summer* program in July. Unfortunately, OLV did not win the traveling golden tennis shoe but, perhaps next year we can get more people to record their steps and join us in walking throughout July! Our top 3 walkers received a surPRIZE from the Wellness Team.
- Our caregiver support group *Nourish* is again meeting virtually at this point until the COVID-19 Delta variant is under control. We meet the 2nd Thursday of every month at 1pm. *Nourish* is designed to provide the tools and resources to build a caregiver's resilience by supporting your practical, emotional and spiritual needs so that you can experience the many blessings that come with caregiving. If you are a caregiver we would love for you to join us! Email Marianne Agnoli at AgnoliM@davenportdiocese.org and she will send you the link. Please watch the bulletin for any changes in meeting location.
- We currently have two Matter of Balance classes going on in the Gathering Space Meeting Room. We hope to hold these again next fall. Watch the bulletin to sign up for these free classes from Milestones Agency on Aging.
- Coming in March, we will be offering Tai Chi for arthritis and fall prevention led by Sonita from Milestones Agency on Aging. This class will be held in the Gathering Space (up to 20 can participate). The class is free for those over 60, scholarships will be available for those under 60 if needed.
- The first weekend of each month blood pressures are taken in the nurses' office in the back of church after all Masses. Volunteers are needed! Please call the parish office at 563-391-4245 if you would like to help.