



The Victory Voice

Issue 4 • Winter • 2021



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

A note from Fr. Jake

I hope and pray that this latest edition of the Victory Voice finds you and your loved ones doing well. The Advent season is well underway, and we now prepare for the celebration of Christmas. The schedule for this year's in-person Masses is as follows:

Thursday, December 24th	Friday, December 25th
4:00 PM	7:00 AM
6:00 PM	9:00 AM
10:00 PM	

The front of the church remains spaced out for those who want to use this option. They are not reserved for any particular family, so early arrival at Christmas Masses will ensure that you have one of these pews. As an additional reminder, you are not required to attend a Christmas Mass because of the on-going dispensation being given by Bishop Zinkula. A recording of the Christmas Mass will be available on the parish website (www.olvjfk.com/olv) at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve, and that same Mass will be broadcasted on KWQC- Channel 6 Christmas Day at 8:30AM.

Mass recording on COZI-TV will no longer be available after Sunday, December 26th at 7:00AM. The decision to discontinue this broadcast was made in light of many factors, but please know our parish will continue to offer a recorded Mass through our website, www.olvjfk.com/olv. Starting on Saturday, January 1st, we will livestream the 4:30PM Mass every Saturday evening, and this recording will then be posted to our parish YouTube channel (for people to watch at their convenience. More details will be made available as we get closer to the beginning of the year. The parish office is available to help parishioners who do not have internet to transition to another Mass that is offered through your cable or through a broadcast signal. We know that the latter will be inconvenient for some of you, but our staff will

work to make sure that you can watch a Mass.

Life continues to be different here at OLV in light of ongoing concerns, but we continue to focus providing ministry in spite of these realities. From the IGNITE Sundays events to limited Christmas concerts at the school, the parish and school staff continue to work hard to adapt to whatever challenge is presented to us. I want to thank you for your flexibility and patience. I also want to thank you for your continued feedback on what our parish is doing. The Parish Council and other parish leadership groups will be going through our Rediscovering Sunday survey results along with any additional feedback that we receive over the coming weeks. Our parish is trying to be as responsive as possible to the needs that exist, and as we come up against limits, we will discern where God wants us to go in service of Him. In the end, it is my hope and prayer that our parish will start growing again in 2022 after experiencing some decline.

If you need anything from the parish, please do not hesitate to let me or any member of the staff know. We want to help and support parishioners as much as possible, especially as realities of our lives still continue to change. Please be assured of my continued thoughts and prayers for all of you.

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!

Merry Christmas





Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Your Foundation

As Advent and the Christmas season arrive, we pause to give thanks for our blessings and the people in our lives. COVID and its fatigue certainly seems to have impacted our lives significantly these last two years. This pandemic has reminded us of how much our loved ones mean to us all!

This Christmas season is also a time when charitable giving comes to mind. What exactly is charitable giving or philanthropy? The word philanthropy comes from two Greek words meaning "love of people." In our times, this goodwill or humanitarianism is often expressed in donations of property, money, or volunteer time to worthy causes to help others or society as a whole. Similarly, the word charity comes from a Latin word meaning "love" in the sense of unconditional loving, kindness, compassion, and seeking to do good.

Successful fundraising doesn't start with asking for money. Rather it starts with understanding how philanthropy works. The Our Lady of Victory Foundation provides opportunities for people to permanently fund the financial support of the mission of our parish, by giving to the ministries that are most meaningful to you, and thus supporting and amplifying the work of the parish, its school, and many programs. Charitable giving can be enhanced using income tax deductions; it can be much more effective when included as part of year-end tax planning.

When we consider all the loved ones in our lives and for whom we will get gifts, as you're making a list, checking it twice, ponder the OLV Foundation's cause, that is mighty nice! We suggest you include the OLV Foundation as one of the more influential partners in your life and encourage you to include the Foundation on your Christmas list. We are here to help donors accomplish more with their gift than they thought possible. We are here to serve Our Lady of Victory Parish in its Catholic mission. Please contact any Board member or Father Jake if you have any questions about participating in our long-term goals.

Regardless of how often or how much you "gift," we invite you to accept Fr. Jake's 60th year invitation by contributing \$60 this year towards OLV's 60th anniversary! If you've never contributed to the Foundation, Christmas is an opportune time to become a first time or repeat donor.

John 3:16 is probably one of the most quoted bible verses. "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." This example of unconditional love is brought home to us at Christmas. We reflect upon the past year and look forward to the next one with faith, hope and optimism that Christ's love brings to us. We thank all contributors who have assisted in your Foundation's success. May God's blessings continue to descend upon you and your families at Christmas.





Parish Appreciation Party - Judy Johnson

Parish Appreciation Party
Saturday, January 15, 2022
6:00 PM in the Parish Center

Parish Council hosts this exciting event to say thanks to all members who serve the parish and school in any capacity. Those who:

- **Pray**, sing and worship with us
- **Donate** Ribbon Tree & Wishing Well gifts
- **Perform** a liturgical role at Mass or work on a project
- **Support** our outreach ministries with gifts of food, clothing, and essential items
- **Help** with faith formation, youth ministry, or adult learning
- **Contribute** to the offertory
- **Use Christ's gifts** as caring parents, loyal friends, generous people, and ethical workers.

The list goes on and on!

There is no cost to attend and entire families are invited. Substantial hors d'oeuvres, beverages and scrumptious desserts are served. Light entertainment is provided. Kid-friendly menu and fun activities enjoyed in a connected space. Please plan to attend.



Wellness Ministry at OLV

- Char McGovern

It has been a very busy 2021 at OLV.....

- We completed 3 GriefShare - grief support group programs
- 2 Matter of Balance programs
- 1 Delay the Disease program
- Continue to offer Nourish - caregiver support group
- Monthly blood pressure checks have resumed on the first Sunday of each month
- Provided information weekly through Cozi Corner and Nurses corner in the bulletin
- Held a very successful book sale that supports our Scholarship fund
- Awarded 2 \$500.00 scholarships to college students entering a medical field



What is coming next for 2022?

- A fun Bingo night
- TaiChi
- Matter of Balance class
- GriefShare - grief support group - February 2022
- Continue to offer Nourish - support group for caregivers.

Please watch future bulletins for more information about each of these programs. If you have a suggestions as to future programming we can offer, please call the rectory 563-391-4245, and a member of the parish staff will pass it on to the Wellness Ministry Team.

Have a blessed, joy filled Christmas season. Peace be with each of you from your Health Ministry Team (parish nurses) and all the members of the Wellness Ministry Team.

Adult Bible Study

-Jennifer Wemhoff

Romans

The Gospel of Salvation

Paul's letter to the Romans has been at the center of reflection, conversion, and controversy from the very beginning. Indeed, many Catholics fear that Romans is too "Protestant." But understood correctly, as St. Paul intended, Romans is authentically Catholic.

Romans reveals that salvation is not merely the removal of a guilty verdict; it is about entering into Christ's life, death, and resurrection and sharing in his divine life. In Jesus Christ all the hopes and expectations of Israel are fulfilled, leading to the universal ("catholic") family of God. Romans: The Gospel of Salvation is an eight-week Bible study we are offering that will help you make sense of the difficult passages regarding faith, works of the law, and justification. It will give you an authentically Catholic, comprehensive, and simple way to understand this challenging epistle.

Participants will meet every week to view an engaging video presentation by Dr. Andrew Swafford and Jeff Cavins, followed by a time of lively group discussion and fellowship. We will begin our Romans Bible study on Thursday March 3 from 6:30-8:00pm in the Parish Center. Cost of the workbook is \$30. To register for the study, contact Jennifer Wemhoff at davolvaff@diodav.org or 563-508-2346. Registrations are due by February 1, 2022. We hope you can join us!

Study Schedule

Date	Session (Video Times)
March 3 in the Parish Center 6:30-8:00pm (Thursdays)	1. Introduction (22:24)
March 10 in the GSMR 6:30-8:00pm	2. Romans 1–2: Paul's Gospel and the Universality of Sin (30:29)
March 24 in the GSMR 6:30-8:00pm	3. Romans 3–4: Faith, Works, and Justification (23:17)
March 31 in the GSMR 6:30-8:00pm	4. Romans 5–6: Entering into the Paschal Mystery (25:24)
April 7 in the Parish Center 6:30-8:00pm	5. Romans 7–8: The Logic of the Covenant, the Gravity of Sin, and the Gift of the Spirit (31:56)
April 21 in the GSMR 6:30-8:00pm	6. Romans 9–11: God Fathers His Family (27:28)
April 28 in the GSMR 6:30-8:00pm	7. Romans 12–13: Making Our Lives a Living Sacrifice (21:60)
May 5 in the Parish Center 6:30-8:00pm	8. Romans 14–16: The End of the Story (23:47)

IGNITE Sundays

- Kaye Meyers & Jennifer Wemhoff



- The smell of incense drifts past, bells ring and a sprinkling of Holy Water startles the senses of the blindfolded child next to you.
- A new understanding of solidarity settles into your mind as you listen to the experience of a fellow parishioner.
- A sense of assurance tugs at your heart as your child picks up a glow stick from the word HOPE shining in the darkness.
- The comfort of community flashes to mind through the buzz and laughter heard in the parish center as contest winners are announced
- The feeling of accomplishment hits as plans are agreed upon for the Little Food Pantry



These are experiences from our IGNITE Sundays. Parishioners have celebrated Mass, shared meals, heard new information, offered insight, and experienced new ways to express and participate in their faith. Other parishioners have taken turns to make these events happen.

IGNITE Sundays are exploding with opportunities. Thanks to everyone who has participated and volunteered.

It is not over, plan to continue or begin your participation at any or all of the remaining events:

IGNITE Sundays Dates

February 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

Schedule Of IGNITE Sundays

4:30-5:20 Mass (Church)

5:25-6:05 Meal (Parish Center)

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

We are also in need of people to volunteer. Please use this link to a sign up that shows options for helping during the events: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4EAEAB2CABF58-ignite>

or contact Kaye Meyers at davolvcre@diodav.org, Jennifer Wemhoff at davolvaff@diodav.org or call 563-391-8384.





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

Previously in the Victory Voice, I talked about the ways we're trying to do ministry now, while still recovering from a pandemic, and going through many unique struggles. We were performing more service and prayer activities with youth, preparing for NCYC, delivering care packages, and trying to have some fun in between. We launched a new ALPHA series for 8th graders, and we're starting up a cooking club for 6th grade. Finally, this December, we will begin our new prayer tree initiative to invite the whole parish to pray for our youth by name, every day. Today, I want to take some time to share with you some reflections from this year's National Catholic Youth Conference.

NCYC comes every two years, and has been a staple event at our parish for longer than I have been here. Most recently it has been held multiple times in Indianapolis, but there will now also be an NCYC West Coast in California on what had previously been the off years. NCYC is a tremendous undertaking, made possible by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), which also plans conferences and events for middle school students (Holy Fire), and for youth ministry professionals and volunteers (NCCYM), in addition to developing resources and other help for youth ministry in our country. This year, with the stresses of the pandemic, NFCYM had far less time to plan for the conference, but even with half the time and all the additional stresses of planning a massive event for teenagers during a pandemic they still managed to create an incredible experience for our young people. It differed from past NCYCs in several major ways. First it was smaller - only half the number of people in attendance due to the realities of the pandemic. Second, it was more focused. NCYC typically has so many events you can never attend them all, and teens must make difficult choices about what sessions to attend, sometimes choosing between two favorites that have been scheduled at the same time. This time, there were a limited number of sessions available, and each session was repeated several times, so you could see everything you wanted to see.

From listening to our teens and adults who attended, there were many highlights to NCYC. The speakers were powerful, the messages pertinent, the music incredible, the trade goods ample, the food excellent, and the global village "mall" packed with opportunities. But, as always, Jesus stole the show. On Friday night after three general sessions with A-list speakers, and a whole day exploring everything the convention had to offer we closed the evening out with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Just Jesus, us, and 10,000 of our newest friends. We sang, yes, but mostly what we recall is the silence. The stillness of a stadium never meant for quiet. In a crowd of 10,000 people, you could hear the air conditioning, the shifting of knees, and the occasional cough. But what you didn't hear was talking. Every eye was on Him. Every heart was open to the movement of His Spirit. I can't tell you who was crying or laughing, who was trembling, whose life was changed or heart was converted. Those stories belong to those individuals to share. What I can tell you is that those stories are here, in our parish. Befriend some of our youth who attended and ask for their stories. Encourage them to keep on their journey. And for those who have not attended... invite them to come change their lives at NCYC.

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





Advent Love and Light: Relax. Less is Blessed!

Laudato Si calls all Catholics and people of good will to Care for Creation and the poor. If like many, finances are a little tight or you can't buy what you want. Below are some gifts to give thanks and to honor God's Creation and our children's future. Included are some facts on how powerful your small acts of love can be. Make it a family project!

5 Golden Gifts for Less

1) Water: <https://www.ecofriendlyhabits.com/water-wasting-facts/>

- Turn off water: 5 gallons of water could be lost if you leave the water running while brushing your teeth
- Flush your toilet less, you use 3 ½ gallons of water. Cumulatively, 6.8 billion gallons of water are flushed down toilets in America every day.
- Fix those leaks. On average, 10 gallons of water is lost to leaks per day.
- Shorter showers-We use 27% of a household's water for showering and bathing.

2) Food: <https://www.feedingamerica.org/our-work/our-approach/reduce-food-waste>

- The United States wastes 108 billion pounds of food each year. That equates to more than \$161 billion worth of food thrown away each year. Shockingly, nearly 40% of all food in America is wasted. Meanwhile, 38 million face hunger.
- Meatless Monday, or increase number of meals without meat. Methane can come from the animals themselves or from the decomposition of manure, but meat production is also a major driver of climate change. Deforestation to clear land for grazing – often by setting huge fires – means the planet has fewer trees to absorb greenhouse gases. Aug 2021 bigissue.com

3) Paper: <https://www.mrrooter.com/about/blog/2017/march/paper-waste-is-ruining-the-environment/>

- Reduce & recycle: Paper accounts for 25 percent of waste in the landfill and 33 percent of municipal waste. About 68 million trees are cut down each year to produce paper and paper products.
- If you use it, recycle when possible. Replacing paper with real plates, cups, glasses, cloth towels, napkins and handkerchiefs saves 7,000 gallons of water, not to mention 17 trees and 700 gallons of oil.
- Repurpose that gift wrap, bows and ribbon if in good shape.

4) Plastics: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/distribution/public/amp/environment/article/us-plastic-pollution>

- Use less. U.S. generates more plastic trash than any other nation, report finds
- Recycle. China may be the world's largest manufacturer of plastic, the report finds, but the United States is by far the world's largest generator of plastic waste
- Pick up litter. Chad Pregracke: "The River Rescuer" tells of the importance of keeping our rivers free of plastic and debris.

5) Recycle & Repurpose

- Trees: Recycle Christmas Tree. Re-Use Artificial Trees. Replace and Plant Trees.
- Clothes: if you haven't worn them in the last year and they are in good shape, consider donating them.

Mark 12:44 - for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on. Let this be the holiday we put extra emphasis on Christ in our holiday and in loving one another by honoring this beautiful planet that we all share and donating what we aren't using.

Merry Christmas to all the amazing people of Our Lady of Victory. May God bless all. Enjoy more and use less.

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."

K of C New Years Eve Party

-Shawn Atwater

The Knights of Columbus announce the return of our New Year's Eve Party!

Please join us for a wonderful evening that includes a **PRIME RIB DINNER** from Smokin' Butt BBQ and dancing/entertainment from Twisted Mics Entertainment!

Tickets will be available after Masses, in the parish office, at the Columbus Club, or with any active Knight. Ticket prices are \$50.00 each until 12/23/2021, then \$60.00 thereafter. Please purchase tickets ahead of time to help with catering/setup preparations.

All proceeds will benefit Humility Homes & Services!



"Here I Am to Worship" CEW 2022

- Tracy Ripslinger



Our Lady of Victory is holding its 30th Annual set of CEW's (Christian Experience Weekends) in February 2022. This year's theme is "Here I Am To Worship."

The dates are: FEBRUARY 4 - 6 for Women
FEBRUARY 18 - 20 for Men

CEW is a retreat that gives participants a break from the demands of everyday life. It offers time 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. CEW includes talks, small group discussions, private reflection time, prayer services, Mass, Christian fellowship, great food, and plenty of jubilation and fun.

The weekend begins at 7:30pm on Friday and ends at 4:30 on Sunday. Activities are held at the OLV Parish Center and Church. Special arrangements can be made for persons with moderate physical conditions or medically necessitated dietary needs. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Parishioners are encouraged to attend; but being Catholic is not a requirement to sign up.

The \$35 cost includes all meals. No applicants will be refused for financial reasons.

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 on our parish website (<https://www.olvjfk.com/olv/organizations/cew-christian-experience-weekend/>). Spaces are limited; applicants will be notified once all available spaces have been filled.

The Women's CEW Director, Tracy Ripslinger, would be happy to discuss CEW with any female (18 & older) who is interested or has questions. Please reach out at (563) 940-7092 or tripslinger@gmail.com.

The Men's CEW Director, Aaron Gunnare, can be contacted at (515) 971-4218 or aaron.gunnare@gmail.com.