

The Victory Voice

A note from Father Jake

I hope and pray that this issue of the Victory Voice finds you and your family doing well during this busy Advent season. The following pages are filled with a lot of information about upcoming events here in the parish, especially around the celebration of our 60th anniversary and Christmas.

If you are like me, you might also be looking a little further ahead to start of the New Year. Many of us will be adopting New Year resolutions, and I have few that I am already considering for my life. Many of us will strive to lose some weight, spend less money, get better grades, see our relatives more, arrive earlier at work, and so forth.

However, I hope and pray that all of us in the parish are considering at least one New Year resolution that has to do with our faith. A resolution regarding our life of faith would truly help all of the resolutions come to fruition. It is by God's grace alone that we are able to accomplish any of the good things in our life. Our faith is absolutely essential to all other aspects of our lives. Therefore, if everyone in our parish makes our faith a more important aspect of our lives in this New Year, amazing things will happen.

Many of us have read the following line in financial documents: "Past performance is not indicative of future results." The same applies with our New Year resolutions. We might not have done the best in the past with our resolutions. But I pray everyone is optimistic about the future. We are supposed to live in the hope that comes from Jesus Christ. This can be the year, with God's grace, where resolutions come to fruition. I hope you can find the support you need here in the parish. If not, please let me know. I want to ensure there are no boundaries to people growing in faith, hope, and love here at Our Lady of Victory.

The New Year will be another busy and blessed year for Our Lady of Victory. We have many wonderful opportunities

in front of us. However, I hope and pray the time we spend at the end of 2022 and beginning of 2023 can help us to receive the fullness of blessings that the Lord wants to give us in this New Year.

Please know of Fr. Andrew's and my personal prayers for all of you. Have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!



Father Jake

REV. JACOB M. GREINER
Pastor

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Mass Times

Saturday, December 24, 2022:
4:00pm // 6:00pm // 10:00pm

Sunday, December 25, 2022:
7:00am // 9:00am

A recording of the Christmas Mass will be available on the parish website (www.olvjfk.com/olv) on Christmas Day.

Christian Service Social Action

By Jean Simpson

The pink candle of Advent lit on Gaudete Sunday, is the third Sunday in the season of Advent. For the first two weeks of Advent, we spiritually prepare for the birth of Jesus. But Gaudete Sunday is more about our joyous anticipation. This is how we feel about the miracle that is about to happen.

This is the season of preparation, joy and giving! I love our ministry. It feels like Gaudete. We know there is so much suffering but there is hope in the air. We gather in His name and pray Thy will be done. We reflect on a closer relationship with Jesus and the gratitude for the love, comfort, mercy and strength freely given to all who ask. Our welcoming and fun ministry would love to have you join us in acts of love.

We like to express our love for God and others in service to the vulnerable. Jesus was very clear in Matthew 22:37-40, "He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

So many times, love is cloaked in a romantic expression but as followers of Jesus we express it in service. John 13:35 "This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Service is love in work clothes. We don't save people, we serve people. However, sometimes people are so touched by the kind of loving, merciful, compassion, humble and thoughtful acts when they are facing challenging times, we may open a door of hope that helps restore their deep sense of



belonging and respect for their divine value. It is joyous work we do.

The Two Feet Logo represents "Charity and Justice". Charity means we address immediate needs. Justice calls us to look at what society may be doing that perpetuates suffering and increases the hardships in the lives of others and our planet. Then advocate for policy and solutions, so we and future generations can live and thrive.

Our God is a bountiful God. There is enough. This has deep roots in our faith, beliefs and values. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven". We do simple acts of service and advocacy for the poor, hungry, elderly, homeless, workers and our *Common Home*. Catholic social Teachings guide our work.

We have cards in the church lobby for any member of Our Lady of Victory who is feeling called to express your faith in this kind of work. We welcome all who are 18 and older who are interested in joining us. Forget the doom and gloom of the world. We are energized by our faith and joyous with our community of true followers.

Luke 17:6 The Lord replied, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

It is our faith that saves us. It is a privilege to serve. Thank you to all who serve and donate. Merry Christmas to all.



Ladies Council: Who we are and what we do

By Helen White

All women of the parish, age eighteen and older, are members of Ladies Council. How much involvement depends on each individual. There are five circles under the umbrella of Ladies Council with different ministries:

- **St. Anne Circle** – Parish receptions, candy for the bazaar, Euchre night and food for Hunger Ministry Meals
- **St. Elizabeth Seton Circle** – Social Sunday, Wishing Well for local nursing homes, Bazaar Bakeshop and crafts, food for Hunger Ministry Meals
- **St. Gabriel Circle** – Welcoming newcomers, Pregnancy Resources, Ribbon Tree for kids, food for Hunger Ministry Meal, assist at the Bazaar
- **St. Therese Lisieux Circle** – Food for Hunger Ministry Meals, Birthright blankets, baptismal garments, crafts and assisting at the Bazaar.
- **Queen of Heaven Circle** – Funeral Luncheons, Bazaar raffle, food for Hunger Ministry Meals, help with the Rummage Sale.

The annual Christmas Bazaar is a Ladies Council event and our biggest fundraiser. All of the money raised is given to the parish to be used for the church and school. The success of the Bazaar is due to its many volunteers.

Volunteering is a great way to get plugged into the parish, feel like part of a community, make new friends, and serve Jesus at the same time. God has uniquely equipped every person in the Church with specific skills and gifts. As Christians, we are tasked with utilizing these

gifts in our community and within our Parish. Using your God-given skills as a volunteer is a fantastic way to serve the church while simultaneously lightening the load of the church's staff.

One of my greatest joys is seeing friends and meeting members of our parish. Many of my closest and dearest friends are those that I have volunteered and worked with at a variety of activities within the parish, both church and JFK. I welcome each of you ladies to find an hour here and there to become involved in the church community.

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Annual Christmas Bazaar** -This Ladies Council event is our biggest fundraiser. Proceeds go back to the church and school.
- **JFK/OLV Gala**
- **Bingo, Trivia and Euchre Nights**
- **Parish Picnic**

Social Sunday is where I was approached and asked to become more involved in the parish. My first of many friends made here at Our Lady of Victory. There is now the opportunity for younger ladies to volunteer, while the older generation passes on the reigns. Even an hour of you volunteering is a huge help and makes a difference! Watch the bulletins for ways you can volunteer some time. If you are interested in volunteering for one of our events, do not hesitate to contact the parish office or attend a Ladies Council meeting. We always need feedback on what we are currently doing and need new ideas. Your opinion and assistance is needed by your Ladies Council. If you want to join one of the Circles mentioned above, the parish office can provide you with contact information.

Stewardship in Action

By Judy Johnson

During weekend Masses when the offertory collection begins, children are invited to come into the sanctuary to place their envelopes or loose cash in the multi-colored youth basket. This helps kids participate more fully in the liturgy and encourages them to share their gifts with others. Some of the money received is used to sponsor other children from an impoverished area. OLV kids are currently helping the family of Jaemelyn Yabut, of the Philippines, with needs for nutrition, medical care, and education.



Children's envelopes can be found in the alcove to the left of the baptismal font, or in the Gathering Space kiosk. Envelopes have space to write down how the child has used time or talent to serve others. Whether or not a monetary gift is enclosed, children are encouraged to regularly use the envelopes; and (from time to time) we report the acts of service and sharing noted on them. Those who are not comfortable coming to the altar may place their envelope in the baskets passed through the congregation. Many families find the children's offertory to be a positive experience and an excellent way to inspire a lifetime of good stewardship. Some enterprising parents and grandparents have even stockpiled a few envelopes to boost at-home conversation during those teachable moments.

Here are some of the ways our young members have recently lived their faith:

- Picked up trash and litter
- Shared my bike
- Played with someone who was lonely
- Helped a friend get to the school office
- Did my chores without whining
- Filled up the dog's water bowl
- Set the table
- Used my listening ears when Mom spoke
- Cheered up my neighbors by drawing a chalk picture in their front yard

I am very thankful for all of you for choosing me to be your sponsored child. I am so blessed to be part of your family. Sponsoring me is truly a big help for my family and also my studies. God bless you for all the good deeds.

Jaemelyn

Christian Experience Weekends (CEWs)

By Tracy Ripslinger

OLV's 30th annual set of Christian Experience Weekends (CEWs) are rapidly approaching. The Women's CEW will be held February 17 – 19, 2023 and the Men will hold their CEW Weekend March 3 – 5, 2023. This year's theme will be "Here I Am To Worship."

Why might you consider attending CEW? Here are just a handful of reasons given by attendees of previous weekends:

The Weekends begin Friday at 7:30pm and end at 4:30pm on Sunday. Included on the weekend are presentations from CEW team members, private reflection time, small group discussions, prayer services, Mass, great food, plenty of fellowship & fun and SO much more!

CEW is held at JFK School with a cost of just \$35, which includes 5 luxuriously prepared meals. Parishioners are encouraged to attend, but being Catholic or a parishioner is not a requirement. All participants must be at least 18 years old.

Please pick up a bright orange CEW registration form at the kiosk in the church's gathering space, at the rectory, or download your form at OLV/JFK.com and sign yourself (and a friend or two) up today!



For more info, contact CEW Directors,
Rick Thomas
(563) 388-5275
olvcewmens@gmail.com
Tracy Ripslinger
(563) 940-7092
(tripslinger@gmail.com).

"CEW has helped me see God in every facet of life."

CEW taught me to "Let go, and Let God."

"CEW opened my eyes to what it really means to live the Christian life."

"CEW has been a life-changing experience for me."

"To me, CEW is Christians supporting other Christians."

OLV Youth Ministry

By Abbey Heinrichs

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”

St. Catherine of Siena

The past several months have been full of grace, blessings, new friends, and spending time simply being who God meant us to be. The high schoolers have been keeping busy in the youth room and around the community diving into the sacraments, playing tons of games, and snacking a lot. Here are some of the highlights over the past several months:

Steubenville: Nine high schoolers made their way to Rochester, MN for a weekend of inspiration, sacraments, fellowship, and one of the most beautiful nights of adoration.

Mass After Dark: Once a month, we gather together on a Wednesday night to have candlelit Mass after dark. It is absolutely inspiring to watch these high schoolers come together for the sacrifice of the Mass.

Rooted Retreat: We spent a day this fall at Wildcat Den state park hiking, praying, and contemplating what it is we are rooted in. We went to Mass at St. Mathias in Muscatine and finished off the evening with dinner made by Fr. Andrew at OLV.

Small Groups: Both Fr. Andrew and I have been walking with small groups of high schoolers who wanted to take the chance to dive deeper into scripture and grow in faith with each other. Small groups have the ability, like nothing else, to teach high schoolers about who they are, who God is, and where they belong.

Wednesday Youth Nights: Every Wednesday we gather for an evening of fun and fellowship. Some of the events include Stump the Priest, Family Feud, bonfires, Friendsgiving, and more.

Coming up, we ask for continued prayers for our youth as they grow in love and virtue. Please also invite any high schoolers you know to join everything we have going for OLV youth ministry. Finally, we also want to invite junior high youth to join the community. Starting in the new year, we will be having a junior high night the last Wednesday of every month.

Continue to set the world on fire. God Bless.

Trunk or Treat Family Fun

By Kaye Meyers

The OLV/JFK campus was crawling with costumed creatures enjoying the beautiful fall weather on the evening of October 29, 2022, for the annual Trunk or Treat event. Everything from cute pumpkins, adventurous astronauts, scary witches to appealing bananas were part of the 160+ tricksters wandering the parking lot in hopes of collecting the coveted treats being shared by over 35 cars. Double D Diner was available in the parking lot for those wanting to order a sandwich. Everyone was then invited into the school cafeteria for the Monster Mash Bash dance with other fun activities in the gym. Members of the 8th grade classes presented a haunted hall experience for all to enjoy as well. A spooktacular time was had by all!



OLV Foundation Who is invited to your Christmas Banquet?

By Mike Lazio

We just celebrated Thanksgiving and Christmas is near. What joyous occasions to be with friends and/or family. Times of gratitude and wonder. What are you grateful for? Sometimes, it is the little things that make the biggest impact. Research shows that making an effort to practice gratitude each day is one of the best ways to improve happiness, health, and quality of life! To test this concept, scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, studied more than 1,000 people aged 8 to 80. They found those who consistently practiced gratitude had better physical and mental health and were generally happier, more generous, and more optimistic, among other perks.

Physically, these people had stronger immune systems, were less bothered by aches and pains and enjoyed better sleep. At the same time, psychological benefits included feeling more joy and pleasure, experiencing more optimism and being happier. On the social side, they were more helpful, generous and compassionate, and they even reported feeling less lonely and isolated.

As a faith community, we are celebrating our 60th anniversary as a parish. We can easily reflect upon many reasons to rejoice. We have journeyed together, grown and remain on solid spiritual and financial ground despite all the challenges we have encountered. As individuals, each one of us can recall many events that we have experienced. Again, what are you grateful for as another New Year approaches? Giving thanks is good for our bodies, minds and relationships. And this gift is free!

Family is one primary place where relationships are formed. Mentoring environments engage in the “practice of hearth, table, and commons.” Hearth includes spaces where individuals are “warmed in both body and soul, are made comfortable, and tend to linger.” Such places “invite pause, reflection, and conversation.” The practice of table works in similar ways. In every culture, human beings have eaten together. “The practice of table prepares us.... we learn to share, to wait, to accommodate, to be grateful..... we learn belonging, commitment, and ritual.”

Above all, the table like the hearth is a place of dialogue and conversation, where dreams are shared and images are explored. Lastly, the practice of commons affords opportunities “of inter-relatedness, belonging, and learning how to stand – and stand with – each other over time.” Such a place can “confirm a common connected life, and in common with various forms of story and ritual, can become the center of shared faith and grounded hope.”

Join forces with your family or friends – remotely if you live alone - to share what you’re grateful for before and/or after you eat. Who will you invite to your Christmas banquet and what will it consist of? When our primary guest is Jesus, we receive the greatest gift of all. The Foundation Board wants you to know we are extremely thankful for all your generosity as we prepare to celebrate the most wonderful gift of all, Jesus birth!



2023 New Year's Eve Party

December 31, 2022

7:00 PM, Columbus Club

1111-35th Street, Davenport

Mass (Optional at the Columbus Club) 5:15 PM

Cocktails: 6:00 PM

Smokin' Butt Prime Rib Dinner: 7:00 PM

Live Music by: The Knockoffs: 8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Fireworks and Champagne Toast at Midnights

**\$50 Per Person/RSVP by calling
563-391-1532 or 563-514-8002**

St. Anne's Circle Euchre Night

Saturday, March 11, 2023

TBD Time, in Parish Center

Due to COVID and conflict of schedules, we have had to cancel the past couple years. We are looking forward to hosting once again. We are also considering a Bingo Night in 2023. After the success and fun that was had during the 60th Anniversary celebration, a request was made for another Bingo Night. Watch future bulletins for details on both of these fun events.



Parish Appreciation Party

By Judy Johnson

Saturday, January 21, 2023

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. Child-friendly menu and fun activities enjoyed in a connected space.

Please plan to attend!

Wellness and Health 2022

By Char McGovern

As the year draws to the end, your Wellness and Health Ministry teams have been hard at work. We just completed a very successful fall book sale along with finishing a Matter of Balance class and Advanced TaiChi for arthritis prevention. We also continue to hold blood pressure checks the first weekend of every month unless it is a holiday weekend, then it is the next week. We held Life Inventory planning on October 1st. Thirty Six parishioners attended this discussion while enjoying a soup supper in the Gathering Space. Julie Kilburg, Bonnie Beyhl and Fr. Andrew led the discussion after giving information out about life planning as you age. The last Saturday of October, we held a Stop the Bleed and Bystander CPR program. Twenty parishioners participated in this program. Several participants said they were going to order tourniquets for themselves and all their families for Christmas presents. They can now go to the Blue Grass or LeClaire EMS office on Saturdays to practice their CPR skills.

That afternoon, we participated in Trunk or Treat as CareBears. We care for you! We had mostly healthy items in our decorated bags that we handed out but some of us just couldn't pass up on candies!

GriefShare will be finishing by the end of November with a new session starting in 2023. Nourish, OLV's caregiving ministry is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month year-round. You can check your bulletin for all the programs and activities that we hope to offer in 2023: GriefShare, TaiChi, Better Choices and possibly Stepping On, an advanced balance class. Also, as Covid decreases, perhaps another family Bingo evening will be happening in 2023! There are little or no fees charged for the programs.

We hope to see you all in 2023.



Adult Faith Formation

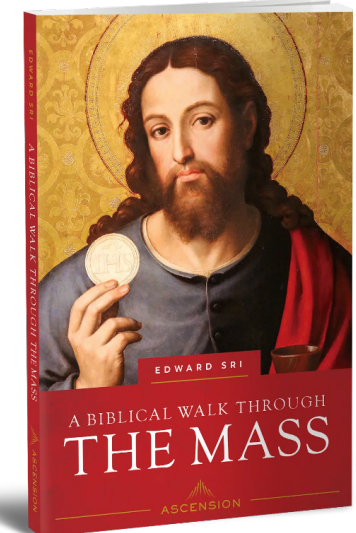
By Jennifer Wemhoff

Are you looking to learn more about your faith and grow in community? I would like to invite you to join us for our next adult study of *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*. The Mass is nothing short of amazing. Through it, we encounter God in the most intimate way possible as we hear Him speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word and as we receive Him Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

The words, the gestures, and the rituals of the Mass are rich in meaning. Everything we say and do in the Liturgy is steeped in biblical language. In his video-based study *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, Dr. Edward Sri explores the roots of the words and gestures we experience at Mass and explains their profound significance. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

“There is no pressure to say a lot. It is great to hear the insights and perspectives others have from the same readings.”
Lynn F.

***A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* beginning February 2 from 6:30-8:00pm and continuing every week for five weeks.**



“The community support is wonderful. The learning is great. The subjects are riveting.”

Lynn O.

Cost of materials is \$27

For more information or to register for the study, call Jennifer Wemhoff at **563-508-2346** or via email: **davolvaff@diodav.org**. Registrations due by January 9, 2023.



<Sample A. Sample>
<1234 Any Street>
<Suite 1234>
<Anytown, US 12345-6789>



→ FOR OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS AND MORE VISIT OLVJFK.COM

Schedule of IGNITE Sundays

By Jennifer Wemhoff & Kaye Meyers

4:30pm-5:20pm Mass (Church)
5:25pm-6:05pm Meal (Parish Center)
6:10pm-7:15pm Group gatherings

Child care, Kindergarten-2nd grade,
3rd-5th grade, 6th-8th grade, High School,
Young Adults, and Adult groups

You are invited to attend all or part of any
of these future events. Check the website
and bulletin for more information.

THEMES FOR UPCOMING GATHERINGS:

February 12: Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory

February 26: Did Christ really have to suffer?

March 19: Does God Expect you to be Perfect?

April 2: Experiencing Holy Week

April 16: Eucharistic Miracles



Follow us on Facebook,
Instagram, YouTube & Twitter

Season 2 of IGNITE Sundays will resume in the new year!
It has been a wonderful blessing to continue to provide this
opportunity for all ages. If you haven't yet been able to join
us for an IGNITE Sunday it is never too late. If you are looking
to make any New Year's resolutions this year, we challenge
you to make attending one of the remaining IGNITE Sundays
of Season 2 part of your resolutions. Here is what some
attendees have to say about IGNITE Sundays:

**"We enjoy learning new things and the
contributions of our community."** David S.



**"Great food and conversation plus good
insight in growing in our catholic faith."** Sheila M.

So join us to see what all the buzz is about!

IGNITE Sundays begin with a 4:30pm Mass, dinner follows in
the Parish Center at about 5:20pm and programming for all
ages begins at 6:10pm and ends at 7:15pm. Come to one,
two, or all parts of IGNITE Sunday.