

THE VICTORY VOICE

ISSUE 3 FALL 2023



A NOTE FROM FR. PATRICK

My first three months as Pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish has just flown by and it is so hard to believe that it is already October!

The church throughout the world is in the midst of the worldwide Synod that was called by Pope Francis and our own bishop, Archbishop-elect Zinkula has asked us as a diocese to reflect on Welcoming and Belonging this first year! It seems so appropriate to me since I have moved here to be Pastor after serving the parishes of Saint Patrick, Ottumwa and Saint Mary Magdalen, Bloomfield for the past 13 years as their Pastor. I have received an absolutely WONDERFUL welcome since arriving here at Our Lady of Victory! People have been so kind to me in their words, meals, food brought to the rectory and so many other kind gestures! The students, faculty and staff at our John F. Kennedy Catholic School have treated me like I have always been here and are so kind and friendly whenever I have a chance to be with them. The very day that I arrived, I was greeted by the parish staff with an arrangement of gift cards from the “local hangouts” – (you know like Whitey’s and other places to eat)! They are such a dedicated group of workers who make our GREAT parish run smoothly!

My point is that we are already doing a fabulous job of welcoming those who come to visit us as a parish. A case in point was this past Sunday when a large group of young men were attending Mass from the soccer team of Marist High School in Chicago, Illinois. When I mentioned the group and welcomed them the congregation burst into applause! I was impressed and proud of who we are as a parish. We need to make every person feel that good, including the members of our own parish family by simple and kind gestures like an anniversary or sympathy card, a kind word, a friendly smile or a caring heart.

As we prepare to celebrate our parish Feast Day the weekend of October 7/8 (The Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary - Our Lady of Victory) I am reminded of the words of Our Lady that we should “Do whatever he tells you!” May we always be attentive to the voice of Jesus!!!

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!

Fr. Patrick

Rev. Patrick Hilgendorf
Pastor





HARVEST DAY DINNER

by Mike Lazio

Autumn is a season when we hopefully reap the fruits of our labor. Harvest time often rewards us for our diligence and steadfastness towards reaching our goals regardless if they are personal, financial or spiritual. Patience is an important ingredient in this formula. We prepare the soil, plant, tend to our seedlings and wait for summer and Mother Nature to assist us. So it is with life.

We are thankful that once again we can gather in fellowship at the Foundation's annual Harvest Day Dinner on October 29th. Social begins at 5:00 p.m. Please know that "all are welcome!" One does not need to be a donor to attend. All parishioners, especially new members, are welcome to attend. This is an excellent occasion to learn about the Foundation, visit with any of its board members and/or contributors, make new friends and enjoy an evening of good food and entertainment. This year we are happy to introduce to you Jodi Siebler and Dan Haverkamp, our newest board members.

To attend the dinner, please call the Parish Office at 563.391.4245 or email us at olvfoundation@gmail.com as soon as possible. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

Trust in your Faith and your harvest will be bountiful. Fertilize your intentions with prayer. Now is the time to relax and join your co-parishioners as we celebrate the fruits of your labor in the Harvest Day Dinner! We look forward to visiting with as many of you as possible on October 29th.



Our Lady of Victory
Foundation
Creating Tomorrow's Parish Today

The OLV Foundation Board is pleased to serve on your behalf. Feel free to contact us with questions or suggestions to build a stronger Foundation.
Officers: Mike Matthys, Roni Pianca, Kathy Peterson, and Joe Green.
Members: Rev. Patrick Hilgendorf (ex-officio), Mike Lazio, Bernie Mack, Jodi Siebler, Dan Haverkamp, Denis Prior, Mike Strajack, and Jenny VanGenderen.

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"HOLY SPIRIT COME TO ME" 2024 CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE WEEKENDS

by Anita Gorzney & Jake Pries



Plans are in "full swing" to offer a Womens and a Mens Christian Experience Weekend (CEW) in early 2024.

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR,
"SAVING THE DATES" AS FOLLOWS:**

WOMENS CEW: FEBRUARY 16-18, 2024

MENS CEW: MARCH 1-3, 2024

The theme "Holy Spirit, Come To Me" was chosen for the 31st annual set of weekend retreats at OLV, invites participants to let the Holy Spirit draw them to Jesus!

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 listening to 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 at the kiosk in the Gathering Space at church or the Parish Office). The 2024 Womens CEW Director, Anita Gorzney, and the Mens Director, Jake Pries, would be happy to discuss the weekend with all who would like additional information and they are more than willing to mail you an application. The CEW Directors can be contacted at:

Anita Gorzney – Phone (563) 508-0103, Email: Nathanita2@msn.com

Jake Pries – Phone (563) 940-7526, Email: sapper834@gmail.com.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY DINNER

by Maureen Mosse



The 6th annual Thanksgiving dinner will be served family style in the OLV Parish Center on Thursday, **November 23rd at 12:00pm.**

With many volunteers and food donations we are able to provide this dinner for parishioners and friends so that no one is home alone for the holiday. Deliveries to **ONLY** those that are homebound will be provided this year. Please contact the Parish Office at 563-391-4245 to make your reservation. If you are in need of assistance entering the building for the meal please let us know when you call to make your reservation.

SEASON OF CHANGE

by Jammie Jamieson, Director of Religious Education/K-8 Faith Formation

As the popular poem in Ecclesiastes 3 tells us, “There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens.” As humans, we tend to review, reevaluate and initiate more changes when natural changes are already occurring, such as a new month, a new year, or when one of the 4 seasons has just turned over. In God’s gorgeous creation, we can easily become wrapped up in the current season of fall: The vibrant colors, the rich smells of the season, the increased opportunities for gathering and fellowship before it becomes too cold and the height of the season; the joyful celebration of Thanksgiving with family and friends.

If we focus on that word, thanksgiving, and not the actual holiday, we as Catholics know that this is truly not a limited, seasonal word. It is a word that is synonymous with the Eucharist, which originates from the Greek word, eucharista, meaning thanksgiving. “In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: “Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.” The inexhaustible richness of this sacrament is expressed in the different names we give it. Each name evokes certain aspects of it. It is called Eucharist because it is an action of thanksgiving to God.” (CCC 1327-1328)



Let us use the beauty of this seasonal change to bring about in each of us a more permanent change. May our hearts be open to more encounters with Jesus in the Eucharist and more thanksgiving all year round. Tap into the richness of the sacraments, utilize Father Patrick, Father Andrew and other parish staff members, dig deeper into our faith with opportunities presented by our vibrant parish via programming and service opportunities and most importantly become wrapped up in the True Presence of Jesus!

OLV YOUTH MINISTRY

by Abbey Heinrichs

First and foremost, I want to say thank you. Without all of the support from the parish and the example you are all providing for the teens and young people in the church, we would not have the high school youth ministry we are so blessed to have.

The Lord is continuing to work in my heart, in the hearts of these teens, and in the hearts of all of those who have the gift of being able to watch them grow.

Teenagers today are seeking belonging and community more than ever. In a world that has turned largely virtual, being able to offer an environment and relationship where all are seen and welcome is that much more important. It has been our effort in ministry over the past year to meet teens where they are at. To go into the schools, to attend the sporting events, to create a space that they can all find comfort in and outside of their home. Here are some pictures over the last few months highlighting some of our gatherings and events.



All of these events are very good things, but without prayer, they will never become what God has intended for them to be. Please pray for our young people. Pray for the students who are off at college now, that the Lord continues to pursue them and they remember the foundation of faith they worked to build back home. Pray for our current high school students, that their hearts remain open to the Lord. Pray for the middle school students, that they begin to take their faith into their own hands and find community in the church.

Keep me in your prayers as well, as I continue to strive for docility and a deeper intimacy with Jesus. You will all be in mine.



SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Sat. November 11th

8:30am- 10:30am

OLV Parish Center

If you would like to attend, please call the
Parish Office at: 563-391-4245.



LIVING STEWARDSHIP THRU COMMUNITY SERVICE

by Judy Johnson

People helping people is a long and impressive tradition in our nation. Communities are better places because of the many volunteers who reach out to serve in a variety of organizations, charities, and clubs. But formal organizations are not the only places where people serve. Friends help friends, neighbors deliver food or do small jobs for a neighbor, families care for and support other family members, teens tutor and encourage younger children. The list is endless.

Jesus told us He came to serve. He went about doing good, leaving an example for us to follow. In our time, He stirs the hearts of many among us to use their time and talents in service to their neighbors, their community and the world beyond. When we serve others in imitation of Jesus, as a sign of gratitude for our blessings, we advance from “volunteer” to “steward.”

During this year’s Time & Talent Renewal we are asking parishioners to identify the organizations and activities outside Our Lady of Victory where you help out or serve in any way. Reporting will be anonymous and voluntary; and the purpose is purely to highlight the notion that Christian stewardship is boundless—not merely limited to Church. Community Service cards will be available in the Gathering Space. Simply add your activities to a blank card and drop it in the nearby Gold Bucket, or message olvstewardship@gmail.com with this information. We will compile and display a list of the organizations and services named so that everyone can appreciate how much the people of OLV do for our community, our nation, and our world.

We are grateful for those among us who “share the preaching, teaching and healing of Christ” through service to the wider community. We ask the Lord to strengthen and sustain them for this good work.

by Mike Lazio

Thank you

Melissa Osen served on the Foundation Board from 2019 until May, 2023. Her skills as a CPA were a genuine asset to Kathy Peterson, our treasurer. Melissa willingly assumed Kathy's duties as needed. Melissa and her family moved to Cedar Rapids where they will continue with their activism in a Catholic parish and school there. Thank you Melissa for your volunteerism. We wish her and her family the best of luck in her new community!

Barb Milke volunteered on the Foundation's Board from May 2011 until May, 2023. She and Chris have two daughters who graduated from JFK and Assumption. We are grateful for Barb's input and many wonderful ideas and want to extend a special thank you to Barb for her marketing insights and service. We were blessed with her enthusiasm, attention to detail and diligence towards her responsibilities and was a valuable member to the Foundation. Barb developed the data base that store your financial records and allow the Foundation to create important reports for our use. As we transitioned from early paper records to Excel to current IT, Barb possessed the knowledge and understood the need to remain current with our technology. She attended to these tasks while working full-time and simultaneously providing long-term care for her mother.



We benefitted from Barb's superb information technology skills and her husband, Chris, who also assisted the Foundation with not only the implementation but enhancement of our Access database. It is rare that we have such a dedicated "team" when one joins the Foundation's Board of Directors. Barb and Chris know the challenging IT language and with surgical precision, improved the Foundation's computer programming to create a practical and functional program that delivers results for the 21st century. We thank them both for all their worthwhile efforts and contributions to make the Foundation responsive to the needs of the times.

TRUNK OR TREAT

OLV Faith Formation and JFK Home and School presents a spooky night of fun on Saturday October 28th! We'll kick the night off with trunk or treat after 4:30pm Mass. No sign up is required; just show up with your decorative trunk and a costume! It is so fun to see how creative everyone is!

Following Trunk or Treat, you are invited inside JFK school for more Halloween fun!!

For just \$5 per kid (free for accompanying adult), get spooked in the Middle School haunted hallway, partake in a scavenger hunt and dance the night away at our glow dance!

Come have a spook-tacular time at our Monster Bash!! You won't want to miss out!





Ribbon Tree

OLV is again partnering with Friendly House to help make a memorable Christmas for children in their system.

This will be a drive-up, drop-off event to be held on Sunday November 12th from 12pm to 2pm. We will be accepting unwrapped toys, books, clothing, cash or gift cards. Gift cards will be available to purchase through Victory Vouchers if desired. There are a large number of children in their program and they range from infant to 18 years of age. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget, mark your calendar for November 12th. Thanks again. St. Gabriel's Circle

New and Gently Used Holiday Sale

by Maureen Mosse

OLV's holiday sale featuring new and gently used Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas items will be held on **December 9th 8am to 6pm and December 10th, 6:00am to 1:00pm**. Donations for the sale can be dropped off in the bins at the front entrance of the church starting November 26th.

Volunteers are needed to help unpack and display items. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Maureen Mosse at **563-386-8658**.

Proceeds from this event will benefit Our Lady of Victory.



2023 Christmas Carousel Bazaar

The OLV Ladies Council would like to invite you to our annual CHRISTMAS CAROUSEL bazaar. This is a major fund-raising project for our Church. The Bazaar will be held:

Saturday, November 4 from 8:00am to 4:00pm and Sunday, November 5 from 9:00am to 1:00pm

The Bazaar offers many handmade, homemade items, including crafts, ceramics, toys, floral arrangements, American Girl Doll clothes and Barbie Doll clothes, Christmas items and many, many more items. There is a Fall Room and a Jewelry Boutique for your shopping pleasure. Take a chance on our Raffle, which features a grand prize of \$1,000.00 along with five other monetary prizes. YOU JUST MIGHT WIN!

We will serve donuts and homemade breakfast items on Saturday and Sunday morning if you are an early riser. After shopping, try a tasty lunch of homemade soups, a hot dog and a chicken salad croissant sandwich and a dessert. The Bake Shop offers a wide variety of delicious pies, cakes and cookies. The Candy Shop will satisfy your sweet tooth with their divinity, peanut butter balls and fudge.

WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

