

THE VICTORY VOICE

ISSUE 4 WINTER 2023



A YEAR IN REVIEW

As the year draws to a close, we reflect on the milestones and achievements that have defined our parish over the past several months. So much of what we can be proud of and grateful for has been accomplished through the work of generous and dedicated parishioners. As we approach the upcoming Christmas season, a time synonymous with joy, gratitude, and celebration, we eagerly anticipate the opportunities it brings for both reflection and renewal. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure in so many ways! Our Lady of Victory is truly a presence in the community, and we are grateful to highlight several of these areas:

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: This past year we launched new programs for all ages, including bible studies, That Man Is You (TMIY) sessions for adult males, and IGNITE —while continuing to strengthen our offerings for teens and youth with retreats, Vacation Bible School, and Mass After Dark. After two years of COVID cancellations CEW rallied back with phenomenal attendance.

CHARITABLE OUTREACH: When fire swept through an apartment building across the street from our campus, parishioners sprang into action. First, by opening doors as a warming center for residents and firefighters. Most importantly, with generous donations of clothing, household goods, money, and gift cards.

PARISH LIFE: Numerous other events like the Parish Appreciation evening, Roaring 20's Gala, fellowship for senior citizens, thanksgiving dinner, and Trunk or Treat enabled our members to grow as one family.

CAMPUS CONCERNS: During fiscal 2023 we removed the old white garage, improved air quality in church, trimmed trees, and began projects to replace the exit doors at church and repair masonry on the school exterior and we sealed and re-stripped the entire parking lot. Age, wear and tear, led to replacement of the main playground equipment at the school. This project is estimated at just under \$200,000, and it already has support from an SCRA grant along with miscellaneous donations.

The new year will be another busy and blessed year for Our Lady of Victory. May God continue to bless our endeavors, strengthen our community bonds, and guide us in the path of compassion and service. As we embark on the journey of the new year, let us carry the spirit of faith, hope, and love into every endeavor, knowing that with God's grace, Our Lady of Victory will continue to thrive and be a beacon of light for all. Have a blessed Advent, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24, 2023
4:00PM // 6:00PM // 10:00PM

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25, 2023
7:00AM // 9:00AM



"HOLY SPIRIT COME TO ME"

2024 CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE WEEKENDS

by Anita Gorzney & Jake Pries

OLV's 31st annual set of Christian Experience Weekends (CEWs) are quickly approaching. The Women's CEW will be held February 16 – 18, 2024 and the Men will hold their CEW Weekend March 1 – 3, 2024. This year's theme will be "Holy Spirit, Come to Me!"

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

"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."

The Weekends begin Friday at 7:30pm and end at 5:00pm 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 \$40, which includes 5 deliciously 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 or older.

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

For more information please contact CEW Directors:

Anita Gorzney - Women's Director
(563) 508-0103
nathanita2@msn.com

Jake Pries - Men's Director
(563) 940-7526
sapper834@gmail.com

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

by: Mike Lazio

This season ushers in and “shepherds” many feelings upon us. Hopefully, joy is one of its foremost! Children are delighted by the thoughts of a winter wonderland with anticipation of its first sleigh ride or snowman creation. Holiday carols and cheerful music, arranging our nativity sets, festive lights and tree decorating, cookies and candies, family gatherings, the first fresh snowfall that simply beautifies our landscape and gift exchanges. Did I miss anything? Yes, the most important - Jesus' birth!



Our Lady of Victory
Foundation
Creating Tomorrow's Parish Today

What does your Christmas season represent to you? Is it one of wonder and hope as that of a child, one of mental repose, or more stress as we prepare for what many believe is a hectic time of the year? It is easy to get caught up with societal norms that influence our lives. Relax, and again be thankful. Recently was the time for reflection and gratitude as we just celebrated Thanksgiving. Now are you ready as the Godspell song invites us to “Prepare ye the way of the Lord.” Everything we have is a gift from God. Are you willing to include the Messiah on your Christmas list?

The OLV Foundation provides many opportunities for you to give a gift that keeps on giving! As the year draws to a close, you might consider how to maximize your tax advantages by designating a charitable contribution to any of its four 2023 honorariums. A gift to the Good Shepherd at Christmas.

Honor Fr. Patrick by donating to the Foundation to promote Catholic education through a JFK scholarship. Fr. Patrick is a firm believer in the value of Catholic schools. He challenges us by his willingness to match charitable contributions up to a total of \$1000 for this cause.

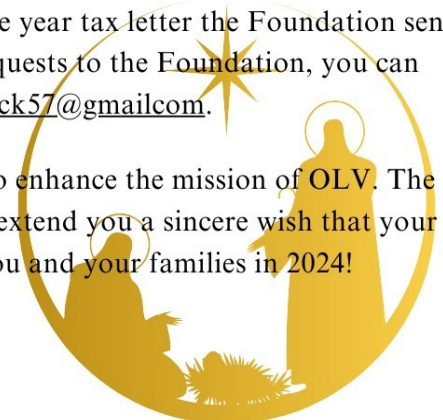
Remember the pastoral service of the following: Fr. Jake Greiner and Deacons Marc Mosse and Al Boboth. All gave unselfishly to the benefit of Our Lady of Victory Parish for many years. What an excellent way to reward their legacy with a gift to the Foundation in their honor. We are so appreciative of their gifts to us!

You can easily write one check and designate how much you want each honorarium to receive. Or one can give online at our link: <https://www.olvjfk.com/olv/olv-foundation/foundation-giving/>

Or one can use the Foundation envelope from the parish packet (or an ordinary envelope) and insert a note in it. You can give to one or all of the honorariums! Whatever your choice, please indicate the fund(s) you intend your gift to go towards.

Treasurer Kathy Peterson will include your contribution in the end of the year tax letter the Foundation sends each donor. Or if you want to discuss more charitable alternatives or bequests to the Foundation, you can contact any Board member or Bernie Mack at 563.340.8554 or berniemack57@gmail.com.

Regardless of your decision, the Foundation thanks you for all you do to enhance the mission of OLV. The parish is most grateful for all your gifts of time, talent and treasure. We extend you a sincere wish that your Christmas and New Year will bring good health, joy and happiness to you and your families in 2024!



The Financial Picture

PARISH INCOME/EXPENSE STATEMENT

	2022—2023		2023-24
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
INCOME:			
Envelopes/Offertory	\$1,293,000	\$1,352,174	\$1,321,000
Building Fund/Facility Rentals	\$97,800	\$107,705	\$107,800
Fundraising/Fees/Misc.	\$144,781	\$129,208	\$156,781
Bequests/Extraordinary Gifts	\$0	\$255,845	\$0
Transfer from Foundation	<u>\$68,748</u>	<u>\$68,748</u>	<u>\$68,000</u>
Grand Total	\$1,604,329	\$1,913,680	\$1,653,581
EXPENSES:			
Operations/Buildings	\$592,317	\$633,764	\$644,673
Catholic Schools (JFK + AHS)	\$772,716	\$856,221	\$723,794
Activities/Ministries	<u>\$173,336</u>	<u>\$178,580</u>	<u>\$233,401</u>
Grand Total	\$1,538,369	\$1,668,565	\$1,601,868
	Surplus Before Adjustments	\$245,115	
	Capital Improvements	<u>(\$30,000)</u>	
	2022-2023 NET SURPLUS	\$215,115	

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

JFK SCHOOL INCOME/EXPENSES

	<u>Actual 2022-23</u>
INCOME:	
Tuition & Fees	\$1,765,894
Transfer from Parish	\$733,505
Gala/Grants/Misc.	<u>\$67,914</u>
Grand Total	\$2,567,313
EXPENSES:	
Salaries & Benefits	\$2,234,417
Instructional Expense	\$120,770
Administration	\$71,534
Plant Operations	<u>\$140,592</u>
Grand Total	\$2,567,313

The unification of JFK, the other 3 Catholic elementary schools, and Assumption HS into one regional system began on July 1, 2023. This process pushed some school expenses planned for the 2023-24 year to be paid early, causing the transfer to JFK to exceed budget. Going forward, regionalization is projected to save the parish \$50,000 annually in subsidy for Catholic school (K-12) education.

Parish Mission Statement

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

State of the Parish

Fiscal Year Ending	Actual 6/30/2021	Actual 6/30/2022	Actual 6/30/2023	BUDGET 6/30/2024
Parish Total Income	\$1,577,751	\$1,672,100	\$1,913,680	\$1,653,581
Parish Total Expenses	\$1,373,503	\$1,639,012	\$1,668,565	\$1,601,868
Operating Surplus (deficit)	\$204,248	\$33,088	\$245,115	\$51,713
Transfer to Capital Campaign	\$65,0000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Improvements			\$30,000	\$0
Net Surplus (deficit)	\$139,248	\$33,088	\$215,115	\$51,713

Finance Council Members: Fr. Patrick Hilgendorf; Fr. Andrew Rauenbuehler; Bernie Mack, Lay Director; Molly Crosby, Lay Director; Hollie Matthys; Judy Johnson; Jamie Loftus; Randy Peterson, Heather Rushenberg, Board of Education; Jacob Hines, Parish Council.

Financial Notes & Highlights

- Thanks to extraordinary generosity of our supporters, envelope and offertory income was \$59,000 over budget, and two major gifts were unexpectedly received: an anonymous \$100,000 donation restricted to replacement of exterior church doors and other sanctuary improvements, plus a six-figure estate bequest.
- Improvements at the church and white rental house on Division St. plus a tree removal project drove expenses for operations and buildings over budget.
- Subsidy to Scott County Catholic School is budgeted just under \$724,000 next fiscal year. Participation in the SCCS system is expected to substantially decrease our annual investment in Catholic school education, as well as improve efficiencies and boost cost-effective resource sharing.
- The estate gift was added to parish savings along with \$23,000 from envelope/offertory income.
- A \$60,000 payment was applied to our mortgage at Quad City Bank & Trust using residual funds from Cultivating Our Future capital campaign. Mortgage balance as of June 30 is \$230,000 and \$130,000 remains in the capital campaign account. Earnings on this investment are higher than interest paid on the mortgage.



Parish at a Glance

74	Baptisms
43	First Communions
59	Confirmations
11	Marriages
48	Funerals
60	Newly Registered Households
1368	Total Households



Fr. Patrick Hilgendorf's installation Mass



Fr. Andrew, Fr. Patrick and Mrs. Loretta Prior celebrating her 99th birthday

HEALING HEARTS WITH BLANKETS OF LOVE

by Judy Johnson



It is estimated that as many as 25% of all pregnancies end in miscarriage. Leaving the hospital with empty arms can be one of the hardest moments of life. Something designed to help with the painful feelings are the Angel Blankets sewn by OLV parishioner Judy Jansen. Angel Blankets wrap infants born too soon in a warm hug as grieving parents say their goodbyes. Her tiny blankets have a hood, Velcro closures, and a padded center. Every aspect, from design to choice of fabric and decorative trim, expresses comfort and care to couples facing pregnancy loss.

Judy is an accomplished seamstress who learned her craft as a teenager enrolled in 4H. She became involved with Angel Blankets in 2017 at the request of her daughter, Anne, an obstetrics nurse at Genesis Health System. The woman who had previously been sewing was no longer able to continue, but the birthing staff was eager to preserve this simple gesture of compassion. Judy says, "I knew instantly that I wanted to pick it up. It was truly a Holy Spirit moment." Working from a sample garment, she developed a pattern, purchased fabric and began her ministry.

It takes 4-5 hours to complete one Angel Blanket. Judy stitches new blankets as the Spirit moves her, working them in along with her other sewing projects. She always has enough on hand to restock the supply when needed, and over the years has created approximately 125 wraps. Her ladies circle, Queen of Heaven, serves as ministry partner by funding purchase of materials. The Circle members gather around the baptismal font to bless the blankets and pray for the recipients before gifting them to Genesis. It is their fondest hope that the blankets will serve as a reminder of God's desire to enfold infant, as well as parents, in His goodness.



Judy Jansen and daughter, Anne Senkbile, pose with Angel Blankets used at Genesis hospital to give comfort and solace after pregnancy loss.

As a parish we encourage each other to place our gifts into God's hands and ask Him to guide us into ways of generously serving others. Judy's skilled handiwork, while collaborating with Queen of Heaven Circle, exemplifies just that—a legacy of faithful stewardship that shines with the light of Christ.

The next GriefShare session will begin on Sunday, February 5th at 12:30pm. If you have suffered a loss, whether it's been more recent or even years ago and are still struggling with your grief, please join us. "Jesus wept." John 35:11: it is okay to cry when your loved ones pass, but it is important to have joy and happiness also when thinking of your loved ones. You would not hurt or cry if you did not love. This program helps you to realize that you are not alone in your grief and that everyone grieves differently. This is a 13 week program; we will end May 7th and not have group on Easter Sunday. We just ask you to make sure to come and try GriefShare for the first 3 sessions. Keep an eye on future bulletins for more information.

GRIEF  SHARE



Operation Christmas Child

by: Kaye Meyers

Students preparing to receive Confirmation and First Communion and their families were invited to participate in a service project called Operation Christmas Child. Preprinted shoe boxes were provided to be filled with suggested gift items that will be delivered to children in need around the world. Faith Formation families were also invited to participate using the remainder of our supply of boxes.

As explained in their promotional information: “Operation Christmas Child delivers great joy and the Good News of Jesus Christ to children in need around the world through gift-filled shoeboxes. Each box packed full of quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items becomes a tangible expression of God’s immense love for the child. For many, it is their first gift ever! Delivered by Samaritan’s Purse local church partners, shoebox gifts provide an opportunity to present the Gospel to boys and girls in a clear, child-friendly way.”

Our Lady of Victory delivered 88 filled boxes to the local collection site. These boxes are now beginning their journey to a child somewhere in the world. Students will be able to track their box and know when and where it is delivered. How exciting!



As students were packing the boxes they were asked to pray for the child who will receive the box, the child’s family and community to be open to receiving God into their lives, and for the mission teams and local pastors who will deliver the boxes and minister to these children. We invite our entire parish to join in these prayers. And to pray that the shoebox traveling from the hands of a child in Davenport to the hands of a child somewhere around the world is helping to bring peace on earth.

“If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.” — Mahatma Gandhi

ADVENT

by: Jammie Jamieson

Advent and Christmas are filled with so much anticipation and joy! Here are some things to do as a family during these seasons to make it extra spiritually fulfilling and to help spread joy to those around us.



HEALTH MINISTRY

by: Char McGovern

In the midst of spreading cheer and goodwill, the OLV Health Ministry Team would like to gently remind you to take a moment for yourself. Your well-being is of utmost importance, and ensuring you feel your best allows you to fully enjoy the festivities and create lasting memories with your loved ones.



We thought we would share some "fun" facts from the past year:

- Team members made 389 visits in 2023. This includes phone calls or in person visit which we had 249 visits to the hospital, nursing home or your homes.
- Attended 28 funerals of your loved ones
- Assisted with: GriefShare - 2 sessions each year, Nourish - 1 per month, Trunk or Treat, Blood Pressure Clinic,
- Book Sale, Tai Chi, Care Packages for College Students - 2 times, attended continuing education meetings through the Parish Nurse Leadership at Trinity Hospital and helped out wherever we could.

Please watch the bulletins for future health programs and dates!

If you or a family member would like a visit from a member of our Health Ministry Team or an anointing prior to or while in the hospital, please contact the Parish office 563-391-4245. As a reminder, Genesis and Trinity Hospitals do not notify the parish office or priests when a parishioner is admitted to the hospital.

We wish all of you a joyous and healthy New Year!

EUCCHARISTIC

Revival!

WITH ANTHONY DIGMANN

**OUR LADY OF VICTORY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

 **SUN. FEB. 11TH 2024**

 **2:00-5:00 PM**



ANTHONYDIGMANN.COM

**4105 N. DIVISION
DAVENPORT, IA 52806**

