

# OUR LADY OF VICTORY

Church of  
November 2017

## Dear Fellow Parishioners,

With the upcoming holiday and celebration of **Thanksgiving**, it is my privilege to **thank you** for the many, many ways that **gratitude** is being shown here in our community through reaching out and sharing with others, especially in your generosity to those who are struggling to make ends meet. The Food Drive sponsored by the Catholic Daughters, the Winter Clothing Drive headed by Social Concerns, the "Make God's Love Visible" Catholic Charities campaign, the special collections we have taken up recently for hurricane, flood and earthquake victims....and soon the Advent Angel tree.... These are just some of the many ways I see people expressing gratitude to God for their blessings, through care of others.

Of course it will be wonderful if we are able to gather with family and friends and celebrate Thanksgiving with a delicious banquet. But how much more that can mean to us, when we have first reached out to those with less, and often very little.

Thank you for helping to fulfill, here and now, the words of Jesus in Matthew 25: 35,36.

***"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me."***

On behalf of our parish and school, thank you also for all of your generosity to Our Lady of Victory throughout the year and during the holidays. May God's best blessings be yours!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Fr. Alan Wielinski

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## Embrace Your Journey

The 3rd Annual Wings ladies retreat was held at OLV on Saturday, October 28th with 65 ladies in attendance. The day began with a Rosary and optional reconciliation, offered by Father Alan. A dynamic music team from Hutchinson, MN, shared their journey through their gift of music. Their enthusiasm and love raised us up throughout the day!

Jan Burley, from Little Falls, MN, kicked off the presentations by sharing her journey to find faith and keep her faith during many life challenges, as well as the joy she found through her discovery. She incorporated her real life experiences: some tragic, some heroic, and some victorious. Jan's love of God, people, and nature shone through while she shared her valuable lessons of faith, courage, and the power of love. Her story brought tears, laughter and hope to all of us.

A second presentation included a prayer panel of women who humbly stepped out in faith in attempt to share that there are many ways to pray and just as many ways that God answers our prayers. Diane Aschnewitz encouraged us to be still, to listen to the small quiet voice of Christ as He gently guides us in all that we do. She shared the story of a prayer that was answered which resulted in the formation of WinGS and that through the Holy Spirit, the group will provide women opportunities through prayer and retreats to grow deeper in their encounter with Christ and each other. Rhonda Antrim shared her journey of prayer as she developed her personal relationship with Christ over the past four years. She shared her trials over the loss of her husband, as well as several examples of her 27 day Rosary Novenas. She has seen God answer her prayers through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and finds much comfort in praying the rosary. God continues to inspire her with his gentle nudging. Mary Widiger shared how prayer impacted her humble faith filled upbringing, the power of the Mass, and the blessings the Catholic faith has had on several generations of her family. She also shared two special prayers that continue to guide her life. Deb Forstner shared the Lectio Divina, which is a Benedictine method of prayer in which one would read Scriptural passages and meditate on a verse or word that stands out during the reading. She also shared the Visio Divina, which is a method of visually reflecting on religious pictures, many from the pages of St. John's Bible. In conclusion, Peg Winkelman, from Little Falls, MN, shared how God has been present in both her joys and struggles of life as a parent and hospice worker.



Prayer Panel



Jan Burley



Randy Fischer helped serve.



She shared her journey to Poland to follow the footsteps of John Paul II and how it has reinforced the power of hope in adversity and how God makes fruitful the faithfulness of his servants. Peg has also found Eucharistic adoration and a relationship with Mary, especially through the prayer to Mary, the un-doer of knots, to be helpful in leading her to a closer relationship with Jesus. Following the presentations, Father Alan joined the group for some questions and answers.

The final presentation of the day was Mary Loreno, who talked about the simple acts of kindness that support the parish, family, and work lives. She included a powerful meditation on the gift of sharing. Mary also shared many books that can be incorporated into our faith journey and the importance of the Catholic Catechism. It was an amazing day of prayer, love, and journeying with fellow disciples on our path to God.

Holy Spirit, Dwell within us, keep us humble, keep us pure and may the women of this parish grow together in friendship, trust and love in the Father, Son, and Spirit.

Amen

# PARISH HAPPENINGS

Nov. 21	RCIA 6:00; Stephen Ministry 6:30	Dec. 7, 14,	Quilters
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Mass 5:30pm</b> <b>No Faith Formation</b>	21, 28	
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day - No Mass, Word or Communion	Dec. 9	First Reconciliation 10:00 – 1:00
Nov. 24	Office Closed	Dec. 12	St. Theresa's Circle 1:30
Nov. 26	No CLW	Dec. 12	Knights of Columbus 6:00
Nov. 27	Bible Study 1 and 7 NA 11:45	Dec. 13	Finance Council 5:30
Nov. 28	RCIA; St Robert's 1:30; Stewardship 7:00; NEO 7:00	Dec. 14	Board of Ed 5:30 Catholic Daughters 6:30 Vocations Mass 7:00 Sacred Heart, Dent
Nov. 29	Faith Formation	Dec. 16 & 17	Faith Formation Christmas Bake Sale after all Masses
Nov. 30	Quilters 9:30	Dec. 17	Communal Reconciliation Service 3:00
Dec. 1	Dan Schuette Concert 7:00	Dec. 19	Stephen Ministry 6:30
Dec. 2	Retreat with Dan Schuette 9:00 - 12:00	Dec. 20	Women's Group 11:30
Dec. 2, 16, 30	St. Joseph Men 8:00 WinGs 9:00	<b>Dec. 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Mass 3:30 and 5:30</b>
Dec. 3, 10, 17	Children's Liturgy of the Word	<b>Dec. 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day Mass 9:30</b>
Dec. 4	Bible Study 1:00 and 7:00		
Dec. 5, 19	RCIA		
Dec. 6, 13, 20	Faith Formation Gr. 3-6, 3:45 – 5:15 Grades 7-11 -7:00 – 8:15		

## NEW MEMBERS OF OLV

Rosemary (Mary) Kjos moved to Shakopee four years ago from Fergus Falls. While living there, her husband passed away. Friends brought her back to Fergus Falls and she is looking for an active Catholic Church.

Mary has two grown children living in the Twin Cities. They are both married and she has three grandchildren.

If her face looks familiar, it may be because you saw her at Security State Bank in Fergus Falls where she worked for 36 years. Mary is now retired and enjoying being with her family and watching her grandchildren in their sporting events.



Mary Kjos



Aaron & Kim Muller Family

Aaron and Kim Muller and their two children, Mya and Luke, are new members of Our Lady of Victory. They both grew up in Breckenridge and started dating in 9th grade and have been together ever since. Aaron is a pharmacist with Consultant Pharmacists, Inc. and Kim works in Human Resources at Lake Region Healthcare. They love spending time with their family and friends and are excited to be a part of the OLV community.



## JOINT WORSHIP

Using the document “From Conflict to Communion,” which has been jointly written and endorsed by the Vatican and the Lutheran World Federation, several Our Lady of Victory parishioners and Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) members met for five weekly study and discussion sessions, beginning the first week of October, and concluding the first week of November. A retired ELCA pastor named Paul Nelson (a graduate of St. Olaf College and Luther Seminary who once studied at St. John’s) and Catholic Chaplain/OLV parishioner Deb Forstner met on Sunday evenings, with attendance of approximately 30-40 people per session. As another option for people, a Thursday noon study group using the same document was co-led by OLV’s Fr. Alan Wielinski and Pastor Ben Durbin of Augustana Lutheran Church. The noon group averaged around 60 in attendance. Our study locations alternated week by week between Augustana and OLV. At both places, prayer began around the Baptismal fonts at these churches. Beautifully, the baptismal fonts at both sites are located immediately as you enter, and our shared prayer was a strong sign of our shared Christian baptisms.

There was balanced mixture of participants who are Catholics from OLV and Lutherans from our 5 Fergus Falls ELCA churches. The starting point of the study gave emphasis to how much we have in common, and through dialogue to discuss some past/current hurts or misconceptions as people grew up either Lutheran or Catholic. This was true grassroots ecumenical dialogue. While we acknowledge we do still have some differences in practices and beliefs, we learned more about our own faiths and history, and gained better understanding regarding the progress that has been made ecumenically.

Of significance, Father Bill Gamber was there for every Thursday noon session as a participant, and threw in an extra Sunday night of attendance as well. Fr. Bill’s contributions were very much appreciated and enriched the study and dialogue. Also, the noon group began to have food offered at sessions, thanks to the hospitable leadership of Kay Jennen.

As a wonderful climax, on Sunday November 5th at Our Lady of Victory Church, we welcomed ELCA Bishop Larry Wohlrabe of the Northwest Minnesota Synod, and Bishop Donald Kettler of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud. Clergy represented the local churches of Augustana, Bethlehem, Hope, Zion, First Lutheran, and OLV. The music included a joint adult choir from all the congregations, along with children’s and handbell choirs. The event was entitled “Lutherans and Catholics Together in Hope,” and with that theme, there were prayers of repentance and reconciliation, and reflections from both bishops. An estimated 400-500 people attended this prayer service, which was followed by a reception and potluck meal. Thank you to all who prepared for, worked and prayed at this historic gathering.



*Leaders from Catholic Lutheran Class*



*Rev. Ben Durbin, left, and Father Alan Wielinski represented two of many churches that were involved in organizing a joint Catholic and Lutheran Service on Nov. 5. The service, “Together in Hope,” was meant to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and show a symbol of unity in praising God.  
Kaley Sievert/Daily Journal*



*Bottom:  
Lunch  
committee  
for Catholic  
Lutheran  
Class*





Study group gathered around Baptismal Font at Augustana Lutheran Church.

## PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Here are a few of the OLV participants who never missed a week:



Left: Deb Forstner, Ramona Long, and Kenneth Schmaltz;



Right: Catherine Woytassek and Phyllis Novak

## What is the Called and Gifted Workshop?

The *Called and Gifted Workshop* is meant to help lay Catholics discern the unique work of love to which God is calling them and to discover how God has empowered them to carry it out. To date over 90,000 Catholics in over 110 dioceses have attended the workshop in parishes across North America and internationally learning about the crucial role every lay Catholic has in the mission of the Church to bring Christ's love to our neighbors and our culture.

### Why should I attend?

Because Christ is calling you, Christ *needs* you, to bring his love to others in a way only you can do. No one else has your particular background, experience, gifts, and connections. No one else can take your place.

Over and over again, long-time Catholics have asked after the workshop, "How come I have never heard this before?" If you are a cradle-Catholic with years of Catholic schooling or have been through RCIA, chances are that you never fully received the Church's teaching on lay participation in her mission and have never received an opportunity to discover for yourself how Christ is calling you, uniquely and personally.

### What will I learn?

- What the Church teaches
  - Church teaching on the role of the laity
  - The identity of the "Lay Apostle"
  - How the ordained and the laity properly collaborate
  - Implications for parish life and ministries
- Results of the *Catholic Spiritual Gifts Inventory*
  - A survey of God's working through you for others
  - Identify how you personally are supernaturally empowered
- The nature of spiritual gifts
  - What are they?
  - What are they for?
  - How can I discern what mine are?
- About Call and Vocation
  - What is vocation?
  - Everyone* has a vocation!
  - Why discerning my call is essential to my happiness
  - How I can discover mine and why it's never too late

### Who it is for?

- Long-time Catholics
- Active ministry leaders (to clarify call and vocation)
- Pastoral leadership
- Parents and Teachers
- People in transition
- People searching
- Clergy

### Who is teaching the workshop?

The *Called and Gifted* workshop is presented by the Catherine of Siena Institute, nationally headquartered in Colorado Springs. Fr. Mike Fones, O.P. and Sherry Weddell are cofounders of the Institute. For more information about the workshop or the Catherine of Siena Institute, you may visit their website, [www.siena.org](http://www.siena.org), or call their office at 219-0056.

### When and where is the workshop?

The workshop will be held  
**Saturday, February 24th, 2018**  
 at Our Lady of Victory  
 from 8:00am to 4:00pm



## Catholic Liturgical Composer to Host Concert and Retreat at OLV

Composer Dan Schutte hardly needs an introduction, as he is one of the best-known writers of Catholic liturgical music in the English-speaking world. Known for writing hymns such as “Here I Am, Lord”, “City of God”, “Blest Be the Lord”, “Sing a New Song” and many other beloved songs for worship, Dan Schutte will lead an Advent evening of music reflection and Saturday morning retreat at Our Lady of Victory Church in Fergus Falls.

Dan will begin the weekend with a concert on Friday, December 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the church, followed by a retreat from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, December 2, 2017. Both events are open to the public and will be held at Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church in Fergus Falls, with a free will offering being accepted for Friday evenings concert. The cost to attend the retreat is \$15 in advance, and \$20 for those who register the day of.

As a frequent user of Schutte’s musical works, music minister Andrew Yaggie believes this event will be especially

impactful for our faith community. “We are very excited to have the opportunity to bring someone of Dan’s caliber to OLV, not only for the sake of those who play a role in our weekend liturgies, but I look at this also as a great opportunity for all of our parish and community members to begin preparing themselves spiritually for Advent and the Christmas season,” said Yaggie. “In working through the planning process, we are grateful for all those who have so graciously volunteered their time and resources to help make this event a success, especially the Stewardship Council for their tremendous financial support and to fellow music minister Donna Madsen for working so hard behind the scenes in arranging for Dan to come to Fergus Falls.”

Dan has served as liturgist and music director in various pastoral and academic settings. That experience, his deep knowledge of Sacred Scripture and a strong sense of spirituality form the basis of every event he leads. Dan spends a significant amount of time each year traveling to offer concerts, retreats, workshops and parish missions to communities throughout the country. Because his ministry has had an enormous impact of the spiritual journey of millions of people, this is one event you won’t want to miss!

For more information or to register for the Saturday retreat, please contact Our Lady of Victory Church at 218-736-2429 ext. 10 or e-mail [contact@ffolvchurch.org](mailto:contact@ffolvchurch.org).

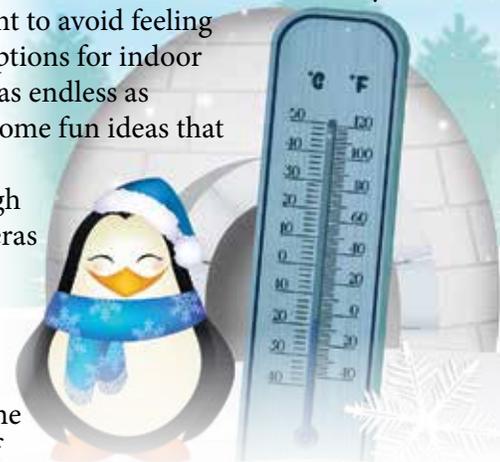
## WINTER PREPARATION

Winter is coming, sooner than you think. Getting prepared for the deep freeze of winter in Minnesota is a good idea for everyone, but especially for older adults who find colder months particularly bitter. The health and safety of seniors includes more than just dressing appropriately for weather conditions. When the wintry winds of change move in, seniors should keep an eye on health and come up with ways to stay active.

Spending a large part of the day indoors during the long winter months can take toll on your health due to lack of exposure to sunlight. Your body produces Vitamin D in response to sunlight, which is essential for improving calcium absorption and creating strong bones. Vitamin D deficiency can have serious health effects on seniors. Proper levels of Vitamin D can prevent falls and fractures and maintain physical mobility, helping protect you if an accident should occur. Get more Vitamin D throughout the day by taking a seat in a comfy chair next to a sunny

window, but just remember to be conscious of getting too much sun. Your cat will appreciate the company. Supplements can be taken as an extra source of Vitamin D as well, but you should consult your doctor before taking any.

Many older adults aren’t able to be snowbirds and travel south for the winter. Indoor activities are key to those folks who want to avoid feeling penned in. Since options for indoor activities are about as endless as opinions, here are some fun ideas that maybe you haven’t considered yet. High quality digital cameras are available at affordable prices. Using the zoom function on your camera, take extreme close-up pictures of



*Continued on page 7.*

*Continued from page 6.*

the most mundane objects to discover a new perspective and create an amazing piece of art. Also, you can pick up that musical instrument you've always dreamed of playing but never found the time to learn. Lastly, table tennis comes highly recommended because it promotes physical fitness and it is simply fun at any age. Table tennis can be played with a partner or alone by placing the table against a wall.

Part of being safe during winter months is admitting the need for help. Often, the responsibility falls on family members to recognize the signs a loved one might need additional support. Pay attention to adverse changes in physical and mental status, as they could be signs a person may need in-home care. Home health care coupled with remote patient monitoring technology provides support for personal health and socialization needs, which can truly be a blessing by bringing peace of mind to families of seniors during those subzero days.

*Article provided by: LB Homes*

## Reflections of an Old Man

### Blessings Revisited

Not long ago I reflected on the many blessings God has conferred upon me despite my unworthiness. I even listed several of them. Now, as one of my favorite holidays approaches, I once again have the opportunity to offer thanks for those blessings.

*But this year, in the wake of Texas, Florida, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Mexico and California, my list of blessings has expanded—greatly. This year, I'm also thankful for blessings I've rarely considered before. I'm thankful that...*

...the wind has not blown the roof from my home, destroying the power lines that allow my neighbors and me to preserve our food and communicate with our families, friends, and service providers...

...the water has not penetrated my home, forcing me and those around me to live with mold, the stench of rotting food and raw sewage, and disease carrying pests of many kinds...

...the earth has not heaved and cracked beneath my feet, swallowing neighbors, friends, and buildings indiscriminately and leaving the infrastructure in ruins...

...fire has not destroyed everything around me, from blades of grass to forests, homes to businesses, and irreplaceable items that traced a long and eventful lifetime.

In short, I'm grateful that I have escaped the horrific death and destruction that wind, water, earth and fire have visited upon my brothers and sisters elsewhere on the planet.

*And at the same time as I offer my thanks, I ask myself "Why?"*

Why would a loving God allow such things to happen—especially, in many cases, to the poorest and most vulnerable of His people? After all, if He can flood the entire planet for 40 days and 40 nights and part the Red Sea, surely He can halt the destruction of a tiny island by a hurricane.

As I've done many times in the past, I try to find some solace in this passage from Isaiah:

*As high as the heavens are above the earth,*

*So high are my ways above your ways*

*And my thoughts above your thoughts.*

Of course the Prophet is right! How I can be so presumptuous as to question the ways of God or to assume that I could understand them? I can't! Nonetheless, Isaiah's statement leaves me unsatisfied. *I still want to know why!*

Since that is clearly impossible, my only recourse is to act on what I do know. And what I do know is that I am a member of the Body of Christ. As such, my willing response must be to offer not only my prayers but a substantial number of dollars to my brothers and sisters who don't share my blessing in having escaped those disasters.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

Lee Krogh

# Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

207 North Vine Street  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

## Thanksgiving Mass

Thanksgiving Mass will be on  
Wednesday, November 22 at 5:30pm.  
There will be no Mass or Word and  
Communion on Thanksgiving Day.

## Christmas Masses

The Masses on Christmas Eve  
(Sunday, December 24th)  
are at 3:30pm and 5:30pm.  
The Mass on Christmas Day  
(Monday, December 25th) is  
at 9:30 am.

[www.ffolvchurch.org](http://www.ffolvchurch.org)

**Weekend Mass:** *Saturday*, 4:30 p.m. Vigil | *Sunday*, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

**Daily Mass:** *Tuesday*, 12:05 p.m. | *Thursday & Friday*, 9:00 a.m.

**Confession:** *Thursday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Friday*, 8:30 a.m. | *Saturday*, 3:30 p.m.