

OUR LADY OF VICTORY

Church of

February/March 2019

A Lenten Reflection by Fr. Alan

The Mark Price Parish Mission helps us begin the Lenten Season, a time of grace and blessing for the Church. Hopefully all who take in the Biblical dramatizations will have our hearts touched in a special way, opening us deeper than ever to a very spiritual and meaningful Lent.

What does a spiritual Lent look like? It can take many forms. The Church gives us some very powerful prayer traditions for Lent: the ashes of Ash Wednesday which speak of our mortality, the Stations of the Cross helping us meditate on Christ's passion and death, the Sacrament of Reconciliation where we can make a U turn for Christ, the Lenten fasting and abstinence, and almsgiving.

These traditions can be tools for spiritual growth and renewal. They might lead us to some special area of focus. For instance, we might become aware of some personal gift of ours that could be shared and used to help others...like

a listening ear and heart, or able hands and feet that lead us to a particular kind of service/outreach. God might nudge us into letting go of some bad or sinful habit. The suffering of Christ could be revealed in the suffering within our own community and world, inviting a compassionate response.

The first place to start our Lenten journey, after looking into our own heart, is to look around to our family members and friends, our co-workers and all who are physically close to us. How are these relationships? What are they teaching me about myself? How can I be more loving and Christ-like to those around me, more aware of their needs?

Let us pray for one another as we make this journey together! Let us pray for our RCIA community as candidates discern God's call. We pick up the sharing in Christ's cross that is uniquely ours and follow Him as faithfully as we can. We will then have not only a spiritual Lent, but a joyous Easter when the forty days of Lent are past.



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Knights of Columbus: Guided by Faith, Committed to Service

The task of each Knights of Columbus Council is to summon men to 'fraternal communion and missionary fruitfulness.' (Evangelii Gaudium 89) It provides men with a formation in charity, spiritual leadership, and faith formation throughout the various stages of their vocations as men at the heart of the family and for others. Knights are universally proud to be Catholic and are often just waiting to respond to the invitation to bear witness, defend the faith, and spread the Gospel through a charity that evangelizes.

The Knights of Columbus (KC's) first principle is *Charity*. They provide Service and Support by volunteering their time to serve the parish. They help those in the community, aid victims of natural disaster, donate wheel chairs to people without mobility, and support many more activities within our local parish. *Unity* and *Fraternity* are the second and third principles of the KC's. Since they began their mission of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity 135 years ago, the order has grown to nearly 2 million members across the globe. They raised over \$177 million globally and offered over 75 million hours of charitable service in 2016. They provided major support to many national and local causes.

The local KC council has volunteered thousands of hours and provided financial support to both parish and community causes. From providing support to OLV School's fall marathon and spring gala, OLV Fall Festival,



and providing rides to those in need of transportation to Sunday Mass, they are committed to supporting the OLV Parish, School, and Community. They also continue to support the local Health Resource Center, donating funds for Ultra-Sound equipment which allows those experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, to hear the heartbeat and make a conscious decision to choose life. They have also partnered with the OLV School Board, providing financial support for teachers and staff, which has brought parity to the teachers in public schools.

Andrew Yaggie is the current Grand Knight. When asked how his participation in the KC's has contributed to his personal faith journey, he had this to say:

"The KC's are a unique 'band of brothers.' They share values and support living out the Catholic faith more fully. When the members of the Knights of Columbus unite, they help to change the world."

By: Rhonda Antrim



PARISH HAPPENINGS

Feb. 19	Catholics at the Capitol	Mar. 14	Board of Ed Meeting 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	Women's Group 11:30 a.m.	Mar. 14	Catholic Daughters 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Mission Planning Meeting 6:30 p.m.	Mar. 16-17	Olive Wood from the Holy Land for sale
Feb. 24	KC Pancake Breakfast	Mar. 19	Stephen Ministry 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 26	St. Robert's Mission Circle 1:30 p.m.	Mar. 20	Women's Group 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 26	Stewardship 6:30 p.m.	Mar. 20, 27	Faith Formation K-5, 6-10 and Confirmation Class
Feb. 28	Parish Council 5:30 p.m.	Mar. 23	Confirmation Retreat
Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Mar. 23	Rise Up- Bloomington
Mar. 5, 12	RCIA 6:00 p.m.	Mar. 26	St. Robert's Mission Circle 1:30 p.m.
Mar. 5	Social Concerns Committee 5:30 p.m.	Mar. 26	Stewardship 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 6	Ash Wednesday Mass 9:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.	Mar. 28	Parish Council 5:30 p.m.
Mar. 7	Vocations Mass at St. Lawrence, Rush Lake	Mar. 30	NEO Supper at the Rectory
Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28	Quilters		
Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29	Fish Fries		
Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29	Stations of the Cross 7:15 p.m.		
Mar. 9	First Communion Class 10:00-11:30 a.m.		
Mar. 10-14	Parish Mission		
Mar. 12	Knights of Columbus 6:00 p.m.		
Mar. 13	Finance Committee 5:30 p.m.		

EASTER SCHEDULE

Ash Wednesday (Mar. 6) – 9:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday (Apr. 18) – 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday (Apr. 19) – 3:00 p.m. (no Mass a.m.)
Easter Vigil (Apr. 20) – 7:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday (Apr. 21) – 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday, March 6th marks the 2019 beginning of the Season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar.



Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, through which we attain redemption. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too.

It is important to remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of penitential prayer and fasting. Some faithful take the rest of the day off work and remain home. It is generally inappropriate to dine out, to shop, or to go about in public after receiving the ashes. Feasting is highly inappropriate. Small children, the elderly and sick are exempt from this observance. It is not required that a person wear the ashes for the rest of the day, and they may be washed off after Mass.



**IF YOU HAVE
 ANY NEWS TO SHARE
 PLEASE EMAIL
rhondaantrim@gmail.com**



More on My Pilgrimage to France...

This article is the last of a series of three, which highlight my pilgrimage to France in August 2018 through the Dynamic Catholic travel organization. Thus far, I have written about time spent in Lourdes (featuring St. Bernadette) and Lisieux (home of St. Therese), and with this concluding article, the focus will be upon Paris.

There is something very thrilling when for the first time, there is the opportunity to be in the presence of things that you have seen so often in movies, on the news, etc. I am thinking of great places such as the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. Lesser known to me at the time was The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, and St. Catherine Labouré, the saint I learned more about in Paris. We were blessed to be at the same church where she worshipped and received apparitions, and near the convent where she lived.

St. Catherine was a member of the Daughters of Charity. As a young girl, she had visions which convinced her to promise her life to Jesus. However, she ran into opposition from her father, who sent her to Paris to work at a coffee shop managed by her brother. After working there a year, Catherine visited a hospital run by the Daughters of Charity, and she noticed a priest's picture on the wall. She asked who he was, and learned that the picture was of the order's founder, St. Vincent de Paul. St. Catherine recalled that early in her life, she had a vision of a priest encouraging her to give her life to Christ, and she realized that St. Vincent was the same priest she had seen in her

vision. Eventually, her aunt convinced Catherine's father to allow Catherine to enter the convent.

Shortly after Catherine joined the convent, she had more extraordinary visions. For three days she beheld the heart of St. Vincent de Paul. She also would see the Lord during Mass. But it was in 1830 that Catherine began seeing apparitions of Mary, which led to the development of the Miraculous Medal. A beautiful child woke Catherine from her sleep, saying: **"Sister Labouré, come to the chapel; the Blessed Virgin is waiting for you."** When Catherine went to the chapel, she found it ablaze with lights as if prepared for Midnight Mass. She knelt at the Communion rail, and suddenly heard the rustle of a silk dress. The Blessed Virgin, in a blaze of glory, sat in a chair. Catherine rose, knelt with her hands on Mary's lap, and felt Mary's arms around her. She was told that God wanted to charge her with a mission. And then, the vision of Mary was gone.

Four months later, the Virgin Mary returned to Rue du Bac (the street in Paris where the Daughters of Charity convent and chapel are located). Catherine was able to vividly describe how the Blessed Virgin appeared; what she was wearing, etc. Mary told Catherine, "This globe which you see represents the whole world, especially France, and each person in particular."

Also formed around the Blessed Virgin was an oval frame on which were written in letters of gold these words: **'O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee.'** Then Catherine heard a voice saying, **"Have a medal struck upon this model. All those who wear it, when it is blessed, will receive great graces especially if they wear it round the neck..."**

Catherine was instructed to go to her spiritual director with this information, but he did not believe Catherine at first. After two years, the Bishop of Paris was approached.

This bishop was devoted to the Immaculate Conception and did believe. He commissioned the making of the medals, and even asked to receive some of the first ones.

The original order of 20,000 medals proved to be a small start. The new medals were distributed



"All who wear this medal will receive great graces . . ."

in France and the rest of the world. By the time of St. Catherine's death in 1876, over a billion medals were in circulation. This sacramental from Heaven was at first called simply the *Medal of the Immaculate Conception*, but began to be known as the *Miraculous Medal* due to the unprecedented number of miracles, conversions, cures, and acts of protection attributed to Our Lady's intercession for those who wore it.

On the last day of 1876, St. Catherine died. For the forty-six years from the year of the apparitions until her death, only she and her confessor knew who it was to whom the famous Miraculous Medal was revealed, despite many pressures to reveal the secret. As years passed, Catherine performed her daily and very ordinary tasks of sewing and door keeping, unknown to the world around her, which was buzzing with the miraculous effects of the medal. Because of this humility, she is often called the *Saint of Silence*. When her body was exhumed for beatification 57 years after her death in 1933, it was found incorrupt, a sign for all of her sainthood. While our tour did not go into the Mother House to view the body, we did have a special Mass at The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. The young priest celebrant who traveled with our group, told a beautiful story of his grandparents and their devotion to Mary, and how they had gifted him as a boy with the medal. Despite his grandmother's polio, his grandparents had attended Mass at this same chapel in Paris several years earlier. This and many other experiences are the benefits of not just traveling as a tourist, but as a pilgrim. I am grateful to Dynamic Catholic for this very well organized and dynamic experience.

Submitted by Deb Forstner





Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church
Parish Mission
Join the Journey!
March 10-13, 2019

Free Event - Presented by Mark Price Ministries



Sunday: **SAINT JOSEPH** - In His Own Words.

Meet Saint Joseph who next to Mary may have been the one who knew Jesus the best. Saint Joseph the earthly father of Jesus will encourage all to become the Holy Family God wants us to be.



Monday: **JUDAS ISCARIOT** - In His Own Words.

You will meet arguably the most hated man in history. Judas Iscariot reminds us that as he failed, so can we. There is a part of him in each and every one of us.

Tuesday: **SIMON PETER** - In His Own Words.

Join us, and meet one man's vision of the person, the personality, the humor, the life of THE APOSTLE, Simon Peter. Simon Peter reminds all that we represent the future, that we are a Holy nation, the true church of Christ, chosen by God to proclaim the glory of His Son.



Wednesday: **SAINT PAUL** - In His Own Words.

Paul the Apostle is responsible for one half of the New Testament. A persecutor of the followers of Jesus who becomes one of His most ardent evangelists. Paul was born in Tarsus, Cilicia. He was a Jew, a Pharisee who hated and persecuted the followers of Jesus. And then a conversion. Meet Paul in the final presentation.



Mark has been conducting missions and retreats since 1975 and presenting Biblical portrayals since 1984. The portrayals of Biblical characters adds a personal dimension that arouses greater interest in scripture and brings to life the message of Christ and the church in a very unique way. Who better to encourage a closer walk and understanding of Jesus than those who knew Him best?

Four nights of presentations, four different portrayals. All are welcome!

All are welcome for any or all evening presentations. We ask that you please RSVP by registering on our Eventbrite site, olv.eventbrite.com. This helps us with the food planning. If you can't make it and registered, no problem. If you didn't register and can come last minute, please come. This is a great time to invite someone back to church, to renew yourself, or to evangelize to others and bring them with you to the parish mission. You don't want to miss this!

Refreshments will be served after each performance. Free will donations will be accepted.

Reflections of an Old Man

My “Triple Threat” Faith

As most football fans know, a triple threat player is the best there is. By definition, he can do it all. He can run, kick, and throw. To me the classic example of such a player for us old-time Minnesotan football fans is the former U of M star Paul Giel, from way back in the '50's. Paul's coach never had to wonder whom he should designate to punt, pass, or run with the ball in key situations. He knew his triple threat quarterback Paul could do it all.

Like Paul Giel—only far, far, far, infinitely far more important—I wonder whether my faith could also fall into the “triple threat” category. Here, not necessarily in order of importance, is why.

It has given me the Ten Commandments. They have caused me to act in ways that have made my personal life more fulfilling and me a happier, better person.

It has given me Christ's injunction to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger and visit the sick and imprisoned. Modest though they have been, I believe my efforts in obeying that injunction have helped make the world around me a better place.

It has given me a Savior whose death and resurrection have given me the promise of eternal life, making my inevitable death not something to be feared, but to be taken in stride (if not welcomed). That promise has given me the incentive to persevere in my struggles to live up to the word.

In short, my faith has “done it all” for me. It's (1) made me a better, happier person; (2) helped make the world at least a little better place and (3) given me the promise of a glorious afterlife.

Triple threat? You bet! My faith has “done it all.” And in the best possible way.

Lee Krogh



Church of OUR LADY OF VICTORY

207 North Vine Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

MASSES

Saturday 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday 8:30 a.m.
Friday 8:30 a.m.
Saturday 3:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Victory School (K-6th grade)
Learning Ladder Preschool (3-5 year olds, full and half day)
218/736-6661
www.ffolvschool.org



Watch For Our
Friday Fish Fries

MARCH 8TH

MARCH 15TH

MARCH 22ND

MARCH 29TH

APRIL 5TH

APRIL 12TH

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.