

The *Victory Voice*

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A note from Fr. Jake

Just over one year ago our parish launched our current capital campaign, Cultivating Our Future. Inspiration for this campaign came from the experience of gardening. Through cultivation, weeding, and watering, gardens are able to produce the most fruitful harvest possible. In the same way, parish leadership felt it was time to address several issues with our facilities and programs here in the parish, thus the capital campaign was developed and launched.

The goal of this campaign was to complete nine separate projects here in the parish, pay-off debt, and increase the ministries we offer in the parish. This campaign was definitely ambitious, but after the completion of this campaign, our community will be in a strong position as we look towards the future. Cultivating Our Future exists so we can reap a more abundant harvest for the Kingdom of God here at OLV.

Your generous support of the capital campaign throughout the last year was truly a sign that you want our parish to finish needed projects, pay off our debt, and grow our ministries. We have already accomplished several parts of the campaign. Our parish's debt has been paid-off. A new sound system will be installed in the Church this spring. The HVAC upgrades in the school will begin this summer, as we now finish up the final specifications for the project. As 2021 progresses, we will be announcing the planning and completion of other projects associated with the capital campaign. However, we need to raise the last third of the \$1.6 million to make sure that we can complete all of the

campaign projects.

We are nearing the end of Cultivating Our Future fund raising. When Parish Leadership was originally planning this capital campaign, we were hoping that it would have been completed within eight months of launch. However, the events of the last year have caused this campaign to take a back seat to other needs and priorities of the parish and community. Despite these realities, we are two-thirds of the way to our goal! Great progress has been made, but it is now time to finish this campaign with one last push.

We are going to reach out to parishioners who have not given to the capital campaign over the next three months in hopes of reaching our goal. Parish leadership knows that many parishioners are still struggling as the effects of the pandemic continue, but any level of support would be appreciated to complete the campaign. Anyone wishing to make an additional contribution to the campaign would be greatly appreciated as well.

If you have any questions about the campaign, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I want to make sure that anyone who has a question gets it answered. I also look forward to sharing more updates about capital campaign projects in the coming weeks.

Thank you for your generous support of the parish!

Our Lady of Victory, pray for us!



Our Lady of Victory
Foundation
Creating Tomorrow's Parish Today

Our Lady of Victory Foundation

- Mike Lazio

You're in Good Hands With ...

You are probably familiar with the above phrase made popular by an insurance company. We dare to say you are in GREAT hands with the Foundation state!

Our board invests and manages our Foundation's funds, your funds, with only the most prudent care. We have since day one and continue to do so with infinite wisdom. Our investment committee meets twice yearly with our wealth manager to review our goals, evaluate its progress and make re-balancing adjustments as desired. We remain within ranges of our objectives.

If you would like more details on our investing and spending policy, refer to our web page. [Investment-Policy-Statement-May-2018-1.pdf](#) (olvjfk.com) We encourage you to read this well written document that guides our decisions. We are good stewards, spiritually and financially, of the gifts that have been entrusted to us.

It reads in part that, "we are stewards, not owners, of wealth, given by God.. that investments have an ethical dimension. As stewards, it is our responsibility to prudently manage the Fund." Thus, we adhere to strict Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) policies, guidelines and recommendations for the nonprofit charitable organizations.

We are cognizant of many factors: risk tolerance, return on investments, asset mix; (equities, fixed income instruments, cash equivalents) and unacceptable investments. Our spending policy has only 2 components. We return a significant amount annually to the parish and school, \$184,000 over the last five years alone, and use a very minimal amount for operating expenses. We never "touch" our principal.

2020 was an unusual year primarily due to the COVID pandemic. In 2020 the stock market did something unlikely. The general market after suffering dramatic losses in March (at that point, down 30% year-to-date, 34% from the recent high) climbed back up to finish the year with double-digit gains.

Just how big a swing was it? Ben Carlson, writing for A Wealth of Common Sense, looked at the biggest drops and recoveries since 1928. "The nearly 34% drop gave 2020 the 8th worst maximum drawdown within a calendar year. But by ending December nearly 14% in the positive, last year has gone down in history as the worst intra-year drawdown that finished the year with a positive return."

Most investors would agree that this kind of movement seems a little insane. To this Carlson says, "The stock market can look like a raging lunatic in the short-term but that doesn't mean you have to invest like a raging lunatic as well." He suggests that sitting on your hands and not panicking, even when stocks are down big, remains one of your best investment strategies.

The Foundation's investments are pretty conservative and did not have the big market swings as others may have experienced. By the end of the 2020 calendar year, the Foundation's investments annual returns were actually up 13.76% from the beginning of the year after nearly 20% in 2019. Working hard to increase our endowment has positioned us to benefit even more in these types of markets.

Things might not look as bad now as they certainly did in March 2020. But all that matters is the finish. The Foundation is in it for the long haul. Rest assured your funds are safe and secure. We pledge ourselves to meeting your expectations in this marathon for our parish's financial stability. You are in great hands with the Foundation's state!

Health Ministry Welcomes Julie Kilburg - Char McGovern

The Parish Nurse/Health ministry team would like to welcome Julie Kilburg as our newest Health Advocate. Julie has been in the healthcare field for 24 years, some of that time as a physical therapy technician. Julie recently completed the Parish Nurse training through Unity Point and she wants to "help others and offer support" during difficult times.

Julie has been an active member of Our Lady of Victory for 23 years. She is an Eucharistic Minister, Hospitality Minister (usually for the 9 o'clock Mass, and an assistant in the Faith Formation office. Julie is an active member of the Wellness Ministry, CEW and is one of Our Lady of Victory's Wedding Coordinators. She is very engaged in OLV's health of mind, body and spirit. Julie is always willing to help out wherever needed.

One thing most people do not know about Julie is that she is a Certified Pool Operator...and she doesn't even know how to swim! When you see her next, you can get "the rest of the story".

Welcome, Julie!



The Generosity of Our Lady of Victory -Char McGovern

The Social Action Christian Service ministry team at OLV has reached out twice since the middle of December asking our community for assistance. On December 20th we received gloves, hats, blankets, throws, mittens, coats, baby blankets, boots and quilts. These items were delivered to Humility Homes and Services, McAnthony's Window/St. Anthony's food pantry and the Veterans Outreach Center.



During the first two weeks of Lent, parishioners responded to our call to support homelessness and help with food insecurity in our neighborhoods. We received \$870 in cash and checks and roughly 4,191 items of food, toothbrushes, toothpaste, laundry soap, diapers and wipes plus lots of other items. The items were delivered to Café on Vine, River Bend Foodbank and St. Anthony's food pantry. John Cooper, Pastoral Associate said after we unloaded the truck, "With this break in temps, our foodbank is being hit hard. This will really help." Thank you to every one that donated food, other items asked for, money or prayed for the success of this project. We are truly showing mercy and compassion to one another in our generosity toward the hungry and homeless of our community. We will give you the final total of all that we gathered after Easter Sunday.

May the Lord bless each of you this Lenten season and with the joy at Easter.

Zechariah 9-10, "This is what the Lord Almighty said: 'Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.'"



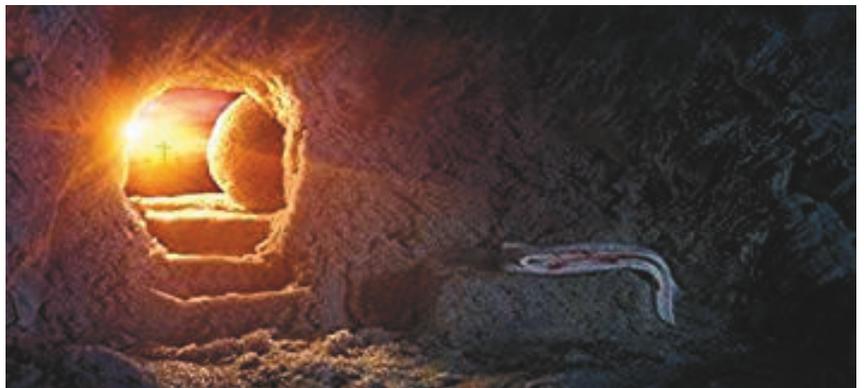
Happy Anniversary.

It has been one year since the first lock downs in Iowa. Since masks everywhere became the norm. Since schools and offices shut down, with no idea when they would reopen. Last year I went on retreat over Spring Break, spending 5 days in silence and prayer at a priory outside Peoria - no phone, internet, TV, or news. When I left there was disaster in China, crisis in Italy, and mounting fear in Illinois, New York, and California. When I returned the whole country had been shut down, and everyone was scrambling. Despite the scramble we also had more time. Lots and lots more time. All our normal routines had been turned off, and nothing had filled that empty place. It was as if while I was on retreat the whole world had been called to retreat. For many it would be their longest Lent ever.

One year later, we have a lot to reflect on from those early days. Many of us improved our coping skills, adapted to working from home, lost or changed jobs, and have a whole new appreciation for teachers and schools and the work that they do. We have come to realize how much we miss Sunday Mass, and being part of larger communities, not to mention time spent with friends and family, hugs and handshakes, smiles and laughter together. We cannot take our health for granted anymore, nor pretend that the virus will not affect us - who has not lost someone they know to COVID-19? Who has not worried for a parent, a friend, a sibling, a child? We are mortal, and at the beginning of Lent this year we were reminded, as we always are, that we are dust and to dust we will return. As we approach Easter let us be filled with hope. Not just hope from a vaccine, or hope for a return to at least semi-normalcy, or hope to see those we have not seen for so long, but hope in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. During Holy Week we remember the battered and bloody Lord climbing the mountain with His Cross, the betrayals and beatings, the bleak prospect of that barren place ruled by Death. It is the week when we recall that we murdered God, and He would not stay dead. I do not know about you, but I feel battered from this past year. My expectations were betrayed, my desires beaten. The best part about my work in youth ministry is connecting with youth and engaging with them, and that was taken away. I have faced the bleakness of zoom fatigue and lonely holidays, of missing weddings and funerals. I have been confronted by Death. It is time to remember that we follow the Lord of Life, that we will live forever with Jesus Christ. We are an Easter people, and hallelujah is our song!

Maybe you do not feel much like singing. That is ok. Maybe the world still looks dark and the days scary. We are not back to normal, and we have trauma and fear from this year that will take time to work through even when normal returns. That is ok, too. Let us take some time to enter back into silence. Let us step back from our screens, zoom meetings, and stress. Let us spend time with the Risen Lord who calls us to Himself. He says to take up our crosses and follow after Him (Mt 16:24). He says come to Him if you are weary, for His burden is easy, and His yoke is light (Mt 11:28,30). He says take courage, for he has conquered the world (Jn 16:33).

So happy anniversary. It has been about 1,988 years since Jesus opened the tomb and beheld a world made new. Jesus Christ has laid Death in his grave. So let us open up our tombs this Easter season to a world bright with hope. Let us praise the God who entered into our struggles to stand with us, and remember, *Christus Vivit* - Christ is alive!





I received from the Lord

what I also handed on to you. *1 Corinthians 11:23*

Family traditions strengthen family connections, create a sense of belonging and allow us to celebrate generations of family. These traditions often involve food or drink. And many happy memories are created in the passing down of these traditions. Imagine the anticipation waiting to open the oven door to check the bread baking that was made with Grandma. Hear the giggles about the thickness of the turkey slices after Dad passed on the carving duties. Consider the spiciness of the attempts to recreate the special football chili.

Each time we participate in Mass we are celebrating a family tradition; the tradition that Jesus instituted at The Last Supper. He used the occasion of the Passover feast to transform the bread and wine into His Body and Blood. We then partake of that Body and Blood through Holy Communion. This is our reminder that Jesus gave His life for us.

We are excited to pass this tradition on to those who will be receiving their First Holy Communion in April. We join in their anticipation about what they will experience. We know it will strengthen their connection and enhance their sense of belonging to our Catholic family. We wish them many memory-making moments on their special day.

Congratulations and Welcome to the Table of the Lord:

Ashley A.	Nathan A.	Addelyn A.
Keegan B.	Ella B.	Margaret C.
Cayden C.	Jamin D.	Aria E.
James E.	Leonel F.	Mason F.
Roscoe F.	Anthony H.	Jace H.
Jacob H.	Channing H.	Jax H.
Austin L.	Carter L.	Kallie M.
Corben M.	Logan M.	Arizona N.
Jacob N.	Macy O.	Gavin O.
Caleb P.	Ripley P.	Orlando R.
Arianna R.	Alyse R.	Logan S.
Liam S.	Emmalynn S.	Gabrielle U.
Jaxson W.	Ava W.	



From the moment of birth, children begin to learn about the world. These early learning experiences affect their future cognitive, social, physical and emotional development. Although children are actively learning whenever they are at home, attending story hour at the library, or participating in kid-centered community events, a structured preschool learning opportunity can be beneficial for any young child.

JFK, through Guardian Angel Preschool, has offered preschool since 1985. Guided by the Iowa Early Learning Standards, the curriculum of preschool has evolved from periods of socialization, stories, and snacking into an organized curriculum of math, literacy, and emotional and social skills through teacher-lead group instruction and learning center activities with peers. JFK has preschool classes for three year olds and four year olds.

JFK's four-year-old preschool classes meet for approximately three hours five days a week in the morning or the afternoon. Capped at 20 students with a ten-to-one or less student-to-adult ratio, group instruction emphasizes emerging literacy and math skills. Large motor skill activities take place in a fenced, outdoor play area, weather permitting. Children must turn four years of age by September 15th of the year they begin the 4-year-old program at Guardian Angel. While most of the 4 year old program is FREE, JFK's preschool program is longer than required by the Iowa Department of Education, so there is an extended time fee paid at the time of registration. 5 year old students can register for a second year of preschool.

Three-year-olds have two options for preschool at JFK: Monday-Wednesday-Friday or Tuesday-Thursday, mornings only, between the hours of 7:25-9:55am. While in attendance, these youngest students become acclimated to preschool activities with an emphasis on socialization, problem-solving, and following directions. Table activities introduce students to holding pencils and using scissors, for example, and students use the outdoor play area as well. Children must turn three by their first day of attendance or by September 15th of the year they begin 3-year-old preschool, and they must be able to use the bathroom independently. There is a tuition charge for preschool.

Families needing childcare can take advantage of the Early Childhood Learning Center's (ECLC) option of wrap-around care. Childcare begins at 7:00 am and ends at 5:30 pm. Four year olds attend morning preschool classes and are escorted back and forth from preschool rooms to the childcare room. Three year olds who need childcare remain in the center and attend preschool five days a week. A hot lunch is provided, and a period of napping is scheduled for all the 3 year olds, with an option for 4-year-olds to nap as well. The staffing of the center follows a 1:8 ratio of staff to students for three year old children, and a 1:12 ratio for the four-year-olds. Childcare rates are paid either weekly or monthly. The ECLC and its staff are licensed by the Iowa Department of Human Services.

Optimizing learning in the early years of children's lives is one investment a community can make to ensure children's future successes.

Three, four, and five year old preschool and daycare registration has begun and waiting lists will begin soon for some classes. Spots can go fast, so don't delay registration. For more information, call the JFK school office at 563-391-3030.

Social Action/Christian Service -Jean Simpson



Thomas Aquinas comments in his Summa Theologiae: “To say that a person is merciful is like saying that he is sorrowful at heart (miserum cor), that is, he is afflicted with sorrow by the misery of another as though it were his own...”

In my own personal financially challenging times, when I wasn't sure how my family would make it from point A to point B and stay in tact, I was so deeply grateful to always be able to keep us in a stable home. Once people lose their home, I know the spiral of poverty can become extraordinary to overcome.

In January 2021, the Social Action/Christian Service Ministry decided to continue to take an in depth look at the housing crisis and how we as a parish community could support the great things that are happening to improve everyone having a roof over their head and a safe, decent place to call home. A home creates stability for individuals, families and communities. If my neighbor is homeless or oppressed by unaffordable housing then our whole community suffers.

We hope to offer projects that people can do with their families. Nothing builds strong families and community or teaches Christian principles like faith in action! The greatest bonds are built in service to one another.

There are over 6,500 people struggling with housing instability in our area. Social Action/Christian Service hopes to find ways to support these individuals with events, actions and policy that help to create safe, decent, affordable housing. There are issues with high rent, lack of affordable housing, mobile home lot increases, and of course, evictions from the COVID-19 crisis that put people in financial jeopardy due to loss of income, childcare or healthcare.

THE QC HOUSING CRISIS from Silos

Though wages have increased 15.9% since 2010, households' incomes are failing to keep the pace with rental costs. Scott County for example, had a 21.8% increase in rental costs (HUD Median Family Income Calculations 2010, 2019; American Community Survey 2010, 2017 - Median Gross Rent). Since 2010, the Quad Cities has lost 30.5% fair market units in both units that have dilapidated and closed, and units whose rent has risen above fair market rate (American Community Survey, 2006-2010, 2013-2017). Of households living with extremely low incomes (30% Area Median Income/\$21,810 annually), 76.1% are cost-burdened, or spending 30% or more of their income on housing (Bi-State Regional Commission - American Community Survey 2017). This combination of the cost of rent outpacing the increase in wages, loss of affordable housing, and high rates of extremely low income households being cost-burdened in units that are available, has created an affordable housing crisis in the Quad Cities. Quad Cities Housing Cluster organized a task force to create a vision to address the affordable housing crisis, and this report is the result of the discussion, research, and community scan over the past nine months.

“People don't live their lives in silos. Isolated solutions cannot fix broken systems. Helping entire communities become better places to live requires addressing the entire range of community needs.” - Beyond Housing St. Louis

All through the year, Social Action/Christian Service will have a calendar of events and actions that will range from donating a few hours or more to support our brothers and sisters wanting that very basic need... a roof over their head. Please join us, we would love to have your ideas, time, and energy. Many hands make light work & more fun! There is a special bond in doing service for others together. Please email Jean Simpson at: jkdreamor@gmail.com for more information. We can't wait to have you and your family on our team.



Youth Ministry Needs Your Help

-Evan Brankin

OUR LADY OF VICTORY NEWSLETTER

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

Youth Ministry would like to take a moment to thank Randy Behyl for many years orchestrating the can donations for youth traveling to NCYC. Randy has stepped back from this fundraiser, leaving an opportunity for families who might want to raise money for their teen's trip. If your family is looking for a way to raise more money and could help sort and deliver cans and bottles to the recycling center, this could be for you!

To our parish family - we thank you for your generosity! Please remember to rinse out your cans and bottles before bringing them to church. God bless!



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Journey to Sainthood

-Judy Johnson

The sainthood cause for Nicholas Black Elk, a Lakota leader during the early 20th century, is an important pursuit for our sister parish friends at Christ the King, Porcupine SD. Throughout his life, Nicholas Black Elk sought to know more about the Great Spirit and to serve him better. In doing so, he learned to follow Jesus Christ and seamlessly live Christian and Native ways without contradiction. He served on the Pine Ridge Reservation where he spread a message of peace, love and harmony for all creation and led over 400 Lakota people to baptism. Although he lived during troubled times, he always respected the sacred, the relatedness of all beings, and care of the earth. Today, his exemplary stewardship of time and talent resonates with thousands.

Funding from the national Catholic Communications Campaign was used to produce a one-hour documentary to tell of Black Elk's life and legacy. "Walking the Good Red Road" is an intriguing look into the life of a holy man and the struggles facing the Lakota Sioux as they dealt with broken government promises, violated treaties, and other harsh realities. The video can be found on vimeo.com—search for "Walking the Good Red Road." Bill White, CTK pastoral assistant, and some other members of the parish are featured. Overall, this production is a tender retelling of a historical Catholic figure whose virtues deserve to be better known. It makes for uplifting viewing.

Through continued prayer by Black Elk's many dedicated followers, plus the CTK and OLV communities, we believe that his canonization will surely come to pass. Servant of God, Nicholas Black Elk, pray for us!

