

# ST. VICTORIA PARISH FAMILY



## Our Mission

“St. Victoria is a Catholic family inviting all to celebrate the Eucharist in the spirit of fellowship and love. We worship together, seek formation of youth, provide opportunities for spiritual growth and community involvement while reaching out to all as the face and hands of Jesus Christ.”

## Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2017

### Liturgical Schedule

**Saturday:** 5 p.m.

**Sunday:** 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

**Daily:** Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m.

**Communion Service:** Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**Reconciliation:** Saturday 6 p.m. or by appointment

**Rosary:** Tuesday - Friday 7:40 a.m.

**St. Anthony Novena:** Tuesday after Mass

**Marriage:** call nine months in advance, 443-2661

**Baptisms:** 443-2661

**Prayer Line:** Dianne Leahy, dleahy1969@gmail.com  
Mary Moore, 443-2443

**Catholic United Financial:** Darlene Williams, 403-6959

**RCIA Coordinator:** Deacon Ray Ortman, 443-2661

**Parish Pastoral Council:** Michelle Kunze, 612-669-9717,  
Paul David, 612-518-9119;

Kathy Hester, 442-1506; John Hintzen, 393-5014;

Chris Fischer, 240-9012; Judy Iverson, 949-0229;

Dan Maus, 443-2504; Jon Carlson, 210-8991;

Cynthia Hegarty, 612-251-4413;

Sue Schrempp, 443-2529

**Parish Finance Council:** Bob Bruers, 807-1803;

Margaret Hanson, 443-2648; Patrick McKinney, 470-6210;

Tim Amundsen, 443-2531; Ralph Hatch, 472-3532

**Trustees:** Margaret Hanson, 443-2648 ; Mike Werch, 484-0300

### Parish Team

#### Pastor

Fr. Robert White, 443-2661 x205, bwhite@stvictoria.org

#### Deacon and Administrator

Ray Ortman, 443-2661 x203, rortman@stvictoria.org

#### Director of Music and Liturgy

Elizabeth Nowak, 443-2661 x207, enowakstv@gmail.com

#### Director of Adult, Children and Youth Formation

Emily Klinker, 443-2661 x218, eklinker@stvictoria.org

#### Assistant Director for Children's Formation

Sara Svenby, 443-2661 x219, ssvenby@stvictoria.org

#### Assistant Director for Youth Formation

Ann Esping, 443-2661 x202, aesping@stvictoria.org

#### Director of Shared Ministries

John Abel, 443-2661 x204, jabel@stvictoria.org

#### Office Manager

Joni Jeurissen, 443-2661 x216, jjeurissen@stvictoria.org

#### Ministry Support Services

Julie Schmiege, 443-2661 x201, jschmiege@stvictoria.org

#### Maintenance Supervisor

Eric Wahlund, 443-2661 x208, ewahlund@stvictoria.org

#### Receptionist

Mary Catino, 443-2661 x200, mcatino@stvictoria.org

#### Communications Supervisor/Bulletin Editor

Mary Harvey, 443-2661 x206, mharvey@stvictoria.org

#### Parish Office

**Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weekdays**

8228 Victoria Drive, Victoria, MN 55386

Phone 952-443-2661; Fax 952-443-3866; www.stvictoria.net



**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2017**

**The readings for December 24**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Reading I:* 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

*Reading II:* Romans 16:25-27

*Gospel:* Luke 1:26-38



In these readings from Second Samuel, David is determined to build a house for God. But the prophet Nathan tells him that instead *God* would build a royal house, a dynasty for him. Even after the failure of David's descendants as kings, the Jews believed that the Messiah would come from the line of David. In the passage from Luke's Gospel, we discover that the house the Lord settles on is the womb of the young woman Mary. The angel tells Mary that her child will be "Son of the Most High. The Lord will give Him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and His reign will be without end." This announcement in the Gospel again shows that God approaches us with love.

**Question of the Week**

Have you had experiences in your life that led you to accept things at face value? How did that make you feel?

**Welcome to St. Victoria**

If you are a visitor at St. Victoria, welcome. If you would like information on becoming a registered parishioner at St. Victoria, please feel free to contact Julie Schmiege in the parish office. She will be happy to line up an appointment for you at one of our upcoming "Bien Venidos" registration dates for new parishioners. (Bien Venidos means good welcome.) You may reach Julie at jschmiege@stvictoria.org or 443-2661 x201. **(Please Note:** If you are a guest at St. Victoria and would like to make a contribution, you will find "Welcome Envelopes" in the kiosk in the Commons.)

**Ministry of Spiritual Direction**

Explore a closer relationship with God. Call Deb LeMay at 297-4255 or Craig Hamilton at 612-237-3463 for information and/or an appointment to learn more about spiritual direction, an ancient process of accompanying people in their spiritual journey toward freedom and peace. Scholarships are available. Call the parish office for details.

**Baptism Information**

- Baptisms are celebrated on designated weekends during all three Masses and after the 5 p.m. Saturday and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Masses. The next scheduled Baptisms will be celebrated January 6 and 7.
- **You may have two sponsors (Godparents), one man and one woman, or just one sponsor.** At least one sponsor must be a Confirmed, practicing Catholic and be at least 16 years old.
- Parents are required to have attended a Jordan Night (Baptism Class) within the previous five years **before** a scheduled Baptism is celebrated. The next Jordan Night is scheduled on **Thursday, January 11.**
- For information or to schedule a Baptism, contact Mary Harvey at mharvey@stvictoria.org or 443-2661 x206.



...to be the face and hands of Jesus Christ

**Mass Intentions**

- Tuesday, **December 19** — Marie Schneider †  
 Wednesday, **December 20** — Ken and Deb Diethelm †  
 Thursday, **December 21** — Barbara Mae Schmiege †  
 Friday, **December 22** — Gordon and Clara Diethelm †  
 Saturday, **December 23** — Living and Deceased Members of the Charles Johnson Family  
 Sunday, **December 24** — 8:45 a.m. Alaina Palyok †  
 10:45 a.m. St. Victoria Parishioners  
 4 p.m. Children Worldwide  
 6 p.m. Visitors to St. Victoria  
 10 p.m. Parishioners of St. Victoria  
 Monday, **December 25** — Peace on Earth

**This Week in RCIA**

Saul of Tarsus is first introduced to us in the Acts of the Apostles (7:58) as cloak-bearer to those who stoned Saint Stephen to his death. Zealously intent upon the destruction of the early Church, Saul set out to Damascus "breathing murderous threats against the disciples of the Lord" (Act 9:1). But along the way, Saul was struck blind by a vision of the Lord Jesus who called Saul to a change of heart and impressed upon him a new zeal for proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

Through a series of missionary journeys, St. Paul (formerly known as Saul) established several communities of believers (churches) throughout Europe and Asia Minor. His thirteen letters (written to these churches and individual church leaders) comprise fully one-third of the books of the New Testament. They contain a wealth of theological richness and development in the early Church, particularly as it experienced rapid growth in the Greco-Roman world of the First Century.

This week in RCIA we will learn more about this Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, and we will briefly discuss the common themes that appear in his thirteen letters. Along the way, we will see not only how the early Church grew both in numbers and in understanding, but also how St. Paul matured in his own faith and pastoral outlook.

**Communion at Home**

If you, or someone you know, is unable to come to Mass on a weekday or weekend (surgery, accident, illness, etc.), parishioners who are a part of the **St. Victoria Pastoral Care Team** will be happy to bring Communion to your home. It can be a one-time only occasion or on-going for as long as you like. To arrange for Communion at home, please call **John Abel in the parish office.**

**Save the Date**

**Healing Hearts Focus Group** will be held six Tuesday evenings at 6:30 p.m., starting January 9. If you have lost a spouse, child or significant other, you are encouraged to join with others for emotional and spiritual support in a safe, non-judgmental environment. All are invited.

**Advent Reconciliation at Area Churches**

- St. Joseph, Waconia, Sunday, December 17, 4:30 p.m.
- Ascension, Norwood, Tuesday, December 19 at 5 to 6 p.m. and 6:15 to 8 p.m.
- St. Bernard, Cologne, Wednesday, December 20, 5 to 6 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.
- St. Nicholas, Carver, Friday, December 22, 5 to 6 p.m. and 6:30 to 9 p.m. Mass 6 to 6:30 p.m.



## Major Mortgage Milestone

As we have done every third Sunday of the month for the past several years, this weekend we again take up a second collection for Debt Reduction. In this season of giving and thanksgiving, we thank you for giving so generously to help us pay down the mortgage on our New Church. Dedicated on Mother's Day 2005 at a cost of about \$8 million, our new church mortgage initially topped out at more than \$3.5 million. Today I am pleased to report that, thanks to your continuing faithfulness to St. Victoria and our prudent allocation of your gifts, our mortgage balance for the first time since mid-construction is now *less than \$2 million* (to be precise, \$1,995,860.29). Thank you!

In practical terms, this means that due to a lower outstanding mortgage balance (and two refinancing efforts which both lowered our interest rate), the share of our monthly \$20,000 mortgage payment that goes to pay interest has fallen from about \$15,000 to about \$8,000 per month. We are now repaying more and more principal every month.

As we look forward to the coming new year, we also look forward (with your help) to continuing to accelerate repayment of our mortgage. Our hope is that with your continuing commitment to sustained giving we will soon be debt-free, thereby freeing up that \$20,000 per month mortgage payment, so that we will better be able to serve the people of God as we reach out ever more boldly as the face and hands of Jesus.

## Christmas Gifts

As we prepare for Christmas and the birth of Jesus, gifts are often on our minds. The gifts might be for our loved ones, for those in need or we might be thinking about the gifts the Magi brought to the Christ Child. At St. Victoria we have given some thought to the gifts we might give as a parish.

Our first gift is the purchase of Nativity Animals from World Vision. The Shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, surrounded by God's animals. Our gift will purchase those same animals so that poor families can prosper. A donkey helps till fields, a sheep produces warm wool and a goat gives milk and meat. Another gift will go to Bethlehem University, a school in Israel that welcomes both Christian and Muslim students. What better way to work toward peace? Closer to home, we are sending a gift to Union Gospel Mission to help them offer food and a warm place to sleep to homeless men and women. Finally, we will help Fr. Thomas Joseph, our friend from St. Nicholas in Carver, with his numerous charitable endeavors this holiday season.

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:** We find God in ourselves, and we find ourselves in God. (*St. Teresa of Avila*)

*Fr. Bob*

## Eucharistic Adoration

**Eucharistic Adoration is every Thursday in the Historic Church beginning at 8:30 a.m. (after Daily Mass) and ending at 8 p.m.** The Church and the world have a great need of Eucharistic worship. Jesus stays with us in this Sacrament of Love. **Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

## Important Dates

- **December 17** — Annual Christmas Concert and Children's Pageant, 5 p.m.
- **December 22** — Individual Confessions, 6 p.m.
- **December 23** — Individual Confessions, after 5 p.m. Mass
- **December 24** — Christmas Eve Masses at 4, 6 and 10 p.m.
- **December 25** — Christmas Morning Mass at 9 a.m.
- **January 13** — Men Building Bridges Prayer Breakfast, 8 a.m.

## Christmas Masses

According to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), when consecutive obligations (holy days and Sundays [or Saturday]) occur on Saturday/Sunday or Sunday/Monday, the expectation is that the faithful will attend Mass twice. This means that this year the expectation is that the faithful will attend Mass on the Fourth Sunday of Advent at regular times on Saturday evening or Sunday morning **and** celebrate the Birth of Christ at Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning.

## Please Note...

The parish office will be closed Friday, December 22, Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26.

## Sharing and Caring Hands

Volunteers from St. Victoria will help serve a meal at Sharing and Caring Hands tomorrow, **Monday, December 18**. St. Victoria serves this ministry the third Monday of every month. If you would like to volunteer, or for more information, contact Coordinator Dennis Brown, 443-4690.

## Simpson Housing

St. Victoria volunteers will prepare and serve dinner at Simpson House in Minneapolis on **Sunday, January 7**. Simpson Housing provides meals and overnight shelter for homeless men and women daily throughout the year. For more information or to volunteer, contact Kerry Stukenborg at [kerrystukenborg@gmail.com](mailto:kerrystukenborg@gmail.com).

## Men Building Bridges

You will start the new year out right when you attend the annual Men Building Bridges Father/Son Prayer Breakfast at 8 a.m., Saturday, January 13. Featured speaker this year is Matt Birk, a Minnesota native and former member of the Minnesota Vikings and Baltimore Ravens. Today, Matt and his wife Adrianna live in Mendota Heights with their eight children. Matt will share stories of his life, including HIKE (Hope, Inspiration, Knowledge, Education), a foundation Matt and his wife established to provide educational opportunities for at-risk youth. Tickets are \$10 and they will go on sale December 30.

## Elsewhere...

- **West Suburban Grief Coalition** meeting at Oak Knoll Lutheran Church in Minnetonka, Thursdays, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Speaker Dec. 21 is Lin Butler, "Grief and the Holidays." Call 546-5433 for information.

# Faith Formation

## Important Upcoming Dates

### Adult Formation, Faith Formation, and Youth Ministry

12/17	Children's Liturgy
12/17	Children's Christmas Pageant and Christmas Concert
12/20	Faith Formation and Confirmation
1/3	Volunteer Retreat
1/6	First Reconciliation Retreat
1/7	Children's Liturgy
1/10	Faith Formation and Confirmation

**No Faith Formation or Confirmation on December 27 or January 3. No Children's Liturgy on Sunday, December 24 or 31.**

## Adult Formation

### RCIA

You are invited to attend any RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) session that sounds interesting. You will find the topic for each upcoming week on page two of the bulletin, on our website and Facebook page. **Please note: There is no RCIA on December 26 or January 2.**

### Volunteer Retreat

Faith Formation Volunteer Retreat is Wednesday, January 3, at 6:30 p.m. All our volunteers — catechists, small group leaders, hall monitors, childcare, RCIA leaders, VBS volunteers and Children's Liturgy volunteers — are invited. Our Faith Formation volunteers give so much to the adults, children and youth that this night is an opportunity for the Faith Formation Team to give back to them spiritually. (Note: All Faith Formation and Confirmation classes are cancelled so no one has to miss this great opportunity.)

## Faith Formation

### Christmas Pageant

The annual Christmas Pageant and Concert is coming up this evening, Sunday, December 17. All are invited to join us for this beautiful event. As the choir, praise band and cantors walk us through the Christmas story with carols and Christmas favorites, the children of our parish will share the "Greatest Story Ever Told." The program begins at 5 p.m. in the Worship Space. We hope you all can join us!

### 6th Grade Family Advent Series

Last year we started something new and it went so well we are now making it an annual event for our 6th Grade families. During the month of December, we will be focusing our attention on Advent with the 6th Graders **and** their parents! So instead of dropping off your son or daughter, you are invited and encouraged to come and stay for the evening. We will have time to grow deeper in our faith together with the students and have a separate time just for the parents to continue the discussion. Last year, I had the opportunity to be with the adults each week and loved each night. I can't wait to meet with all of you this year! ~Emily

## Youth Ministry

### High School Mission Trip

We had our first fundraiser last week — The Wall of Support — and it will continue this week. Thank you to all who participated. Every envelope from the wall makes a difference for our 46 mission trip participants who will travel to the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina in July.

### Electronics Gathering Dust?

If you made a spectacular purchase and have a Blue Ray Player or a flat screen HD TV 40 inches or larger that you no longer plan to use, the Confirmation team would be happy to take any items off your hands. Thank you to Gloria Peterson for the donation of a TV. Call Ann if you have questions or want to make a donation.

### Senior High Lifeline Event

How about kicking off the new year with a fun evening alongside 500-plus Catholic youth in our area? Join us for the January 6 Lifeline event in which we'll celebrate our faith with vibrant music, a dynamic speaker, Mass and Adoration. All are invited to join us as we caravan from St. Victoria at 4 p.m., stop for fast food, and attend the Archdiocesan Lifeline at the Net Center in St. Paul. We expect we will return by 10:30 p.m. The speaker that evening is Fr. Emmanuel Mansford, a Franciscan Friar who is a native from England and now lives among and serves the poor in Harlem. He'll be speaking about prayer in a session titled, "Obey your Thirst." Many wonder if we need to pray or how to pray. The truth is that our hearts deeply thirst for God, and prayer is a means to satisfy our longing. Fr. Mansford will help us learn how to pray in a way that connects us with God. Sign up on the St. Victoria website.

### High School Bible Study

Interested in getting together for fun, snacks and talking about the Gospel of Mark? Join our High School, teen-lead Bible study that meets on Sunday nights from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Try out any week or come for all. The upcoming dates are tonight, December 17, January 7 and 21 and February 4 and 18. Interested? Show up! Want more details, contact Ann and she'll add you to the GroupMe so you know the details.

### Face and Hands Event

Thank you to all who attended and made the night such a success. Luke inspired us with his stories and his songs and journeyed with us as we get one step closer to Christmas. A big thank you to Michelle Williams for coordinating the hospitality time. Our next Face and Hands event will be in February. Watch for details.

**Blessings . . . . Emily Klinker, Sara Svenby and Ann Esping**

### Path to Healing

A support group for people who have experienced clergy sexual abuse will meet Wednesdays during January from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at 9001 E. Bloomington Freeway in Bloomington. The dates are January 10, 17, 24 and 31. Family and friends also are invited. Space is limited. Call Deb Riba at 881-9883 for information or to register.

# Stewardship Report

Stewardship Report for **December 9 and 10, Week 24** of our fiscal year:

Envelope Offering: \$ 11,266  
 Electronic Offering: 8,427  
 Total Membership Offering: 19,693

**Immaculate Conception:** \$679

**Retired Religious:** \$2,269

**November Tithing for Jesucristo Resucitado:** \$1,695

*Thank you for using your envelopes.*

## Important Year-End Information

All donations to St. Victoria that you want included in your 2017 contributions for tax purposes must be received in the parish office no later than the end of the business day (4 p.m.) Friday, December 29 or postmarked no later than Saturday, December 30. You may also drop a contribution in the collection basket at Masses on December 30 or 31. All checks must be dated no later than December 31. The IRS does not allow exceptions. (Please note: The parish office will be closed Friday, December 22, Monday, December 25, and Tuesday, December 26.)

# Ministry Schedule

## December 23 and 24

### Sacristans

5 p.m. TBD  
 8:45 a.m. TBD  
 10:45 a.m. TBD

### Lector

5 p.m. Michon Conklin  
 8:45 a.m. Joyce Diethelm  
 10:45 a.m. Tony Brausen

### Eucharistic Ministers

5 p.m. Mike and Hailey Amundsen, Greg Butler, Darla Diethelm, Bob Elfering, Kristen Kowalski, Mary Moore, Bobby and Mary Beth Wulf  
 8:45 a.m. Dan and Marguerite Dummer, Paul and Kelly Kohls, Dave and Ellen Roan  
 10:45 a.m. Theo and Margaret Chalgren, Rob and Brianne Raiolo

### Greeter/Usher

5 p.m. Elizabeth Contreras, Gary and Anne Delaney, Cal Haasken, Pat Henning, Debra Millis  
 8:45 a.m. Mark Lund, Chris and Cheryl Mach  
 10:45 Mark and Mary Kelly, Don and Sue Roper

### Servers

5 p.m. Laura Contreras, Arin Hausmann  
 8:45 a.m. Ethan Weinandt  
 10:45 a.m. Sydney Weinandt

### Sound

5 p.m. Tim Woodfield  
 8:45 a.m. TBD  
 10:45 a.m. TBD

### Music

5 p.m. Cantor Elizabeth Nowak —  
 Acc. Sharon Schindler  
 8:45 a.m. Cantor Elizabeth Nowak —  
 Acc. Amee Gallagher  
 10:45 a.m. Cantor Elizabeth Nowak —  
 Acc. Amee Gallagher

**There is no Children's Liturgy of the Word of this weekend.**

# Ministry Schedule

## December 24 and 25

### Sacristans

4 p.m. Tom and Lisa Katalinich  
 6 p.m. Joyce Burau, Julie Catalino  
 10 p.m. Erv and Linda Spevacek  
 9 a.m. Tim Amundsen, Jacque Krause

### Lector

4 p.m. Todd Hesse  
 6 p.m. Jill Sonnek  
 10 p.m. Joe Heiland  
 9 a.m. Joe Carrica

### Eucharistic Ministers

4 p.m. David and Jessica Bruns, Marge Diethelm, Marcus Hoffmann, Jim and Betti Igel, Mike Kokesh, Randy and Sandra Krautbauer, Michelle Kunze, Jeff Lenzmeier, Pat Moore, Anna Shay, Kari Struthers, Karl and Patty Tauscher  
 6 p.m. Jim Alessio, Joanna Bongard, Greg Butler, Bob Elfering, Gina Holman, Tom and Dianne Leahy, Louise Lehner, Linda Lindeman, Debra McMillan, Charles Schmidt, Nancy Schmieg, Sue Schrempp, Carol Spalding  
 10 p.m. George Barker, Ann Esping, Anne Fowler, Patty Frier, Joyce Heiland, Joan Klinger, Michael Lanners, Dennis Oas, Kathryn Paradise, Rose Rooney, Jerry Schmieg, Barb Schultz, Luci Tellers, Diane Theis

9 a.m. Mary Bishop, Adrienne Carrica, Mary Catino, Diane Forsythe, Joe Hamilton, Davis Kirsch, Ruth Kroening, Deb LeMay, Kerry Leopold, Mary Moore, Nancy Rezac, Annette Smyser

### Greeter/Usher

4 p.m. Ted and Carole Chalgren, Eric Hanson, Joseph Happ, Daryl Schmieg, Shawn Sutherland  
 6 p.m. Sam Deweese, Al Lehner, Kerry McMillan, Lyle Oddan, Troy and Sam Stukenborg  
 10 p.m. Jeff Fowler, John Heiland, Gary and Sharon Lauwagie, Gary Sohns, Rick Stucki  
 9 a.m. Randy and Daniella Krause, Scott Monson, Billie Perkins, Dave and Rose Williams

### Servers

4 p.m. Grant Hayes, Ava Kunze, Jakob Lenzmeier  
 6 p.m. Mitchell, Sadie and Joey Holman  
 10 p.m. Krew Barber, Grace Fowler, Evie Heiland  
 9 a.m. Megan Jeurissen, Chastity and Sydney Perkins

### Sound

4 p.m. Steve McNamara  
 6 p.m. Elena Bergren  
 10 p.m. Scott Johnson  
 9 a.m. Max Lommel

### Music

4 p.m. Praise HYMN  
 6 p.m. Cantor Caroline Swanson —  
 Acc. Sharon Schindler  
 10 p.m. Agape Singers — Acc. Amee Gallagher  
 9 a.m. Cantor Elizabeth Nowak —  
 Acc. Amee Gallagher

**There is no Children's Liturgy of the Word.**

**Thank you for sharing your time, talent and treasure with St. Victoria**