

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.”

December 4, 2011 The Second Sunday of Advent

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 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: Loretta Kocka, 443-2103;

Mary Moore, 443-2443

Unplanned Pregnancy - for help call: Kathy, 443-3083

Catholic United Financial: Darlene Williams, 403-6959

RCIA Coordinator: Cindy Rasmussen, 443-2434

Parish Pastoral Council: Roger Osweiler, Chair, 443-1921;

Rachel Anderson, 448-9499; Steve Letsche, 847-0676;

Gretchen McNamara, 443-2356; Tony DeNucci, 443-3389;

John Helgerson, 474-0797; Jane Wenning, 763-218-2083;

John Bulat, 612-327-5365; Andrew Cone, 443-4048

Parish Finance Council: Bob Bruers, 401-3287;

Gary Geurts, 443-5010; Margaret Hanson, 443-2648;

Dave Hentges, 443-0046; Tom Vogt, 443-4736;

Tim Amundsen, 443-2531

Trustees: Margaret Hanson, 443-2648; Gary Geurts, 443-5010

Parish Team

Pastor

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

Deacon and Administrator

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

Director of Music and Liturgy

Jamie Moore, 443-2661, jmoore@stvictoria.org

Director of Shared Ministries

Patty Schlader, 443-2661, pschlader@stvictoria.org

Administrative Support

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

Director of Faith formation Grades K-8

Amy Kusber, 443-2661, akusber@stvictoria.org

Assistant Director of Faith Formation Grades K-8

Joni Wohl, 443-2661, jwohl@stvictoria.org

Youth Minister

Nick Tofteland, 443-2661, ntofteland@stvictoria.org

Ministry Support Services

Julie Schmieg, 443-2661, jshmieg@stvictoria.org

Receptionist

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

Maintenance Supervisor

John Wall, 443-2661, jwall@stvictoria.org

Communications Supervisor/Bulletin Editor

Mary Harvey, 443-2661, 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



**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 4, 2011**

Food for thought . . .

The readings for December 11, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent

Reading I: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28



In this Gospel, John the Baptist saw his role clearly. At the time John was writing his Gospel, followers of John the Baptist were claiming that he, not Jesus, was the Messiah. So here the Gospel writer emphasizes that John the Baptist saw himself as one to prepare the way for the Messiah. He is not the Messiah nor any of the others they suggest. He is just “a voice in the desert” preparing the way for the Lord. His baptism is a simple water rite, unlike Jesus’ baptism in the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist proclaims the Good News of Jesus’ coming and prepares people’s hearts for that event. Which brings us to the question of the week:

Question of the Week

Has someone recently helped you to have faith?

Welcome to St. Victoria

If you are visiting 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 x11. **(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 Franciscan Commons. Thank you.)

Baptism Information

- The next **Jordan Night** (Baptism Class) at St. Victoria is Thursday, January 12, at 6 p.m., in Clare’s Well. If you are expecting a child (birth or adoption) in the next few months, and have not attended a class within the last three years, please register for a class. **We do ask parents to fulfill this requirement prior to a Baptism — there is still time to sign up for this class.**
- We need to see a copy of your child’s birth certificate prior to the Baptism.
- When planning your child’s Baptism, please be aware that you may have only one man and one woman as sponsors and one must be a Confirmed Catholic. (Or, you may have just one sponsor.)
- **The next Baptisms are scheduled** on December 10 and 11. Baptisms are celebrated during all Masses and after the 5 p.m. Saturday and 10:45 a.m. Sunday Liturgies.
- **Contact** Mary Harvey in the parish office at 443-2661 x16 or mharvey@stvictoria.org to schedule a Baptism, register for Jordan Night and/or for information.



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

Mass Intentions

Tuesday, **December 6** — Frank Kaley (Anniv.) †

Wednesday, **December 7** — Layla Krasnicki †

Thursday, **December 8** — **8 a.m.** Charles and Emma Kelzer †
7 p.m. Dick Sterner †

Friday, **December 9** — Stephen Goethke †

Saturday, **December 10** — Milly Wartman †

Sunday, **December 11** — 8:45 a.m. Chuck Leonard †
10:45 a.m. St. Victoria Parish Family

Holiday Dates

Deadline for Giving Tree Gifts	December 4, Noon
LaNoche Azul Advent Dinner	December 6, 6:30 p.m.
Advent/Christmas Concert	December 18, 5 p.m.
Children’s Christmas Pageant	December 21, 6:30 p.m.
Private Confessions	December 22 and 23, 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve Masses	December 24, 4, 6 and 10 p.m. Lessons and Carols, 9:30 p.m. in the Historic Church
Christmas Day Mass	December 25, 10:45 a.m. only
Solemnity of Mary Mass	January 1, 8:45 and 10:45 a.m.

Men Building Bridges

Mark your calendars so you don’t miss this annual event for the men of our parish. Fathers and sons (plus grandfathers, uncles, friends) are invited for breakfast and an inspiring presentation by former Viking Football Player Neal Guggemos on Saturday, January 14. Watch for more details!

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 **Mary Balster** at 443-3119 or **Wendy Rex Mielke** at 679-4155.

St. Vincent de Paul Fund

Just a reminder — We have money available in our St. Vincent de Paul Fund to help people in need with food, medical expenses, gas and other immediate needs. Please know that if you need help, it is as close as a confidential phone call to the parish office.

Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction can encourage you to explore a closer relationship with God. For more information and/or an appointment, call Deb LeMay at 448-7135 or Craig Hamilton at 612-237-3463. Scholarships are available — call the parish office.

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



New Roman Missal

Well, we made it through our first weekend Liturgies with the new words and prayers and I think we did pretty well! It's important to remember that there have been changes for 2,000 years and there will certainly be more in the future! It just takes a bit of practice and a sense of humor (when you don't get it exactly right). And, there is a very definite positive — it gives us an opportunity to slow down and think about the beautiful words spoken at our Liturgies.

LaNoche Azul "Soon and Very Soon"

I hope you are planning to join me and your fellow parishioners at our 10th annual **LaNoche Azul Holiday Gathering this Tuesday, December 6**. The social and dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. and there will be wonderful entertainment. The **Adult Bell Choir** will perform before dinner and following dinner, first we will be treated to violin music performed by our very talented young parishioner **Beatrice Grant** (who you may have heard at our "St. Victoria's Got Talent" show last August) and then parishioner **Janie Jasin along with Chez Raginiak** will welcome you to smile, to laugh and enjoy the moments, miracles and music. The event, hosted each year by our Focus Groups, is always a wonderful evening and this year will be no exception. There's still time to make a reservation — call the parish office first thing Monday! (The suggested cost is \$20 per person.)

Catholic Services Appeal

Thanks to the generosity of parishioners who contributed or pledged to the Archdiocese's Catholic Services Appeal, we recently received a check for \$8,482.50 (with more expected later). Each parish receives 25 percent of all donations from parishioners to use for Catholic formation, educational programs or for the greatest needs facing the parish.

Thank You

My thanks to everyone — from the littlest to the biggest — for the many, many gifts that have been provided for those who are in need. Your contributions for our Giving Tree and Operation Christmas Child are just great! If you still want to share with others this holiday season, the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf can always use more food. Feel free to add your contribution to the basket filled by our children each weekend. Love INC has a special holiday food drive (see page 4) and Sharing and Caring Hands needs gifts for the many individuals and families they serve (612-338-4640).

Reminder: As I do each Advent and Lent, I invite you to join me on Wednesday mornings to pray the Liturgy of the Hours right after our 8 a.m. Mass. We join people around the world in this ancient monastic prayer. *Fr. Bob*

Our 12-Hour Eucharistic Adoration is held in the Historic Church, beginning at 8:30 a.m. (after 8 a.m. Mass) every Thursday and ends at 8 p.m. Jesus stays with us in the Blessed Sacrament to refresh us in mind, heart and spirit. **Chaplet of the Divine Mercy follows.**

Happenings at St. Victoria...

Masses on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, December 8, will be at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. with both celebrated in the Historic Church.

Christmas Concert

Please join us for our 15th annual St. Victoria Advent/Christmas Concert on Sunday December 18, at 5 p.m. This year's program entitled "God Is With Us" will feature our wonderful Adult Choir, fantastic Praise and Worship Band and our beautiful Adult Handbell Choir! We've been rehearsing for this event since our first rehearsal at the beginning of September.



This program will, as always, put you and your family in the spirit of Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in song. From contemporary music to traditional, there'll be something for everyone!

And, as we always do, there will be a free-will offering for the CAP Agency. We will also have a reception with cake and coffee afterwards. Please come for what has become a beautiful holiday tradition for the St. Victoria Parish Family.

Calling All Dancers

We are looking for dancers ages 8 to 18 to participate in Liturgical Dance at our Advent/Christmas Concert again this year. The concert is on Sunday, December 18, at 5 p.m. If you would like to dance, please contact Jamie in the parish office as soon as possible.

Sharing and Caring Hands

Volunteers from St. Victoria will help serve a meal at Sharing and Caring Hands **Monday, December 19**. Call Jane Wenning at 763-218-2083 for information and/or to volunteer for future dates. St. Victoria volunteers serve on the third Monday of every month.

Elsewhere...

- **Pancake and French Toast Breakfast** sponsored by the Victoria Lions **today, Sunday, Dec. 4**, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Victoria City Hall.
- **Open Window Theatre**, a project of Epiphany Studio Productions, is presenting "The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge," December 2 through December 30. For schedule see at www.openwindowtheatre.org or call 651-955-9123.
- **Waffle and Pancake Breakfast with Santa**, Shakopee KC Hall, Sunday, Dec. 11, 8 a.m. to noon.
- **Steak and Shrimp Dinner**, Friday, Dec. 9, Shakopee KC Hall, 5 to 8 p.m.
- **Lessons and Carols for Advent**, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity Chorale, St. Mary's Chapel, 2260 Summit Ave., St. Paul, **today, Sunday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m.** Free, open to the public.
- **Dad's Belgian Waffles** and bake sale, G.A. in Chaska, **today, Sunday, Dec. 4**, 8 a.m. to noon.
- **Joyful and Triumphant** featuring Christmas Chorale, Land of Lakes Choirboys and Festival Community Orchestra, Friday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m., Maternity of Blessed Virgin, St. Paul and Friday and Saturday, Dec. 16 and 17, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph the Worker, Maple Grove.

Faith Formation Grades K-8



Year of the Family

Faith Formation Classes for Grades K through 8 will meet this week on Wednesday, December 7, as scheduled!

We will continue our Advent Journey with the kids as we begin each week of class during Advent in the Worship Space around the Advent Wreath!



Upcoming Faith Formation Schedule:

- December 14 — Class as usual.
- December 21 — Christmas Pageant, 6:30 p.m., in the Worship Space. Please check out the insert and plan to attend!
- December 28 — No classes.
- January 4 — No classes.

Thank you to the 58 5th and 6th Graders who joined us at GRAND SLAM on November 18 for a night of fun! We have wonderful young people who always represent St. Victoria Parish family in style. A **special thank you** to the adults who volunteered to attend as chaperones. Without help from adults, these fun events for our kids could not happen! It was a fantastic night.

Upcoming Parenting Opportunity:

Consider it JOY will meet next on December 14 during both the 5 and 6:30 p.m. Faith Formation Sessions in the Reconciliation Room. Facilitated by Lisa Payne. Contact her at lisakpayne@comcast.net.

Christmas Pageant:

Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant is Wednesday, December 21, in the Worship Space, starting at 6:30 p.m.

All children and youth ages 4 through Grade 8 are invited to be a part of this special family event. The evening will include Little Ringers, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Pageant and treats! What a wonderful way to begin this holy season. If you have a child who wants to be a part of this event, please contact me or Joni Wohl. We have only one practice on Sunday, December 18, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Worship Space. All those who will be a part of the pageant should plan to attend. (**Note: If your child is only participating as a Little Ringer, it is not necessary to attend the rehearsal.**) Please sign up by the deadline date of December 15.

Director of Faith Formation

Amy Kusber

akusber@stvictoria.org, 443-2661 x33

Assistant Director of Faith Formation

Joni Wohl

jwohl@stvictoria.org, 443-2661 x12

www.stvictoria.net

Give the Gift of Food

Love INC is coordinating giving Christmas Food packages again this year — a wonderful way for your family to share the love of Jesus this season. Gather on Saturday, December 17, 9 a.m., at either Westwood Community Church in Chanhassen or Valley Evangelical Free Church in Chaska to wrap and deliver food packages. Or, sponsor a food package for \$35. Call 448-2508 or visit www.loveincecc.org and click on Give Food for Christmas.

Youth Corner

Giving Tree — We will be sorting and bagging gifts today, December 4, after the 10:45 a.m. Mass. Join us!

9th Grade Retreat — Thank you Sue Forster, Anna Shay, Paula Jackels, Greg Erickson, Joe Hamilton, Kelly Salwei and Deacon Ray for chaperoning our retreat. Your presence was instrumental to the success of the trip and you are appreciated! Thank you also to Pat Tedman for guiding our bus safely to and from Koinonia even with the first snowfall of the season! Finally, thank you to all of our wonderful teens for engaging in the spirit of prayer and making wonderful memories. (Please remember to turn in your surveys!)

A Day of Service — On Saturday, December 10, we will bake and decorate cookies and then visit an area nursing home to distribute our cookies, sing Christmas Carols and visit the residents. Then, we will go to Target to purchase gifts for the families we are sponsoring through Trinity Mission. Also, on the same day we will have volunteers staffing an all-day gift wrapping station at St. Victoria for our seniors who need assistance wrapping their Christmas gifts. If you know a senior who would like to take advantage of this service, please let me know so that we can work out arrangements. It will be a wonderful day of service, so please join us!

Service Events Sign-ups - Can, and should, now be done through the St. Victoria website!

Navigate to www.stvictoria.net and then:

Sacraments & Faith Formation > Sacraments > Confirmation > Service Event Registration

Service events will be posted roughly a month in advance so take a look and get signed up!

Oral History Project — Our Confirmation youth are invited to participate in an oral history project with residents of Emerald Crest's Memory Care Facility. Students will be asked to meet with and interview residents with dementia. These interviews will be recorded and turned into slideshows for residents' families. If you are interested in participating in this wonderful service, please sign up on the website.

Confirmation Schedule — a reminder of the upcoming Wednesday night schedule:

- December 7 and 14 — Confirmation
- December 21 and 28 — **No Confirmation**
- January 4 — **No Confirmation**

Youth Minister

Nick Tofteland

ntofteland@stvictoria.org, 443-2661 x32, 952-322-0434

www.stvictoria.net

Calling All Parents . . .

. . . Please Attend Virtus Training

If you are a parent who would like to help with our children's or youth ministries, **you must attend Virtus Training**. This is a mandate from the Archdiocese. **All adults who volunteer with children must have a background check and attend a Virtus training**. To make this process as simple as possible, we offer this training here at St. Victoria. Please think about attending on Monday, December 12, 6 to 8:30 p.m., in the St. Anthony Room. To register, go to www.Virtus.org or come on December 12 and we will get you registered. **Please help us continue to offer wonderful programs for our children and youth programs by attending this training.** Questions? Contact Amy Kusber at akusber@stvictoria.org or 443-2661.

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Report for **November 19 and 20, Week 21**, of our Fiscal Year:

Envelope Offering: \$ 14,459
 Electronic Offering: 4,147
 Total Member Offering: 18,606

Tithing: \$1,860 for Sharing and Caring Hands

Second Collection for Mortgage Debt Reduction: \$3,365

Thanksgiving Day Collection: \$674

The Stewardship Report for **November 26 and 27, Week 22**, of our Fiscal Year:

Envelope Offering: \$ 12,941
 Electronic Offering: 2,047
 Total Member Offering: 14,988

Please use your envelopes for your contributions

Next weekend (December 10 and 11) there will be a second collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious, an opportunity to provide aid for our senior religious, many of whom worked for years for small stipends. Their sacrifices now leave a substantial gap in retirement funding. Your gifts provide support for prescriptions, medications, nursing homes, etc. Thank you for your generosity!

Welcome to Our New Parishioners ...

- Ken and Gloria **Baker**
- Erick and Julie **Christianson**, Benjamin, Eleanore and Thomas
- Mike and Jacqueline **DiGiacomo**, Aidan, Dillon, Sydnie and Victoria
- Cindy **Funk**
- Tim and Judy **Kearney**
- Drew and Kristi **Nichols** and Audrey
- Mark and Dawn **Stapleton** and Isla
- Don and Julie **Williams**, Benjamin and Bradley
 St. Victoria now has 1,147 registered households.



Poinsettias for the Holidays

Would you like to donate a poinsettia to St. Victoria to beautify our worship spaces for Christmas? You can donate a flower in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The suggested donation for each plant is \$15. Please put your donation in the collection basket (checks made out to St. Victoria) at one of the weekend liturgies, mail it in, or drop it off at the parish office to Jamie Moore's attention. Please be sure to include the names of the person (people) you are donating in honor of or in memory of, and the names of who the plant is from. Deadline for donations is December 13. There will be an insert that will go into one of our Christmas Season bulletins listing all of the donors and memorials.

Wear your name tag after Mass this weekend and stop by the Victoria Subway for a complimentary cup of coffee or freshly baked cookie.



Ministry Schedule

December 8, 7 p.m.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Sacristan

Ardys Forster

Lector

Dick Brown

Eucharistic Ministers

Chris and Judy Sones, Pat Stephen

Greeter/Ushers

LeRoy and Margaret Worm

Servers

Dan and Sam Esping

December 10 and 11

Sacristans

Mary Foster, John Hintzen

8:45 a.m. Barb Forbrook, Steve Frederickson

10:45 a.m. Diane Forsythe, Lisa McColman

Lector

5 p.m. Jim Foster

8:45 a.m. Janet Bergeron

10:45 a.m. Ken Pavett

Eucharistic Ministers

5 p.m. Doris Schmieg, Jerry and Gerda Schmieg,

Nancy Schmieg, Sue Schrempp, Tim and

Wendy Amundsen, Greg Butler, Jim Curran,

Jan Dunlap, Bob Elfering, Donna Forrer

8:45 a.m. Laura Synstegaard, Diane Theis, Mary

Bishop, Susan Bogaard, Joanna Bongard,

Renee Boraas, Adrienne Carrica, Andrew

Cone, Terry and Rita Daly, Karen Dee,

Marge Diethelm

10:45 a.m. Stacy Reiff, Elaine Scholl, Erv and Linda

Spevacek, Jim Suddendorf, Carol Trantow,

Eddie Wells, Joni Wohl, Gerald Zeder,

Rachel Anderson, Kay Arnold, George

Barker

Greeter/Ushers

5 p.m. Rick Stucki, Gary Delaney, Carol Fischenich,

Roger Osweiler, Monica Grengs,

Cal Haasken

8:45 a.m. Gary Vierling, Ryan Wenning, Dave and

Rose Williams, Jon and Nancy Carlson

10:45 a.m. Mark, Mary, Bridget and Megan Kelly, Al

and Louise Lehner

Servers

5 p.m. Nicholas Salwei, Garrett Stubson,

Bobby Wulf

8:45 a.m. Kaija and Trista Kottke, Linnea Lynum

10:45 a.m. Dylan Gluck, Frank and Nicholas Heenie

Sound

5 p.m. Austin Aase, Zachary Osweiler

8:45 a.m. Scott Johnson

10:45 a.m. Al McColman

Music

5 p.m. Cantor, Caroline Swanson —

Acc. Sharon Schindler

8:45 a.m. Cantor, Sam Green — Acc. Sue Orsen

10:45 a.m. Jr. Youth Choir — Acc. Sue Orsen

Children's Liturgy of the Word

8:45 a.m. Brigid and Gracie Lund, Kathy, Ben and

Madeline Hester

10:45 a.m. Kari Lenzmeier, Kristin Hoffman, Kahler and

Maddy Kuntz, Sam Allevan