

St. Victoria Catholic Church
Bulletin No. 935550

This is an 8-page bulletin

Thank you

Mary Harvey
952-443-2661

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 18, 2011
The Fourth 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, [jschmieg@stvictoria.org](mailto:j schmieg@stvictoria.org)

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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 Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2011**

Food for thought . . .

The readings for December 25, 2011

Christmas Day

Reading I: Isaiah 52:7-10

Reading II: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel: John 1:1-18



The Gospel for Christmas Day is the prologue or beginning of John's Gospel. It starts, "In the beginning." This echoes the first line of the Book of Genesis. The connection is clear. The word (the eternal Son of God) already existed at the instant of creation. He had not been born as a human being and given the name of Jesus yet, but he was in the presence of God. It was through God's Word ("Let there be . . ." that things were created. "Let there be light," the first gift of the creator, was not only the sun, moon and stars, but the light of the Word. Human beings brought evil into God's creation, but that darkness did not overpower the light.

Which brings us to the question of the week:

Question of the Week

Mary accepted the Word and gave birth to Jesus, the Word made flesh. How do you give birth to Jesus in the world?

Ministry of Spiritual Direction

In the midst of a busy life, Spiritual Direction can encourage you to explore a closer relationship with God experiencing His love at a deeper level. For more information and/or an appointment, call Deb LeMay at 448-7135 or Craig Hamilton at 612-237-3463. There are scholarships available. Call the parish office for more information.

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated salads and desserts for our recent funerals. Your bowls and pans can be picked up after Mass in Elstan Hall.

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 January 7 and 8. 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 20** — Carole Doshan †
 Wednesday, **December 21** — Leo, Judy and Ryan Jeurissen †
 Thursday, **December 22** — Dorothy Schmiege (Anniv.) †
 Friday, **December 23** — Kenny and Deb Diethelm †
 Saturday, **December 24** — 4 p.m. George and Rose Krauth †
 6 p.m. Wilbert and Leslie Ann Schmiege †
 10 p.m. Myron Mechtel †
 Sunday, **December 25** — 10:45 a.m. St. Victoria Parish Family

Holiday Dates

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.
Stille Nacht	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.

(There is Mass as usual at 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 31)

Decorating for Christmas

We will be decorating the church for the Christmas Season on Wednesday, December 21, at 10 a.m. Anyone who would like to help is welcome! Please let Jamie Moore know you're coming by contacting him in the parish office. Thanks!



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.)

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.



'Tis the Season

Advent is filled with wonder and awe as we wait. In each moment the Divine is breaking into our lives, sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly but always present.

We first experienced this great wonder and joy at our 10th Annual LaNoche Azul. A beautiful event for all thanks to the many, led by our Director of Shared Ministries **Patty Schlader**, for creating a superb evening, filled with the "blue essence" of welcome and companionship. Thank you to our Coordinators who hosted and MC'd this year, **Sue and Al Bill**, who with great organization made the event memorable and fun for all. Special thanks to **Gary Geurts** and our **Men's Focus Groups** who set up, served wine, checked coats and helped with clean up. Also, to the **lovely women** who came out in a mighty force to decorate and gift us with their expertise (and some stayed for clean up too, truly like clockwork). Thanks to **Joe and Donna Forrer** for all their added touches, to **Jim and Janaan Hubbard** who assisted with hosting and to **Tim and Ann Raser** for donating the beautiful decorations. We are so blessed to have **Kim Heenie and her team from Island View** come and cater the event, providing the delicious meal that everyone waits for each year. Also, thanks to **Crossroads Liquor** who assisted us by delivering the wine thanks to the kindness of **John Englehardt**. We were blessed by the music of the season by **Beatrice Grant** playing the violin accompanied by her mother **Maria Grant**. What jewels. Our spirit was awakened by the sweet music of our **handbell choir** with **Jamie Moore** directing (and adding Little Ringer thrills). Now when it comes to entertainment, we have had the **best! Janie Jasin** was on fire and brought such wit and warmth. If you want to know any more information about our new, updated version of the Liturgy, she can tell you all about it. The laughter was ringing out of the church steeple! (Catholics do have fun.) **Chez Raginiak** blessed us with his stories and gentle songs as reminders of Christmas from times past. His music moved the hearts of all present. There was even a quick visit from his holiness, "**Bishop Joe**," blessing all with his candy cane crosier. The evening closed with a rousing polka . . . thanks to all our dancers who came forward to join me for a few turns around floor.

And, now we have more events to enjoy . . .

Today at 5 p.m. it is our annual **St. Victoria Advent/Christmas Concert** conducted by our Director of Music and Liturgy **Jamie Moore** and performed by our talented singers and musicians. (Details at right.)

Then there is our **Children's Christmas Pageant** on Wednesday, December 21. Our Director of Faith Formation **Amy Kusber** and Assistant Director **Joni Wohl** have planned a very special evening including music, dance and, of course, the pageant. Everyone is invited. (Details at right.)

I hope everyone will join me for our wonderful **Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Liturgies!** And, don't forget **Stille Nacht** in the Historic Church on Christmas Eve. (9:30 p.m., preceding our 10 p.m. Mass.) **Fr. Bob**

Private Penance

Fr. Bob, along with a guest priest, will offer private confessions at 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, December 22 and 23, in the Reconciliation Room and in one other location (yet to be determined).

Christmas Concert

Please join us for our 15th annual St. Victoria Advent/Christmas Concert **today, 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 preparing 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.

Christmas Pageant

This annual St. Victoria tradition is this Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 p.m., in the Worship Space. All children and youth ages 4 through Grade 8 are invited to be a part of this special family event that will include Little Ringers, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Dancers, Christmas Pageant and treats! **Everyone is invited!** What a wonderful way to begin this holy season.



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. Guggemos, who grew up in Winsted, MN, and who now lives in Eden Prairie will share his faith at this fun, inspiring event.

G.I.F.T. Event

G.I.F.T. (Girlfriends in Faith Together) will host another fun Bunko Night in the St. Francis Fireside Room on January 20 at 6:30 p.m.



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. The Eucharist brings peace to people's hearts and people with peaceful hearts make a peaceful world. **Chaplet of the Divine Mercy follows.**

Sharing and Caring Hands

Volunteers from St. Victoria will help serve a meal at Sharing and Caring Hands **this 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.

Help for the Holidays

Just a reminder — If you, or an individual or family you know of, here in our parish needs help for the holidays, we have money available in our St. Vincent de Paul Fund to help 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.

In addition, there's assistance available through Love INC of Eastern Carver County. This coalition of churches (22 at last count, including St. Victoria) through their "gap ministries" provide everything from furniture, linens and kitchen essentials to employment assistance workshops to money management. St. Victoria's Gap Ministry, "Clean Sweep," offers cleaning supplies helping people to care for their homes. Call 448-2508 or visit www.loveinccc.org.

The Bountiful Basket Food Shelf (also affiliated with Love INC and recipient of St. Victoria's food donations) in downtown Chaska provides food for individuals and families in need. They are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 556-0244 for more information. (You may register and shop on the same day with a valid picture ID and proof of residence such as a utility bill.)

In addition, the CAP Agency, serving Carver and Dakota Counties, provides aid and assistance to those in need. (The CAP Agency was the recipient of our Giving Tree gifts this year.)

On the Other Hand . . . These same agencies can use help in providing assistance at this time of the year. A phone call to Love INC (at the number above) will provide you with some suggestions. Bountiful Basket gratefully accepts non-perishable food donations (as well as cash donations) on the days listed above.

Other agencies and organizations throughout our communities are also in need of help this time of the year. Sharing and Caring Hands, for example, provides year-round help for individuals and families in desperate need. Last Christmas, the organization fell short of the needed amount of gifts for families in need. They are seeking donations of gifts for people of all ages — infants to seniors. If you wish to help, call 612-338-4640 or visit info@sharing&caringhands.org.

Other organizations you might check out include Simpson Housing, Catholic Charities, Salvation Army and the Union Gospel Mission. All offer help to those in need — but none can do it without the generous help of people who have the ability to share with others in these troubled economic times.

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

Preparing for the Holidays After the Loss of a Loved One

For most of us, the holidays are a time of happiness and joy — a time spent with loved ones. But there are many among us who are not looking forward to the days ahead. We offer this prayer as a small measure of comfort.

Such a loss! Such a keen and tearing pain. Even when I am in a crowded room, there is a loneliness I never knew existed. Comforting God, I have turned to you so many times for solace, and I come again. While the world is bright and sparkling, my heart feels leaden and has an emptiness that cannot be filled.

Lord, how can I enter into this season of joy? In my head I celebrate your birth into this world, but in my everyday life, I am filled with a grief that runs so very deep. You blessed me with a loving relationship and now it is gone from my life. How can I be faithful to that love and the memory of that love and my sorrow in this season of "Rejoice!?" Tears are so close to the surface all the time and helpful friends who want to "keep me busy" don't seem to really understand that I need to embrace my grief. I am afraid of letting go of the sadness and losing the deep love connection I had.

Instead of entering into the Rejoice of Christmas, I long for the sorrow of Lent. I beg you Lord, show me how the two are connected. I ponder the name *Emmanuel* and know that it means "God with us." With us. With me in this world, in this sorrow. If I look beyond my pain, I know that you, too, suffered so much in this world. I never understood so clearly before that *Emmanuel* is what your nativity is really about. You are in my world, in my pain.

Thank you, Lord, for the loved one you blessed my life with. Grant me now in my grief, a peace. Give me a comfort that might not make the tears go away, but that lets me feel your presence as you take up a place deep in my heart, *with me*.

Amen

Sister Circle

Sister Circle — for our moms of all ages — meets the **second and fourth Wednesday** of each month from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Elstan Hall. Sister Circle fosters the spiritual and social growth of mothers of all ages in the St. Victoria's parish family through conversation, literature, and prayer. Childcare is provided. Contact Missy Murphy at 443-1672 or Melissa Krcil at 443-2466 for information including the name of the book the group is currently reading and discussing.

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Year of the Family

Upcoming Schedule for Faith Formation Grades K through 8:

- December 21 — No regular classes so everyone can attend the Christmas Pageant Family Event at 6:30 p.m.
- December 28 — No Classes. **Merry Christmas!**
- January 4 — No classes. **Happy and Blessed New Year!**

Christmas Pageant rehearsal TODAY, Sunday, December 18, 1 to 3 p.m. in the Worship Space!

Everyone signed up to be in the pageant this year must be here today, Sunday, December 18, for practice. We will be assigning parts, getting costumes and running through the actual pageant a couple times! It is very important that all those who plan to be in the pageant attend this **one practice**. If you are unable to attend, please contact me.

What a wonderful way to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Thanks to all who will be participating in this wonderful parish event!

Christmas Pageant Family Event



Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday, December 21, at 6:30 p.m. for this special event. The evening will include the Little Ringers, Christmas Caroling, dancing and the Pageant. We will conclude our short time together with Cookies from the **Cookie Cart** — Cookies with a Cause! Join us for this fun children's event! Let us come together to **welcome the Baby Jesus**. Questions? Contact me or Joni Wohl.

Joni and I would like to would like to wish all St. Victoria families a Happy and Blessed Christmas. Let us take this time to remember the true meaning of Christmas by showing love to others everyday! Let us also remember the 693 children who received our Christmas Boxes through our Operation Christmas Child program this year. May they feel the love that was a part of filling every box!

Amy and Joni

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

Adult Drivers: If you would like to be a driver to transport youth for St. Victoria-sponsored events, you need to have an up-to-date Driver Information Form on file with the parish. You can obtain one of these forms from the parish office.

Trinity Mission: This was the first year our Confirmation students adopted local families through Trinity Mission and they did a wonderful job! We raised enough funds to purchase essential items for four families. Pillows, blankets, socks, pajamas and hair accessories were some of the requested items so we were blessed to offer these families a brighter Christmas season and we are looking forward to growing this project next year. Thank you Confirmation students for your donations and time spent purchasing gifts.

Chaperone Sign-ups: We will continue to offer a space on permission forms where parents can indicate if they are interested in chaperoning a particular event, but you also may now sign up to chaperone on our website. On our Event Registration page, visit any of the events with CHAPERONE in the title if you wish to register to chaperone.

Service Events Sign-ups: Can, and should, now be done through the St. Victoria website! Go 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 resident's 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 nights —

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

If inclement weather should make it necessary to cancel an event at St. Victoria, the information will be on the marquee in front of the church, appear on the homepage of our website, www.stvictoria.net, be on our facebook page, sent via Twitter and it will be announced on WCCO Radio and TV. If this occurs after regular business hours or during a weekend, office telephones most likely will not be answered. If you are scheduled to help with an event, donate food, etc., and there is bad weather (or for any other reason), please make sure you contact the coordinator of the event to make sure he or she is aware of any change in your plans. Thank you.

A Columbarium?

We have had some questions about our recently installed and blessed columbarium in our St. Victoria Cemetery. Hopefully, the following information will be helpful.

What is a Columbarium? It is an above-ground resting place with individual niches for the cremated remains of a deceased loved one.

What is this church's teaching on cremation? In recent years the church has taught that cremation is an acceptable means of final disposition of a body so long as cremation is not chosen to deny the resurrection of the body. The remains must be kept in a dignified manner (buried or placed in a columbarium or mausoleum) and not kept in unsuitable places or scattered. A cremation can be arranged through a funeral director.

Can more than one person be in the same niche? It is acceptable for two people, i.e. spouses or parent and child, to be buried in a niche. Each must be in an acceptable urn.

You will find additional information in the "Cemetery Booklet" that can be found in the kiosk in the Franciscan Commons, on the parish website (www.stvictoria.net) or in the parish office.

Elsewhere ...

- **Einladung!** German Christmas Celebration, Thursday, December 22, 7 p.m., Westview Acres Chapel, Good Samaritan, Waconia. German music, Christmas readings and a sermon. Call 442-7106 for information.
- **Catholic Single Adults Club** annual Christmas Dinner/Dance, Saturday, Jan. 7, Fred Babcock VFW in Richfield. All Catholic adults, 21 and older are invited. Dinner and dancing, \$20, dance only \$10. Reservations for dinner required by Dec. 27. No reservations necessary for the dance. Call 651-603-1412.
- **Open Window Theatre**, a project of Epiphany Studio Productions, is presenting "The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge," will be performed through December 30. For a schedule, visit www.openwindowtheatre.org or call 651-955-9123.
- **Rachel's Vineyard** for those struggling with an abortion experience, weekend retreat in the Twin Cities area, Friday through Sunday, Jan. 6-8. The cost is \$160 for room, meals and retreat materials. Financial help is available. Contact Nancy for information or registration at rvr-nancy@usfamily.net or 763-250-9313 and/or visit www.rachelsvineyard.org.
- **Help for Hurting Marriages.** Twin Cities Retrouvaille offers a program consisting of a weekend and six follow-up sessions several times each year. For information, call 651-457-8838 or visit www.helpourmarriage.com.
- **2012 Set Apart Conference** Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3. A faith-filled conference for women featuring keynote speaker Ruth Graham. Early bird tickets through Jan. 31. \$45 for one day, \$79 for both. Visit setapart@nwc.edu for more information.
- **Natural Family Planning** classes, based on comprehensive scientific research, are scheduled Monday, Jan. 9, at the Oxboro Clinic in Bloomington and Saturday, Jan. 14, at the U of M Medical Center—Fairview in Minneapolis. Call 651-232-3088 or visit www.tcnfp.org.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Here are some gift ideas you might want to consider!

- Available right here in the parish office are two CDs both produced by our talented musicians. *Words of Life* and *All is Calm, All is Bright* are available for a suggested donation of \$15 each.
- The **St. Victoria DVD** telling the story of our parish is available for a free-will donation.
- There are prints of the beautiful painting of our Historic Church, *Cherished Memories*, painted by parishioner Jim Hansel available in both small and large sizes for \$35 and \$50 respectively.
- Copies of our parish cookbook *What's Cookin'* showcasing all our wonderful St. Victoria cooks are just \$15 a copy (additional copies purchased at the same time are just \$12). And, a dollar for every book sold will be donated to the Bountiful Basket Food Shelf.

You can check out all these unique gifts on our website at www.stvictoria.net/wp/upcoming-events/advent-christmas-events/christmas-gifts.

Other opportunities to check out include:

A new book, *Love is the Answer*, along with a set of three CDs based on homilies and teachings of Fr. Greg Tolaas, can be purchased through St. Patrick's Church in Edina for \$45 each and all profits will be donated to North Minneapolis children's programs in Fr. Greg's memory. Google frgregtolaasloveistheanswer for more information about this spiritual and enlightening gift.

Bethlehem Gifts has a website showing beautiful handmade gifts from the Holy Land including statues, figurines, crosses, rosaries and other items, all hand-carved from 300-year old olive trees in Bethlehem and Jerusalem. To view or order the items, visit <http://bethlehemgifts.com>.

And Speaking of Gifts . . .

We hope that St. Victoria might be on your gift list. You will find a special Christmas Envelope with your envelope packet and there are other ways to gift St. Victoria as well.

There are Charitable Gift Annuities — in exchange for a gift of \$10,000 or more, you will receive a guaranteed fixed annuity payment of 6 to 11 percent (depending on your age). You will receive tax benefits and your gift can benefit St. Victoria after your death.

You can include St. Victoria in your will or name the parish as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Your bequest can go directly to the parish or be added to the St. Victoria Endowment Fund held by the Catholic Community Foundation.

You can donate stock to the parish. Or, many investment funds require that a certain percentage of the fund be distributed in cash every year and you might consider having some of those distributions paid to St. Victoria. You can also donate directly from your 401k.

If you would like more information, contact Deacon Ray in the parish office.

Stewardship Report

The Stewardship Report for **December 10 and 11, Week 23**, of our Fiscal Year:

Envelope Offering:	\$ 16,891
Electronic Offering:	2,572
Total Member Offering:	19,463
Second Collection for Retired Religious:	\$1,967
Collection at Mass of the Immaculate Conception:	\$588
YTD operating revenue thru October 31:	\$ 472,538
YTD Revenue Variance from Budget:	42,721
YTD Total Operating Income:	100,934
YTD Net Income Variance:	5,282

New Church Mortgage: \$3,035,393
October total revenues of \$472,538 including \$66,433 in debt reduction offerings.

Please use your envelopes for your contributions

Year-End Cut-Off

All contributions to be included with your 2011 giving statement must be dropped off in the parish office prior to December 31 (see holiday hours below) or if mailed, postmarked by December 31. IRS regulations do not allow a grace period and we cannot accept post-dated checks.

Holiday Office Hours

Again this year, the parish office will be closed several days over the holidays. The office will close at the end of the day on Thursday, December 22, and be closed December 23 through December 27. The office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, December 28, and Thursday, December 29, and then will be closed December 30 through January 2. With the exception of December 27 and 30, the days the office is closed are regularly scheduled staff holidays (Christmas Eve, Christmas and the day following Christmas and New Year's Day). Staff members are also encouraged to take unused vacation days during the holiday week. **If there is an emergency on a day the office is closed, please call Fr. Bob at the parish house. The number there is 443-2685.**

Please Note: The bulletins for December 25 and January 1 will be combined. You can always find up-to-date information on our parish website at www.stvictoria.net or you can find us on facebook or on our twitter account, @stvictoria.

Winter Travelers...

Just a Reminder... Just as you rely on receiving income on a regular basis, the St. Victoria Parish Family relies on your regular contributions to meet our obligations. If you plan to be away for an extended period this winter, you might think about the convenience of electronic giving. For more information, contact Joni Jeurissen in the parish office, visit our parish website, www.stvictoria.net, or check the kiosk for EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) forms.

Ministry Schedule

December 24 and December 25

(Please Note: There is no 8:45 a.m. on December 25)

Sacristans

4 p.m.	Joyce Burau, Ardys Forster
6 p.m.	Sue Halverson, Steve Hardek
10 p.m.	Sophie Cone, Barb Forbrook
10:45 a.m.	Julie Catalino, Diane Forsythe

Lector

4 p.m.	Joe Heiland
6 p.m.	Marce Johnson
10 p.m.	Joe Carrica
10:45 a.m.	Janie Jasin

Eucharistic Ministers

4 p.m.	Greg Butler, Jim Curran, Jan Dunlap, Bob Elfering, Donna Forrer, Joyce Heiland, Jennifer Salwei, Doris Schmiege, Jerry and Gerda Schmiege, Karl and Patty Tauscher
6 p.m.	Todd Hesse, John Hintzen, Barb Meinert, Mary Moore, Jim and Debbie Moss, Dennis and Judy Oas, Katharine Paulsen, Nancy Schmiege, Sue Schrempp
10 p.m.	Mary Bishop, Susan Bogaard, Joanna Bongard, Renee Boraas, Adrienne Carrica, Andrew Cone, Terry and Rita Daly, Jim and Betti Igel, Morrie and Alice Leuthner
10:45 a.m.	Gina Holman, Joan Klinger, Louise Lehner, Deb LeMay, Jeff Lenzmeier, Linda Lindeman, Cherie McGraw, Debra McMillan, Ken Pavett, Brian Pulvermacher, Rob Raiolo, Stacy Reiff

Greeter/Ushers

4 p.m.	Kevin and Mary Hoffman, Ruth Kroening, Gary and Sharon Lauwagie, Lyle Oddan
6 p.m.	Eric Hanson, Daryl Schmiege, Chris and Judy Sones, Gary Vierling, Ryan Wenning
10 p.m.	John and Mary Wallace, Tom Walsh, Eddie and Pam Wells, Ivan Contreras
10:45 a.m.	Janet Bergeron, Sam Deweese, Dan and Donovan Esping, Larry and Jill Fossen

Servers

4 p.m.	Jack Murphy, Erin Roan, Justin Stewart
6 p.m.	Maggie Katalinich, Mary Grace Linsley
10 p.m.	Colton and Connor Schrempp, Shandon Sutherland
10:45 a.m.	Matt and Michael McGraw, Christopher McNamara

Sound

4 p.m.	Colleen Dunlap
6 p.m.	Phillip Smith
10 p.m.	Scott Johnson
10:45 a.m.	Ben Mach

Music

4 p.m.	Little Ringers and Jr. Youth Choir — Acc. Sharon Schindler
6 p.m.	Cantor, Caroline Swanson — Acc. Sharon Schindler
10 p.m.	Adult Choir — Acc. Sue Orsen
10:45 a.m.	Cantor, Jamie Moore — Acc. Sharon Schindler

(There is no Liturgy of the World for Children)