

Church of Our Lady of Victory
2025 MINISTRY HANDBOOK

Pilgrims Of Hope



By recognizing that God is our first and only hope, we too pass from fleeting hopes to a lasting hope.

Pope Leo

PELICAN VALLEY AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF VICTORY
207 North Vine • Fergus Falls, MN 56537 • 218-736-2429

Living a Life of Stewardship is a sacred opportunity to pray for the grace to encounter Christ in Creation and renew our relationships with God, the Earth, and one another.

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**Please bring your Commitment Cards
to Mass October 11th or 12th.**

***"Lord take me as I am, with my defects,
with my shortcomings, but make me become
what you want me to be."***

Blessed Pope John Paul 11



**Jesus, how do you want
me to serve You?**

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Pastoral Council

The purpose of the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community Pastoral Council (PVACC) shall be to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ better known among the people of God of the ACC, to work with the Pastor relating to the pastoral mission of the PVACC, to foster pastoral activity in the PVACC and to serve as an advisory board to the Pastor. The Pastoral Council is not a decision-making body, but rather a research and advisory group. Four members from each parish are appointed by parishioners nominating members to serve a three-year term, with up to two consecutive terms.

PARISH COMMITTEES

Board of Education

This is an advisory committee for the parish whose task is to review, monitor and evaluate the educational activities of the entire school. Board members serve 1-2 three-year terms.

Church Environment

The Church Environment Committee focuses on enhancing the beauty of our church for the celebration of worship services. The Committee is responsible for decorating the worship space with flowers, fabric, art and creativity

for our liturgical seasons and Holy Days of Obligation. Volunteers with interior design skills or artistic abilities are needed to plan and create church decoration.

Ministry Contact: Mary Loreno - 218-739-6309 - maryloreno44@gmail.com

Fall Festival Committee

The Fall Festival is held the 3rd Sunday in September. It is a celebration of our faith community that brings together fellowship, food and fun for all ages and is the biggest fundraiser of the year. There is an opportunity for creative people to develop "Theme Baskets" to be sold at the Silent Auction on the day of the festival. This occasion offers many opportunities to volunteer. Everyone is invited to share in this event to support our parish.

Ministry Contact: Mary Loreno - 218-739-6309 - maryloreno44@gmail.com

Finance Council

This is an advisory council for the parish. It meets monthly to assist the pastor and the Parish Business Administrator with the decisions that affect the financial stability of the parish. The council is composed of the pastor, parish administrator, two trustees, one liaison person from the Pastoral Council, and seven members who are appointed.

Indoor Plants/Flowers

Members of this ministry provide upkeep of the parish indoor plants and flowers.

Ministry Contact: Bev Miller - 218-205-0245 - bamanne69@gmail.com

Lenten Fish Fry Committee

Every Friday during Lent (not including Good Friday) volunteers cook and serve walleye, oversee dessert and beverage tables, set up and clean up. All proceeds benefit the parish.

Ministry Contact: OLV Parish Office - 218-736-2429

Maintenance

Periodically, the parish needs help with special projects such as: yard work, plumbing, carpentry, painting and electrical work. Parishioners with experience in buildings and grounds maintenance help to manage the upkeep of church property.

Ministry Contact: Don Lindblom - 218-205-1240 - Ici@prtcl.com.com

Mini Cleaning of Church

The church cleaners ensure the church is ready for all liturgical celebrations. They clean the sanctuary and sacristy and arrange the prayer books in the pews among other things to keep things neat and tidy.

Ministry Contact: Bob Budke - 218-736-2429 - bob@ffolvchurch.org

Money Counters

Volunteers count the money collected through the weekly collection and special events.

Ministry Contact: Jo Weatherly – Cell 218-205-0390 - rjweath@gmail.com

Outdoor Grounds Assistance

Volunteers help to manage the outdoor plants to enhance the landscape.

Ministry Contact: Bob Budke - 218-736-2429 - bob@ffolvchurch.org

Social Concerns

This team invites all parishioners to proclaim the Good News through active participation in programs that serve those in need. They also seek to educate parishioners on the Catholic Social Teaching based on Vatican II, as well as the teachings of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Council, to shape a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace.

Ministry Contact: Mary Widiger - 218-770-2435 - mbwidiger@outlook.com

St. Otto's Cemetery Committee

The Cemetery Committee is responsible for showing available plots, keeping burial records, and providing perpetual care for the cemetery grounds. This committee ensures that the cemetery always honors the souls of the faithful buried in St. Otto's Cemetery and Mausoleum.

Ministry Contact: Mark Graff - 218-205-0528 - mgraff5454@gmail.com

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee, with the direction of the pastor, encourages parishioners to embrace stewardship as a way of life: to give freely of their Time, Talent and Treasure. The committee promotes the four pillars of stewardship (hospitality, prayer, formation, and service) within themselves and the parish by creating opportunities for parishioners to further relationships with each other. For example: coordinating retreats and pilgrimages; Outdoor Mass; Mardi Gras; Saints & Sweets; ACC Newsletter; annual Commitment Renewal and supports all parish ministries. The committee provides parishioners with ways to be involved and informed of the events of our parish. Members serve 1-2 three-year terms.

Ministry Contact: Kelly Schroeder - 218-739-6360 - drkellydds@yahoo.com

Votive Candles

The vigil candle ministry is open to anyone who would like to be a part of this service to the parish. The schedule is set up for monthly rotations of replacing candles that are burned out. If you are new Donna Madsen will call and take you through the ministry. The yearly schedule is sent out to those who want to be a part of the ministry. We are always pleased to welcome new members.

Ministry Contact: Donna Madsen - 218-731-2682 - dlpmadsen@gmail.com

Welcoming Committee

The Welcoming Committee is designed to connect with new parishioners and welcome them into the parish family. They provide new parishioners with helpful information, encouragement, and a friendly face. Volunteers visit new parishioners with a gift bag (provided by the parish). We also provide the food for the welcome luncheon and attend to greet and get to know the new parishioners.

Ministry Contact: Mary Jo Baez - 218-770-6107 - baezmaryjo@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Eucharistic Adoration

Being involved with this ministry will help you make prayer and spending time with our Lord a greater priority in your life. Consider being a regular adorer in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. We try to have two people present for each hour of Adoration. Bibles and other prayer and meditation books are available to enhance your hour of Adoration. Often you will not need them as the hour of silent meditation goes very quickly. If you are not able to commit to a regular time, you are welcome to come to the Chapel at your leisure.

Marriage Preparation

The community of Our Lady of Victory cherishes the witness of couples in their life-long commitment to each other. Sacramental marriages that take place in any diocese in Minnesota must participate in two programs: 1. A diocesan approved Marriage Preparation Course (See <http://omf.stcdio.org/marriagecourse-information> for the dates the Marriage Course is offered) and 2. Take the pre-marriage inventory and review it with the pastor or a married couple trained in reviewing the inventory. Usually these are done at least six months before the wedding. Married couples are needed to guide engaged couples through this preparation and to host engaged couple sessions.

Ministry Contact: Father Alan Wielinski - 218-736-2429 - fatheralan@ffolvchurch.org

OLV Mother's Endow Prayer Group

No matter your age or state in life, God has created all women to "mother" in some way, so please consider joining us for lively discussion as we study our faith and minister to each other. We also pray for our church and school community with the "heart of a mother". We welcome new members at any time, so feel free to drop in as able even if you can't make it every week. We offer a Zoom option if that works best for you. Following the OLV school calendar, meetings are every Tuesday in the St Joseph Room 9 – 10:45 a.m. beginning September 30th. Come study and pray with us!

Ministry Contact: Heather Lindgren - olvmothersgroup@gmail.com

Prayer Chain

Dedicated people pray privately each day for requests that are either phoned or emailed to the Prayer Line. All requests are kept confidential. Those on the Prayer Line receive prayer intentions and then pass them on to the person next in line. Contact persons are regularly listed in the Sunday bulletin.

*Ministry Contact: Jo Weatherly – 218-205-0390, 218-736-4938 -
rjweath@gmail.com / Alice Neuleib - 218-205-9007*

Rosary Group

The parishioners of Our Lady of Victory have historically had a strong devotion to the Blessed Mother through praying the Rosary. This group meets Tuesday through Friday at 8:30 a.m. in the church to pray the Rosary. Volunteers are always needed to lead and participate in saying the Rosary.

Ministry Contact: Helen Sand - 218-770-7402 - granny_grunt88@hotmail.com

Rosary Leaders

Volunteers in this ministry take turns leading the Rosary prior to Mass Saturday 4:30 p.m. or before Sunday 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. Mass. The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayer related to each Mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells.

Ministry Contact: Helen Sand - 218-770-7402 - granny_grunt88@hotmail.com

St. Joseph's Men's Group

All men are welcome to join St. Joseph's Men's Group. The vision is "That each man may encounter, experience, and share God's love and by God's grace let no man leave unchanged". Men are invited to join on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of each month at 7:00 a.m. for Adoration followed by the Rosary. We then break for coffee, fellowship and a brief study of the weekend Mass readings in the Fellowship Hall. Meetings wrap up about 9:15 a.m., with intercessory prayer for the needs of the men.

*Ministry Contact: Jeff Aschnewitz - 218-770-1103 - stjoesmen@gmail.com
Denny Roers - 218-671-0395 - diroers@msn.com*

Seven Sisters Group

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is a call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a "holy wasting" (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ. Each member commits to a Holy Hour on a distinct day of the week, thus covering a complete week. The commitment is to the day assigned; the Seven Sister may pray at any time on that day. If unable to offer the hour for that day, a substitute should be called. The Holy Hour is best done in Adoration, but it can be done anywhere.

Ministry Contact: Diane Aschnewitz - 218-205-9002 - dschney@gmail.com

WinGS (Women in God's Spirit)

If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit Galatians 5:25 This is an opportunity for women of all ages to come together in a welcoming environment, to pray and support one another through the Blessed Mother with her Holy Rosary. We gather on the 1st and 3rd Monday mornings at 9:00 AM in a member's home. Following the Rosary, the group will gather intercessory prayers and reflect on Daily Scripture. All are welcome and bring a friend!

*Ministry Contact: Diane Aschnewitz - 218-205-9002 - Wings.olv@gmail.com
Teresa Thompson - 218-770-7791 - Wings.olv@gmail.com*

PASTORAL CARE

ACC Mental Health Awareness Team

The ACC Mental Health Awareness Team has the following purposes/goals: education, promotion, normalization (de-stigmatize talking about mental health), connecting, awareness, letting people know they are not alone, empowerment, and sponsoring speakers. If you are interested in joining the ACC Mental Health Awareness Team, email

Ministry Contact: Deb Forstner at deb@ffolvchurch.org

Funeral Luncheon Committee

The Funeral Committee volunteers are compassionate persons who assist the family of the deceased by providing a meal after the funeral. Volunteers from Our Lady of Victory make up the lunch staff, and they work to provide lunch for the family and friends of the deceased.

*Ministry Contact: Annette Anderson - 218-731-5930 -
annettekanderson68@gmail.com*

OUTREACH PROGRAMS

ACC Newsletter

The Journey is the newsletter of the Pelican Valley Area Catholic Community (ACC). The purpose of the newsletter is to help share ACC news, upcoming events, and spiritual formation. We welcome parishioners from all three parishes to write articles, take pictures at events, or help proofread.

*Ministry Contact: Mary McGovern - 612-205-9938 - momcookies@yahoo.com
lone Koep - 218-205-7596 - lonek2004@yahoo.com*

Angel Tree

The Christmas Angel Tree program is a ministry in which parishioners purchase gifts anonymously for those less fortunate. Gender and age are received from the Salvation Army as well as various human service organi-

zations throughout the community. Many families are blessed through the fellowship of both giving and receiving, as the gifts are delivered by parish volunteers to the Salvation Army in time for Christmas.

Ministry Contact: OLV Parish Office - 218-736-2429

Bulletins/Mailers

Volunteers insert pages into the bulletin and help with bulk mailings as needed.

Ministry Contact: OLV Parish Office - 218-736-2429

Coffee & Rolls after Mass

The coffee and rolls ministry are part of our hospitality which is more than saying hello and welcome. Here we create a forum where families can gather with old friends and meet new ones. It may seem like a small thing, serving donuts and coffee, but relationships are built on time spent together. Groups and parish members of all ages volunteer to serve on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 Mass. Typically, 3-4 people are scheduled to set up, serve and clean up.

Ministry Contact: BJ Waasdorp - 218-205-1872 - bjwaasdorp@gmail.com

Drivers for Home Bound

Volunteers provide transportation to Mass, appointments, etc., for sick and homebound parishioners.

Ministry Contact: Bob and Gail Welle - 218-739-3648 - welle3@ptel.com

Food Shelf

The Food Shelf serves area families who are in need. Donations of nonperishable items and money are needed for the success of this mission. Non-perishable items may be dropped off in the gathering area and donations of money can be given through the weekly envelopes. Volunteers assist with transporting these items to our local food shelf. Volunteers also help distribute items at our local food shelf, stock shelves, serve on the board and unload trucks. Donations of produce from summer/fall gardens are appreciated. Monetary donations can be made through the weekly envelopes or directly to the Food Shelf.

Ministry Contact: Sharon Jurgens - 218-251-7237 - jurgenssharon@yahoo.com

Jail Ministry

"I was in prison, and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:36

Volunteers will be working with incarcerated men and women in the county jail. Requirements include having an open mind, open heart, and a willingness to be the hands of Christ to God's children who are temporarily separated from their faith communities. Volunteers are needed to: share the Sunday Scripture and offer Holy Eucharist; weekend REC retreat team, and prayer warriors who spend time in prayer either at home or in the adoration chapel

asking Jesus to lead all those in need back into Him and asking the Holy Spirit to guide those who work directly with the incarcerated, especially during REC weekends.

Ministry Contact: Jeff & Diane Aschnewitz - 218-205-9002 - diane@cm-rec.org

Meals By Wheels

Quarterly, our parish takes its turn for a week, picking up meals from the Senior Center and delivering to homebound people in our community.

Ministry Contact: Julie Dahl - 804-714-9026 - eightdahls@gmail.com

Meals for Families with Newborns

This ministry recognizes the transitions a family experiences when welcoming a newborn into the home. To help, volunteers will cook and deliver dinner to the family. This is a wonderful opportunity for any age parishioner to connect with young families. Whether you are a high schooler, empty nester or anywhere in between, please consider volunteering.

Ministry Contact: Emily Rooney - ehrooney91@gmail.com

Photography

With the various events sponsored by our parish, there are many opportunities to capture our parish life on film. Individuals with their own cameras are needed to attend these important events to take photos of our parish family. Professionals and amateurs are invited to help.

Ministry Contact: Tom Hintgen - 218-770-1808 - Zepherin07@gmail.com

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A prayer shawl begins with the shawl maker saying prayers for the recipient. The intentions are continued during the creation of the shawl. Shawls are blessed by the Priest before being delivered. When a person wraps oneself in a prayer shawl, the shawl serves as a reminder of the mercy, peace, and compassion that can be found in God's loving embrace.

Ministry Contact: Paulette Hoebelheinrich - 218-205-7355 - phoebelheinrich@hotmail.com

Quilting Group

Our mission is to make quilts from recycled jeans. With the proceeds we purchase bibles for the First Communion and Confirmation classes. We also have provided vestments for the priests, deacons and altar servers. New members are welcome. Meets after Mass Thursday mornings or 10 am in St. Joseph's room.

*Ministry Contact: Marietta Bullis - 218-998-3790 - mrbullis@prtcl.com
Georgie Waasdorp - 218 736-4943 - glwaasdorp@hotmail.com*

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members with 50 hours of training through a national Christian based program. Stephen Ministers walk alongside a person who is experiencing life challenges such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation or other difficulties. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual support with listening, empathy, encouragement, helping the care-receiver process their feelings and connecting them with God by praying for and with them.

Ministry Contact: Gail Welle - 218-739-3648 - welle3@prtcl.com

Peggy Rezac - 218-731-5528 - rezacjp@hotmail.com

St. Roberts Mission Circle

Meetings begin with devotion and praying the Rosary. A business meeting is held, and we close with coffee. Membership is maintained with the St. Cloud Mission Office. Members donate homemade dish towels and clothes, hats, mittens, quilts, rosaries and other items for mission efforts. Donations are made to the St. Cloud Mission and St. Cloud Seminarians. Local donations are made to OLV Prayer Shawls, OLV Baptismal Garments, and Someplace Safe. Meeting: Third Tues. of the month at 1:30 pm Sept - May.

Ministry Contact: Adeline Kapphahn - 218-739-2797

St. Theresa Circle

This is a social group who gather to provide friendship, socialization and support for one another. It's a good group (comprised mostly of senior women) to get to know fellow parishioners. All are welcome. Meeting: Second Tues of the month at 1:30 April - Dec.

Ministry Contact: Theresa Rudnick - 218-736-4924

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Altar Server

The young men and women who answer the call to serve at the altar as servers fulfill an important duty. They are called to help the celebrant, to set the table, and assist as he receives the gifts of the community. They do all these things as invisibly as they can so to not distract from the solemnity of Mass. Training is provided. Servers should arrive 15-20 minutes prior to Mass.

Ministry Contact: Sarah Pawlowski - 218-205-7921 - Spawlowski1971@gmail.com

Altar Server for Funeral Mass

Adults who are available and willing to act as an altar server for a funeral Mass are invited to consider joining this ministry.

Ministry Contact: Sarah Pawlowski - 218-205-7921 - Spawlowski1971@gmail.com

Small Altar Linens

To preserve the beauty and life of the altar cloths. It is appropriate for those who care for sacred vessels, cloths, and other instruments of the liturgy to accompany their work with prayer. This ministry is scheduled in one-month blocks. Linens are washed, pressed, and folded weekly or at least every other week basis.

Ministry Contact: Peggy Rezac - 218-731-5528 - rezacjp@hotmail.com

Altar Alb Care

The Alb Cleaning Ministry is responsible for washing the Albs for the altar servers each month. The Alb is a full-length white linen ecclesiastical vestment with long sleeves that is gathered at the waist with a cincture cord. The word "Alb" is a Greek word meaning "white". This ministry is scheduled in one-month blocks. Each month a different size Alb is washed, pressed if necessary and returned for the weekend Mass.

Ministry Contact: Pauline Fitch - 218-998-3991 - paced81115@gmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Ministers assist the priest and deacon with distributing the Body and Blood of Christ at daily, funeral and weekend Masses. Ministers must be confirmed, practicing Catholics. Attendance at annual training is required.

Ministry Contact: Helen Sand - 218-770-7402 - granny_grunt88@hotmail.com

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist for Homebound

Members of this ministry visit those who are confined to hospital, nursing homes and assisted living. The purpose of this ministry is to provide an opportunity for those who are unable to attend Mass to receive a spiritual visit and receive Christ in the Eucharist. It also shows the concern and support of Our Lady of Victory Church community. Ministers must be confirmed, practicing Catholics. People serving in this ministry are scheduled on a rotating basis.

Ministry Contact: Jennifer Dummer - 218-736-2429 - jenniferdummer16@gmail.com

Greeter

Greeters are the first reception into the community celebration, particularly for those who are guest and visitors. Greeters are warm, hospitable people with positive attitudes and compassionate expressions. Greeters provide a warm welcome to all and help people connect to the larger community. Serving as a Greeter is a great way for new members to meet people. This ministry is open to youth involvement. Greeters arrive 15-20 minutes before scheduled Mass times.

Ministry Contact: Parish Office – 218-736-2429

Lector

Lectors are ministers of the Word of God; they proclaim the Scriptures during Mass. Please consider this ministry if you have a clear speaking voice and are comfortable reading in front of people. The parish provides a resource entitled "Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word" to help readers familiarize themselves with the Scriptures. Lectors are scheduled cycle basis at the Mass time of their choice. Attendance at the annual training is required. Lectors are also needed for funerals and daily Mass.

Ministry Contact: Parish Office – 218-736-2429

Offertory Procession

Parishioners bring up the gifts of bread, wine and offerings at Mass. This is a great opportunity to involve the family.

Ministry Contact: Parish Office – 218-736-2429

Sacristan

The ministry of Sacristan is open to all those who are commissioned as a Eucharistic Minister and will be trained by one of the Deacons. The ministry has the privilege of preparing the items needed at the Eucharistic table and returned to the Sacristy after Mass.

Ministry Contact: Helen Sand - 218-770-7402 - granny_grunt88@hotmail.com

Audio/Visual

Coordinates with the Priest, the Music Ministry, and office staff to provide audio and video resources and support to those resources for parish Masses and special religious events. Training is provided.

Ministry Contact: Mark Case - 218-790-0837 - olvmultimedia@gmail.com

Ushers

Ushers assist at the weekend Masses, welcome and seat people for Mass, pass the offertory baskets, guide people to Communion, set up extra chairs at Masses with increased attendance (such as Easter and Christmas), hand out the bulletin after Mass and ready the church for the next Mass. This ministry is open to youth involvement. Ushers arrive 15-20 minutes before scheduled Mass times.

Ministry Contact: Louise Wentworth - 218-770-0473 - tlwent@charter.net

MUSIC MINISTRIES - "ALL ARE WELCOME"

Cantor

The Cantor is responsible for greeting assembly as Mass begins and providing musical leadership that fosters the "full, active and conscious participation" of the assembly. This ministry requires an audition.

Ministry Contact: Paula Leitch - 218-736-5079 - zenobia00@aol.com

Choir Member

Choir Members play a special role in leading the congregation musically during weekend, holiday, wedding, funeral, and other special Masses throughout the year. As there are numerous opportunities available, one can sing as little or as much as desired.

Ministry Contact: Paula Leitch - 218-736-5079 - zenobia00@aol.com

Instrumentalist

Instrumentalists are a very important component for enhancing the sung prayer of the community during Mass, as they provide a foundation for congregational singing. Whether you play piano, organ, guitar, a string, reed or wind instrument, we are always looking for instrumentalists to assist with weekend, holiday, wedding, funeral, and other Masses throughout the year. Though we welcome instrumentalists to join us during weekend Masses, having the added beauty of additional instruments is especially important during the holidays and other special Masses. All ages are invited.

Ministry Contact: Paula Leitch - 218-736-5079 - zenobia00@aol.com

FAITH FORMATION

Baptism

A Baptism class is required for those parents who are having a child baptized into the Catholic faith for the first time. Children who are 7 years old or younger are considered an "infant" regarding baptism within the Catholic Church. If your child is age 7 or older, we will work with you to find the best pathway that leads your child to the sacrament of Baptism – and the other sacraments. Currently, we do a baptism preparation meeting on an as needed basis.

Ministry Contact: 218-736-2429 - OLV Parish Office

Children's Liturgy of Word

To make the Scriptures more accessible to young listeners, the parish offers a separate Liturgy of the Word for children. The children process out of the church at the beginning of Sunday's 10:30 Mass to attend a kid-centered teaching of the Sunday scriptures and then return to Mass at the offertory. Creative volunteer teachers are welcomed. Format and Materials are provided.

Ministry Contact: Deb Forstner - 218-736-2429 - deb@ffolvchurch.org

Confirmation

The comprehensive Confirmation program teaches students about the Sacrament of Confirmation and prepares them to receive this Sacrament of Initiation. Other youth ministry activities may include retreats, rallies, mission, and service opportunities. Volunteers are needed to assist with this program.

Ministry Contact: Deb Forstner - 218-736-2429 - deb@ffolvchurch.org

Elementary Faith Formation

The program is our parish religious education for children in 1st through 5th grade, on Wednesday afternoons following the school year schedule. Volunteers serve as teachers and assistants and help prepare and clean up after snack. It is so rewarding to make a difference in the faith life of children.

Ministry Contact: Deb Forstner - 218-736-2429 - deb@ffolvchurch.org

First Reconciliation and First Communion

This comprehensive First Communion program teaches and prepares students for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. Volunteers are needed to assist in this program.

Ministry Contact: Deb Forstner - 218-736-2429 - deb@ffolvchurch.org

Youth Faith Formation 6th – 12th gr.

This program, which serves as our parish Religious Education program for sixth through 12-grade students, consists of dynamic programs that bring high school students and middle school students into a living relationship with God and each other. With a love for the Eucharist and a belief in the vitality of our faith, Youth Faith Formation participants help shape our parish and prepare themselves to spread the Gospel. Retreats and other special activities will be held throughout the year. Volunteers serve as speakers, teachers, and assistants.

Ministry Contact: Alli Neuleib - 218-736-2429 - allison@ffolvchurch.org

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Bible Study

Come join fellow parishioners as we learn more about the transforming power of the Bible with various program studies. We meet during the months of September – May on most Monday afternoons. You can attend either at 1p.m. or 7 p.m. No prior Bible Study experience required.

Ministry Contact: Dcn. Dean Pawlowski - 218-205-7921 - dpawlowski@otpc.com

OCIA (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

This program is led by the leadership team from the parish. OCIA presents teachings of the Catholic Church, spiritual support and prayer for adults discerning their call to join the Catholic Church. It is also a wonderful way to revisit the religious education you received in the past. Weekly meetings are held September until shortly after Easter, with occasional breaks for holidays. Parishioners are needed as team members, sponsors and prayer partners. Participating in OCIA will help you grow in your faith as you help others grow in their faith!

Ministry Contact: Jennifer Dummer - 218-770-1594 - jenniferdummer16@gmail.com

Parish Library

OLV's Parish Library, located in the Church Gathering Space, works similar to the "Little Free Library" concept where books are donated and shared. Parishioners are encouraged to donate Catholic/Christian books of interest, no check out required. Please place donated books below the bookshelf.

Ministry Contact: Connie Graff - 218-205-6395 - connie.graff1206@gmail.com

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Daughters

Catholic Daughters of the Americas engages in creative and spiritual programs, which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their faith in meaningful ways. Our national projects include Habitat for Humanity, Holy Cross Family Ministries (formerly Father Patrick Peyton's Family Rosary), Labour Society, Support our Aging Religious, and National Center on Sex Exploitation. Our State and Local projects include Habitat for Humanity, Support our Aging Religious, and Support our Seminarians. All Catholic women 18 and over are welcome to join. They are also welcome to attend our local meetings. Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of the months of September to December and February to June.

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Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council, and community activities.

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NON-PARISH FAITH ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning Experience

Beginning Experience is an international program that helps facilitate the grief resolution process for those who have suffered such a loss through separation, divorce or death and frees them to again love themselves, others, and God. This is accomplished by offering time-tested and copyrighted grief resolution programs presented by trained peers. Founded by a Catholic nun and rooted in the Christian tradition, the ministry's open, ecumenical spirit serves those of all faiths. Beginning Experience of Central Minnesota is

just one of over sixty teams serving communities across the United States. Team members lead participants through a program of presentations, private reflection, and small group sharing. A sense of community develops in an atmosphere of care and support that is the hallmark of each Beginning Experience weekend. www.beginningexperiencecentralmn.org

Demontreville Retreat

Demontreville Retreats provide an opportunity for men of all religious backgrounds and convictions to spend a quiet weekend away from the noise and confusion of the business and social world. Retreats begin every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. and conclude after supper on Sunday evening. www.demontrevilleretreat.com

Koinonia Retreat

Are you thinking about doing something for yourself to enrich your faith journey? Koinonia is a community experience in Christian living designed especially for adults 20 yrs. and older. It is a Catholic Retreat program sponsored by the Diocese of St. Cloud. The scheduled weekends begin at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and end on Sunday evening about 5:00 p.m. Full or partial scholarships are available for those in need. Applications and dates are available at www.centralmnkoinonia.org

Marriage Encounter

The emphasis of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is on communication between husband and wife who spend a weekend together, away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life, to concentrate on each other. It's not a retreat, nor a marriage clinic, nor group sensitivity. It's a unique approach aimed at revitalizing Christian Marriage. This is a time for you and your spouse to be alone together. It is a time to rediscover each other and together focus on your relationship for an entire weekend. Every marriage deserves that kind of attention! www.wwme.org

Pacem in Terris Hermitage

Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) is a Franciscan Center of Spirituality located near Isanti, MN, called to serve God's people through prayer and by providing the opportunity to retreat into the silence and solitude of a simple hermitage environment. The hermitages are nestled amid the natural beauty of forest, prairie, and a wildlife lake. Away from the struggles and influences of a secular society, the hermit/guest enters into the freedom of a "desert-like" environment, following Christ's example where "he would often go off to someplace where he could be alone to pray." Once free from the fast-paced, noisy, and over-scheduled life the hermit can more easily be aware of their needs both personally and in relationships. It becomes possible to listen, truly listen, to one's inner voice and the voice of God – allowing God to become the sole retreat director. www.paceminterris.org

Residents Encounter Christ (REC)

REC is a two-day retreat for jail or prison residents, designed to give the residents a chance to learn about Christ and how He can change their lives. REC is based on the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Team positions are open to adults who have participated in TEC, Koininia, or Cursillo. The team is predominately staffed by Catholics, but non-Catholics are warmly welcomed. www.rec-connect.org

Retrouvaille

This program offers a weekend experience, with six follow-up sessions, designed to provide the tools to help put marriages in order again. It is for couples with troubled marriages, including separated or divorced couples, who want their marriage to work. For information and registration: www.helpourmarriage.org

Together Encountering Christ (TEC)

TEC is a three-day retreat weekend based on the Paschal Mystery and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. TEC originated as "Teens Encountering Christ" in 1965 as a retreat experience for high school students. There are active TEC centers throughout the United States and foreign countries. CENTRAL MINNESOTA TEC began in 1978 and is one of several TEC centers in Minnesota. CENTRAL MINNESOTA TEC changed its name to "Together Encountering Christ" to better reflect the presence of both teen and adult participants on the weekends. The retreats are held on the grounds of Holy Family Parish, Belle Prairie, Minnesota, just north of Little Falls on Highway 371 twelve times a year. <http://www.cmtec.org/intro/index.html>

Stewardship of Treasure

In the fall of each year, the parish asks us to focus on the Stewardship of Treasure. Treasure is one of the three 'T's that form the tripod of spirituality of stewardship. We recognize all we are and all we have we have received as gifts from God. We thank God for these gifts by dedicating a good portion of them to carry out his plans and purposes in our time and in our place.

As we transition to doing commitment renewal online, we are mindful of the need to maintain confidentiality of your gifts. So, rather than have a place to write in your offering pledge on the participation form, please use the Pilgrims of Hope, Giving with Gratitude pledge form or consider online giving at <https://www.ffolvchurch.org/>

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A YEAR IN REVIEW





Pilgrims Of Hope

A LASTING HOPE

PLEASE KEEP UNTIL FALL 2026