

SAINT OLAF NEWS

WINTER 2020-2021 ■ NEWSLETTER OF SAINT OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH, DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS, MN



**NEVER WITHOUT LIGHT...
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND**

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*Serving as a living sign of
Christ's saving presence in
the heart of the city.*

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BACK BURNER TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR



WHAT WILL 2021 BRING?

by Fr. Kevin Kenney, Pastor

December 1 and this newsletter is hopefully arriving in your homes. What will December look like? I am writing this article the first week of October, still reeling from our Of Ministry and Music III Virtual Event that had the Sisters of Swing singing the Andrew Sisters music. My feet were happy and I could not just sit down for that last number so I joined them, not singing but dancing alongside them, what great fun! Remember the days of dance halls, ballrooms, and the like, where the music played, people danced with those they knew and those they did not? It puts a smile on my face and a tap in my toes.

Therefore, to get me in the mood, I plugged in my Victrola record player and I am listening to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" with the Vince Guaraldi Trio. Yes, it is a real record playing on a record player. I had forgotten that records have two sides to them and you have to flip the record in order to hear the music on Side B. Wow, we have come a long way! Times change and so do we. When we have the opportunity to think back, we remember days that were very different but in the midst of those days, we wondered what

tomorrow would bring. Tomorrow is here and we would have never guessed we would be where we are. Another Thanksgiving has passed and how different it was this year. We look at December and think, what will Christmas be like? Maybe we can focus on the true meaning of Christmas and journey to Bethlehem with Joseph and Mary as they seek refuge in an overcrowded town. We can sleep with the shepherds in the fields who awake to the great news of a baby being born. We can await the visit of the Magi and the gifts they will bring. The spirit of Christmas brings joy, reflection, and celebration. What will that look like this year? Will I be free from having to attend gatherings? Will I receive Christmas Cards sealed with tape? Will Christmas carols be sung? Will the mystery unveil itself? How will the Incarnation speak to us this year? Emmanuel, God with Us, is given; will we receive in our hearts the love of God made flesh? Music, voices, memories flood our minds as we remember, live and hope. What will 2021 bring?

Most of us cannot wait to say goodbye to 2020 but think for a moment what blessings this year you

may have received, what insights you may have gained, what cleaning you may have done. We will remember the challenges, pains, headaches and awakenings. Will things be different, will amends be made, will cures be had? We can only pray and trust God is with us and that God is willing to journey with us to new and better ways of living where people live the Good News born on Christmas day. Emmanuel, God with Us, lives in every person, neighborhood, town, city, county, state, nation, the whole world. What can I do in 2021 to see God, serve God, and help God to make our world a better place?

The long winter months are ahead but the beauty of the snow, the sound of the wind and warm winter drinks are in store. May we make the best of whatever comes our way. May we trust in God and know that God is with us. May we be kind to our neighbors as we are in the long haul together. May God bless us all and lead us to the fullness of life! Happy Advent, Merry Christmas, Blessed New Year and a peace-filled Lent. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand!



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO SAINT MARK - YEAR B

by Fr. Kevin Kenney, Pastor

Advent begins a new liturgical year and this year we welcome the Gospel According to Saint Mark. The Sunday liturgy is divided into a three-year cycle, Year A where we read from the Gospel According to Saint Matthew, Year B where we read from the Gospel According to Saint Mark and Year C where we read from the Gospel According to Saint Luke. Saint John's Gospel is intertwined in each year's cycle. Saint Mark's gospel is the first Gospel to be written and is the shortest of all the Gospels. Saint Mark has Jesus being very active and always on the move. One can image Jesus sweating and not letting the dust settle underneath his feet as his mission takes him to proclaim the Kingdom of God is at hand. Mark's gospel focuses on "Who Jesus is" and our call to discipleship. Traditionally it is said that the gospel was written between 60 – 70 CE in Rome. Christians were under persecution at that time and Mark could have been writing to equip those believers with knowledge and facts of Jesus' life. Mark's gospel will equip all of us as to how to come to know Jesus in a deeper way and to share with others the Good News of the Kingdom and

their call to discipleship.

Advent: The Gospel of Mark invites us to "Watch!" Advent is a time for waiting and watching. This year we are waiting to see what may happen in the world around us. We wait and watch to know if families can gather at Christmas. We wait and watch for the Lord to return. We wait and watch as the weather cools and the threat of snow gets closer and closer. Advent is a time to be "watchful" and "alert" as we wait for the celebration of Jesus' birth and ready ourselves for his return. We hear of John the Baptist proclaiming that one is coming after him who is mightier than him. We wait to know Jesus who will bring great joy into our lives.

Ordinary Time: During Ordinary Time we get to know a little more about who Jesus is when God's voice is heard as Jesus is baptized, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Jesus begins his healing ministry and begins to preach in Galilee, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Again, we need to remember that in

Mark's gospel one must listen very closely because Jesus' few words are powerful.

Lent: Lent begins on February 17. We will have to hang on tight as we follow Jesus through this Lenten season. We enter into the desert with Jesus, we go to the mountain with Jesus and his friends and we begin the walk to Jerusalem. Jesus seems to be in a hurry to get us to salvation for which I am happy. It won't be easy but it will be worth the hike.

May this New Liturgical Year be one where we come to know Jesus more deeply in our lives, understand who Jesus is and come to deepen our call to follow him. May our words and actions exemplify Jesus and may others come to know Jesus through us. These times are challenging but we do not walk alone.

May we be energized as we try to keep up with Jesus and take in all that he gives to us. May we return to Galilee to see Jesus and, as the disciples were commissioned, so may we be - to preach the Good news by the way we live.



NEVER WITHOUT LIGHT... ADVENT/CHRISTMAS AND BEYOND

by Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

As if it needed another reason to be appreciated, in September the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was recognized as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary by the International Dark-Sky Association. As was stated in the press release, "This is only the 13th location in the world to gain this special designation and at 1,098,000 acres in size – it is the largest." To promote and protect dark skies is to provide spectacular places to view starry skies and in this case, the northern lights, and to foster research in various areas.

From our vantage point here in the heart of the city, we too can look up and see lights; of the high-rise office buildings and residences, of the billboards and other advertising, and from planes, trains and automobiles, even during these quieter times of the pandemic. We have all at some point likely ventured out of the metro area

in the late evening hours and been astounded at the incredible stars above. It can seem counterintuitive to get rid of the light in order to see light, but the awe of the heavenly lights makes this case.

There is a lot of light pollution that both keeps us from fully experiencing the dark, and then from experiencing the light. Just consider the difference between a flashing light on top of a radio tower and really seeing the Milky Way flowing through the heavens, or a couple of stars from our urban backyard versus the waves of northern lights while sitting by a lake in northern Minnesota.

Through the darkness we experience the light. This is true not only when reflecting on the night sky, but as a part of our lives as people of faith. Many times the scriptures use images of darkness and light to proclaim the

power of God's love through Jesus Christ.

Darkness AND light. Both matter. As we begin a new liturgical year, starting fresh, what needs attention? What kind of light pollution or other obstacles are in the way of our truly seeing the light of Christ? What darkness from brokenness needs the healing balm of Jesus? The darkness of strained mental and physical health comes to mind and heart. The darkness of grief, loss and isolation, magnified by the shelter in place of the pandemic, can be a gateway to the light if we let it.

To be clear, we do not need to add darkness to our lives, we need only acknowledge the darkness that already exists. And to be doubly clear, the light of Christ never leaves us regardless of how dark things may seem. We are never without light.

continued on next page



The Church in her liturgical wisdom reinforces this in many ways. As we begin this New Year, one candle on the Advent wreath is already lit. We do not begin anew in total darkness. And the light continues to grow from there.

Even as we find ourselves at this darkest time of the year with shorter days and longer nights, our journey through the darkness is a progression of light, leading us to the Christmas mystery that Christ the Light has come into our lives, so let us live as children of the Light. The star of 2,000 years ago pierced the darkness of any and every kind. The vulnerability of the Christ-child embraces our most

vulnerable selves and carries us into the light.

And if through our darkness we live as God's children of the light, how do we carry this light to others? To really BE light for others? Through the Christmas season and into the calendar new year, are we committed to help another sort through their darkness, accompany them as they seek the light?

Sometimes darkness has been thrust upon others through poverty and experiences of homelessness. Left without light, this darkness can pervade the whole community. We can and must bear witness to those

in darkness that they too are never without light.

Embracing the darkness in order to more deeply appreciate the light is not something reserved only for a trip to the Boundary Waters. As disciples of Jesus Christ called to serve in the heart of the city, our embrace of the darkness brings healing, hope, forgiveness, justice and life in the Light of Christ. We are never without light.

REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THIS CHRISTMAS

This Christmas remember a loved one, living or deceased, with a gift towards church flowers and environment. Suggested offering is \$20.00 per remembrance. Names of honorees and donations will be posted at the church entrances. Make checks to Saint Olaf Church with the memo "Christmas Environment Donation." **Include donation and completed form in the collection or bring to the parish reception desk in Forliti Foyer by December 16.**

Please circle In Honor or In Memory of

From: _____ In Honor or Memory of: _____

From: _____ In Honor or Memory of: _____

From: _____ In Honor or Memory of: _____

Donation: \$20.00 for each remembrance: _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____





GIVING TREES IN THE TIME OF COVID-19?

by Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

For many, many years, this time of year has brought out holiday trees adorned with a variety of colorful paper ornaments with requests for gifts for guests of Samaritan Ministry and the 94 residents of Exodus next door to Saint Olaf. This year will be no exception. Sadly, the needs of those we are called to serve continue to grow.

Unfortunately, the realities of the pandemic mean that like so many other things these days, we will need to do our parish Giving Trees differently than in days gone by. Fortunately, there are easy alternatives to help you help others.

If you are able to come to Mass here at Saint Olaf, check out the Giving Tree located under the skylight near the 8th Street entrance. Select an ornament or two or more and follow the suggested options listed. Return the gifts to the reception desk when you return to the parish for Mass.

If you are not able to come to Saint Olaf for Mass (and there are many of you and we really respect why this is not possible), you may send a check marked "Giving Tree" to the parish or donate online and direct it to Samaritan Ministry on the donation window. You may also shop online and have the gifts sent directly to Saint Olaf.

What is needed? The following suggestions are intended to help guide your support:

- Men's hat, gloves/mittens, and scarf or a set
- Women's hat, gloves/mittens, and scarf or a set
- \$10 Target gift card for Exodus residents
- \$25 Cub gift cards

- \$25 or \$50 Target gift cards to assist families
- Men's winter coats (sizes 2X, 3X)
- Women's winter coats (sizes large and xlarge)
- Warm socks

We are happy to do the shopping for you so financial contributions are always very helpful. Though we are not able to have our annual Holiday Open House, Santa has asked us to offer ongoing food and hospitality on a daily basis! Your support will help us provide delicious, nutritious food support for our guests.

Please contact Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry with questions about how to help or for more information at **612-767-7632** or mgriffin@saintolaf.org.

Saint Olaf Samaritan Ministry is grateful for a grant of \$800 from the John G. and Lois M. McNutt Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation for purchase of Christmas basket items for families in need.



WHY FOUR PARTS?

by Joel Anderson, Director of Music

The last time that our choirs were able to sing together was on the Second Sunday of Lent, way back on March 8. The entrance hymn that morning was, 'Tis Good Lord, To Be Here. Little did we realize at the time that very soon we would not be able to gather to sing together, or even attend Mass at all. Six months later as I am writing this, we still do not know how much longer it will be until our choirs can serve at Mass once more. The pandemic has affected so many aspects of life, and choral music is one that has been hit particularly hard. This fall, a few choirs resumed rehearsals in a very limited manner - masked, socially distanced, and often outdoors. Many other choirs and performing ensembles are simply still not rehearsing. Because of the limitations of space, and other considerations including risk factors, it is not safe for our choirs at Saint Olaf to reconvene at this time. Instead, we have had a small number of singers at Mass on occasion since the pandemic began. We had vocal quartets sing for the televised liturgies during the Easter season, when there were no public Masses. Throughout the summer we mainly

employed a single cantor per Mass, as we usually do anyway during those months. This fall we have reintroduced socially-distanced vocal quartets at the Sunday 10:00am Mass, and varied small ensembles at the Sunday 4:00pm Mass. The African International ensemble has also returned in reduced numbers for the noon Mass on the third Sunday of each month. While it may yet be a long time before it is safe for full choirs and ensembles to sing together, a small group, safely distanced, can still beautify the liturgy, add richness to the music, and carry on the spirit of our music ministry.

Why four voices, on Sunday morning? Why not three, or five? Sometimes vocal duos, trios, or quintets are used, but they have various purposes and limitations. The simple reason is that four-part harmony is the gold standard for much of Western music, but especially so for hymnody, classical music, and much traditional (and even a lot of contemporary) liturgical music. Examples abound - J.S. Bach's famous chorales, for instance. Writing string quartets

remains a rite of passage for nearly every composer of classical music, and some composers have specialized in this genre because of the flexibility and outlet of creativity that writing for four nimble voices can offer. Many of the large works performed by a symphony orchestra, and even cinematic film scores, are based on four-part harmony when distilled to their purest essence.

Before going further, let us pause to briefly define a fundamental aspect of harmony - the triad. As its name suggests, a triad is a chord made up of three notes sounding simultaneously. Technically a triad can be any three notes, but common practice dictates that triads are stacks of intervals called thirds - for example, the notes C, E, and G on a piano. The triad is the smallest complete unit that, by itself, can define a chord without additional context. Two-note intervals can also do this in many cases, but only within context - otherwise there just isn't enough information presented by two notes to determine their harmonic function.



But if three notes is all it takes to build a triad, what's up with the fourth voice? The simple answer is that three-part harmony can be somewhat limiting, even though two of the voices are often doubled in four-part harmony (meaning that they are singing the same note either an octave apart or in unison). One reason for this is a concept called voice-leading. Harmony can either be thought of vertically, or in a linear/horizontal manner. Taking one snapshot of harmony in one particular moment is looking at it vertically and can be very useful, but music exists as sound travelling through time, so the horizontal factor must also be considered. The forward motion of music is what defines its essence as music (arguably); otherwise,

it's simply sound without context. Smooth voice-leading is especially important for choral music in order for it both to sound good and for it to be singable, and it is more effective and easier to obtain fully completed harmonies, with good voice-leading, in four voices than in three.

In a choral setting, the four parts are typically referred to as soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. The soprano usually contains the melody; the bass is the foundation upon which the harmony is built, and is influential in determining the paths that the inner voices will take. The alto and tenor typically function to complete the harmonic picture. In good choral writing, any two parts taken together will form a sort of contour called 'counterpoint.' This often is manifested by the

soprano and bass giving an outline or a sketch of the harmony, and the inner voices of alto and tenor adding the color and spice. Without all the parts together, though, it sounds hollow and incomplete. Other variations exist; for example, the soprano may be engaged in a descant (a melodic line that is above the main melody), and the melody may be sung by one of the other parts. Having four voices also enables colorful additions to the harmony, like 7th chords. Such additions to the triadic harmony are both for embellishment but also to lead the harmonic progression to a certain goal, and to add richness to the sound. Four-part harmony renders a completeness to the music that cannot be fully achieved with fewer voices.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our choirs may be on hiatus from singing at Mass, but that does not mean they are inactive. We hold virtual rehearsals via Zoom on Wednesday and Sunday evenings, where we do vocal exercises, read through pieces both old and new, and learn about the music we are singing through presentations on composers or liturgical matters. We have completed two virtual choir video projects so far - one in May, and one in July (find these on our website or YouTube channel if you haven't watched them yet) - and another is in the works for Christmas. As always, we invite new members to join our music ministry - virtually for now; and someday, again in person! For more information, contact Joel Anderson at janderson@saintolaf.org or 612-767-7628 (direct office line).

From Age to Age, our premier choir-in-residence, is also engaged in some high-caliber virtual projects that will be released in late December or early January. Stay tuned for announcements in our bulletin, and be sure to check them out at www.fromageytoage.org, where you can also find their social media offerings.



SAMARITAN MINISTRY NEWS

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

- Over the last few months Samaritan Ministry has hit full stride in serving guests under strict protocols to deal with the pandemic. Safety and health for guests, volunteers and staff are the top priorities. Saint Olaf has worked with the Archdiocese and the Minnesota Department of Health to develop and implement safe operating procedures for Samaritan Ministry, just like for Masses. Sneeze guards, extra tables for spacing, masks, gloves, hand washing and sanitizing, and social distancing all contribute to our new but necessary way of doing ministry. If you would like to learn more about volunteering for Samaritan Ministry, please contact Michael Griffin at **612-767-7632** or mgriffin@saintolaf.org.
- Winter gear (coats, hats mittens/gloves), jeans, durable shoes and backpacks are at the top of the list for needed items for our Samaritan Ministry guests at this time of year. New or clean, gently used items for adult men and women are greatly needed. Donations may be dropped off whenever the building is open during the week or on weekends.
- Where's the beef? Cooked up by our parish Chef Sean and served to guests on a cool fall day, these sloppy joes were made with a portion of the beef (total of 400 pounds) donated by Leticia and Mark Fogarty of Belle Plaine.

Adult Shelter Connect

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ADULT SHELTER CONNECT

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

In October the Adult Shelter Connect (ASC) celebrated its fourth anniversary of assisting adults experiencing homelessness to reserve space in the shelter system in Minneapolis. Saint Olaf has hosted ASC for all four of these years and works closely with guests who are looking for shelter on a daily basis.

When first proposed, the shelter providers, in conjunction with Hennepin County, were looking for a location that was accessible, open seven days/week, with good public transit options and geographically centered among the shelters. Saint Olaf fit the bill.

Staffed by a team from Simpson Housing Services, the ASC collaborates with the shelters run by faith-based communities; St. Stephen's, Our Savior's Lutheran, Simpson, First Covenant, Salvation Army, and Catholic Charities. ASC seeks to minimize the search effort of shelter guests by providing a real-time, accurate listing of available spaces, while also maximizing efficiency and communication so no space is left unused.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been stretches where ASC staff operated by phones only, but they never missed a beat to connect with guests and help secure shelter space. Over the four years, thousands of guests have come to Saint Olaf and found a warm welcome, hospitality, and Samaritan Ministry (clothing closet, food, etc.) thanks to the parish, and a shelter connection thanks to Adult Shelter Connect.

Everyone involved would love to work themselves out of a job if more housing means less shelter, but in the meantime, Happy Anniversary to our colleagues in mission, the Adult Shelter Connect.



SAINT OLAF AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT HITS IMPORTANT MILESTONE

by Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

A change of seasons brings an update of news regarding the affordable housing project planned for the Saint Olaf campus. Since the Fall edition of the newsletter went to press, the final lease agreement has been negotiated. Supported by our parish attorney and the project team, Saint Olaf and Aeon, our partner/developer in the project, agreed on final terms.

This triggered a submission of a request to the Archdiocese for a proxy by Fr. Kevin Kenney, Saint Olaf pastor, and the two parish trustees, Michelle Fox and Mike Burakowski. These three people, plus the Archbishop and the Vicar General form the Saint Olaf corporate board.

According to archdiocesan policy, "Proxy" means a written document executed by the Archbishop and Vicar General, as members of the corporation, to be used at a meeting which they are unable to attend, granting authority to the Pastor, a

member of the corporation, to cast their votes in favor of a specific corporate resolution stated in the Proxy.

A proxy is required when a project involves parish real estate, building or renovating parish structures or a large expenditure of funds. This requirement underscores the importance of protecting the interests of the parish. Generations of faithful people helped to secure the resources we have today. From today forward, it is critical to safeguard parish interests for the next 99 years of the affordable housing lease agreement.

To this end, the proxy request was submitted to the Archdiocesan Finance Council and the College of Consultors. These bodies review parish and archdiocesan actions in relationship with the Archbishop. They reviewed Saint Olaf's request and extended their support. The Archbishop and Vicar General signed

the proxy. A major milestone was achieved for the affordable housing project!

The next chapter involves major effort on Aeon's part to secure financing and develop project plans and design. Saint Olaf will continue to work with Catholic Charities on the final timeline for use of the Exodus Residence. The current lease is scheduled to end in June 2021. Catholic Charities is renovating a newly acquired space to expand programming.

A lot of time and other resources have been devoted to the project in order to hit this milestone. However, the most important milestone, witnessing 240 units of affordable housing opening on the Saint Olaf campus in the heart of the city, is yet to come. Remaining faithful to the parish and the people we are called to serve will help us get there.



Celebr-Eighty

Saint Olaf Catholic Church

Minneapolis, Minnesota
1941-2021

Celebrating 80 years of serving as a living sign
of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city

by Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

As we most happily rush to turn the corner into 2021, we also look forward to an anniversary worthy of significant celebration. Saint Olaf turns 80 this year. In the here today gone tomorrow world, this 80th anniversary is indeed cause for celebration, thus we will enjoy a year's worth of CelebrEIGHTY!

The inaugural Mass took place in Saint Olaf's church on June 1, 1941, and since that date, Saint Olaf has continued to flourish and serve the citizens and visitors of downtown Minneapolis. Through all of the changes manifested in downtown Minneapolis, Saint Olaf has remained a fixture of faith and service in the heart of the city.

The first pastor, Reverend James Coleman had a vision that inspired him to request the name of Saint Olaf for the new Catholic church in Minneapolis. This request came as a shock to many, (some thought it was "too" Lutheran of a name and not worthy to be the moniker assigned to a Catholic church). This request soon proved to be quite fitting, given the prolific Scandinavian population of Minneapolis and Saint Olaf Harraldsson's dedicated work in converting people to the faith. What better way to begin the essence of Saint Olaf's mission, one of serving members and the community with excellent and abundant liturgies, and also being a beacon of Christian hospitality, serving

the needs of those in the heart of the city?

Although Fr. Coleman would only serve as pastor for a very short time, and actually left due to illness before the church location was determined, he set Saint Olaf on a course that would change the faith landscape in downtown Minneapolis. Prior to that point, there was no Catholic church located in the heart of the city. The ever-important location and the guiding vision of Saint Olaf combined to begin the Catholic church that we continue to celebrate to this day.

The original church on the corner of Eighth Street and 2nd Avenue was completed in 1876 and housed the Minneapolis Universalist Society's Church of the Redeemer. That first building succumbed to fire in 1888 and was rebuilt in 1889 replete with the original clock tower and bells. There was a large pipe organ on the south wall of the church and on either side of the pipes were carved wooden reliefs of choir boys, which today, after surviving two fires, grace either side of Saint Olaf's vestibule. That first fire served as an eerie foreshadowing of the February 18, 1953 Ash Wednesday fire which destroyed the church a second time.

Due to declining membership, the First Universalist Society of Minneapolis

accepted the offer from the newly formed Saint Olaf Catholic church on January 28, 1941. That agreement was signed across the street at the Minneapolis Club, an institution that has remained our good neighbor and friend throughout the years.

Saint Olaf's second pastor, Reverend William F. Murphy's signature along with the Archbishop John G Murray's, is on the incorporation document filed with the State of Minnesota on February 17, 1941, securing the name of St. Olaf's Catholic Church in Minneapolis. Although we now choose to spell out Saint Olaf, that original abbreviation remains as part of our logo and history.

Throughout our history, Saint Olaf has been served by talented and dedicated pastors, two of whom served as Associate Pastors first and then returned to Saint Olaf as pastors. Fr. Patrick Kennedy's second assignment out of seminary was to Saint Olaf as an Associate Pastor, serving from October 1978 until June of 1982. Fr. Kennedy returned to serve as Saint Olaf's eighth Pastor from 2014 through 2019. Fr. Kevin Kenney arrived at Saint Olaf fresh out of the seminary in June of 1994 and served as an Associate Pastor until June of 1998, returning twenty-five years later to become our current and Saint Olaf's ninth Pastor.



Pictured above are some of the young priests who have served at St. Olaf and two of the pastors. From left to right: Fathers David Kohner, John Forliti, Kevin Kenney, Ralph Goman, Paul Sirba, Monsignor Francis Fleming, Robert Fitzpatrick, Patrick Kennedy, Thomas McDonough.

The roll call of Saint Olaf Pastors over the years:

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Reverend James Coleman | October 1940 - November 1940 |
| Reverend William Murphy | November 1940 - January 1949 |
| Most Reverend Leonard Cowley | January 1949 - December 1963 |
| Reverend Monsignor Francis Fleming | December 1963 - July 1992 |
| Reverend John Forliti | July 1992 - June 2004 |
| Reverend Eugene Tiffany | July 2004 - June 2005 |
| Reverend Mark Pavlik | July 2005 - June 2014 |
| Reverend Patrick Kennedy | July 2014 - June 2019 |
| Reverend Kevin Kenney | July 2019 - Present |

We are definitely grateful for all of the gifts our priests have shared with Saint Olaf. There is a veritable "Who's Who" of those who have served at Saint Olaf as Associate Pastors over the years, including Bishops, leaders in the Archdiocese, and many accomplished Pastors at parishes across the metro area. Each of these priests who got their start at Saint Olaf, blessed this

parish with their gifts and contributed to living out loud, the mission of Saint Olaf, *to serve as a living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city.*

This year we will continue to bring you occasional bulletin articles and Newsletter features dedicated to CelebrEIGHTY! All of the red letter dates we share will serve to tell the

story of Saint Olaf, how we got here, and how we continue to serve. We do not feel our age, for the vibrancy of our mission is lived in the heart of the city each and every day, through you, our members and friends. Thank you for your gifts shared and we hope you enjoy this year-long walk down memory lane celebrating the life of Saint Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis.

Note: For those of you who love the historical context, we do have some copies available upon request of Dr. Pauline Lambert's book, *In the Heart of the City: The Story of Saint Olaf Catholic Church Minneapolis, Minnesota 1941-2001*. This book was scribed in honor and celebration of Saint Olaf's 60th Anniversary and was a reference resource for this article. We also have copies of Fr. Leonard Cowley's book *We Had a Fire*, which documents the 1953 fire and destruction of Saint Olaf through the pastor's eyes. Contact the parish office if you would like a copy of either of these books. Again, we are grateful that both of these books and our current quarterly Newsletters were, and are, made possible through the benevolence of Japs-Olson who has generously supported Saint Olaf for many, many years.



"Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with diligence; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness."

Romans 12: 6-8

THANKFUL FOR SAINT OLAF'S LEADERSHIP

by Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

Saint Olaf has two distinct bodies of parish leadership, both providing advisory and consultative support to Fr. Kevin. The Parish Advisory Board and the Financial Advisory Board are both made up of active Parishioners/Associate Parishioners who have answered the call to serve, sharing their gifts in support of Saint Olaf. They serve three-year terms that are staggered to ensure continuity. Saint Olaf's trustees, Mike Burakowski and Michelle Fox attend both board's meetings and participate in discussions.

The Parish Advisory Board (PAB@saintolaf.org) is a key element for promoting the mission of Saint Olaf in various forms of service, outreach, and formation, and assisting the Pastor with his responsibilities. Our current Parish Advisory Board members are:

Paul Archambault (Chair)

Gretchen Agee

Sally Bjorklund

Jeff Craemer

Vicky Iacarella

Tom Kilkelly

Litho Louisy

Matt Norris

The Financial Advisory Board (FAB@saintolaf.org) is a consultative and advisory body mandated by Canon Law to support the pastor and the trustees in their stewardship of Saint Olaf's financial resources. Their purpose is to promote the financial health of Saint Olaf, assuring accountability, and assisting the Pastor with his temporal responsibilities. Our current Financial Advisory Board members are:

Justin Felicetta (Chair)

John Agee

Luigi Bernardi

Barbara Kassanchuk

Debbra Korkowski

Mark Kronholm

Lucille Rehkamp

If you are interested in learning more about serving on a leadership board at Saint Olaf, feel free to send an email to the Parish Advisory Board or Financial Advisory Board, or contact Fr. Kevin.



ROLLERCOASTER OF RACISM: DO WE RISK THE RIDE?

by Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

I am somewhere in the middle when it comes to rollercoasters and other rides. I don't avoid them nor do I obsess with riding the next best one to be put in a theme park. I enjoy the occasional thrill and then I'm usually happy to have my feet back on the ground again.

If ever there is a ride that takes me quite a ways outside my modest thrill-seeking comfort zone, I focus on the fact that the rides are inspected for safety and no matter the sensation, I will be returned to a home base right back where I started.

Since the murder of George Floyd the end of May, the realities of racial tension and systemic racism have brought about actions, reactions and an incredible variety of experiences in our community, across the country and around the world. The small steps of recognition of the issues involved get smaller when Black and

Brown sisters and brothers still see their sacred dignity violated because of the color of their skin. Promise can fade and frustration grows.

The rollercoaster sensation seemed appropriate for a few days. The ups and downs, the exhilaration and anxiety, the racing heart and relief all were tapped into by the unfolding of events after May 25. But then I read a commentary piece written by Fr. Bryan Massingale, an African American priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and a theology professor at Fordham University in New York. In the June 1, 2020 issue of the National Catholic Reporter he wrote the following:

First, understand the difference between being uncomfortable and being threatened. There is no way to tell the truth about race in this country without white people becoming uncomfortable. Because

the plain truth is that if it were up to people of color, racism would have been resolved, over and done, a long time ago. The only reason for racism's persistence is that white people continue to benefit from it.

Repeat that last sentence. Make it your mantra. Because until the country accepts that truth, we will never move beyond superficial words and ineffective half-measures (NCR-June 1, 2020).

No longer would the familiar rollercoaster image and experience be sufficient. If I really want to be part of living out the gospel responsibility to share God's love and build the common good to reflect the Reign of God for all, I need to embrace a different kind of ride, one where the return is not to the same home base, but a new base that acknowledges the benefit I receive from racism and works toward a different conclusion.

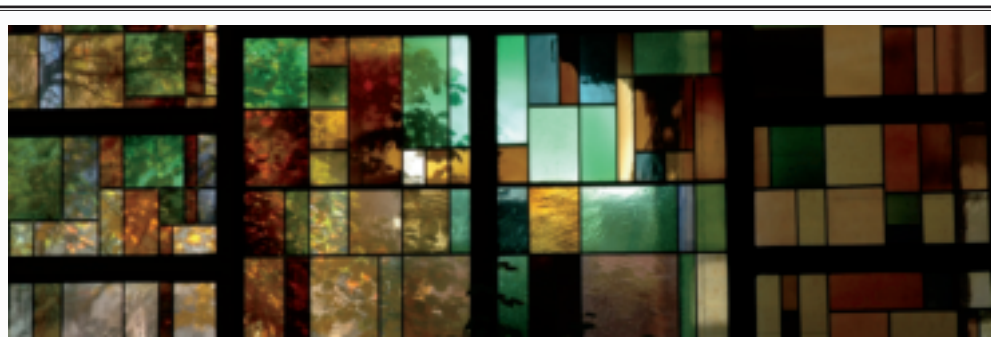
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It's as simple as that. It's as difficult as that. It's as necessary as that. And even though amusement parks are closed because of winter and the pandemic, there is plenty of opportunity to experience the thrills and chills by just opening one's mind and heart and applying oneself to the massive sin of racism.

If you need a place to start, for nearly 15 years, Discussions that Encounter has facilitated open discussions about race, racism and white privilege. These events are sponsored free of charge by Bethesda Missionary Baptist Church (Pastor Arthur Agnew) and Saint Olaf Catholic Church, and open to all. The vision was in its founding and continues to this day to provide an environment where people of all walks-of-life and backgrounds can openly discuss any aspect of racism.

Online video forums are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. Watch the bulletin and parish website for more details.

*[Note: Fr. Massingale's full essay may be found at www.ncronline.org. He is also the author of *Racial Justice and the Catholic Church*.]*



END OF YEAR GIVING

By Jeanne Peterson, Finances

Thank you for your support of time, talent and financial gifts you have shared with Saint Olaf. We would like to remind you that all donations per IRS rules must be received, postmarked and completed by December 31, 2020 to be considered a 2020 gift. This applies to checks, cash, credit card or ACH transactions.

For those who would like to make a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA or stock gift for 2020 see your account representative for details.

SAINT OLAF IS NOW ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!

Search for "Saint Olaf Catholic Church, Downtown Minneapolis" on Facebook and "saint_olaf_church" on Instagram. Like and follow us to see our daily posts and see what is new! Let us bring Saint Olaf to you!



*Saint Olaf Catholic Church,
Downtown Minneapolis*



@Saint_Olaf_Church





CLEARING OFF THE DESK, CHECKING OUT WHAT'S ON THE BACK BURNER TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR

by Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

I am fairly positive that I am not alone in my desire to get out of 2020 and put it behind as quickly as possible. Thoughts of a fresh, pristine, and healthy 2021 is the visionary "clean slate" that beckons us all. Before we close out the books on 2020, there may be a few housekeeping duties that will clear off the desk and allow you to put the finishing touches on whatever you had simmering on the back burner.

Saint Olaf's Annual Stewardship Renewal is in its final paces and will wrap up at year's end. Have you taken the time to return your Stewardship Intention Card? There is no better time to do that than right now. Letting the parish know of your intentions for the upcoming year helps Saint Olaf plan effectively and steward our budget based upon solid intentions, rather than guesstimates. During this unpredictable era of a pandemic, your shared intentions offer guidelines, even lifelines, of how we need to manage our resources to continue to move forward our mission in the heart of the city. Consider what, how, and when your stewardship response to Saint Olaf should be by reviewing your personal situation, renewing

your intention, and returning it to Saint Olaf. Please know that each gift in support of this parish makes a difference.

This past year, we thankfully saw many of our members move to online giving. When members could not get to Saint Olaf on a regular basis, the recurring online gifts did, safely and securely. Setting up a recurring gift can be done through the Saint Olaf website, SaintOlaf.org/GIVE. If you need assistance, contact Mary Kennedy in the parish office, or mkennedy@SaintOlaf.org.

Have you ever considered naming Saint Olaf in your will or estate plan? This past year, Saint Olaf benefitted from the generosity of a Parishioner who did just that; she named Saint Olaf in her will and her generous gift was gratefully received during this time of uncertainty. We are thankful for all of the Parishioners, Associate Parishioners, and friends of Saint Olaf who have remembered this parish in their estate plans. Remember to work with a qualified financial planner to determine what works best for you and thank you for your prayerful consideration of Saint Olaf.

The Saint Olaf Endowment Fund is another vehicle to provide a "Forever Gift" to our parish. The funds of this permanent endowment reside at Catholic Community Foundation and the money is invested wisely through their managing officers in established institutions that support Catholic values. A percentage of the interest from these funds is granted to the parish annually and as the endowment grows, so does the income from this forever gift. Last year, Saint Olaf received over \$5,000 for the parish use from the Saint Olaf Endowment Fund. We welcome more parishioners and friends of Saint Olaf to consider whether a "Forever Gift" is an option for you to continue the legacy of Saint Olaf in the heart of the city.

2021 is fast approaching. Clearing off the proverbial desk and taking care of that simmering concoction on the stove and seeing how you can positively impact Saint Olaf could be the very best way to ring in the New Year. We are very grateful for you and all the ways you make Saint Olaf shine. Here's to a blessed, healthy, peaceful, and Happy New Year.

SAINT OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH

STAFF DIRECTORY

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Kevin Kenney
frkkenney@saintolaf.org

Fr. Michael Krenik
frmkrenik@saintolaf.org

Fr. Mark Wehmann
frwehmann@saintolaf.org

ADMINISTRATION

Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator
mkennedy@saintolaf.org

Amber Guthmiller,
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Jeanne Peterson, Finances
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Cedric Smith
Forliti Foyer Receptionist/ Security
csmith@saintolaf.org

Derrick Smith
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Tariq Rauf
Forliti Foyer Receptionist/ Security
trauf@saintolaf.org

LITURGY, MUSIC, WORSHIP

Joel Anderson
Director of Music / Principal Organist
janderson@saintolaf.org

Matt Hinds
Sunday Afternoon Ensemble Director
mhinds@saintolaf.org

CHARITY & JUSTICE MINISTRY

Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry
mgriffin@saintolaf.org

FACILITIES

Jake Rea, Maintenance/Security
jrea@saintolaf.org

Bulmaro Garcia, Maintenance

Tanya Garcia, Weekend Housekeeping

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY
4:00PM

SUNDAY
6:00AM
8:00AM
10:00AM
4:00PM

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY

7:00AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM MASS

TUESDAY

7:00AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM MASS/CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY

7:00AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM MASS

THURSDAY

7:00AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM MASS/CONFESSIONS

FRIDAY

7:00AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
11:00AM ADORATION
12:00PM MASS

SATURDAY

9:00AM CENTERING PRAYER: VIA ZOOM
12:00PM MASS/CONFESSIONS
4:00PM MASS

SUNDAY

6:00AM MASS
8:00AM MASS
10:00AM MASS
12:00PM MASS
4:00PM MASS



PARISHIONER NEWS

BAPTISMS, AUGUST - OCTOBER

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| Anastasia Wilcox | August 12 |
| Ivory Edito Madje | August 16 |
| Samuel Alexander Mata | September 13 |
| Valeria Basunto | September 19 |

FUNERALS, AUGUST - OCTOBER

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Nicole (Colette) Bernardi | August 22 |
| Dr Estanislao "Tony" Openano Rimando | September 3 |
| Paul Buck, Sr. | September 26 |
| Dolores "Pinky" Powers | October 28 |

MARRIAGES, AUGUST - OCTOBER

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|---|--------------|
| Michael E Short & Morgan P Carpenter | September 4 | Zachary R Sather & Samantha M Stevenson | September 12 |
| William Mark & Page M Anderson | September 5 | Christopher J Plocki & Jessica M Kociscak | September 26 |



DECEMBER 2020

7 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION VIGIL MASS - 5:15 PM

8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS - 7:00 AM
 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS - 12:00 NOON
 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS - 5:15 PM

16 ORGAN RECITAL - 12:30 PM

19 ADVENT EXTENDED CONFESSIONS
 12:30 PM-3:30PM

24 CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - 4:00PM
 CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - 6:00PM
 CHRISTMAS EVE MASS - 12:00 MIDNIGHT

25 CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - 6:00AM
 CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - 8:00AM
 CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - 10:00AM
 CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - 12:00 NOON
 CHRISTMAS DAY MASS - 4:00PM

31 MARY MOTHER OF GOD VIGIL MASS - 5:15PM

JANUARY 2021

1 MARY MOTHER OF GOD MASS - 10:00AM
 MARY MOTHER OF GOD MASS - 12:00 NOON



FEBRUARY 2021

2 BLESSING OF THE THROATS
 (WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION CLOSER TO DATE)

3 BLESSING OF CANDLES
 (WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION CLOSER TO DATE)

17 ASH WEDNESDAY
 (CHECK SAINT OLAF WEBSITE FOR TIMES OF MASSES
 AND ASH DISTRIBUTION)

19 STATIONS OF THE CROSS - 12:30PM

24 ORGAN RECITAL - 12:30PM

Saint Olaf Catholic Church
215 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

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US POSTAGE PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT 30308



*Serving as a living sign of Christ's
saving presence in the heart of the city.*

Live stream the Sunday Mass at 10:00 am: youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live
Sunday Mass is broadcast on Sundays at 8:00pm and Mondays at 10:00 am on
MCN Cable TV Channel 6 and YouTube.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 12:00noon, 4:00pm

Sunday: 6:00am, 8:00am, 10:00am,
12:00noon, 4:00pm

LIVE STREAM SUNDAY & DAILY MASS

Streams for our Mon-Fri 12:00 noon Mass
& our Sunday 10:00 am Mass on YouTube:
youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live
Saint Olaf also archives all of our Masses on
the website: www.SaintOlaf.org/media

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday: 7:00am, 12:00noon

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday-Friday: following 7:00am Mass

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday:
following 12:00 noon Mass

PASTORAL TEAM

Fr. Kevin Kenney
Fr. Michael Krenik
Fr. Mark Wehmann

CONTACT

215 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402-2803
612-332-7471
www.saintolaf.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-4:00pm
Friday: Closed

For updated building information and
details on parking while at Saint Olaf, visit
us online at saintolaf.org or check at the
Forliti Foyer Hospitality Desk.

Contact Parish Advisory Board or Financial
Advisory Board Chair with any questions or
comments at:

FAB@saintolaf.org
PAB@saintolaf.org