

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

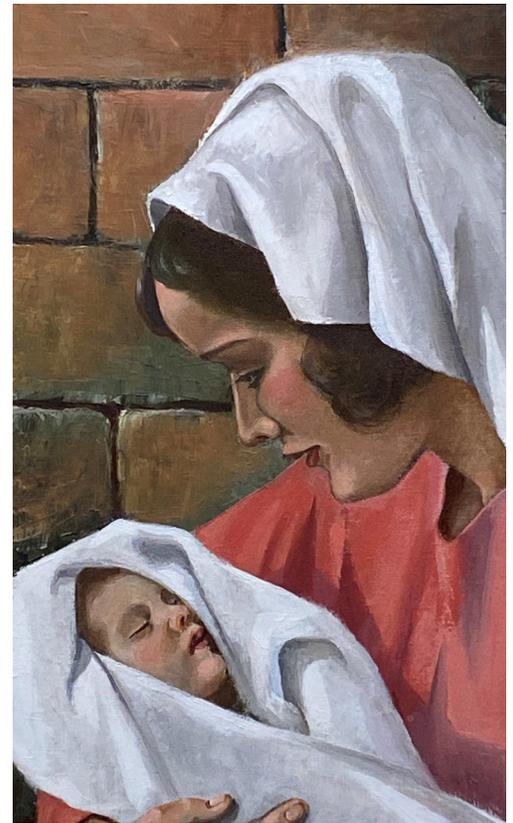
Fr. Kevin Kenney, Pastor

Happy New Year, Christmas Blessings and Peace on this the first day of the New Year. What joy we find on this day as we honor Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ. Mary takes all of us into her heart this day, knowing us by name, and gazing into our eyes. Imagine the Shepherds crowding the stable to see the newborn king. The excitement at the birth, the wonderment of the night, the animals surrounding, and the angels singing from on high. The humble surrounding has turned into a glorious gathering place where a new light, a new dawn, a new hope has appeared. Mary and Joseph sit back in wonder and awe, never had they even imagined this would be the way the baby would be born. What richness surrounds the stable, what glory rings from the heavens. As the days of mystery and challenges linger, what will the future hold? Mary and Joseph know their lives have taken them in a different direction, but Bethlehem, a stable, God's gift, now what? In the moment they sit, ponder, and reflect in their hearts.

What will this New Year bring you? What will the New Year bring us? As we ponder these days, we know that we carry hopes and dreams of what our lives and world could be. We take

each day as it comes and reflect on how God sees us being active in His movement. Do you know you have a part in this? How will we perceive what God is asking? How will we perceive what God desires for our world? In the moment, we take it all in. We have celebrated, gathered, sang, ate, rejoiced, and been gifted in many ways these last few days. New life has been celebrated, another year of life received, missing our loved ones who are no longer here. This year will be different but as we begin each New Year, we wonder how the Lord will bless us, shine upon us and be gracious to us. We are children of God who have had the Spirit of God's Son sent into our hearts. Jesus speaks to us through the Spirit and calls us by name.

The image that appears in the bulletin is a painting that has hung in my family's home for over sixty years. The painting was a gift from a man whom my Dad sold a house to back in 1962. It was around the time that my little sister Sheila was born. Sheila lived one month before being placed into Mary's arms and carried off to heaven. Sheila died of crib death. The image speaks to Mary holding a child whom many thought was Jesus. The child could be my sister Sheila who is warmly being held and loved.



Artist: A. Prokofiev

This image gave great comfort over the years to my Mom and always hung where she resided. We remember today all the love the Blessed Mother has for all children, especially unborn children. Mary comforts all mothers and fathers as they ponder the mystery of who their children might be. Mary comforts parents in the loss of a child as she herself was at the foot of the cross. Life hands us many mysteries and we are never alone in them. We may feel alone, desperate, doubtful, sad, yet, Emmanuel, "God with us", Mary's Son, is always present to comfort us, lift us and love us. Mary is never far away either. We are blessed and today, January 1, 2023, may all the ends of the earth fear the Lord. God bless you and keep you!

Thanks to all who encourage us to keep celebrating the Christmas season! The Christmas season concludes on Monday, January 9th with the Baptism of the Lord.



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

January 1, Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Nm 6:22-27, Ps 67, Gal 4: 4-7, Lk 2:16-21

January 8, Epiphany of the Lord: Is 60:1-6, Ps 72, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

WATCH SAINT OLAF SUNDAY MASS ON MCN CH 6

Watch our Sunday 10:00am Mass on MCN Cable TV Channel 6 on Sunday evenings at 8:00pm and replayed on Mondays at 10:00am. Saint Olaf also live streams our Monday-Friday 12:00Noon Mass and our Sunday 10:00am Mass on YouTube: youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

We hope to wrap up the Annual Stewardship Renewal and ask all to take the time to respond with your Stewardship Intention for 2023 as soon as possible. Each gift makes a difference. Your response is important for us to plan our budget effectively. Please share your intention, even if you are unable to commit, or plan to keep your giving at the same level for the next year. Your gifts shared as you Pray – Serve – Share are acts of Intentional Discipleship. What will you do with the gifts you have been given? Please review, renew, and respond by turning in your Stewardship Intention Card or completing it online at SaintOlaf.org/AnnualRenewal. Additional forms are available in the acrylic stands at the Church entrances.

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for loved ones lost who are associated with Saint Olaf. We will post news of any pending Funeral Masses or Memorial Services when they are scheduled. Check saintolaf.org and click on Funeral in the top right corner of any page to see the scheduled funerals.

Kathleen "Kathy" Newton, parishioner, died December 8. Graveside memorial service at Fort Snelling on Wednesday, January 11, 2023, 1:45pm.

IF YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO DIVE INTO YOUR FAITH, CHECK OUT THESE OPTIONS

Fr. Michael Schmitz's podcast "Bible in a Year" will be concluding soon but you can start anew anytime. Fr. Michael Schmitz will be beginning a podcast Catechism in a Year starting in January. If you are looking for something you can do in the New Year, check out these podcasts, you can follow at your own pace and listen from the comfort of your own home. And it is free! Check it out: ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear.

A STUDY OF SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II'S APOSTOLIC LETTER, MULIERIS DIGNITATEM

Fr. Wehmann presents on The Dignity and the Vocation of Women, starting Monday, January 23, 2023 12:30pm-1:00pm. Print and read the first four chapters of the letter for the first class. See the Saint Olaf website for more information. The letter can be found here:

https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/1988/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_19880815_mulieris-dignitatem.html#_edn1



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

WELCOME HOME

Please be attentive to the following:

- We support Facemasks. Wearing one is optional.
- Hand sanitizer is available
- If you are sick, please stay home

Building closes at 5:30pm Monday - Friday

Offices are open until 4:30pm Monday-Thursday

Chapel is open for private prayer from Monday – Friday, 7:30am – 5:30pm

+ Livestreamed

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31

12:00 PM MASS
 12:30PM CONFESSIONS
 12:30 PM ROSARY - CHAPEL
 4:00 PM VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD

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

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

NEW YEAR'S - BUILDING CLOSED AFTER 12:00NOON MASS

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 12:00 PM MASS (NOT BE LIVESTREAMED)
 12:00 PM AA MEETING - EDUCATION ROOM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 12:00 PM MASS+
 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:00 AM AA MEETING - EDUCATION ROOM
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 12:00 PM MASS+

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

7:00 AM MASS
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 12:00 PM MASS +
 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
 7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 11:00 AM ADORATION
 12:00 PM MASS+

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

10:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER MONTHLY ON SITE GATHERING
 12:00 PM MASS
 12:30PM CONFESSIONS
 12:30 PM ROSARY - CHAPEL
 4:00 PM VIGIL MASS

READ THE POST-SYNODAL PASTORAL LETTER; YOU WILL BE MY WITNESS

To read the Pastoral Letter, go to archspm.org/synodletter or scan this QR code. The Archbishop's video introducing the Pastoral Letter is also available at www.saintolaf.org and scroll down to News & Announcements on the main page.



ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #24

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Dec 12 - 18	\$38,722	\$60,000	-\$21,278
YTD through Week #24	\$567,717	\$590,349	-\$22,632
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK #5	PLEDGED	RESPONDENTS	% OF PARISH
	\$367,953	204	18.33%

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf