



Catholic Church

FEBRUARY 18, 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

PASTOR

Fr. Kevin Kenney

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Wehmann



SAINT OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH ■ MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA ■ 612-332-7471 ■ SAINTOLAF.ORG

# REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Fr. Kevin Kenney, Pastor

Our First Sunday of Lent is actually here. It may seem early but we have been preparing for this season for awhile now. Think about it, if you are like me, one realizes what one gained (weight-wise) at Christmas and in the month of January. One can realize how much time one spends on their phone and now is the time to wean oneself off. One can take inventory of all the "stuff" one has gathered in these past months and begin to distribute some to those in need. Lent is not a Catholic Weight Loss or House Cleaning Program but it is a time to be aware of what we are doing to ourselves and to practice discipline in our lives if we want to journey more closely with Jesus. Have you been saying to yourself these past months, "What I really need to do is..."? Now is the time to do it.

Fasting, prayer and almsgiving are the disciplines we are invited to practice during Lent. Each carries its own weight and for each individual, you know what is best for you. Walking an extra mile each day, filling a bag of "stuff" to donate or dispose of, watching what we eat or drink, spending time with people rather than social media, taking time to pray, placing your phone on silent, are all excellent ways to

live out these disciplines. Each of us knows where we need to repent so we can believe in the gospel. Mark's Gospel has Jesus proclaim, "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel." You and I know that the time is here and now. There is no excuse and no turning back. We need to keep moving forward as we learn from the past, repent of our mistakes, and we find the love and mercy of God in Jesus Christ knocking at the door of our heart. Will you open? Do you even believe that Jesus, who you may have thought was inside, has been waiting for awhile now on the outside for you to recognize where you have been? These forty days are a gift each year, how will you unwrap yours?

Small faith sharing groups have begun. It is not too late to join one. Many parishioners are part of our small groups and the Archdiocesan effort has many parishes partaking in this endeavor at the invitation of Archbishop Hebda and his Pastoral Letter, "You Will Be My Witness." Why not consider joining a group for an hour and a half a week and journeying with friends to be witnesses of Jesus' love.

The Catholic Services Appeal is underway and we have been invited to

pray about how we can contribute to this appeal. I have already sent in my envelope, have you? Whether large or small, prayers or a note, let Archbishop Hebda know how you support his guidance in the Archdiocese.

Today, Sunday, February 18th, is the Rite of Election at the Basilica of Saint Mary and the Cathedral in Saint Paul. Catechumens from throughout the Archdiocese will be gathering to be "elected" into the final phase of their journey towards the Easter Vigil where they will receive the sacraments of initiation. The introduction to the rite states: "Thus the Church makes its "election," that is, the choice and admission of those catechumens who have the dispositions that make them fit to take part, at the next major celebration, in the sacraments of initiation" (119). Our candidates join the catechumens as a support but too, to be recognized as baptized Christians who desire full initiation into the Catholic Church. Let us pray for them on this journey towards the Easter Vigil.

"Repent and believe in the gospel." Jesus' invitation could not be simpler yet so profound!



# EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

\*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMIBOLD ITALICS

February 18: Gn 9:8-15, **Ps 25**, 1 Pt 3:18-22, Mk 1:12-15

February 25: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18, **Ps 116**, Rom 8:31b-34, Mk 9:2-10

## PRAY SAINT OLAF SUNDAY MASS ON MCN CH 6

Pray 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](https://youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live).

## SMALL GROUP SIGN UP IS HERE!

Small Group Faith Sharing is coming to Saint Olaf starting in Lent 2024. The Small Group initiative is part of the Archdiocesan Synod and now moves to be centered in the individual parishes. Through this small group process, we will discern how we at Saint Olaf are called to serve in the heart of the city. The current schedule for small groups includes:



- Thursdays: 12:30pm – 2:00pm – Begins February 15, 2024
- Saturdays: 10:00am – 11:30am – Begins February 17, 2024
- Sundays: 11:15am – 12:45pm – Begins February 18, 2024
- Tuesdays: 6:30pm – 8:00pm – Begins February 20, 2024

Pick up a registration form in the acrylic stands at the Church entrances, or visit "Join a Small Group this Lent" on the main page of our website. You can also register via the QR code here.

## LENTEN REGULATIONS

Fasting: Restricts eating to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of a single day, and prohibits eating between meals. This is for Catholics beginning at age 18 until their 59th birthday. Pregnant women and people who are sick are not obligated to fast. Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Abstinence: Catholics older than 14 years of age may not eat meat on Ash Wednesday or any Friday of Lent.

## CELEBRATE! AFTER ALL MASSES FEB 17/18

Calling all More Mature Adults – Ages 51-60! We Celebrate! you after all the Masses February 17/18. Stop in Forliti Gathering Room after Mass and collect your special treat and a gift just for you!

## JOIN THE CHOIR FOR HOLY WEEK/EASTER

Come raise your voice in prayer, reflection, and praise as we celebrate the Sacred Paschal Triduum. The Parish Choir will sing Holy Thursday 5:15pm and Easter Sunday 10:00am; the Seasonal Choir will sing Good Friday 5:15pm and Easter Sunday 4:00pm; and both choirs will sing for the 8:00pm Easter Vigil. Rehearsals on Tuesday/Wednesday evenings. Contact Joel Anderson, Director of Music, to sign up or for more information. Email [janderson@saintolaf.org](mailto:janderson@saintolaf.org) or call 612-767-7628.

## GIVING IS FAITH IN ACTION

Today's Gospel said that Jesus "remained in the desert for forty days" (Mark 1:13, emphasis added). Remaining with Jesus in the desert is not easy. (Welcome to Lent.) Feeling like it's too difficult to do this by ourselves is okay. It's often exactly where God wants us—because it pushes us to rely on him. That can be a place of profound growth. Saint Olaf, and those we serve, relies on you to help us meet our many needs and the needs of our community. As you lift the cross Jesus asks of you this Lent, please remember our Catholic Services Appeal. We are counting on you. This Lent, count on us, and count on God! We'll walk in the desert with you. For more information about this year's Catholic Services Appeal or to donate, visit: [hope.archspm.org](https://hope.archspm.org).



## SAMARITAN MINISTRY NEEDS

Samaritan Ministry still needs winter gear, especially coats. We welcome new or clean and gently used items. Thank you for your support!



# THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17

10:00am Small Group Saturday Session - Fleming Hall

**12:00Noon Mass**

12:30pm Confessions

12:30pm Rosary - Chapel

**4:00pm Vigil Mass - Celebrate! The More Mature Adults - Adults 51-60 after Mass**

12:30pm Organ Recital - Kathrine Handford

6:30pm Parish Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Women's Bible Study - Forliti Gth Rm

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

**CELEBRATE! THE MORE MATURE ADULTS - ADULTS 51-60 AFTER MASS**

**6:00am Mass**

**8:00am Mass**

**10:00am Mass+**

11:15am Small Group Sunday Session - Fleming Hall

**12:00Noon Mass**

1:15pm Secular Franciscan Group Meeting - Edu Rm

**4:00pm Mass**

## THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

**7:00am Mass - Chapel**

7:30am Confessions

**12:00Noon Mass+**

12:30pm Confessions

12:30pm Small Group Thursday Session - Fleming Hall

6:30pm Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) - Edu Rm

6:30pm From Age to Age (FATA) Rehearsal

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

*PARISH OFFICE CLOSED*

**7:00am Mass**

7:30am Confessions

10:00am Saint Olaf Craftworks Ministry - Forliti Gathering Rm

11:00am Adoration

**12:00Noon Mass+**

12:30pm Stations of the Cross+

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19

**HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY! PARISH OFFICE CLOSED, BUILDING CLOSSES AFTER 12:00NOON MASS**

**7:00am Mass - Chapel**

7:30am Confessions

**12:00Noon Mass**

12:00Noon AA Meeting - Edu Rm

## SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

10:00am Small Group Saturday Session - Fleming Hall

10:00am Secular Franciscan Board Meeting - Edu Rm

**12:00Noon Mass**

12:30pm Confessions

12:30pm Rosary - Chapel

1:00pm Secular Franciscan Luncheon - Edu Rm

**4:00pm Vigil Mass**

## TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

**7:00am Mass - Chapel**

7:30am Confessions

**12:00Noon Mass+**

12:30pm Confessions

5:45pm Young Adult Group - Forliti Gathering Rm

6:30pm Small Group Tuesday Session - Fleming Hall

## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

**6:00am Mass**

**8:00am Mass**

**10:00am Mass+**

11:15am Small Group Sunday Session - Fleming Hall

**12:00Noon Mass**

**4:00pm Mass**

## WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

**7:00am Mass - Chapel**

7:00am AA Meeting - Edu Rm

7:30am Confessions

11:30am Nicotine Anonymous Meeting - Edu Rm

**12:00Noon Mass+**

- Building closes at 5:30pm Monday - Friday.
- Offices are open until 4:30pm Monday-Thursday
- Chapel is open for private prayer Monday - Friday, 7:30am - 5:30pm
- + LIVE STREAMED

## ANNUAL BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Jan 29 - Feb 4	\$20,192	\$21,910	-\$1,718
YTD through Week #32	\$911,103	\$872,332	\$38,771

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf!