



MARCH 29, 2020
THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

St OLAF
Catholic Church

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

A TIME LIKE NO OTHER

by Fr. Kevin Kenney

What can one say these days? We are in uncharted territories. It is as if we are living in a science fiction movie. Every day I wake up hoping that this is a bad dream but then I look out the window and no cars, no traffic and maybe someone walking down the street. Every day I need to wrap my head around the change that is taking place and rearrange my thought process of how the day will be. "Don't touch your face", "wash your hands" and "stay six feet apart". A completely new way of life! My hands are chapped because I have washed them so much, I am sleeping better because I am going to bed earlier and I have had more contact with friends around the world because we have time to video chat.

I have to say I was glued to every ounce of news that was coming forward until last Thursday afternoon my head was spinning and I just had to go to my room and close the door. I secluded myself from the world for hours just to calm down and not have to make decisions every five minutes as to what we were to do next. It was a waiting game to hear what Governor Walz would say, what President Trump would do and what Archbishop Hebda was going to ask us as parishes to implement. It seemed like once a decision was made, something new would appear and then we would have to

rethink the whole process. With schools closing, Churches closing, restaurants and bars closing, events being cancelled and downtown becoming a ghost town, we thought, "What are our next steps?"

We have limited the hours but our operation continues. We have staff present and during the usual Mass times of 7:00 am and 12:00 pm, we have the Blessed Sacrament exposed for a half an hour for those who are downtown. We have prepared sandwiches for those who come in hungry and have limited space for those who need a respite. The majority understand the situation and are thankful for what we offer, we ask for patience for those who are irritated and try to understand where they are coming from. Thank you all for your prayers for us. Remember that we are praying for you!

I hope you check our website and watch daily Mass. I have been trying to record Mass on my phone and then upload it to YouTube so you feel a part of the community. I look out and imagine your smiling faces sitting in the chairs and in the pews. One day we will be back!

This is a difficult time for all, people out of work, children home all day from school, people not able to travel, people not able to visit loved ones in certain buildings, etc.

Trusting in God is mandatory. God is with us and able to help. We need to be creative and ask, "How can I be safe and come out of myself to be present in a world that is "sheltered in place," living from day to day. Each of us feels the effects of the challenge. What we do with the challenge is what will bring us insight.

Jesus heard that his friend Lazarus was sick. Jesus decided to stay two more days in the place where he was. Lazarus died and was in the tomb for four days before Jesus arrived. Jesus arrived and was deeply troubled by his friend's death. Jesus wept. Being challenged by the people Jesus goes to the tomb and asks for the stone to be removed. Once this is done, Jesus cried out, "Lazarus, come out." Lazarus comes out tied hand and foot in burial bands. Jesus says, "Untie him and let him go." One day soon Jesus will unbound the world of this pandemic, in the meantime, we continue on our Lenten journeys toward conversion, change of heart, and renewed spirits. "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

Be safe, wash your hands, keep your distance and please do not forget about us. We still need your help and financial support. Every little bit helps! Thank you!



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

Mar 29: Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45

April 05: Mt 21:1-11; Is 50:4-7; Ps 22; Phil 2:6-11; Mt 26:14-27:66

WATCHING SUNDAY MASS ONLINE

If you would like to watch Sunday Mass but are currently quarantined please visit the Saint Olaf website at saintolaf.org. Once there, scroll to the bottom of the main page. The three most recent Sunday Masses are listed. If you would like to see the bulletin and other online media, click on the word Media. This will give you a selection of items, including another link to the weekly Mass broadcast.

PLEASE WATCH THE SAINT OLAF WEBSITE FOR UPDATES

On the Coronavirus and its impact on Saint Olaf. The main page of the website has the Latest Information posted as we learn of any revisions or updates. Fr. Kevin's Weekday Liturgical Commentary on the daily readings is also on the main page and is a great source for prayer and reflection.

FR. KEVIN WEEKDAY LITURGICAL COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

Saint Olaf is a connected community, and to assist you in keeping that connection relevant in today's world, Fr. Kevin is posting a daily reflection on the readings on the Saint Olaf website. Visit SaintOlaf.org, page down to find and click on the picture of Fr. Kevin with the subtitle, Fr. Kevin's Weekday Liturgical Commentary. Click on the daily link to view his commentary for your prayer and reflection.

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE

As of March 20, Saint Olaf has reached 35.85% of our goal of \$76,809. We have pledges and gifts of \$27,535 from 104 donors. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the 20 programs and ministries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

IF YOU NEED A PRAYER, FEELING DISCOURAGED, OR NEED TO SPEAK TO A PRIEST

Saint Olaf is a connected community. If you need a prayer, someone to talk to, or need to hear another voice, please give us a call, we are here for you, 612-332-7471.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY DONATIONS

With time on your hands at home, closets are being cleaned and we hope you remember St. Olaf Samaritan ministry. Adult clothing, new or gently used in good repair, are needed. HOWEVER, with no volunteers to sort and stock our shelves, we do not have room to store items. Please hold them and we will announce ASAP when we are back open for business. Thank you!



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

ALL DAILY AND WEEKEND MASSES ARE SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

Private Masses are being said by our priests covering the intention for that Mass. Intentions are available for Masses in April and ahead. Please call the parish office for more information.

ADORATION/RECONCILIATION SCHEDULE:

DAY	TIME	MAIN CHURCH
Monday-Friday	7:00am-7:30am	Adoration
Monday-Friday	7:30am-till line ends	Reconciliation
Monday-Saturday	12:00pm-12:30pm	Adoration
Tuesday, Thursday	12:30pm-till line ends	Reconciliation
Friday	12:30-5:30pm	Adoration
Saturday	12:30pm-till line ends	Reconciliation
Sunday	Closed to the public	

As we "fast" from the Eucharistic Table, offer prayers of healing to those affected, prayers of support for the medical teams serving the afflicted.

Watch an online Mass, pray the Rosary, read the Bible, if able, take a solitary walk in nature, take the BEST care of yourself and your family.

SUPPORT SAINT OLAF WITH PRAYERS AND YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

During this difficult time, Saint Olaf is doing our best to meet the needs of our parishioners and the downtown community. Supporting Saint Olaf via online giving is a great way to assist us during this time. You can give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift easily and securely from the Saint Olaf website. Click on the GIVE icon on the main page and then Click Here to Give Electronically. Follow the prompts to set up an online account. If you need assistance, there is a set of directions on the giving page or contact Mary Kennedy at the Parish Office for assistance, mken尼迪@saintolaf.org or 612-767-6204.

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK 37

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Mar 9 - 15	\$11,346	\$14,000	-\$2,654
YTD through Week #37	\$993,457	\$986,028	\$7,429