



## WHOSE CROSS ARE WE ADORING ON GOOD FRIDAY?

Michael Strande, Director of Worship

During the Good Friday liturgy, *The Roman Missal*, (the book priests read from during Mass), titles the time when a large cross is brought into the sacred space as, "Adoration of the Holy Cross." This part of the liturgy is not titled, "Adoration of the Holy Crucifix." As a student of the liturgy I ask, "Why does the Church want a cross, and not a crucifix, to be the focus of our adoration?" The answer comes from the gospels.

Three of the gospels tells us that a Cyrenian named Simon was "pressed into service to carry his cross." (Gospel of Matthew). The Roman Guard could press anyone into any service they deemed necessary. Simon was a bystander. When Jesus was no longer able to carry the heavy wood of the cross, Simon was forced to carry it for him. Simon then followed Jesus to the place of crucifixion.

The same three gospels tell us how Jesus instructed his disciples that they must be willing to pick up their cross and follow him. Once Simon picked up the cross for Jesus it no longer was Jesus' cross alone. Jesus' cross became Simon's cross.

The tradition tells us that Simon was a leader in the Early Church. However, in the gospels he takes on a symbolic meaning. Simon is the corporate personality of all disciples. Simon represents us. The

gospel writers are telling us that the cross we carry is not unlike the cross that Jesus carried. The cross I must carry is linked to the cross Jesus carried. The cross that brings me pain, doubt, fear, and suffering is one I recognize. As my cross brings me suffering, another cross brought suffering to Jesus. As Jesus' cross became Simon's cross, in a similar way, Jesus' cross becomes mine, if I am to continue his mission of ushering in the Kingdom.

The cross is a symbol of how we are called to follow Jesus' example of being a person of integrity. Jesus stood up for what he believed to be true. If I claim to be his disciple, then I must be willing to be a similar person of integrity.

For many centuries Christians have been taught that because of their sin they have contributed in the crucifixion of Jesus. This was a later theological understanding that developed in the Church. This understanding makes me a crucifier of Jesus because of my sinfulness.

However, this was not how the Early Church understood the meaning of Christ's suffering and death. Once I recognize Jesus' cross symbolizes my own suffering, I begin to see myself not merely as a crucifier, but one who is

crucified. My cross is His cross. His cross is mine.

Once I recognize the one who hangs on the tree is someone like myself I begin to recognize that the Crucified One is like others in my life. Not only do I share Jesus' cross, but others in my life do as well. Together, we share our pain, doubt, fear, and suffering. Together, we share the cross with Jesus. His pain is our pain. His fear is our fear. His suffering is our suffering. His cross is our cross!

We cannot take away Jesus' suffering. We cannot take away the suffering of others. But we can be a community that helps one another when people find themselves being pulled out of the crowd to carry a cross. We may not be able to take the cross away. But we can help carry the load. This is what disciples of the Christ are called to do. When a member of the Body of Christ reaches out to me, when I am carrying my cross, I come to recognize them not as Simon, but Jesus himself.

Good Friday's liturgy acknowledges not only the pain Jesus endured, but also the pain we must endure. Let us gather on this upcoming Good Friday to adore a cross that we share with the one, who not only shares our pain, but will come to share His resurrection!



## EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT [SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS](http://SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS)

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

April 3: Is 43:16-21, Ps 126, Phil 3:8-14, Jn 8:1-11  
April 10: Palm Sunday: Lk 19:28-40, Is 50:4-7, Ps 22, Phil 2:6-11, Lk 22:14 - 23:56

### WATCH SAINT OLAF SUNDAY MASS AT HOME

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](https://youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live). On Facebook, search for and like: **Saint Olaf Catholic Church, Downtown Minneapolis**. Saint Olaf also archives all of our Masses on the website, [SaintOlaf.org/media](http://SaintOlaf.org/media).

### 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.

### LENTEN EXTENDED CONFESSIONS

In addition to the regular confession opportunities of Monday-Friday after the 7:00am Mass, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday after the 12:00Noon Mass Saint Olaf will offer special Extended Confession Time on Saturday, April 9, from 12:30pm to 2:30pm.

### EASTER FLOWER AND ENVIRONMENT DONATION

Remember a loved one, living or deceased with a gift towards flowers and environment at Saint Olaf. Suggested offering is \$20. Forms are available in the acrylic holders at the church entrances. Place completed form and donation in the collection basket or bring to the parish reception desk in Forliti Foyer by April 11.

### SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

**TOGETHER IN HOPE:** Saint Olaf's goal is \$73,589 and we await the next status update from CSAF. As of last week, we have received donations from 64 donors totaling \$62,100 or 84% of our goal. Additional information and envelopes are available in the acrylic stands at the Church entrances or on [csafspm.org](http://csafspm.org) or give online at [GiveCSAF.org](http://GiveCSAF.org).

### GRATITUDE FROM MARGARET BELL

Thank you for all the cards and well wishes I received for my 100th birthday. I have missed you all over this pandemic and was deeply touched with all of the love you shared through your cards and attending the open house. I love the Saint Olaf community and thank you all.

**UKRAINE RELIEF VIA CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES** Thank you for your generous contributions to our second collection for the Ukraine Relief. Saint Olaf has sent \$9,077.00 from our parishioners to Catholic Relief Services for the Ukraine Relief Collection. If you would like to donate to Ukraine Relief, but have not yet done so, you can send donations directly to Catholic Relief Services, [support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine](http://support.crs.org/donate/donate-ukraine).

### POWER OF REDEMPTION - INTERFAITH

**CONVERSATION** See Calendar on Saint Olaf website for more information  
All are invited to attend the Interfaith discussion on Redemption, Sunday, April 3, 4:00pm - 6:00pm at Plymouth Congregational Church, 1900 Nicollet Avenue S, Minneapolis.



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT [SAINTOLAF.ORG](http://SAINTOLAF.ORG)

### WELCOME HOME

Please be attentive to the following:

- If you are sick, please stay home
- Hand sanitizer is available
- **Masks are welcome, but not required.**

*Building closes at 3:30pm Monday - Friday until further notice.*

*Offices are open until 4:30pm Monday-Thursday*

*Chapel is open for prayer from 1-3:30pm.*

### SATURDAY, APRIL 2

10:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER - FORLITI GATHERING ROOM  
**12:00 PM MASS**  
 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS  
 12:30 PM ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL  
**4:00 PM VIGIL MASS**

### SUNDAY, APRIL 3

**6:00 AM MASS**  
**8:00 AM MASS**  
**10:00 AM MASS (+LIVE STREAMED)**  
**12:00 PM MASS**  
**4:00 PM MASS**

### MONDAY, APRIL 4

**7:00 AM MASS**  
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS  
**12:00 PM MASS (+LIVE STREAMED)**  
 12:00 PM AA MEETING - EDUCATION ROOM

### TUESDAY, APRIL 5

**7:00 AM MASS**  
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS  
**12:00 PM MASS (+LIVE STREAMED)**  
 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS  
 6:30 PM SEASONAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

**7:00 AM MASS**  
 7:00 AM AA MEETING - EDUCATION ROOM  
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS  
**12:00 PM MASS (+LIVE STREAMED)**

### THURSDAY, APRIL 7

**7:00 AM MASS**  
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS  
**12:00 PM MASS (+LIVE STREAMED)**  
 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS

### FRIDAY, APRIL 8

*PARISH OFFICES CLOSED*

**7:00 AM MASS**  
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS  
 11:00 AM ADORATION  
**12:00 PM MASS (+LIVE STREAMED)**  
**12:30 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS (+LIVE STREAMED)**

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9

**12:00 PM MASS**  
 12:30 PM LENTEN EXTENDED CONFESSIONS UNTIL 2:30PM  
 12:30 PM ROSARY IN THE CHAPEL  
**4:00 PM VIGIL MASS**

### ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #38

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Mar 14 - 20	\$12,799	\$17,000	-\$4,201
YTD - Week #38	\$965,125	\$980,400	-\$15,275

*Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.*