



- Hidden Falls Regional Park, Saint Paul - MKennedy

WATERING THE SEEDS OF PARISH SMALL GROUPS

Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

Water is at the heart of much of our lives. What is essential for life also can be an instrument of death. Of course, it can be a solid, liquid or a gas. If cold enough, we can walk on it, if warm enough, we can be cooled by it, and in these mid-summer days, steamy enough to make its presence known.

We might find a relaxing moment to “reflect” watching the waves crash at the ocean, on the dock at a lake, walking around a pond in the neighborhood, or even cooling our feet in a plastic pool in the backyard.

The impact of climate change seems to bring more extremes from floods to droughts. Even if we are generations removed from life on the farm, we can all sympathize with the plight

of today’s farmers dealing with washed out fields or crops withering from lack of rain. Gardeners, from amateurs to masters, are tuned in daily to the water needs of plants from buds to blooms to harvest.

Water images are a popular part of poetry, novels, TV, movies, and other forms of expression. So, it is no wonder that deep connections with water appear so frequently in the Scriptures to provide images proclaiming the message of God’s reign and the power of God’s love through Jesus Christ.

The Hebrew Scripture has the creation story, the parting of the Red Sea and Noah’s ark to name a few water stories. Jesus was baptized in the River Jordan, asked a woman at a well for a drink of water, and calmed and walked on the water to name a few more.

This week we hear from Matthew’s gospel of a gathering of people with Jesus by the sea. The text tells us that Jesus got into a boat to be able to teach them because the crowd was so large. The setting at the sea must have helped because the passage says, “He taught them at length in parables,” and he knew they might have a hard time understanding the mysteries he was teaching. It does not say they got bored and left!

Consider your reaction to the very familiar story of the Sower and the Seeds as it relates to your own reception of God’s message and call to serve the world. Where are the places of a “hard path or rocky soil” in your life?

It is also important to celebrate where your heart offers a rich and welcoming soil to receive the gift of God’s grace and share the fruit of these encounters with those around you. Everyone has been given gifts from God, starting with our very dignity. We all have some rich soil to offer.

The soil from the images of this story also has an important source of water; namely our Baptism. Claimed by Christ and the community through the waters of Baptism, we are called to carry out what Christ has taught us, to love God, and our neighbor.

The gospel passage this week is about a large crowd gathered to listen and learn. The Church has also had a practice from the beginning for small groups to gather to listen and learn. We can ask for help to grow our faith in the rocky paths, and offer the gift of our own rich soil to help another deepen their experience of Christ and the call to serve.

A team of Saint Olaf members has been established to put together an experience for small groups here in the parish. They are in the process of calling individuals to serve as leaders/facilitators for the groups. They may be sowing a seed with you! But don’t wait to be called. If you are interested in serving, please contact MGriffin@SaintOlaf.org or call 612-767-7632. Training for leaders will take place this fall and groups will be formed to begin early in 2024. Together we are quenched by the waters of Baptism and together we can offer refreshment to a parched and thirsty world.



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS

July 16, 2023: Is 55:10-11, **Ps 65**, Rom 8:18-23, Mt 13:1-23

July 23, 2023: Wis 12:13, 16-19, **Ps 86**, Rom 8:26-27, Mt 13:24-43

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.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR AT SAINT OLAF JULY 15 & 16

Dear Parishioners of Saint Olaf Parish, The Little Sisters of the Poor will be visiting Saint Olaf on July 15th & 16th. They care for the elderly poor in 32 countries around the world and continue to care for the elderly in their Home in St Paul, MN. Saint Jeanne Jugan, their foundress and first Little Sister, would always say, "If God is with us, it will be accomplished." God truly manifests His goodness to them through your generous gifts. – Sister Joseph Marie. *For more information about this organization, visit littlesistersofthepoor.org.*

SAVE THE DATE – SAINT OLAF SATURDAY CELEBRATION

Mark your calendars for Saturday, July 29 as we honor our patron Saint Olaf with an International Music Potpourri at 2:00pm, featuring the talents of Saint Olaf's musicians, 4:00pm Vigil Mass, and immediately after Mass, join us for our first International Potluck. Bring your favorite family heritage dish to share, whether it is an appetizer, a salad, a main course, or dessert. Saint Olaf will also have food and beverages on hand so no one will go hungry. All are welcome to share their heritage and history. If cooking is not in your wheelhouse, worry not – come and celebrate Saint Olaf! Bring your dish to be shared to Forliti Gathering Room before Mass and we will keep it warm (or cool) during Mass. Sunday, July 30 we will have our tasty coffee and donuts after all the Masses as well.

MINNEAPOLIS AQUATENNIAL JULY 19-22

There are plenty of events for all ages to celebrate Minneapolis including Wednesday's Torchlight Parade on Nicollet Avenue starting at 7:30pm, and Movies in the Park at the Commons starting at 9:30pm. Visit www.aquatennial.com/events to see the four-day schedule of events.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY NEEDS

Samaritan Ministry needs shoes and work boots to provide to our guests. We ask that items be new, or clean and in good repair. You may drop them off at the front desk. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION CLASSES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - AGE 14 AND OVER

The Archdiocese is offering classes on Saturday, August 5th and Saturday, August 19 at Saint Richard's Church in Richfield for guardians and candidates. For those who complete the classes, the sacrament of Confirmation will be available at the Mass for Persons with Disabilities on September 17th, 2023. To register or for more information, please contact Deacon Eric Gunderson or Sonya Flomo at 651-291-4488, Outreach to Persons with Disabilities.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

WELCOME HOME

- 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

SATURDAY, JULY 15

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

THURSDAY, JULY 20

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

SUNDAY, JULY 16

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

FRIDAY, JULY 21

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED
7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 10:00 AM KNITTING GROUP - FORLITI GATHERING RM
 11:00 AM ADORATION
12:00 PM MASS+

MONDAY, JULY 17

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
12:00 PM MASS+
 12:00 PM AA MEETING - EDU RM

SATURDAY, JULY 22

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

TUESDAY, JULY 18

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

SUNDAY, JULY 23

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
 7:00 AM AA MEETING - EDU RM
 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
 11:30 AM NICOTINE ANONYMOUS MEETING - EDU RM
12:00 PM MASS+
 6:30 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FORLITI GATHERING RM
 7:30 PM AQUATENNIAL TORCHLIGHT PARADE- NICOLLET MALL

SEWING ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Sewing assistance needed for the Liturgical Environment Ministry Team to assist in sewing and/or repairing cloth banners, embellishments, and altar cloths. Ideal volunteer has a sewing machine at home, but Saint Olaf can also arrange for on-site sewing if needed. Fabric and materials would be provided by Saint Olaf. For more information or to sign up contact Don Gibson at dgibsondesign@gmail.com.

ANNUAL BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Final week #52 of 2022-2023	(June 26-30) \$4,360 + (June 19-25) \$17,232 = \$21,592	\$26,000	-\$4,408
Fiscal Year End 22-23	\$1,244,156	\$1,290,000	-\$45,844*
*Note: \$45,844 is total contributions received for the General Fund from envelopes, online, and cash gifts. It does not include all other income to Saint Olaf for the Fiscal Year.			
Week #1 of 2023-2024 (Partial Week 7/1 and 7/2 only)	\$11,380	\$12,101	-\$721

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.