



OPEN WIDE THE DOORS

Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. - Is 56: 7

Christian hospitality is a real thing. It is so much more than providing donuts in Forliti Gathering Room on a Sunday morning. (Note: I DO bring this topic up on the one weekend in August when we take a break from taking a break from providing Sunday Hospitality. Members of the African Mass Community asked Fr. Kevin if they could be the servers this weekend, so we gratefully rejoice in the gift of donuts and coffee served up this weekend and look forward to the weekly return in September of regular after-Mass hospitality after our regular hospitality servers have their annual hiatus.)

True hospitality comes from us opening our hearts and sharing ourselves to all those we encounter. It is much easier to be hospitable to those who know us and love us. Conversely, it puts our faith to the test when we strive to be as welcoming and caring to the stranger – yet, that is what we are called to do. It does not require months of planning and a grand plan, but simply finding the opportunity that is presented, and then doing it. Sharing of yourself from your interests, passion, and what makes you tick, might make this task more personal, and thus, rewarding. Where have you benefitted from

other's hospitality? Who opened the door for you? Who shared their gifts with you? Who made a difference in your life? Who welcomed you, the outsider?

This weekend's readings each deal with our response to those on the "outside." Isaiah and Peter preach to the people of how the actions of some can and do impact many. Matthew's gospel shares the story of the persistent Canaanite woman who implores Jesus for mercy and it is her "great faith" that saves her daughter.

Pope Francis has often used the imagery of opening the doors of the church to those in need of mercy, of hope, of love. His encouragement was not just to welcome others into the church and into our hearts, but also for us to open the doors wide and head out into the world to share our faith with those around us. *"If the door of God's mercy is always open, the doors of our churches, our love, our communities, our parishes, our institutions, our dioceses also must be open so that we all can go out to bring God's mercy"* (Pope Francis, November 18, 2015).

We see so much pain and trouble around us, sometimes we find it is difficult to open up our hearts, our homes, our selves, and as Isaiah writes, to "observe what is right, do

what is just." There is much work to be done in living out our mission *to serve as the living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city*, and this is the Christian hospitality response we are called to do. Welcome the outsider in, even when we need to go out to encounter that outsider. We see many examples each week around here. Our Samaritan Ministry volunteers continue to serve more and more people each week, providing new and gently used clothing, personal care items, and a healthy dose of Christian love to all. The items shared come from you, and other individuals, churches, and organizations, who share from what they have to help make a difference. Worship volunteers are prepared to serve the liturgy each and every day with prayer, proclaiming the word, carrying the cross, greeting, ushering, and Eucharist. Each of these volunteers is sharing Christ's love and mercy to all, regardless of parishioner, visitor, insider, or outsider. All that we do, all that we serve, takes all of us. There is no gift, no prayer, no gift in the basket, nor nod of the head in greeting, that is too small or insignificant. Each opportunity to open wide the doors to our hearts blesses the individual, this parish, and the greater kingdom of God.



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS

August 20, 2023: Is 56:1, 6-7, **Ps 67**, Rom 11:13-15, 29-32, Mt 15:21-28
August 27, 2023: Is 22:19-23, Ps 138, Rom 11:33-36, Mt 16:13-20

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://www.youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live).

MISSION APPEAL CONTINUES AUGUST 20

Each year in August, we welcome a Mission Appeal visitor, who shares their story and requests our prayers and assistance with their ministries. This year our Mission Appeal is for the Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers under the protection of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Holy Ghost Fathers shared their mission message: *This region [of Nigeria] is mostly dominated by the Muslim community. It is a region highly barraged with poverty, out-of-school children, and low standard of living. It is also infested by insurgency, extremist ideologies, and banditry. Provision of education and schools for the poor and the less privileged is a highpoint for our mission. The Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers are educators and so we mostly drive the gospel of Christ through education and catechesis in our schools. This mission appeal provides us the opportunity to expand our tentacles to seek for help and support and avail our catholic brethren the opportunity to share in our challenging mission. To get the ball rolling we have acquired a piece of land in Nassarawa State, a five hectare of land where we have a plan to build a secondary school with a capacity of one thousand students. This school is for both male and female. This is a mega project that will gulp millions of naira (hundreds of thousands of dollars). I want to sincerely thank you for taking your time to hear our story. As you reach to the poor people of God in these less privileged places, it is our prayer that God will bless you in his riches and glory. Thank you once again and may the Lord bless you abundantly amen.*

On August 20, Fr. Rowland Nwosu will be at the 10:00am, 12:00Noon, and 4:00pm Sunday Masses.

SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CATHOLIC CHURCH FESTIVAL

1315 2nd St NE, Minneapolis MN 55413. Ss. Cyril & Methodius is pleased to invite you to their Annual Church Festival on Saturday August 19th, 2023, from 9:00am to 9:00pm. We will have a soccer tournament, volleyball tournament, music, performance, Ecuadorian and Mexican food, kids' games, beer wagon, ice cream, and much more. Raffle drawing at 4:00pm for prizes totaling \$1,400. For more information call 612-379-9736.

HOSPITALITY TAKING A BREAK FOR 3 WEEKENDS IN AUGUST

The weekends of August 6, 13, and 27 we are giving our Hospitality Helpers a much-needed break. Forliti Gathering Room will be open and we will have water and your good company available. The 3rd week we will have a core of Volunteers from the African Mass serving up Saint Olaf Hospitality. If you would like to assist as a Hospitality Helper, give Vern a call in the Parish Office, 612-767-7631.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY NEEDS

Samaritan Ministry needs tennis shoes to serve 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!



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, AUGUST 19

9:00 AM SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS
-9:00 PM PARISH FESTIVAL

12:00NOON MASS

12:30 PM CONFESSIONS
12:30 PM ROSARY - CHAPEL

4:00 PM VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

HOSPITALITY AFTER ALL MASSES HOSTED BY WOMEN OF THE AFRICAN MASS COMMUNITY

6:00 AM MASS

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS+ - MISSION APPEAL

12:00NOON AFRICAN MASS - MISSION APPEAL

4:00 PM MASS - MISSION APPEAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 21

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL

7:30 AM CONFESSIONS

12:00NOON MASS+

12:00NOON AA MEETING - EDU RM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 22

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL

7:30 AM CONFESSIONS

12:00NOON MASS+

12:30 PM CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL

7:00 AM AA MEETING - EDU RM

7:30 AM CONFESSIONS

11:30 AM NICOTINE ANONYMOUS MEETING - EDU RM

12:00NOON MASS+

6:30 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FORLITI GATHERING RM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL

7:30 AM CONFESSIONS

12:00NOON MASS+

12:30 PM CONFESSIONS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL

7:30 AM CONFESSIONS

10:00 AM KNITTING GROUP - FORLITI GATHERING RM

11:00 AM ADORATION

12:00NOON MASS+

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

12:00NOON MASS

12:30 PM CONFESSIONS

12:30 PM ROSARY - CHAPEL

4:00 PM VIGIL MASS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

6:00 AM MASS

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS+

12:00NOON MASS

4:00 PM MASS

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
July 31 - Aug 6	\$17,941	\$17,272	\$669
YTD through Week #6	\$127,086	\$105,073	\$22,013

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.