



Catholic Church

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023  
THE 22ND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME

PASTOR  
Fr. Kevin Kenney  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR  
Fr. Wehmann



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

## THE EMPTY TOMB: GET RID OF THE OBSTACLES

Michael Griffin, Director of Social Mission

The gospel accounts reference the “empty tomb” and this reality became a central image of the Resurrection of Jesus for the early disciples who went to the tomb after the Crucifixion, or heard the stories from those who did. In the centuries since, the empty tomb continues to testify to disciples today. What was expected was no longer. Indeed, “He is risen,” and this new life was now in the world as a gift of love to all God’s people. The body that had been entombed was now liberated from the brokenness of suffering and death!

The image of the “empty tomb” serves us all year round, not just at Easter. I shared it last month with Samaritan Ministry volunteers. They had been so busy serving guests that they had no time to get donations sorted. We took a pause and created “Sorting Week 2023” to tackle the stacks of bags and boxes lining the long corridors in the lower level of the building.

After the very busy “Sorting Week 2023,” and once everyone was gone by that Wednesday afternoon, I came back to the lower level and had an “empty tomb” experience walking through the corridors. There was no trace left of any

of the items donated in support of the ministry. All the hard work of sorting, liberated these items from the confines of bags and boxes where they would help no one, and put them at the ready to give life to our guests in need. The generosity, kindness, and compassion soothe the Body of Christ that comes to the door of Saint Olaf just as the lifeless body of Jesus was cared for after death in the tomb. But then it was empty and the Body has life!

We know the image of the tomb had a stone rolled in place to close the entrance, and it is usually seen as an entrance, because people don’t exit a tomb! The large stone is quite an obstacle. The gospel for this weekend tells us Jesus issues a description of what he will face at the hands of those who seek to be an obstacle to his mission; suffering greatly, being killed, before being raised on the third day.

Peter, the “rock of the Church” and our first Pope, tried to stop the mission of Jesus and proclaimed he will not let this happen. He just didn’t get it! The text tells us Jesus called Peter an obstacle and to get behind him. In the example of Jesus, nothing, including suffering and death, gets in the way of the mission to

share God’s love and serve the world.

The parish mission of Saint Olaf calls us “to serve here in the heart of the city.” What obstacles are in the way and need to be removed so the beauty of God’s love might be shared? Are there things in the way for us as individuals? What community obstacles need our attention to move from a lifeless body to sharing the new life as the Body of Christ? We need not panic because the grace of the Holy Spirit fills us and leads us forward even with our being obstacles at times. Look at Peter!

That which is lifeless and broken in our lives can be healed and made whole. We are not in this alone. With the witness of the empty tomb, we are a community that has moved obstacles through the God-given dignity of our work for over 80 years here in the heart of the city. As we honor all labor this Labor Day weekend, let us continue to grow in our faith and share the goodness of God’s love and mercy. Coasting on our good deeds is another type of obstacle. Growing in our parish mission to serve to meet the rising needs in our midst means more time, talent, and treasure to be shared.



## EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

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

### READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

\*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS

September 3, 2023: Jer 20:7-9, **Ps 63**, Rom 12:1-2, Mt 16:21-27  
September 10, 2023: Ez 33:7-9, **Ps 95**, Rom 13:8-10, Mt 18:15-20

### 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).

### LABOR DAY MASS SCHEDULE

Join us for Mass on Monday, September 4 celebrating Labor Day. Mass will be at 9:00am and the building will close after Mass. In honor of the holiday, the office will be closed.

### HOSPITALITY HOMECOMING

We welcome back our after Mass hospitality once again – the coffee and donuts return and now is the perfect time to join the Hospitality Team after your preferred Mass time. You can serve weekly, monthly, or as your schedule permits. Contact Vern at [VReske@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:VReske@SaintOlaf.org) or via phone 612-767-7631.

### SERVE AS A TUTOR

The Catholic Tutor Corps has been recruiting and placing volunteer tutors in area Catholic schools for over 20 years. Our tutors generally go into schools one day a week for 1 ½ to 2 hours. We work with students in grades K-8 in reading and math who generally need remedial help. The need for tutors in the schools has increased greatly after COVID. Saint Olaf as always been a great source for tutors. To learn more about how you can help, call 612-360-0677 or email [ctutorcorps@gmail.com](mailto:ctutorcorps@gmail.com).

### SERVE WITH THE SAINT OLAF PARISH CHOIR

The Parish Choir returns from summer break to minister at Sunday 10:00am Mass, beginning September 10. We are seeking new members. All voice parts are welcome; tenors and basses, men's voices, are especially needed. If you are interested in joining the Parish Choir, or any other choir ministry at Saint Olaf, please contact Joel Anderson, director of music, [JAnderson@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:JAnderson@SaintOlaf.org), or see him after 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. Fabric and materials would be provided by Saint Olaf. For more information or to sign up contact Don Gibson at [dgibsondesign@gmail.com](mailto:dgibsondesign@gmail.com).

### SAMARITAN MINISTRY NEEDS

Samaritan Ministry is in need of tennis shoes! We ask that items be new, or clean and in good repair. Thank you!

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

The Saint Olaf Young Adult group is starting back up this fall for anyone in their 20s and 30s. Join for their next event on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30pm for food and drinks at First Draft taproom. Weekly Bible study will resume this fall. For more information visit "St Olaf Young Adults" on Facebook or scan the QR code.



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT [SAINTOLAF.ORG](http://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, SEPTEMBER 2

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

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

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

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

*HAPPY LABOR DAY! OFFICE CLOSED,  
BUILDING CLOSING AFTER 9:00AM MASS*  
**9:00 AM MASS**

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

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

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

**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 PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL  
6:30 PM WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FORLITI GTH RM

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

**7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL**  
7:30 AM CONFESSIONS  
**12:00NOON MASS+**  
12:30 PM CONFESSIONS  
6:45 PM FROM AGE TO AGE CHOIR REHEARSAL

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

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

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

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



## OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC 2023 - THURS, OCT 5

A night to build community, gather together with old friends, meet new friends and celebrate Saint Olaf Catholic Church in the Heart of the City! It will be a night of fun and festivity and to raise funds to update our technology and video equipment. The evening starts with a social hour at 6:00pm with dinner and Program at 7:00pm. Individual tickets are \$100. Table sponsorship \$1,000. Lake Elmo Inn catered dinner with an Oktoberfest Theme. Invitations are in the mail to all parishioners, associate parishioners, and friends of Saint Olaf. Please return your reply by September 30, 2023 or register by going to the Saint Olaf website [SaintOlaf.org/OfMinistryAndMusic](http://SaintOlaf.org/OfMinistryAndMusic).

### ANNUAL BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Aug 14 - 20	\$14,784	\$15,780	-\$996
YTD through Week #8	\$167,921	\$141,848	\$26,073

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.