



# Mary, Our Blessed Mother, Happy Birthday!

By Fr. Kevin Kenney

Today, September 8 on the liturgical calendar, we celebrate the Blessed Mother's birthday. The date falls nine months after we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Because it falls on a Sunday this year, the celebration of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time supersedes Mary's celebration. We celebrate Mary throughout the year, but today we remember her on her birthday as we would anyone but especially our mothers. What can you do, you might ask? What would you do on your mother's birthday? Send a card, pay a visit, have a cake, make a phone call, bring flowers? We have many opportunities to honor Mary. Growing up in our home, we always had a cake for Mary on her birthday and sang to her. I am sure we probably prayed the rosary together as a family, which we did regularly gathered around a little Mary corner we had at the house. Mary asks us to pray and to know her son Jesus in our lives, and there is no better gift for Mary than to spend time with her son, Jesus. Why not make the day special by visiting the Mary altar and bringing her flowers?

A week or so ago, I encountered a young man in the church who was carrying a bouquet. He looked lost and was waiting to ask me a question while I spoke to another person. As I looked at him, he said, "I was asking people for a donation so I could go camping with Urban

Ventures, and this elderly woman said she would give me some money if I delivered these flowers to St. Olaf Church. So here I am, where do I put them? I am not Catholic, so I do not know what to do." I told him, "That's ok, I'll show you. Let's give the flowers to Mary, our Mother, and she will watch over this woman, and she'll be watching over you." I took him to the statue of Mary, and he placed the flowers on the altar. As he left, he asked if I could donate, and I told him I would send a check to Urban Ventures in his name to help him go camping. I told him that he was always welcome here and to know that Our Blessed Mother would watch over him. He thanked me and left.

Our Blessed Mother watches over all of us, and many evenings as I take a walk around downtown, I pray the rosary asking Our Blessed Mother to watch over downtown and to open the hearts of many to come to know her son Jesus, and that we at Saint Olaf may welcome all into our community. Celebrate today, know the Blessed Mother loves you!

Last weekend we celebrated our Lady of Cisne at Saints Cyril and Methodius with a Mass, a procession, and a fiesta. Our Lady appeared in 1594 in the town of Cisne, Ecuador to a young girl when a severe drought was upon the area. Our Lady told Angelita, this young girl, to tell

the people to stay. When they did, heavy rain fell in the area, and all became well again. I am accustomed to celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December, so celebrating our Lady in other cultures is just as beautiful an experience.

Today is National Grandparents' Day. We honor Grandparents for the wisdom they bring to families and the love they give to their grandchildren. I hear over and over from grandparents that they love to have their grandchildren over, spoil them, and then send them home. Let's honor grandparents today for the gift they are to families and the wisdom they bring to every community. Remember who your grandparents were to you and live into the wisdom they taught you! When I was a freshman at De La Salle High school and I was assigned my locker, I looked up and there was the picture of my grandfather's graduating class, 1910, right above my locker! I knew I would be inspired.

September is upon us and the temperatures are cooling. Do you have an extra jacket, coat, sweatshirt, or sweater? Samaritan Ministries needs all these, especially for men. God bless!



## EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at [www.saintolaf.org/events](http://www.saintolaf.org/events)

### OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC II

The "Of Ministry and Music" event here at St. Olaf is fast approaching on Thursday, September 26. Attendees will hear a performance by the Augsburg Suzuki violin group and enjoy a night filled with fun, fellowship, and a few surprises. Funds raised will replenish our reserve fund. Please remember to return RSVP cards or sign up on the St. Olaf website by September 15. Thank you in advance for your support.

### SUNDAY HOSPITALITY HELP NEEDED

Do you know someone who would like to become more involved at church? Maybe you want to get to know other members or want to give back through giving of your time? We can always use more hospitality help! Contact Amber Guthmiller to learn more [aguthmiller@saintolaf.org](mailto:aguthmiller@saintolaf.org) or 612-767-7627.

**BILL AND MARIE HEILAND would like to invite everyone to join them for hospitality** after the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday, Sept. 7, to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Please join them in the Forliti Gathering Room following Mass for some cake and coffee.

### WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING?

Fr. Mark Wehmann will lead a 6 week series on the Catholic document, *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labor), on Mondays from 12:30 -1:00pm, Sept.23-Oct. 29 in the Forliti Gathering Room. There is no cost.

### FIRST RECONCILIATION/FIRST EUCHARIST

We are trying to determine if we have enough children to offer First Reconciliation/Communion classes this year. Please call the parish office 612-332-7471 ASAP to let us know if you have children aged 7 and above who need to receive these sacraments.

### ADULTS BECOMING CATHOLIC

St. Olaf will begin the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) sessions on Saturday, September 21 at 10:00am and will run through May 2, 2020. Anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic, either from another faith tradition or who has never been baptized, is welcome to attend. Adult Catholics who have never been confirmed may also join the RCIA process. We ask that you contact Fr. Michael Krenik (612-767-6209 or [frmkrenik@saintolaf.org](mailto:frmkrenik@saintolaf.org)) to register. We are also in need of sponsors, parishioners willing to walk with the candidates through the RCIA process.

### BOOK CLUB

Sunday, September 8 from 2:30 to 3:30, *The Vanishing Woman* by Fiorella De Maria.

### HABITAT/BRUSH WITH KINDNESS PROJECT

St. Olaf is sponsoring a project again this year on Thursday, Sept.19 - Saturday, Sept. 21. You can volunteer one, two, or all three days of the project. To sign up please go to <https://tchabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/stolafcatholic/>. For more information please contact project coordinator and St. Olaf parishioner Mike Nemanich at [mnemanich@aol.com](mailto:mnemanich@aol.com), or call the parish office.



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at [www.saintolaf.org](http://www.saintolaf.org)

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER  
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
2:00 PM AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL  
4:00 PM **MASS**

#### TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 8

6:00 AM **MASS**  
8:00 AM **MASS**  
10:00 AM **MASS**  
12:00 PM **MASS**  
2:30 PM BOOK CLUB  
4:00 PM **MASS**

#### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY  
12:00 PM **MASS**  
12:00 PM AA

#### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**

#### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
7:00 AM AA  
12:00 PM **MASS**  
12:00 PM AA  
6:00 PM ALANON  
6:30 PM PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL

#### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
6:30 PM DISCUSSIONS THAT ENCOUNTER

#### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

##### OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
10:00 AM KNITTING CLUB  
12:00 PM **MASS**  
12:30 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER  
12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**  
2:00 PM AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL  
4:00 PM **MASS**

### ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #8

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
August 19-25	\$21,286	\$17,000	\$4,286
YTD through Week #8	\$130,239	\$170,426	-\$40,187