



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

## GRACE, BLESSED, AND MOVE FORWARD

Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

I was eight days old when I was baptized. I arrived early and the prevailing wisdom said, get the kid some grace before it was too late. I have felt blessed in my life ever since, even as I have no memory of my baptism, so I embrace the grace! The Church at the time met me and my family where we were and we went forward from there. Blessed!

Like most kids, the next sacramental milestone came in second grade when we prepared for First Reconciliation. Though I was quite nervous about remembering the exact number of times I battled with my brothers, I got the standard three Hail Mary penance. Of course, my school buddies compared what we received after the fact, even though Sister said not to share. The Church at the time met me in my need for mercy and we went forward from there. Blessed again!

This was the warmup for the big deal of receiving First Communion. This meant I could finally get up during Mass and kneel at the rail, rather than have to stay in the pew the whole time (boring!). While there was precision to the preparation and practice, I do not recall it was overly stern and I looked forward to celebrating. I did not feel "great joy at receiving the Lord" like Sister said we would, mainly because I remember feeling nervous

about having my tongue out far enough. My friend's older brother was serving the Mass and it helped, because I could "stick my tongue out" at him. Good memories of the Mass got even better when I opened the cards from family at home and got cash for going to church! It was the last time I got paid for going to Mass. The Church at the time met me when I didn't even know much about being nourished at the community table, and we went forward from there. Blessed even more!

I was Confirmed then in third grade by Bishop Cowley. The only other thing I know about him is there is a hall bearing his name in the lower level of Saint Olaf. I also recall we would be sealed in the Spirit, whatever that meant. But it seemed nice and now I am glad to have had this grace. What are you supposed to do with a bunch of third graders other than meet them where they are and go forward from there? Blessed some more!

We all have a history involving the preparation and celebration of the sacraments. I certainly would not have been able to name what I now understand, how blessed I was to be met by Church where I was and then formed to go forward. This graced reality has

become more apparent from high school days and continues to this day.

I started working in our parish office in high school and what I came to learn early on, from knocks on the door and phone calls, was that so many people were not met where they were and were pushed, pulled, dragged kicking and screaming, or even abused by some who called themselves "church". How blessed I was with the parish of my youth and the one I was working for in school. Blessed to heal!

The second reading for this weekend tells of Christ's attitude of emptying himself and taking on the role of slave/servant, in order to meet people where they are. This same attitude is the mission, practice and opportunity to engage in the same way here at Saint Olaf. This parish has been blessing people for over 82 years! But there is so much more grace needed in our broken and hurting world in need of compassion and love.

Consider your own graced sacramental journey to date. Fill in the gaps if needed. Ask Saint Olaf to meet you where you are, and/or help Saint Olaf meet others where needed. Blessed in the heart of the city!



## 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*

October 1, 2023: Ez 18:25-28, **Ps 25**, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32  
October 8, 2023: Is 5:1-7, **Ps 80**, Phil 4:6-9, Mt 21:33-43

### 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](https://youtube.com/user/SaintOlafChurch/live).

### IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for loved ones lost who are associated with Saint Olaf. We will post news of any pending Funeral Masses or Memorial Services when they are scheduled. Check SaintOlaf.org and click on Funerals in the top right corner of any page to see the scheduled funerals.

**Mary Schubert**, parishioner, died September 23, 2023. Funeral Friday, September 29, 10:00am, visitation 9:00am - 10:00am.

### OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC 2023 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

Please register **today** for the upcoming Of Ministry and Music 2023. This year is an Oktoberfest theme. Details can be found on the Saint Olaf website at [SaintOlaf.org/ofministryandmusic](http://SaintOlaf.org/ofministryandmusic). It will be an evening of community building and fundraising. Funds raised will support the Saint Olaf Reserve Fund to update parish technology and video equipment needs. If you are unable to attend, please prayerfully consider making a donation to Of Ministry and Music 2023 Saint Olaf Reserve Fund technology and video updates.

### SMALL GROUP LEADER FORMATION BEGINS OCTOBER 3 AND 7

Saint Olaf's Synod Evangelization Team invite **YOU** to participate in the seven-week series Small Group Leader Formation. Choose Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm or Saturday mornings at 8:30am. The sessions will consist of time for prayer, education on how to run a small group, and heartfelt, Holy Spirit-inspired discussion all in preparation for our Parish-wide Small Groups starting in Lent of 2024. Fill out an interest form found in the Acrylic stands at the Church entrances or contact Michael Griffin, [MGriffin@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:MGriffin@SaintOlaf.org) or 612-767-7632 today.

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

Calling all pets, be they furry, feathered, or scaled – the Saint Francis Blessing of the Animals will occur on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 9:00am in Assisi Park. Bring your pet, either leashed or secured in a container, for a bit of song, prayer, and blessing for our faithful companions. Rain or shine.

### YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Are you in your 20s or 30s and looking to build community? Join us on Tuesdays for a weekly Bible Study and conversation. We meet from 5:45pm - 7pm (come when you can - we don't mind late comers) beginning September 19 in Fleming Foyer.

### SAMARITAN MINISTRY NEEDS

Backpacks, men's jeans, and men's belts are the primary needs for Samaritan Ministry. We ask that items be new, or clean and in good repair. Thank you!



## 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 30 12:00NOON MASS

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1

- 6:00 AM MASS
- 8:00 AM MASS
- 10:00 AM MASS+
- 12:00NOON MASS
- 1:00 PM OCIA MEETING - EDU RM
- 4:00 PM MASS

### MONDAY, OCTOBER 2

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

### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

- 7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
- 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
- 12:00NOON MASS+
- 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS
- 5:45 PM YOUNG ADULT GROUP - FLEMING FOYER
- 6:30 PM SYNOD SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING - FLEMING HALL

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 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, OCTOBER 5

- 7:00 AM MASS - CHAPEL
- 7:30 AM CONFESSIONS
- 12:00NOON MASS+
- 12:30 PM CONFESSIONS
- 6:00 PM OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC 2023 - OKTOBERFEST!
- 6:45 PM FROM AGE TO AGE REHEARSAL

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 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, OCTOBER 7

- 8:30 AM SYNOD SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING - FLEMING HALL
- 9:00 AM BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS - ASSISI PARK
- 10:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER ON SITE - FORLITI GTH RM

### 12:00NOON MASS

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

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

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



### GRATITUDE FOR MINISTRY FAIR

Forliti Gathering Room was filled with a positive vibe all last weekend as Saint Olaf Ministries showcased all of the opportunities to **SERVE** at Saint Olaf. Thank you to all of the ministries for your participation. If you would like to serve in a ministry, fill out a form in Acrylic stands or scan this QR code.



### ANNUAL BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Sept 11 - 17	\$23,021	\$14,590	\$8,431
YTD through Week #12	\$237,775	\$209,950	\$27,825

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.