



Catholic Church

DECEMBER 3, 2023
THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

PASTOR
Fr. Kevin Kenney
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Fr. Wehmann



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

“LET’S START AT THE VERY BEGINNING, A VERY GOOD PLACE TO START...”

Maria (Played by Julie Andrews), *The Sound of Music*

Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

We gather for the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the new liturgical year. On the surface it might mean time to buy a tree and decorate the house for Christmas. Seasonally, colder temps, the first snowfall and the increasingly shorter daylight tells us something is different than what had been. This beginning certainly has us reaching for our warmer clothing.

The wisdom of our liturgical life has a very helpful pattern to draw us deeper into the central mysteries of God’s love through Jesus Christ. We have a period of preparation, followed by the celebration, and then a prolonged seasonal celebration to extend the depth and breadth of God’s action in our lives.

We prepare in this season of Advent and then celebrate the central mystery of Christmas, the Incarnation of God with us, Jesus born in the fullness of humanity in order to share with us His divinity. Then, we have the prolonged celebration of the Christmas season to touch and move us more profoundly than ever before. Such is God’s way.

We have a similar pattern in the Paschal season that begins with the 40 days of Lent, a time of renewal and preparation. Then, we celebrate the central mystery of Christ’s death and Resurrection at Easter.

Finally, we enjoy and engage the Great 50 Days of the Easter season until Pentecost and the birth of the Church. Vulnerability of the Christ child is the vulnerability of Christ on the cross. All makes way for God’s love to be revealed and shared.

Our Advent preparation is shaped by a change in color to purple, and our attention is drawn to the solitary candle burning in the wreath, lighting the path that ultimately leads to the heavenly hosts singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom God’s favor rests.” And then the prolonged celebration commences. Bringing in the new year of life in Christ sure makes the ball drop in Times Square seem pretty low key!

As we start at the very beginning of this new year, is there anything we need to dump from the year that just concluded? Letting go of some things to lighten the load might help us go forward on the journey Advent sets before us. What might be new for us is also a renewal for our relationship with God.

Do we need to better care for ourself, or forgive ourself? God never ceases to care for us or forgive us, no matter what we hold in our deep dark place. Do we need to forgive another, or seek forgiveness from others? The liberation of reconciliation in God’s

love and forgiveness awaits us in the grace of the sacraments, especially celebrating the Eucharist and Reconciliation.

Practice the pattern of prepare-celebrate-prolong the celebration, in smaller ways if needed. Use the Advent preparation season to get back in the groove of a life in faith that brings us energy and fulfillment. Try something once a day, once a week, even once during Advent and know that it can make a difference. God’s patience is never exhausted!

The scriptures give witness to the power of God’s love. The invitation to watch is the realization to wonder in all that unfolds in God’s way. An important way to act on the gospel and give witness ourselves, is to bring this love to the world around us. As we pull on our own warmer clothing, let’s help make sure others have enough warm clothes for the season. As we reflect on the vulnerability of Jesus’ birth, let us act for the vulnerable in our midst that they may find stability and dignity in daily life.

As we start at the very beginning, a very good place to start, let us go forward to the full embrace of our waiting God in this year ahead calling for the promise of peace. Happy New Year!



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS

December 3: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7, **Ps 80**, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37
December 10: Is 40:1-5, 9-11, **Ps 85**, 2 Pt 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8

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.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

What will you do with the gifts you have been given? Please review, renew, and respond by turning in your Stewardship Intention Card or completing it online at SaintOlaf.org/AnnualRenewal. Additional forms are available in the acrylic stands at the Church entrances.

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.

Bob Short, Parishioner, died November 9, 2023. Funeral will be held December 7, 2023, 10:30am at Our Lady of Grace, 5071 Eden Ave, Edina.

Charlie Dahl, Parishioner, died November 18, 2023. Funeral, Friday, December 1, 10:00am, visitation at 9:00am.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER & ENVIRONMENT DONATION

Remember a loved one, living or deceased with a gift towards flowers and environment at Saint Olaf. Suggested offering is \$20. Forms are available in the acrylic holders at the church entrances. Place completed form and donation in the collection basket or bring to the parish reception desk in Forliti Foyer by December 18.

SAMARITAN MINISTRY GIVING TREE

The Samaritan Ministry Giving Tree is up and available to help you help others this holiday season. Stop by under the skylight at the 8th St. entrance and pick up an ornament with details and directions about how you can participate. Thank you!

NEXT BOOK CLUB MEETING IS DEC 3

Saint Olaf Book Club will meet at 2:30pm in Forliti Gathering Room to discuss "Carlo Acutis - a Millennial in Paradise" by Fr. Will Conquer. For Advent the book to read will be "The Magnificat - Advent Companion," but will not be discussed until January.

MESSIAH SING W/ THE MN CHORALE - DEC 3

On December 3, at 6:30pm, the beloved annual tradition of singing Handel's Messiah returns to Saint Olaf. The Minnesota Chorale fills the choir chairs, and is also interspersed in the pews, so you'll be completely enveloped by the music. You may rent a score at the church to sing along, or simply listen. For more information and to pre-register for this free event, visit MNChorale.org.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP ADVENT DISCUSSION SERIES

The Saint Olaf Young Adult Group continues to meet Tuesday evenings at 5:45pm in the Forliti Gathering Room for a series of discussions on our Catholic faith. Parishioners and guests in their 20s and 30s are invited. Scan the QR code to join our Facebook group for topics and other updates!



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, DECEMBER 2

10:00am Centering Prayer Gathering - Forliti Gathering Rm

12:00Noon **Mass**

12:30pm Confessions

12:30pm Rosary - Chapel

4:00pm **Vigil Mass**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

7:00am **Mass - Chapel**

7:30am Confessions

12:00Noon **Mass+**

12:30pm Confessions

5:15pm **Vigil Mass - Immaculate Conception**

6:30pm OCIA Meeting - Edu Rm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am **Mass**

8:00am **Mass**

10:00am **Mass+**

12:00Noon **Mass**

2:30pm Book Club - Forliti Gathering Rm

4:00pm **Mass**

6:30pm Messiah Sing with the MN Chorale - Main Church

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

7:00am **Mass**

10:00am **Mass**

10:00am Saint Olaf Craftworks Ministry - Forliti Gathering Rm

11:00am Adoration

12:00Noon **Mass+**

5:15pm **Mass**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:00Noon **Mass**

12:30pm Confessions

12:30pm Rosary - Chapel

4:00pm **Vigil Mass**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am **Mass**

8:00am **Mass**

10:00am **Mass+**

10:30am Sacramental Prep Class - Fleming Hall

12:00Noon **Mass**

4:00pm **Mass**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:00am **Mass - Chapel**

7:30am Confessions

12:00Noon **Mass+**

12:00Noon AA Meeting - Edu Rm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

7:00am **Mass - Chapel**

7:30am Confessions

12:00Noon **Mass+**

12:30pm Confessions

5:45pm Young Adult Group - Forliti Gathering Rm

6:30pm Seasonal Choir Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

7:00am **Mass - Chapel**

7:00am AA Meeting - Edu Rm

7:30am Confessions

11:30am Nicotine Anonymous Meeting - Edu Rm

12:00Noon **Mass+**

6:30pm Parish Choir Rehearsal

6:30pm Women's Bible Study - Forliti Gathering Rm



ANNUAL BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Nov 13 - 19	\$25,900	\$39,080	-\$13,180
YTD through Week #21	\$490,680	\$475,833	\$14,847
Annual Stewardship Renewal	PLEDGED	RESPONDENTS	% OF PARISH
Week #1 through 11/17/23	\$185,610	86	7.48%

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.