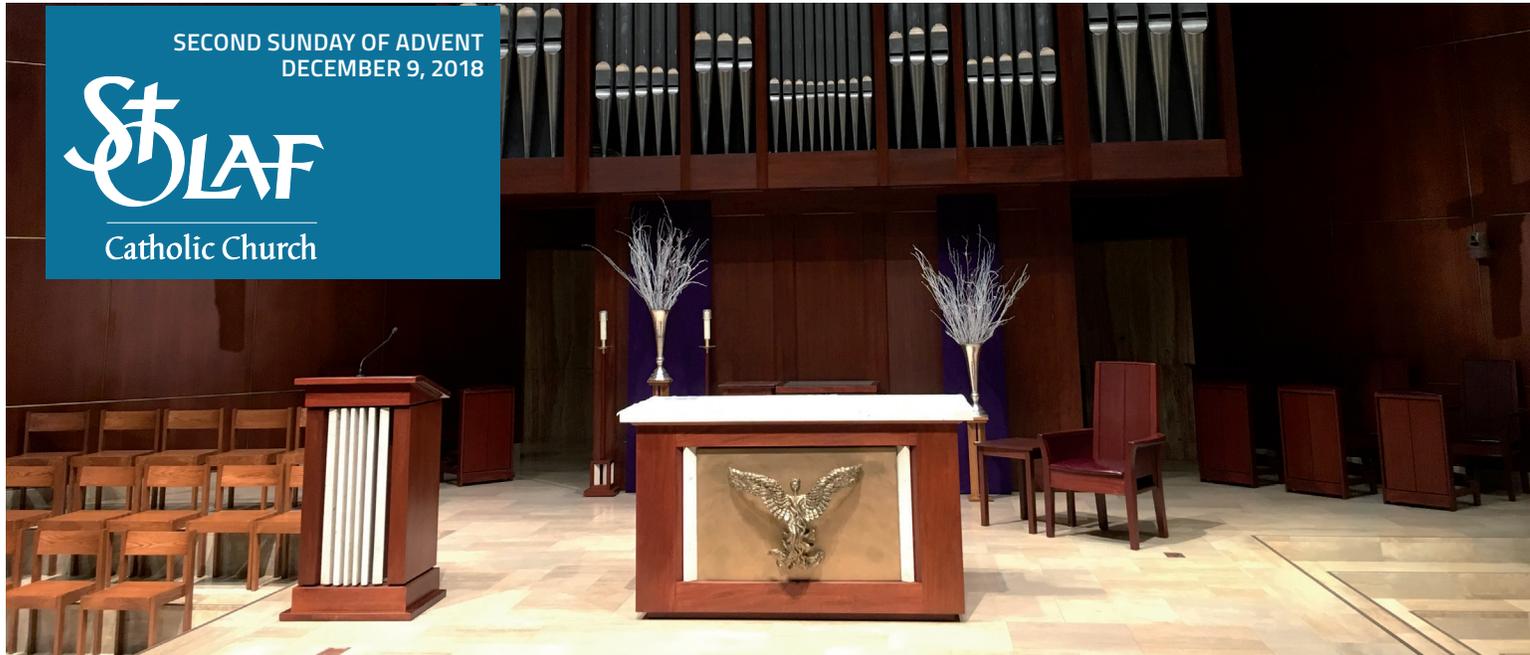


SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 9, 2018

St. OLAF
Catholic Church



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

Waiting with Joyful Hearts by Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

Often in my ministry, I have been called and informed that someone has died. After expressing my sympathy, I ask, "What happened?" Many times, I have heard people tell me, "His or her heart just gave out." The human heart is an amazing organ. I am not versed well in all its complexities. But I am in awe of how a fist-sized muscle is able to be the center of human life. All I know is its function is vital to human life. When a human heart ceases to pump, life ceases. In the world of science and medicine, discussions about the human heart center on biology, cardiology, physiology, and anatomy.

While the human heart is about our human life, it has also been the fodder for things pertaining to our emotional, moral, and spiritual character. Countless words have been written, songs sung, artistic expressions made regarding the heart of the human person as it relates to our inner life. We have often celebrated the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We ponder in these celebrations the depth that love found in their lives and the opportunities to find love in ours, too.

One of the great Advent themes to reflect on is "being prepared." John the Baptist, the great forerunner for the entry of Jesus into public life, spent his entire ministry "making

ready the way of the Lord." He called for a radical change in one's life. He admonished his followers to move away from self-centeredness. He offered them a different way to live. His message was simple and clear. Repent! In other words, "adopt a heart contrite and humble, and you will live."

John's message sounded simple then and even now. However, it is fraught with difficulty. First, all of us want to live, now and when our bodies die, forever. And even though we don't understand the "after we die" stuff, we hear about it over and over again throughout the liturgical life of the Church. But during Advent, the liturgy and scriptures drive the point home. Like John, these rites, symbols, and ancient stories tell us in a variety of ways: "Be prepared."

Like our human heart, our spiritual heart is the place where the Risen Christ makes his home. His Spirit continually works to help us keep our eyes open, our hearts receptive, and our hands unclenched as we live our daily lives. And while we don't pay much attention to it, the good news is, God does. He never gives up. He is constantly at work in our lives. He is in the midst of our strength. He is consoling in our limitations. He is always giving us ample grace to respond to the prompting of his spirit if we choose and especially when we don't.

We all know death comes when our human heart stops beating. Our spiritual hearts are no different. When it seems these hearts give out, we experience a loneliness and an alienation that is discouraging and zaps the spiritual life out of us. The result is fear. Resuscitating our spirits is what Advent is all about. Entering into this season allows us to come back if we need to. It can kindle in us a new fire for God's love which shows us while it seems our "hearts have given out," they can be revived by the power of divine love.

People in John's time found that out. Coming to new life in the waters of baptism, they were prepared for the coming of the Lord in their lives. Refreshed and renewed, they received him with great joy. Even though you may believe the light in your heart has gone out and hope is absent, nothing could be further from the truth. All you and I need to do is muster the courage to believe in this fact and be ready and prepared because he comes again for everyone including you and me. As he does, may we receive him with a humble and contrite heart.





EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

DECEMBER 8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Holy Day Masses at 5:15pm Dec 7 and Noon Dec 8.

HOLIDAY CONCERT

TOTINO GRACE CONCERT BAND

Monday, December 10, 7:00pm, Timothy Hoffman, conductor.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

Donate toward Christmas environment in memory or in honor of a loved one. Names will be posted at Christmas. Suggested offering \$20 per honoree. Donation cards are in pamphlet racks. Deadline is December 12.

GIVING TREES BRING HOLIDAY CHEER

Giving Trees are decorated with colorful ornaments with suggested gift ideas to provide some holiday cheer for guests of St. Olaf Samaritan Ministry. Take an ornament, or two, (or more!), shop for the requested items and return them the next time you are here at St. Olaf. It is also possible to make a check/cash contribution clearly marked "Samaritan Ministry" and volunteers will shop for you. Returning items ASAP helps us in planning. Deadline is December 16. Please contact Michael Griffin with questions or for more information at 612-767-7632 or mgriffin@SaintOlaf.org.

MESSIAH SING ALONG - MINNESOTA CHORALE

Sunday, December 16, 6:30pm, Kathy Saltzman Romey, conductor; Lynn Trapp, organist. Music scores are provided and loaned for the evening, or you may bring your own. Free will offering. Reception follows.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

At this time in the history of the Catholic Church, we face challenges that call for new ways of being church. At this time of nearly unconquerable road construction, we face a decline in attendance at Saint Olaf. Consequently, it is with heartfelt gratitude and true humility that we bear witness to your continued financial support. We are now more than halfway to last year's total. Thank you, dear friends, for keeping Saint Olaf in mind. FRMurnane@SaintOlaf.org, 612-767-7635.

KNITTING CLUB BEGINS

If you're interested in learning how to knit or need help with a pattern, email parishioner David Fillman, d.a.fillman@gmail.com. Meetings will be on Fridays at St. Olaf at 10:00am.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Take home a pew card from the racks in church.

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #21

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
WEEK #21	14,030	26,825	-12,795
YTD THROUGH #21	428,297	582,000	-153,703



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

- 9:00am CENTERING PRAYER
- 10:00am RCIA
- 12:00pm MASS FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
- 2:00pm AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL
- 4:00pm MASS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hospitality after 8:00am, 10:00am, 12noon, 4:00pm Masses

- 6:00am MASS
- 8:00am MASS
- 9:00am NURSERY OPENS
- 10:00am MASS: RITE OF WELCOME
- 12:00pm MASS
- 4:00pm MASS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10

- 7:00am MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 7:30am ST. OLAF HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
- 12:00pm MASS
- 12:00pm ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
- 7:00pm TOTINO-GRACE BAND CONCERT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11

- 7:00am MASS/ CONFESSIONS
- 12:00pm MASS/ CONFESSIONS
- 6:30pm SEASONAL CHOIR REHEARSAL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

- 7:00am MASS/CONFESSION
- 7:00am ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
- 12:00pm MASS
- 12:00pm ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
- 6:30pm PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL
- 7:30pm AL ANON

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

- 7:00am MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 7:30am SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
- 12:00pm MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 6:30pm DISCUSSIONS THAT ENCOUNTER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14

Office closed on Fridays

- 7:00am MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 12:00pm MASS
- 12:30pm ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

- 9:00am CENTERING PRAYER
- 10:00am RCIA
- 12:00pm MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 2:00pm AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL
- 4:00pm MASS