



Catholic Church

DECEMBER 10, 2023
THE SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

PASTOR
Fr. Kevin Kenney
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Fr. Wehmann



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

WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST?

Michael Strande, Director of Liturgy

We are given a rather unflattering description of the Baptist. We are told he wears camel hair clothing and a leather belt. He eats bugs with honey for dinner. Most likely the first impression people would have made is that John doesn't fit in with the rest of society. People would have viewed him as an outsider; perhaps even calling him crazy.

My guess is that people didn't take him seriously at first. It wasn't until he spoke that people realized that this guy had very important things to say. However, in Mark's Gospel we really do not get to hear what he has to say. We are told of his harsh appearance, what he ate, and his humbleness, "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals."

We are told that he baptizes Jesus but we do not know what his reaction was. The next time we hear about John in Mark's Gospel is about his arrest and execution.

If Mark chose to not tell us what John had to say why would Mark even

mention him? I believe it is because Mark was interested in telling us not what John had to say, but what he did.

According to Mark, John was given the task of fulfilling what the prophet Isaiah said, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his path." To "make straight his path" was to prepare a way for the Messiah so that the Messiah's path will be easier to follow.

John is presented to us as an example to follow. No matter how humble we are. No matter how much money we have. No matter where we stand in our society, or how popular or charismatic. We are called to do what John had done: to make it easier for others to discover the Christ.

Advent is the season that asks us to prepare for the coming of the Christ. We are not being asked to prepare a birthday party for Jesus where we get the presents. We are being asked to prepare for a time when the Christ is the main focus of our spiritual lives. We are preparing for the time when we will dedicate ourselves to what

Jesus teaches us in how to live our lives with integrity, compassion, and love for others. If we are doing these things already, then Advent becomes a time when we can find new paths that will make it easier for others to know Jesus.

During this Advent season ask yourself, "How can I make it easier for others in my life to discover who the Christ is?" Part of the Good News is that you do not have to discover these things on your own. We have others to join us in that work. The Church is here to help us to know in what way we are called to make straight the path for others to know Jesus.

Like John, let us be bold in how we are willing to engage others in making straight the path. Let us be willing to be humble enough to put others before ourselves in knowing Jesus. Once we do that the Christ will make himself known to all of us.

May your Advent Season be filled with opportunities to make the path easier for others.



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS

December 10: Is 40:1-5, 9-11, **Ps 85**, 2 Pt 3:8-14, Mk 1:1-8

December 17: Is 61:1-2A, 10-11, **Lk 1**, 1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

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).

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL HAS BEGUN

This year, we asked all of our households to share how they plan to Pray and Serve this upcoming year in addition to sharing financial gifts. We are humbled by the responses from you, our *Stewards in the Heart of the City*. Many are committing to Daily Mass, the Rosary, and praying for the parish and our priests. Many more are finding opportunities to serve here at Saint Olaf, with your families, neighbors, and the greater community. Thank you for looking over the materials and discerning how you are called to **PRAY ~ SERVE ~ SHARE as Stewards in the Heart of the City**.

IN MEMORIUM

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.

William "Bill" Martin, Parishioner, died November 30, 2023.

Funeral was Tuesday, December 5, 10:00am, visitation at 9:00am.

PRAYERS FOR A NEW DEACON: WAYNE BELLEFENILLE

Wayne Bellefenille, a weekday lector here at Saint Olaf, will be ordained as a permanent deacon for our Archdiocese on December 9, 2023. Please pray for him and his 17 classmates as they begin their new ministry to bring the word of God and the hope of Jesus Christ to those that they come in contact with. Congratulatory reception after 7:00am Mass & Confessions on Monday, December 11, all are welcome.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS - CHAPEL

All are invited to a Bilingual Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Tuesday, December 12, 2023. Mass begins at 5:30pm, Las Mañanitas with Mariachi at 7:00pm and a delightful gathering after Mass with treats. All are welcome.

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 NEEDS

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

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



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:00Noon Mass
12:30pm Confessions
12:30pm Rosary - Chapel
4:00pm Vigil Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

6:00am Mass
8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass+
10:30am Sacramental Prep Class - Forliti Gathering Rm
12:00Noon Mass
4:00pm Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

NOTE: HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE CANCELED

7:00am Mass - Chapel
7:30am Confessions
12:00Noon Mass+
12:00Noon AA Meeting - Edu Rm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00am Mass - Chapel
7:30am Confessions
12:00Noon Mass+
12:30pm Confessions
5:30pm Mass - Chapel - Our Lady of Guadalupe
5:45pm Young Adult Group - Fleming Hall
6:30pm Seasonal Choir Rehearsal
6:45pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration - Forliti Gathering Rm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

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

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:00am Mass - Chapel
7:30am Confessions
12:00Noon Mass+
12:30pm Confessions
6:30pm OCIA Meeting - Edu Rm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
7:00am Mass
10:00am Saint Olaf Craftworks Ministry - Forliti Gathering Rm
11:00am Adoration
12:00Noon Mass+

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

CELEBRATE!
10:30am Sacramental Preparation
12:00Noon Mass
12:30pm Advent Extended Confessions until 2:00pm
12:30pm Rosary - Chapel
4:00pm Vigil Mass - Celebrate! The Middle Adults 31-40 Years after Mass

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

CELEBRATE! THE MIDDLE ADULTS 31-40 YEARS AFTER ALL MASSES
6:00am Mass
8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass+
12:00Noon Mass
1:15pm Secular Franciscan Group - Edu Rm
4:00pm Mass

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

ANNUAL BUDGET

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Nov 20-26	\$27,463	\$18,320	\$9,323
YTD through Week #22	\$518,324	\$494,153	\$24,171
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK #2 - 11/24/23	PLEDGED	RESPONDENTS	% OF PARISH
	\$302,026	129	11.22%

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.