



Catholic Church

DECEMBER 17, 2023
GAUDETE SUNDAY

PASTOR
Fr. Kevin Kenney
ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Fr. Wehmann



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

GAUDETE SUNDAY

Michael Strande, Director of Liturgy

The season of Advent has not always been a part of the tradition of the Church. Advent is a season that has its origins based on the season of Lent. About the 5th century the Church designated the forty days prior to Christmas Day as a time to prepare for the Christmas feast. The forty days was known as "St. Martin's Lent."

Lent was traditionally the time for preparing for the feast of Easter when new members were welcomed into the Church through baptism at the Great Easter Vigil. By the 9th century, the Advent season was reduced to four weeks. Combined with the weeks of Christmas the Advent/Christmas length came to be the same length as Lent. The Baptism of the Lord was another day when new members were baptized. As Lent was a time for preparation for baptism so was Advent/Christmas.

Because Lent was understood as a time of penance and fasting Advent has also been understood as a time of penance and fasting. Laetare, (meaning "rejoice") Sunday was known as "Mid-Lent" Sunday. This was seen as a Sunday to have a break in penance to rejoice in hope as we approach Easter. The organ and flowers, which were

forbidden during the rest of the season, were permitted to be used on Laetare and rose-colored vestments were allowed instead of purple.

On the Third Sunday of Advent, or Gaudete Sunday, we can change the liturgical color to rose. Priests may wear the rose color vestments to indicate the great joy that Jesus brought into the world on the very first Christmas. The brightness of the rose color reminds us that we are halfway through Advent and very near to our celebrations. Rose is a "brightening" of the ordinary violet and thus symbolizes joy.

Gaudete also means "joyful" or "rejoice" in Latin.

We get the name from the psalm we sing on this Sunday. The psalm is a combination of a passage from Isaiah, which is the response, "My soul *rejoices* in my God," and the Magnificat where, in Luke's Gospel, Mary says, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit *rejoices* in God my Savior."

The message of joy is also seen in the Advent Wreath, whose one pink candle is lit on this Sunday. Originating in Lutheran traditions in the 16th century and gradually spreading to other Christian denominations, today's

Advent wreaths typically contain four candles: three purple and one rose, each corresponding to one of the four Sundays of Advent. Each week, a new candle is lit, serving as a sort of calendar to mark the weeks until Christmas.

The spirit of the Liturgy during Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the Christmas feast as well as for the next coming of Christ. The Catholic Encyclopedia tells us:

The penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as were, for a while in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the Promised Redemption which should never be absent from the heart of the faithful.

In a way Gaudete Sunday is reminding us that the Christ is already in our midst. We rejoice that the Christ is here, but not yet. This is captured in today's gospel when John the Baptist refers to the Christ when he says, "... there is one among you whom you do not recognize."

Let us rejoice for the Lord is near!



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

*RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS

December 17: Is 61:1-2A, 10-11, **Lk 1:46-54**, 1 Thes 5:16-24, Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24, 4th Sunday of Advent: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16, **Ps 89**,
Rom 16:25-27, Lk 1:26-38

December 24, Christmas Eve: Is 9:1-6, **Ps 96**, Ti 2:11-14, Lk 2:1-14

December 25, Christmas: Is 62:11-12, **Ps 97**, Ti 3:4-7, Lk 2:15-20

December 25, **4:00pm Mass Only**: Is 52:7-10, **Ps 98**, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18

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). The 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass will be broadcast on MCN Cable Channel 6 at 12:00Midnight and 10:00am on Christmas Day. The 4:00pm Christmas Eve Mass and 10:00am Christmas Day Masses will be live streamed on our YouTube Channel and Facebook in real time.

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. More responses from you, our *Stewards in the Heart of the City* as you contemplate prayer and service: "Prepare our boys for a meaningful life in service to others in faith." "Praying daily for Peace." "Join a Lenten Small Group." Thank you for discerning how you are called to **PRAY ~ SERVE ~ SHARE** as *Stewards in the Heart of the City*.

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 GIVING TREE

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

JOIN THE FILIPINO CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOR SIMBANG GABI

On December 21, Saint Olaf will serve as the host site as the Filipino Catholic Community of Minnesota celebrates the eighth night of the traditional nine-day series of Masses known as, *Simbang Gabi*, in anticipation of Christmas. All are welcome to join in the Mass in the Chapel at 6:30pm, followed by a reception featuring Filipino traditional favorite foods in Forliti Gathering Room.

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!



JANUARY SCRIPTURE STUDY

All are welcome to join in a weekly scripture study on Thursday mornings at 11:00am in January. We will review and discuss the upcoming Sunday's readings. Come for one session, come for them all – we will meet in Forliti Gathering Room on Jan 4, 11, 18, and 25.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

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**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00am Mass - Chapel

7:30am Confessions

12:00Noon Mass+

12:30pm Confessions

6:30pm OCIA Meeting - Edu Rm

6:30pm Mass - Chapel

Simbang Gabi

7:30pm Simbang Gabi Reception
- Forliti Gathering Rm

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:00am Mass

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

11:00am Adoration

12:00Noon Mass+

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

12:00Noon Mass

12:30pm Confessions

12:30pm Rosary - Chapel

4:00pm Vigil Mass

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

7:00am Mass - Chapel

7:30am Confessions

12:00Noon Mass+

12:00Noon AA Meeting - Edu Rm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

6:00am Mass

8:00am Mass

10:00am Mass+

12:00Noon Mass

CHRISTMAS EVE

**4:00pm Mass (3:30 Prelude)
Seasonal Choir**

**12:00Midnight Mass with
incense (11:30pm
Prelude) Parish Choir**

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:00am Mass (no music)

**10:00am Mass with incense
(9:40am Prelude) Parish
Choir**

**12:00Noon Mass (11:40am Prelude)
Scola of Parish Choir**

12:00Noon AA Meeting - Edu Rm

**4:00pm Mass (3:50pm Prelude)
Cantor**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00am Mass - Chapel

7:00am AA Meeting - Edu Rm

7:30am Confessions

11:30am Nicotine Anonymous
Meeting - Edu Rm

12:00Noon Mass+

12:30pm Organ Recital - David
Jenkins

6:30pm Parish Choir Rehearsal

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

▪ 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 27 - Dec 3	\$28,818	\$35,995	-\$7,177
YTD through Week #23	\$547,142	\$530,148	\$16,994
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK #3 - 12/01/23	PLEGDED	RESPONDENTS	% OF PARISH
	\$351,041	165	14.35%

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.