



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

**RESPONSORIAL PSALMS ARE DENOTED BY SEMI-BOLD ITALICS*

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 62:1-5, **Ps 89**, Acts 13:16-17,22-25, Mt 1:1-25

December 25, Christmas: Is 52:7-10, **Ps 98**, Heb 1:1-6, Jn 1:1-18

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

December 31, Holy Family: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14, **Ps 128**, Col 3:12-21, Lk 2:22-40

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.

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.

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 Funeral in the top right corner of any page to see the scheduled funerals.

Sally Bjorklund, Parishioner, died December 18, 2023. Funeral arrangements pending. Watch our website for details.

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

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: "Praying for Saint Olaf, I am grateful to have found Saint Olaf." "Praying the Rosary." "Daily Mass as often as schedule permits." Thank you for discerning how you are called to **PRAY ~ SERVE ~ SHARE** as *Stewards in the Heart of the City*.

CONSIDER SAINT OLAF FOR A CHRISTMAS OR YEAR-END GIFT

As we close out 2023 and anticipate welcoming 2024, we get lots of questions on when and how gifts are credited to a parishioner's account. Gifts mailed in must be postmarked December 31, 2023, in order to be included in your 2023 contributions. Online gifts need to be finalized at your banking institution in 2023 to qualify as a 2023 contribution.

This year, the way the calendar works out, we will celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent on Sunday, December 24, 2023 and then after the 12:00Noon Mass, we will turn and celebrate Christmas Eve with Mass at 4:00pm and 12:00Midnight. We appreciate your generosity in your Sunday contributions as well as any additional Christmas or Year-End gifts that you are able to share.

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 January 4, 11, 18, and 25.

HOSPITALITY GOES ON HOLIDAY

Hospitality after Mass will be on holiday after Masses on December 24 and December 31 so our volunteers can take a much-needed break. We will have Forliti Gathering Room open for Coffee and Conversation.

CELEBRATE! ALL PARISH EPIPHANY PARTY

Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 1:00pm - 3:00pm in Forliti Gathering Room. Save the date! All are welcome.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

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

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

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED
7:00am Mass (no music)
10:00am Mass with incense (9:40am Prelude) Parish Choir
12:00Noon Mass (11:40am Prelude) Schola of Parish Choir
4:00pm Mass (3:50pm Prelude) Cantor

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED, BUILDING CLOSSES AFTER 12:00NOON MASS
7:00am Mass - Chapel
7:30am Confessions
12:00Noon Mass+
12:30pm Confessions

- 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
Dec 4 - 10	\$25,116	\$25,050	\$66
YTD through Week #24	\$572,258	\$555,198	\$17,060
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK #4 - 12/08/23	PLEDGED	RESPONDENTS	% OF PARISH
	\$398,741	187	16.26%

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.

SAINTOLAF.ORG • PAGE 4



Catholic Church

DECEMBER 24, 2023

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT AND THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

PASTOR
Fr. Kevin Kenney

ASSOCIATE PASTOR
Fr. Wehmann



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

A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM ARCHBISHOP BERNARD A. HEBDA

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Merry Christmas to you and to your loved ones! Please know of my prayers for each of you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus our Savior and the true Light.

I feel so grateful that the light of Christ was seen so clearly this fall as so many of you participated in our Small Group Leadership formation, enabling our Archdiocese to embark on a new adventure as we invite out faithful to embrace small groups this coming Lent. I feel excited to be part of this Archdiocese at this time! I am so grateful for the commitment of your pastor and parish staff, as well as to you and your fellow parishioners who are leading this effort.

Please know of my continued prayers for you, your loved ones and your parish this Christmas. I ask that you also pray for me, for the clergy who generously minister in this Archdiocese, and for the amazing parish staff members who serve so many in so many ways.

Sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda
Archbishop of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR, FR. KEVIN KENNEY

We celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Advent quickly this year as we move right into the Christmas Season following the 12:00Noon Mass on Sunday. We have waited and watched and we hear again the story of the Annunciation from Luke's Gospel. Does it sound different this time than it did a few weeks back? What stands out for you? Perhaps as we have made the final preparations for our Christmas celebrations, we have prayed through them. We may have asked ourselves, what is different this year? How is our world? Are we willing to go to Bethlehem where all the celebrations have been cancelled or pared down? Have you seen the picture of the manger scene in Bethlehem where the baby Jesus is lying in a pile of rubble? It saddens our hearts and yet it is the reality in our world. How will we remember those who have been displaced around the world because of oppression, war, poverty, violence, natural disasters or the death of loved ones? Is this year different from other years, even the world Jesus was born into? This Fourth Sunday of Advent gives us hope. We cannot lose this precious moment. Mary's "yes" can be our "yes" to keep Jesus in a broken world. We find joy that our lives carry the light of Jesus Christ, and as the angel said to Mary, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for God has found favor with you." God has found favor with us, and the little we can do to bring hope, joy, peace, and love into today's world can make a world of difference tomorrow. You are blessed, you have been forgiven, now you are called. Remember, Elizabeth, who was called

barren, in her "old age" has also conceived a son; "for nothing will be impossible for God." May this Christmas remind us that God can and will work through us to continue to offer peace, hope, joy, and love to a broken world. A gesture of love, compassion, warmth to a loved one or stranger brings the Christmas message alive. Let us ride into Bethlehem this year praying for peace, reconciliation, comfort, and hope. May we be the light that is pared down! May we find strength to let it shine! God loves everyone and the message that Jesus brings into the world, "Emmanuel," "God with us," incarnates this grand and precious love of acceptance, hope, healing, and peace. Look at the baby in the pristine mangers you will encounter and think of Jesus lying in the rubble that was once a home, a business, a temple, a Church, a life, a child. May we realize the blessings we bear and listen to the message that comes to our hearts as we have watched, waited and prepared. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

God's peace and blessings to you and your family from all of us at Saint Olaf! With love, peace, and joy!

Fr. Kevin Kenney



215 SOUTH 8TH ST, MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

SAINTOLAF.ORG • PAGE 1

December 24 4:00pm: Saint Olaf Seasonal Choir & Ensemble
 December 24 12:00Midnight: Saint Olaf Parish Choir & Ensemble
 December 25 7:00am: no music
 December 25 10:00am: Saint Olaf Parish Choir & Ensemble
 December 25 12:00Noon: Schola of the Saint Olaf Parish Choir & Ensemble
 December 25 4:00pm: cantor, organ/piano

LITURGY & MUSIC: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 24 & 25, 2023

PRELUDE at 4:00pm Christmas Eve, 12:00Midnight, and Christmas Day 10:00am and 12:00Noon:

Personent Hodie - Piaie Cantiones, arr. G. Holst
Candlelight Carol - J. Rutter
Good King Wenceslas (4:00pm Christmas Eve only) - arr. R. O'Connell
Fum, Fum, Fum - traditional Catalan carol, arr. J. Anderson
The Huron Carol (12:00Midnight, 10:00am, 12:00Noon only) - arr. R. Anderson
African Noel - A. Thomas
What Child is This (4:00pm Christmas Eve only) - arr. R. Batastini
The Star Carol (12:00Midnight, 10:00am, 12:00Noon only) - J. Rutter
O Holy Night (Christmas Eve only) - A. Adam

PRELUDE at 4:00pm Christmas Day:
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen #366
Nativity Carol #365
Angels, From the Realms of Glory #358

ENTRANCE
O Come, All Ye Faithful #341 (choir arr. D. Willcocks)

PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST (12:00Midnight only)

GLORIA
Christmas Gloria - D. Laginya

SCRIPTURE
 Christmas Eve: **Isaiah 9:1-6**
 Christmas Day 7:00am, 10:00am, 12:00Noon: **Isaiah 62:11-12**
 Christmas Day 4:00pm: **Isaiah 52:7-10**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 - setting by L. Trapp

SCRIPTURE
 Christmas Eve: **Titus 2:11-14**
 Christmas Day 7:00am, 10:00am, 12:00Noon: **Titus 3:4-7**
 Christmas Day 4:00pm: **Hebrews 1:1-6**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Noël Nouvelet - setting by L. Trapp & J. Anderson

GOSPEL
 Christmas Eve: **Luke 2:1-14**
 Christmas Day 7:00am, 10:00am, 12:00Noon: **Luke 2:15-20**
 Christmas Day 4:00pm: **John 1:1-18**

HOMILY; PROFESSION OF FAITH
 PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL - setting by J. Anderson

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS
 Christmas Eve 4:00pm, Christmas Day 12:00Noon, 4:00pm:
Infant Holy, Infant Lowly #354
 12:00Midnight & 10:00am: *His Light In Us* - K. Arnesen

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS
Resonet in Laudibus Eucharistic Acclamations - J. Pascual

OUR FATHER

LAMB OF GOD
Resonet in Laudibus Eucharistic Acclamations - J. Pascual

COMMUNION
Wood of the Cradle - F.P. O'Brien

POST-COMMUNION
Silent Night #352 (verse one sung by choir in German)

SENDING FORTH
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #348 (choir arr. D. Willcocks)

POSTLUDE
In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729 - J.S. Bach
 Christmas Day 4:00pm: *A Christmas Celebration* - arr. D. Phillips

MAKING ROOM WHEN THE INN IS FULL

Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

The very familiar biblical story of the Holy Family not finding a place to stay, makes clear that the path for the birth of the Messiah, Jesus, was a path of great vulnerability. From this vulnerability of being born in a barn, came the song of the heavenly hosts, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom God's favor rests."

I think we can all agree that in 2023 we must not tolerate anyone, especially families with children, sleeping in a barn. Sadly, today, in our fair city, families with children sleep in their cars, in tents and outside. Even though our weather is currently milder than average, it is still solidly winter, cold and unfit if not sheltered.

Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness

sought a step up knowing the increase in the number of families seeking shelter (think room in the inn) might overwhelm the number of shelter beds available in these winter months. Even from a secular point of view, a barn is not an option. They connected with Saint Olaf to discuss usable, safe, dignified space to serve as an overflow warm place for families until shelter or other housing is available. The time span is usually hours to over a night.

Saint Olaf offered the Exodus building next door to the parish. It has been unoccupied since Catholic Charities moved to their newly renovated space at Elliot Park. The parish expects our own rehab of the Exodus to begin in the latter half of

2024 to become affordable housing with supportive services. Using this space to keep families safe and warm is in direct line with our mission "to serve as a living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city."

A contractor, staff, and volunteers painted, put in some flooring, and hung some new curtains (expenses reimbursed by the County). Building systems have been operating even while unoccupied. While occupied for the months ahead, utilities will be substantially paid by the County. Permits, paperwork and final safety checks are underway. By the time this edition of the bulletin is ready for distribution, the first families will be finding refuge next door when there is no room in the inn.



Adult Shelter Connect

FAREWELL TO ADULT SHELTER CONNECT

Saint Olaf began hosting the Adult Shelter Connect (ASC) more than seven years ago. On the then occasion of the parish's 75th anniversary, we looked at the possibilities for the mostly unused Cowley Hall under the worship space. A few ideas surfaced but the strongest consideration came from the newly strengthened collaboration of shelter providers in Minneapolis and Hennepin County social services.

Up to this point, adults looking for shelter needed to travel from one shelter to another to see if there was a bed available for the night. Some nights after a journey to all the shelters, through all the weather elements Minnesota offers throughout the year, seekers would learn there was no space available. If someone was a no-show and a space did open up, timing might mean it got left unused.

The creation of the Adult Shelter Connect sought to make the effort to secure a

shelter bed for the night more user friendly. A system was created that would bring shelter space availability at all the Minneapolis shelters together in one location in real-time. Simpson Housing Services staffs the ASC. Seekers could now visit ASC in person or call to find out about available space and other resources. Also, unclaimed beds are made available at a later hour by calling into ASC. No longer did folks need to trudge from place to place.

In the eyes of the ASC creators, Saint Olaf serves as a terrific site because our building is open seven days/week, we are centrally located among the shelter providers, and we have great public transportation connections. We also have long-established experience serving people experiencing homelessness and provide helpful support services through Samaritan Ministry.

Simpson staff informed Saint Olaf that they would not be renewing the lease for 2024. Program and staff costs have made it necessary to move to a virtual experience using a "phones only" for guests to make contact. There are plans in the works for some in-person sites and some procedures may be moved to the various shelter sites.

Saint Olaf appreciates and celebrates the partnership we have had with Simpson and everyone involved with the Adult Shelter Connect. Thousands of individuals have come through the doors of Saint Olaf over these years for services from ASC and Saint Olaf. Those most vulnerable are often on the receiving end of these kinds of cuts in services. The parish will respond with its best effort to meet our guests where they are and help them with their needs.