



Catholic Church

DECEMBER 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY
OF JESUS, MARY,
AND JOSEPH

PASTOR

Fr. Kevin Kenney

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Fr. Wehmann



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

HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND JOSEPH

Fr. Kevin Kenney, Pastor

"The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him." - Luke 2:40

Merry Christmas Time! We celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. I hope these days of Christmas have allowed you to relax, visit with family, take walks, eat many cookies, and ponder what the New Year will bring. Our weather has been unseasonably warm and with rain off and on, many family outings have had to take a different direction this year as ice rinks are rare, sledding hills are sloppy yet fire places still continue to roar, stories continue to be told, and laughter can be heard bellowing from many different directions. The joy of the season does not end with Christmas trees thrown to the curb, Christmas songs silenced, and a rare sighting of the Amazon or UPS driver who appeared every day for weeks. We all need our rest! We all need a good laugh. We still spread the joy and work for peace as we reflect on this troubled past year and our hopes for the New Year ahead.

Luke's Gospel tells us that that when Jesus was presented in the temple, Simeon and Anna proclaimed God's greatness as they spoke about the

child. I always smile and wonder what Luke meant when he wrote, "The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about the child." Were Mary and Joseph surprised that others may have known who their child was? They had already been visited by the shepherds, the magi, and not to mention Angels. Their life would never be the same. We reflect on our lives as we ponder what people may have asked when we were baptized. Did someone say, "What will you be, little child?" Have we been encouraged in life to live our dreams, follow God's plan, and know we have something to contribute? Our blessings continue to be unwrapped in life as we were cared for growing up and in turn, care for those who cared for us. Our celebration this weekend stirs many different emotions within, may we be at peace or find peace where we need to as we reflect on our lives and that of our family life.

As Jesus grew and became strong, many influenced his life. We thank those in our lives who have influenced us to be strong, grow in wisdom, and know God's favor is upon us. We leave another year behind and remember so many who have made a journey

to another part of the world, another state, or to God's heavenly kingdom. We pray for greater wisdom of world leaders to end fighting, improve homelands, rebuild and restore trust and hope in a world currently torn apart. So many have died, so many exiled, so many are leaving their homelands for a dream of a better way of life. What will 2024 have in store for us? We pray for the restoration of God's favor in the minds and hearts of all people. God can work wonders, the question is, "Will we let God work through us?"

As we continue to celebrate Christmastime, end a year, and begin anew, thank you to everyone who continues to help us celebrate the one who came into the world to show us God's love for us. Jesus Christ is our hope, our joy, our peace, and our love. The beauty, the warmth, the greetings, the gifts, all are greatly appreciated and cherished. May God bless you and your families as we reflect on the Holy Family, giving thanks for the blessings and challenges we have and will encounter. God bless!



EVENTS & OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

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

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

Jan 7, Epiphany: Is 60:1-6, **Ps 72**, Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6, Mt 2:1-12

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.

HOSPITALITY GOES ON HOLIDAY

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

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.

Sarah "Sally" Bjorklund, Parishioner, died December 18, 2023. Funeral Wednesday, January 3, 2024, 10:00am, visitation at 9:00am.

CELEBRATE! ALL PARISH EPIPHANY PARTY

Save the Date! Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm in the Forliti Gathering Room. Another Celebrate! event is upon us! Join us for the All Parish Epiphany Party, meet up with old friends and make new ones as we enjoy a visit from the Three Kings and warm up with bowls of chili served with all the fixings. Come one, come all!

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL CONTINUES

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: "Pray for the parish", "Praying for peace." "Choosing to serve as a faithful servant." Thank you for discerning how you are called to **PRAY ~ SERVE ~ SHARE** as *Stewards in the Heart of the City*.

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.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP – NEW YEAR, NEW SERIES!

Celebrate your faith in the first weeks of 2024 with a journey through the Sacraments! The Saint Olaf Young Adult Group will meet Tuesdays starting Jan. 9 at 5:45pm in the Forliti Gathering Room. Parishioners and guests in their 20s and 30s welcomed! Scan the QR code to join our Facebook group.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

12:00Noon Mass
12:30pm Confessions
12:30pm Rosary - Chapel
4:00pm Vigil Mass - Feast of the Holy Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

6:00am Mass
8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass+
12:00Noon Mass
4:00pm Mass

MONDAY, JANUARY 1

SOLEMNITY OF MARY HOLY MOTHER OF GOD. HOLY DAY, BUT NOT ONE OF OBLIGATION THIS YEAR.

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED. BUILDING CLOSSES AFTER 9:00AM MASS.

9:00am Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

7:00am Mass - Chapel
7:30am Confessions
12:00Noon Mass+
12:30pm Confessions
5:45pm Young Adult Group – Forliti Gathering Rm

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3

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, JANUARY 4

7:00am Mass - Chapel
7:30am Confessions
11:00am Bible Study - Forliti Gathering Rm
12:00Noon Mass+
12:30pm Confessions

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:00am Mass
10:00am Saint Olaf Craftworks Ministry – Forliti Gathering Rm
11:00am Adoration
12:00Noon Mass+

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

10:00am Centering Prayer - Monthly on-site Gathering - Forliti Gathering Rm
12:00Noon Mass
12:30pm Confessions
12:30pm Rosary - Chapel
4:00pm Vigil Mass - Feast of the Epiphany

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

6:00am Mass
8:00am Mass
10:00am Mass+
12:00Noon Mass
1:00pm Celebrate! All Parish Epiphany Party - Forliti Gathering Rm
4:00pm Mass

▪ 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 11 - 17	\$102,590	\$40,100	\$62,490
YTD through Week #25	\$678,848	\$595,298	\$79,550
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK #5 - 12/15/23	PLEDGED	RESPONDENTS	% OF PARISH
	\$427,276	199	17,30%

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.