



Catholic Church

215 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint Olaf,

March 19, 2020

By now, you have heard that all public Masses have been suspended in the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis. The pandemic we are experiencing is serious and we need to take precautions to keep everyone safe. It was only time before we all knew this would happen. Even though this seems to separate us from one another, I believe it unites us in prayer and turning to God we pray for one another and for the world. It is only God who can change the course of this pandemic now so let us ask God to guide the hands and wisdom of all of us to keep us safe and close to God and one another.

Saint Olaf will stay abreast of all that is happening. We have decided to expose the Blessed Sacrament at the regular weekday Mass times, Monday – Friday at 7:00 am and Monday – Saturday 12:00 pm. Our regular confession schedule will remain at Archbishop Hebda's request, Monday – Friday 7:30 am and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 12:30 PM. On Tuesday and Thursday's we will NOT expose the Blessed Sacrament at 5:15 PM. The building will not be open on Saturday evening or Sunday at all. We have limited staff and the public is being asked to stay home. Providing these limited services, I am not encouraging you to come to Saint Olaf. I hope to be sitting alone during these times, remembering you and the world in prayer. I felt the need to have this time available to those who are still working downtown and need a place to stop and pray.

We will be taping a Mass on the weekend for our television broadcast. This will be a private Mass where only a few will be taking part. Please join us on Sunday at 8:00 PM or Monday at 10 AM on MCN Channel 6 or log into YouTube and search for Saint Olaf Mass. We will be downloading the most current Sunday Mass as soon as we have it recorded.

I will be placing a short reflection each weekday on our website so be sure to log in for a reflection on our daily readings. There are many options to listen to weekday Masses or Sunday Masses on the television. Please see our website or the website of the Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis for more information.

This time is a hardship for many. We depend on your generous contributions to continue our operations and serving the heart of the city. If you can, I ask that you continue to contribute to St. Olaf by either electronic giving or mailing in your envelopes. Every little bit helps. I thank you whole-heartedly!

Remember to keep praying! On Ash Wednesday we heard Jesus tell us to "Go to your room, close the door and pray to your Father in heaven." Now is the time. We need to repent of our ways and turn back to God and the Gospels. Read the gospels, pray the rosary, do the Stations of the Cross at home. "Now is the time, now is the acceptable hour." We trust in God and God's love, compassion and mercy. Together we will conquer this pandemic, but only with the help of Jesus who healed the sick, forgave sinners and conquered the world through his suffering, death and resurrection. Our Lenten journey has come alive! With hope and confidence let remain faithful and united under God.

Blessings and peace!

Fr. Kevin Kenney
Pastor, Saint Olaf Catholic Church