



October 30, 2020



Pray * Serve * Share

2021 Annual Stewardship
Renewal

Dear Parishioner, Associate Parishioner, and Friend of Saint Olaf,

The past year and a half since I arrived at Saint Olaf has offered many blessings and many hurdles. We made it through the Orange Cones Zone as construction ended before the snow fell. Our Advent and Christmas seasons were beautiful and enriching. Our New Year, 2020, had us dreaming of seeing clearly where our mission fit into downtown Minneapolis, when Covid-19 forced a shutdown of public gatherings and then, the unrest in the city of Minneapolis. We did not shut down completely because I felt Saint Olaf was essential for Downtown Minneapolis. Our doors were open and we exposed the Blessed Sacrament at our regular Mass times for those who needed a place of solace and for prayer. In June, we returned to our regular Mass schedule with a smooth and sanitary transition. We have been blessed at Saint Olaf to keep alive and well our mission of being a living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city.

Last year our Stewardship drive saw many people pledging for the first time. During this pandemic we have had an increased number of parishioner's sign-up for online electronic giving. Your contributions continue to come in and we are grateful. Today, I am writing to ask your support for Saint Olaf by pledging for the year 2021.

With a small staff we have been able to keep Saint Olaf clean and safe. We have been able to live-stream our 12:00 noon Mass Monday- Friday on YouTube and our Sunday broadcast of the 10:00 am Mass has many new viewers praying with us. Our Samaritan Ministries has reopened with dedicated volunteers who serve our vulnerable population helping with their basic needs. Fr. Wehmann and Fr. Krenik continue to bring Communion to many housebound people as we serve local high rises when we are able.

Our ministries are challenged and we hope one day to be able to offer in-house enrichment programs but for now, we congregate through prayer.

With the help of great volunteer leaders, our councils have examined the situation of today's economy and have facilitated our planning of a conservative budget and cutting back on spending. We have done so but you know that a parish cannot operate efficiently without the regular income of generous donors. Your pledging helps us plan for the future and maintain a working budget. Generosity comes from the heart and everyone who gives from the heart is a generous donor. I thank you for your generosity and trust.

Every day, living with gratitude and trust, we hope that soon we will all gather again to celebrate the Eucharist and each other. With your help and support, we will keep our doors open, pay our bills, and remain joyful that Jesus Christ is alive and present in the heart of Minneapolis. We are an oasis of hope and peace in uncertain times. People thank us for keeping our doors open and having the Eucharist available. Your pledge allows hope to rise above the chaos and divisiveness in today's world. Many of the other Churches downtown have not reopened, but we remain essential to bring the love of Jesus to many who seek assurance or community today. The gifts you share today and tomorrow will have similar impacts on future parishioners, associate parishioners, and visitors to Saint Olaf as we continue to pray, serve, and share in the heart of the city.

Please answer our need and respond to the Annual Stewardship Renewal for 2021 with your pledge/gift made in gratitude, trust, and joy. I thank you in advance!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin T Kenney". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Fr. Kevin Kenney – Pastor

P.S. Share your gratitude, trust, and joy and support the mission and ministries of Saint Olaf by returning your completed Stewardship Intention Card as soon as possible.