

## What Will We Leave Behind? by Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

When my parents passed away, my mother first and a year later, my father, we children were charged with "getting rid of their stuff." It was not an easy task. Some things my siblings and I wanted as mementos, keepsakes if you will, to remind us of them. But then we were left with other things which obviously meant something to them but not to us. A more objective person, not knowing them or the story of their lives, could unemotionally hire a dumpster and throw the "stuff" away. Actually, we arrived at that point, but it was not easy. Time was a motivator. None of us lived in the town to which they had retired. We didn't have the luxury of going through everything they collected, look at it for a while, and try to figure out why it was important to them in the first place. But walking their personal items to the trash bucket or bagging it up for Goodwill was tinged with more than a modicum of guilt. Weird as it sounds, it was like we were unceremoniously throwing a piece of them out, too.

All of us are collectors of things. Maybe it comes deep within our nature. Our ancestors had to continually go out and gather. They needed to search for essential things to stay alive. But modern day human beings have been coerced into thinking we need this, that, or another thing to make our lives better. We start collecting and gathering more and more until our garages and houses become storage facilities for all of the things we deem valuable. For some reason

when we pick something up, take it home, and put it down, we believe we can't live without it. Often these are not occasional or even special moments. Our gathering of things, outside of the necessities of life, is a more common experience than we like to admit. Sadly, for some, collecting things has become an obsession, and they suffer greatly because they can't stop themselves.

We live in a consumer driven society. The majority of our advertising is meant to get us up off our chairs and buy their products. The explosion of Amazon, the success of QVC, or HSN makes it even easier to buy without moving off our chairs or leaving our houses. These groups even deliver it right to the door of our homes or offices. All we have to do is take a few steps to pick up the box, empty it, and put what we have bought in its appropriate place. In other words, those selling make it easier and easier for us to buy.

We seem to have a fundamental disconnect in the way the Gospel invites us to live our lives. It seems to challenge all believers to realize all we hold in our hands, all we see with our eyes, all we experience in the reality of this world, will pass away for each of us. And then, like so many of us, who have had the task to dismantle, redistribute, and even discard the things our elders collected, our time will come, too. Then, there will be those who will need to do the same for us.

Interestingly enough, each of us came into the world with nothing. Oddly, we leave the world not carrying anything we collected, except the story of our lives. In other words, the way we loved and were loved back. The way we forgave, and the way we were forgiven. The way we were kind to everybody, especially those who were at odds with us. The way we showed compassion and had the courage to receive it. The way we lived our daily lives in gratitude. The way we shared from our table, our pocketbooks, and our time when people needed it the most expecting nothing in return. The way we were humbled by the grace of God and the gift of our faith. And touched deeply by the example of Jesus Christ, we strived to emulate him the best we could.

Although we will leave these "things" behind, my guess is, people won't be quick to toss them aside. On the contrary, these will more than likely endure, because they are the only true "things" that remain consistent throughout the generations and ultimately last forever.





## EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at [www.saintolaf.org/events](http://www.saintolaf.org/events)

### FEBRUARY 18, PRESIDENTS' DAY

The office is closed. Masses are at the usual times, 7:00am and Noon. The building will close after the Noon Mass.

### SCHOLA CANTORUM OF EAU CLAIRE

*Mystery & Mirth, Saturday, February 23, 7:30pm*

**Jerry Hui, director**

Schola Cantorum of Eau Claire, a 12-voice choir from Wisconsin dedicated to early music, is excited to present "Mystery & Mirth." This selection of music from renaissance Spain celebrates the mystery of the Virgin birth, and the human aspects of the incarnation. Tickets \$10-15 at the door.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our beautiful chapel has a name! In 1980 Archbishop Roach dedicated it as the Chapel of Saints John and Paul. Monsignor Francis Fleming chose this name to call on the patronage of two great apostles of the early Church, as well as Saint Pope John Paul II, who was our Holy Father at the time.

### ANNUAL CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Don't forget to consider supporting the 20 ministries of this Archdiocese through the CSA. You may have received information in the mail. There are additional resources and envelopes in the Plexiglas information racks.

### CENTERING PRAYER INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM

Contemplative prayer is God's personal and unique gift to us and has been a part of our Christian heritage for centuries. If we are open to the gift of contemplation it may profoundly affect our daily life. The Centering Prayer Introductory Program serves to explain the gift of contemplative prayer and deepening our relationship with God. The method of Centering Prayer will be presented and time will be allowed for practicing the prayer. Discover the meaning of Psalm 46: "Be still and know that I am God."

The two part program will be presented on Saturdays, March 23 and 30 from 9:00 to 11:15am in the Murphy Room.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Carol Quest at [carolquest@q.com](mailto:carolquest@q.com).

### KNITTERS FOR SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Novice and/or expert knitters are needed to create warm gloves, mittens, scarves, and hats for our Samaritan Ministry guests. Knitters meet Fridays in Forliti Gathering Room from 10:00am-11:30am to knit together or receive help with their projects. For more information: contact parishioner David Fillman at [d.a.fillman@gmail.com](mailto:d.a.fillman@gmail.com).

### ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #31

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Week #31	\$19,657	\$26,466	-\$6,809
YTD THROUGH #31	\$810,912	\$871,68	-\$60,768



## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at [www.saintolaf.org](http://www.saintolaf.org)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2019

9:00AM	CENTERING PRAYER
10:00AM	RCIA
12:00PM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
2:00PM	AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL
4:00PM	MASS

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6:00AM	MASS
8:00AM	MASS
9:00AM	NURSERY OPENS
9:30AM	SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION
10:00AM	MASS
12:00PM	MASS W/AFRICAN CHOIR
4:00PM	MASS
5:30PM	DINNER WITH EXODUS RESIDENTS

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

#### PRESIDENTS' DAY

OFFICE CLOSED

7:00AM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM	MASS
12:00PM	AA

### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

7:00AM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM	MASS/CONFESSIONS

### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

7:00AM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
7:00AM	AA
12:00PM	MASS
12:00PM	AA
6:30PM	PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21

7:00AM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
7:00AM	SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
12:00PM	MASS/CONFESSIONS

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

7:00AM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00PM	MASS
12:30PM	ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

9:00AM	CENTERING PRAYER
12:00PM	MASS/CONFESSIONS
4:00PM	MASS
7:30PM	CONCERT: SCHOLA CANTORUM