



It's Going to be Massive by Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

It's the end of February as I write this. I am looking out my window. As I see the snow blowing around, I find myself longing for spring to arrive early, the snow to melt, the Arctic air to go back to the North Pole, and that I would be bathed by the warmth of the sun and that the southwesterly breezes would thaw me out. But, then I pick up the morning paper. A headline caught my eye: "Six Mpls. Bus Routes Moving to 6th Street." These are buses presently running down 8th St. They go right by our front door every day.

This is what caught my attention. Bus routes are being moved in preparation for the massive rebuilding of 8th St. which will begin early this spring. My heart sank and for a brief moment, I had a lapse in my senses, and I heard myself say, "I hope winter lasts until July!"

If you were here last summer, you got a small taste of what is to come this spring, summer, and well into the fall. Last summer, all the action in the street was right out our front door. And unlike the old days, when people worked a five-day week and then stayed home on Saturday and Sunday, the workers were there seven days a week. Only rain kept them home, and it had to be pretty steady to keep them away. The work done last summer was a prelude for this "massive rebuilding."

"Massive" is the word that makes me cringe. For

businesses and people like us along the street, this means a disruption we haven't experienced since they did the same kind of work along 2nd Ave. many years ago. The City plans to take the street out; the sidewalks, too. Street lamps are being replaced. The parking lot entrance on 8th will be closed for a good chunk of time. The front doors of the church going out to 8th St. will be impassable. In other words, it's going to be a mess. It's going to be dirty. It's going to be a challenge to get in and out of here.

Jokes about road construction have been around for as long as I remember. They seem funny until the construction is right out your front door. Minneapolis has done its best to keep us updated on what will transpire. They have had meetings. They asked us for input. The people doing the work have been friendly and accommodating. Last season, on a few occasions, they moved things around so we could have access for some big events held here at church. The City worked closely with our building supervisor to insure our water stayed on or not off very long.

All in all, we have worked well with the City and construction people, and they with us to insure the construction goes smoothly. I am grateful to the City of Minneapolis and the various companies who are obligated to get the job done. They understand the disruption to us and others. They strive to minimize it to the best of their ability by keeping us in the loop as it proceeds.



You might ask, "Is there anything we can do?" Don't stay away. We will have open access to our parking lot on 3rd Ave. Be aware this work is going to be disruptive. Be patient. Understand this construction will more than likely impact our attendance. When you add this construction to the other massive rebuilding of 35W, we have a perfect storm when it comes to people navigating their way into St. Olaf. Think about signing up for electronic funds transfer. This way, if you can't make it to St. Olaf for some reason, your automatic sustained financial support will continue to help us meet our financial obligations during this period.

Finally, try to keep a sense of humor about it. If the last month of heavy snow has taught us anything, it is to lighten the challenge we face through a good dose of humor. We know snow will end, the cold will moderate, and the sun continue to increase its warmth. The construction on 8th St. will slowly get better, the street will improve, and we will return to normal. In other words, hope springs eternal now and in the days to come.



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

WE NEED PANTS!

Samaritan Ministry serves hundreds of guests each month and the majority seek out our clothing closet. Our shelves for pants/jeans for men are bare! Please help us help our guests by donating new, or clean/gently used jeans and/or pants in all sizes. Drop items off weekdays from 9:00am-4:00pm or before Mass on the weekends. Thank you for your support!

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

Fasting: restricting eating to one full meal and two lighter meals in the course of a single day, and prohibits eating between meals for Catholics beginning at age 18 until their 59th birthday. Pregnant women and people who are sick are not obligated to fast. Such fasting is obligatory on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Abstinence: Catholics older than 14 years of age may not eat meat on Ash Wednesday or on any Friday of Lent.

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2019 from 2:30 to 3:30pm.

How Full Is Your Bucket? Positive Strategies for Work and Life by Tom Rath and Donald O. Clifton, Ph.D. This book shows us how to greatly increase the positive moments in our lives – while reducing the negative.

DISCUSSIONS THAT ENCOUNTER

Thursday, March 14, 6:30pm

EMMET CAHILL RETURNS TO ST. OLAF

Irish tenor and rising star Emmet Cahill returns to St. Olaf on March 21 for another dynamic concert full of beloved classics and nostalgic Irish favorites. Concert at 7:30pm, special meet-and-greet at 5:45pm. Tickets available online at emmetcahilltours.ticketleap.com or by calling the St. Olaf parish office at 612-332-7471. This event is a fundraiser for St. Olaf parish.

MASS WITH ANOINTING

12:00pm on Saturday, March 23. Light lunch follows.

The Sacrament of the Sick offers healing and comfort to those suffering from aging or illness in body, mind, or spirit. It is especially recommended before surgery or if one's condition has worsened since last being anointed.

CENTERING PRAYER INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM

Two-part program; Saturdays, March 23 and 30, 9:00 to 11:15am in the Murphy Room. The method of Centering Prayer will be presented and time will be allowed for practicing the prayer. For additional information, contact the Parish Office, 612.332.7471 or email: carolquest@q.com.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Please join us! *Strengthening Kinship through Advocacy: Catholic Charities 2019 Policy Briefing*, Thursday, March 28, 7:30am-9:00am.

Lend your voice and experience to social justice and legislative advocacy for those most in need in our community. **REGISTER TODAY!** Visit cctwincities.org/briefings, email events@cctwincities.org or call 612-204-8333.

REMEMBER A LOVED ONE THIS EASTER

This Easter remember a loved one, living or deceased, with a gift toward



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

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

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT, MARCH 10

- 6:00 AM MASS
- 8:00 AM MASS
- 9:00 AM NURSERY OPENS
- 10:00 AM MASS W/RITE OF SENDING FOR INITIATION CANDIDATES
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 2:30 PM BOOK CLUB
- 4:00 PM MASS

MONDAY, MARCH 11

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 12:00 PM AA

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
- 12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 6:30 PM DISCUSSIONS THAT ENCOUNTER

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

- OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS
- 7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
- 11:15 AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
- 12:00 PM MASS
- 12:30 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

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

church flowers and environment. Suggested offering is \$20.00 per remembrance. Names of honorees and donors will be posted at the church entrances. Make checks payable to St. Olaf Church with the memo: Easter Flower Donation. Forms are in the Plexiglas information racks. Place forms and donations in the collection or bring to the parish reception desk in Forliti Foyer by April 5.

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #34

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Week #34	\$14,457	\$26,466	-\$12,009
YTD through Week #34	\$885,423	\$951,076	-\$65,653