

LET US GO TO THE WELL

by Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again; but whoever drinks the water I shall give will never thirst
-John 4: 13-14

We had a plan to gather for our extended family Christmas, in January, when airfare is cheaper, and lives not quite as busy. With family spread out across the midwest and southwest, we all planned to converge on Sioux Falls to the matriarchal home of my mother-in-law and enjoy a little family reunion over the Martin Luther King holiday weekend.

Then, rumblings of a storm began to brew on the horizon. My husband and I decided to go earlier than planned so we could make sure to be there to greet our daughters and their mates when they arrived off the plane in Sioux Falls. Rumblings turned into weather warnings, then cautionary tales that warned of a large storm brewing. This was not a regular winter storm, but a storm of such epic conditions that it was given a name - Jacob. Jacob, who according to the Bible, came out of the womb holding onto the heel of his twin brother, Esau. Jacob, according to Wikipedia means "follow," but also means to "circumvent, assail, overreach." That definition is exactly what the storm did to our family's plans: buried in an avalanche of snow, assailed by blizzard winds, and every single traveler blocked from attendance except for my husband and me. We watched the winds rise and the temperatures fall, along with our hearts, as family members dropped out one by one. None of our family members could get to us from where they were and Jacob, the storm of January 2020, slew an opportunity for family community building.

Community is important but so very different nowadays. Families are spread all over the place rather than the way it used to be with your family nearby, your church just down the street, your community right there, all of it up close and personal. In Jesus Christ's time, the well was at the center of the community. The well was water and much more.

It was a symbol of life and sustenance in the desert, a place of gathering, a sanctuary, and a source

of communication. If the well failed to produce, the community would likewise fail. Consider that Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, the Gospel reading of this weekend.

Her life dramatically changed while she was doing the mundane, yet essential daily task of gathering water. In a few moments of meeting Jesus, her eyes were opened to the Good News and she immediately shared the message of how her life had been changed to all who would listen. I do not believe she went to the well that day with the thought that this would be a life-changing task, but it was. The message is to be open to the possibilities that will present themselves to you today and be ready to respond.

The well of Jesus Christ's time IS alive today. The well represents our faith reserves and our community. We go to the well when we need to drink of the knowledge and fortify ourselves for all we will encounter in the busyness of daily life. Who and where is the well in your life? This lent is a great opportunity for you to go to your well, renew your relationship with Jesus Christ through prayer, sacrifice, and almsgiving. Visit Saint Olaf during the week in addition to weekend Mass, attend one of our Lenten offerings for prayer and reflection noted in our Lenten Pew card, make plans for participating in Triduum/Holy Week. Find sanctuary and support in the well of your faith, family, and friends.

Saint Olaf is following the Influenza Guidelines from the Archdiocese

If you are ill, please stay home. Wash hands frequently for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Cover your cough. We have emptied the Holy Water fonts but still have Holy Water at the Marian altar in the Main church. Please bring a small empty bottle from home to fill. During the Our Father, the holding of hands by non-family members is discouraged. We encourage people to exchange the Sign of Peace with a bow rather than a handshake.



MARCH 15, 2020
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

St OLAF

Catholic Church

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



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

Mar 15: Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42
Mar 22: 1 Sm 16: 1B, 6-7, 10-13A; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD

UPCOMING PRAYER AND LISTENING SESSIONS

March 14, 9am-Noon, St. Alphonsus, Brooklyn Center
Let your voice be heard

SAINT OLAF SAMARITAN MINISTRY

Is in need of sheets and blankets for guests being served each week. New, or gently used sets are most welcome and appreciated. Items may be dropped off during the week or when you come for mass on the weekend. Thank you for your assistance.

ENCOUNTERING HEAVEN ON EARTH

Fr. Wehmann will present *The Mass*, a video series by Bishop Robert Barron. Mondays from 12:30PM to 1:00PM March 2 - April 6 in Forliti Gathering Room. No charge.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH

Join us in celebrating St. Patrick on March 17th after the noon Mass. We will be having a traditional Irish lunch.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Saturday, March 21 at the 12 noon Mass in the church. This sacrament offers strength and healing to those who are ill, elderly, or undergoing or recovering from surgery. Several priests will be present to administer the sacrament. All are welcome. Light lunch will follow.

DONATE TOWARD EASTER ENVIRONMENT

In honor of a loved one, living or deceased. You may use the cards at entrances and place donations in the collection basket or mail to the parish. Please submit your names by April 5. Names will be published at Easter. Thank you!

CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL UPDATE

As of March 6, Saint Olaf has reached 24.14% of our goal of \$76,809. We have pledges and gifts of \$18,540 from 85 donors. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the 20 programs and ministries of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
10:00 AM RCIA
12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:30 PM ROSARY
4:00 PM MASS

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

6:00 AM MASS
8:00 AM MASS
10:00 AM MASS
12:00 PM MASS
4:00 PM MASS
5:00 PM DINNER WITH EXODUS RESIDENTS

MONDAY, MARCH 16

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
12:00 PM MASS
12:00 PM AA
12:30 PM ENCOUNTERING HEAVEN ON EARTH

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:30 PM ST. PATRICK'S DAY LUNCH
5:15 PM MASS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

7:00 AM MASS
7:00 AM AA
12:00 PM MASS
12:00 PM AA
5:30 PM LEGATUS
6:00 PM ALANON

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY
12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS
5:15 PM MASS
6:00 PM MINNESOTA OUR COMMON HOME

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS
10:00 AM KNITTING CLUB
11:15 AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS
12:00 PM MASS
12:30 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
10:00 AM RCIA
12:00 PM ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS/CONFESSIONS
12:00 PM ANOINTING OF THE SICK LUNCHEON
12:30 PM ROSARY
4:00 PM MASS

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK 34

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
Feb 17 - Mar 1	\$19,541	\$40,000	-\$20,459
YTD through Week #34	\$960,325	\$958,028	\$2,297