



MAY 24, 2020
THE FEAST OF ASCENSION

St OLAF
Catholic Church

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

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

by Fr. Kevin Kenney

This weekend we celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord. We were also hoping to be open for public Masses but it feels like we will be weeks out before we can return to celebrate together. Initially I was hoping that we could be together for Pentecost weekend, we wait and see. The disciples were reassured that Jesus would be with them until the end of the age so we know that Jesus walks with us still today whenever we are and wherever we are at.

When the disciples saw Jesus in Galilee, where they had been ordered to go, "they worshipped but they doubted." I know how excited many of you are to return to Saint Olaf to worship and to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. We are excited to see you too! We will need to put into practice new precautions according to the guidelines set out by the Archdiocese and the CDC. We are doing so to keep everyone safe, taking into account the sanctity of the Eucharist. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is still suspended until the end of the pandemic. The CDC and the Archdiocese recommends that all people wear masks while attending Mass, those 65 and older or those with preexisting health conditions stay home or attend Mass during the week when there are fewer people, and all COVID-19 positive persons, those symptomatic and those living with them must stay home. We need to look out for one

another and love each other, respecting and valuing our gifts of life.

Some may doubt the temporary changes that we need to make and may not be happy but remember this is for the safety and love for each other. When you come to Saint Olaf, all the doors will be open so you will not need to touch a door handle. You will only be able to enter the sanctuary through certain doors. Two of every three pews have been roped off to limit seating and proper distancing will be expected in every pew. Families who live in the same household may sit together, everyone else will be 6 feet apart. Ushers will be counting people as they enter. Thirty percent of capacity is what will be allowed so we figure 130 people will fit on the main floor and 120 in the balcony. We will fill the main floor before we open the balcony. Congregational singing will be temporarily suspended but humming will be encouraged. We will still provide music at our liturgies with one or a few cantors. The reception of the Body of Christ will take place at the end of Mass, following the final blessing, in the hand only. This temporary change is recommended to allow people to depart in a way without crossing paths. I know this will upset some and cause doubts in others but remember the sacrifices we are making are for the good of everyone, out of love for Jesus and one another.

We are making plans to sanitize everything before and after each liturgy. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances, bathrooms should have limited use and will be sanitized. Pews, handrails, door handles, collection baskets will all be wiped down and the Baptismal font and Holy Water stoups will remain empty.

We will need volunteers to help with some of these tasks so if you are available and willing to help, please call the parish office and leave your name with Beth Frey. This is a major task we are undertaking to keep you safe and healthy.

With all these changes, we look forward to welcoming you back. Be aware that the transition will not be easy. Emotionally you are excited to return but once you are here, fear and anxiety may creep in. I have experienced that in the grocery store where all is well but then when people start gathering and someone coughs, everyone jumps. Just know it might be uncomfortable at first or you might want to wait to return on a weekday. That's ok. We will have our weekday Masses retuning as soon as we can so maybe that's the better place to start. Keep us in prayer, I am nervous, you might be nervous and prayer will put us all at ease. God bless!



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG/EVENTS

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

May 24: Acts 1:1-11; Ps. 47; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20
May 31: Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104; 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13; Jn 20:19-23

IN MEMORIAM

Please pray for loved ones lost who are associated with Saint Olaf. We will post news of any pending Funeral Masses or Memorial services when they are scheduled. Please check saintolaf.org and click on Funeral in the top right of any page to see any the scheduled funerals.

Clem Duffy Died: May 15, 2020 Parishioner
Frederick Talbot Died: May 12, 2020 Father of Parishioner Sandra Pruitt
Richard Paul Cavanaugh Died: May 5, 2020 Associate Parishioner
John G. Bushonville Died: May 1, 2020 Parishioner
Thomas Peter Fox Died: April 24, 2020 Associate Parishioner
Paul G. Martin Died: April 16, 2020 Son of Parishioner William Martin

VOLUNTEER SANITATION TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED

As we look forward and plan the reopening of Saint Olaf for Mass, we will need to sanitize the church before and after each Mass. If you would be interested in helping to sanitize in between Mass services please contact the parish office. 612-332-7471 Each team member will be thoroughly trained and all sanitation items will be provided.

SAINT OLAF'S CENTERING PRAYER GROUP HAS MOVED TO ONLINE GATHERINGS

Saint Olaf has hosted a Centering Prayer group for over 25 years and the Saturday Gatherings continue each week on the online Zoom platform. If you would like to join Centering Prayer's online gathering, please contact parishioner Carol Quest at CarolQuest@q.com no later than Friday morning of the week you want to join. She will facilitate your Zoom invitation. New people are encouraged to give Centering Prayer a try. All are welcome.

SAINT OLAF SINGS "SHELTER ME"

Listen to Saint Olaf sing Fr. Michael Joncas's new song, "Shelter Me" A full video can be found on the webpage.

Please visit the Saint Olaf website for updates on the Coronavirus and its impact on Saint Olaf. The main page has the latest information posted as we learn of any revisions or updates. If you would like to watch Sunday and Weekday Mass please visit the Saint Olaf website. Watch daily Mass on the Saint Olaf website in English or Spanish.

NEED A PRAYER, ARE FEELING DISCOURAGED, OR NEED TO SPEAK TO A PRIEST

If you need a prayer, someone to talk to, or need to hear another voice, please give us a call, we are here for you, 612-332-7471.

SAINT OLAF IS NOW ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Check out our new conversation on Facebook with the Fox's. Search for Saint Olaf Catholic Church, downtown Minneapolis on Facebook and [saint_olaf_church](https://www.instagram.com/saint_olaf_church) on Instagram. Like and follow us to see our daily posts and see what we are up during this time. Watch for the daily Mass videos that are posted in English and Spanish every day. Let us bring Saint Olaf to you during this time!

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions are available. We continue to celebrate two Masses Monday through Friday and one on Saturday. Many Masses remain open for a Mass intention. Please call Beth Frey in the Parish Office and she will be happy to schedule a Mass Intention for you, 612-332-7471.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AT SAINTOLAF.ORG



We encourage all of our parishioners and guests to follow Governor Walz's "[Stay Safe Minnesota](#)" directive.

Saint Olaf will be open for Mass as soon as we receive directives from the Governor and the Archbishop, allowing for Mass to be held in larger capacities, hopefully in the near future.

Please be aware that Saint Olaf has already begun the process of determining how we will return to public Masses, and we will communicate all procedures to the parish once they are defined.

Remember, we are open for private prayer, adoration, and Reconciliation according to the schedule below.

DAY	TIME	MAIN CHURCH
Monday-Friday	7:00am-7:30am	Adoration
Monday-Friday	7:30am-till line ends	Reconciliation
Monday-Friday	12:00pm-12:30pm	Adoration
Tuesday, Thursday	12:30pm-till line ends	Reconciliation
Saturday*	12:30pm-till line ends	Reconciliation
Sunday	Closed to the Public	

*Saturday is for **Reconciliation Only** at north entrance off surface parking lot.

SAINT OLAF IS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GIFTS SHARED

We thank you for your lovely notes and phone calls of support shared, please know that we miss you and cannot wait until we can see you again.

Thank you also for your continued support with gifts sent via the mail, using our online Giving via the SaintOlaf.org/Give, or the new Text-To-Give option*. Online giving is safe, secure, and you can make a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift for Saint Olaf. If you need assistance, please contact Mary Kennedy at 612-767-6204 and she can assist you with setting up your account online.

*Text the word "GIVE" to 612-800-0603. (This is Saint Olaf's Unique TEXT-TO-GIVE number. More information is available on the website, www.SaintOlaf.org/GIVE.)

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK 45

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
May 4 - 10	\$34,546	\$14,000	\$20,546
YTD through Week #45	\$1,174,874	\$1,148,312	\$26,562

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Olaf.