



ST. OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH • MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA • 612-332-7471 • WWW.SAINTOLAF.ORG

Saint Olaf Turns 78

by Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

This weekend, along with my retirement party, we celebrate the 78th year of the dedication of St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis. On June 1, 1941, Archbishop John Gregory Murray came to bless the former First Universalist Church on the corner of 8th St. and 2nd Ave. The works of ministry here at St. Olaf began in earnest at that time.

Since those early days to the present, St. Olaf Catholic Church has been an enduring Catholic presence in the heart of downtown Minneapolis. The location of the then former Universalist Church could not have been more ideal to create the new entity of St. Olaf. Downtown was different then. But what began in those early days of the church's presence continues to this day.

Availability to the sacraments became the most pressing need for those who worked downtown. Mass and confession were offered throughout the day, and the popularity of accommodating the spiritual lives of the downtown community helped the parish define its mission going forward. The other thing separating St. Olaf from other parishes was and is its orientation to an adult population. Kids were not excluded, but there were none downtown. The various programs centering on young people were nonexistent. The need

became adult formation which would help the business community and other downtown adults form and shape their faith lives.

Throughout the years, downtown Minneapolis welcomed many visitors from all over the world. People from different walks of life came to St. Olaf while they were in town. The availability of Mass at different times of day was a real gift to those who came through our doors. The daily confession schedule created an opportunity for people to receive the Sacrament when they were downtown. Plenty did, too. The anonymity afforded people a place to go instead of their regular parishes. The church, opened during the day, was a refuge of quiet for a few moments or longer. The hustle and bustle of the busy downtown took a backseat when a person came through the door and knelt down in private prayer.

Throughout the last 78 years, thousands of vigil lights were lit and prayers prayed for people's needs. In the semi-lit church through the day, you would hear the coins clink, see the match ignite, and the candle lit. They would flicker for four hours before burning out. It would be long enough for the Almighty to see the light, hear the prayer, ponder the request, and then extend the blessing asked for. There is nothing more serene than seeing the blue, gold, and red glass vigil lights burning on the

walls of the side chapels.

Shortly after St. Olaf began, there was a realization that the business community wasn't our only mission. The poor were attracted to the church, too. While ministry to them grew slowly, their increased presence in the life of St. Olaf helped the parish elaborate its mission and vision in becoming partners with other downtown churches to serve the poor and their needs. Staffing, volunteers, and programming to serve the poor were added over time.

From the beginning days until now, St. Olaf has had priests, religious women, and lay men and women who have given various years of service to St. Olaf and its mission. Each pastor, associate, and staff person has left his or her mark on the life of this parish. I often think if we could get everybody in the same room who worked here in some capacity throughout the last 78 years, we would be overwhelmed as we witnessed the talent in the room. Obviously, many have died, but the business of sharing the faith and passing it on never does. These people still live in the hearts of the people they served.



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

REMEMBER: ALL ROADS STILL LEAD TO ST OLAF!

Don't be intimidated by the construction on 8th St! We are open for regular business. Use 3rd Av for access to the small lot adjacent to St Olaf. You can use 8th St to enter the Minneapolis Club ramp. Other parking options on our website.

RETIREMENT/FAREWELL FOR FR.KENNEDY

All (that means you) are invited to the Mass and dinner to celebrate Fr. Kennedy's farewell as pastor of St. Olaf. It will start with the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday, June 1; dinner after Mass.

PENTECOST

Pentecost is the weekend of June 8 and 9. Help us celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit at St. Olaf and around the world. Wear red or ethnic clothing when you come to Mass for the Solemnity of Pentecost.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club summer meetings will be June 9 and July 14. No meeting in August.

The next meeting will be on Sunday, June 9, 2:30 to 3:30, *Shadows and Images*, by Meriol Trevor.

REMEMBERING OUR FATHERS ON FATHER'S DAY:

Father's Day, June 16, remember fathers, living and deceased, with a donation toward church flowers and environment. Suggested offering is \$5.00. Use forms available in the pamphlet racks. Make checks out to St. Olaf Church with "Father's Day Flowers" in the memo line. Please submit by June 9. Thank you!

REST IN PEACE

Sister Michon Welsh, OSF passed away this last week. Michon was Director of Liturgy here at St. Olaf from 1978-1991. Her contribution to the liturgical life of St. Olaf was significant. Monsignor Fleming referred to her time here as the "Golden Age of Liturgy." Michon was a member of the Rochester Franciscans in Rochester MN. Her funeral and burial will be there at Assisi Heights in Rochester.

We also lost another employee this past week. Pat Haas worked here from 1999-2016. She worked in the area of finances. When she "retired" she came back the next day as a volunteer and counted the collection and distributed communion up until the time of her death last week. Pat was a strong supporter of St. Olaf. She will be deeply missed. Please pray for Pat and Sister Michon and those they leave behind. St. Olaf will always be blessed because they were here.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

9:00 AM	CENTERING PRAYER
12:00 PM	MASS/CONFESIONS
2:00 PM	AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL
4:00 PM	MASS/FAREWELL FOR FR. KENNEDY

FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, JUNE 2

6:00 AM	MASS
8:00 AM	MASS
9:00 AM	NURSERY OPENS
10:00 AM	MASS
12:00 PM	MASS
4:00 PM	MASS

MONDAY, JUNE 3

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS	
7:00 AM	MASS/CONFESIONS
10:00 AM	KNITTING CLUB
12:00 PM	MASS
12:30 PM	ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

9:00 AM	CENTERING PRAYER
12:00 PM	MASS/CONFESIONS
2:00 PM	AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL
4:00 PM	MASS

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #46

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
May 13-19	\$18,127	\$27,091	\$-8,964
YTD through Week #46	\$1,161,869	\$1,313,148	\$-151,279