



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

It will be “Well Worth It”

by Fr. Patrick Kennedy

My friends,

Right now, outside our front door, the hole is deep. The passageway through is rough. The gully created by the backhoes up and down 8th St. is being readied for new drain pipes laid below that the next few generations won't see. The curbing that keeps the traffic off the sidewalks is being formed and shaped. At some point when all is readied, a new road will be laid and striped, and the reconstruction project will be finished. Traffic will resume. The road will be definitely smoother. The new piping, cables, and sewer reconstruction will function for years to come.

I may be stretching it, but as I look at all the construction and imagine the finished result in the next many months, it seems for me to be a metaphor for what has taken place at St. Olaf, and what will take place when I hand the keys over to Father Kevin Kenney on July 1.

As difficult as it is to be cheery about “embracing the orange cones” (our motto during construction time), there are times outside and in, when things like this need to be attended to. Nobody likes disruption. Nobody likes to have to “go around things” and find new routes to get where he/she is going. MNDOT is always fond of saying, “The finished product will be worth the headaches people are experiencing right now.” It does not soothe the savage souls that are created when daily commuters are trying to get to work and then

trying to get home after. Going a half a block every five minutes in rush hour traffic brings out the worst in us who have to navigate it. However, the misery and emotional pain we experience is quickly forgotten when the road is finished, and traffic is smooth sailing. We had a taste of it recently during the Final Four. All the construction ceased. Equipment was removed. For six glorious days and evenings, 8th St. parted like the Red Sea and everybody moved freely coming and going.

Over the last five years, there have been many moments of disruption. Things have changed greatly at St. Olaf. We began by dealing with our infrastructure: things people usually don't see yet are vital to creating a healthy environment for all coming through our doors. We had a building audit done. An assessment was made of all things most people don't pay attention to, and we began to systematically do them. For example, through the recommendation and work of parishioner Paul Archambault, President of Stinson Electric, the lighting for the entire building has been updated to LED lighting, saving thousands of dollars on our electric bill each year. Aging mechanical equipment long past its expiration date was examined. Decisions were made to repair or replace each piece as needed. During our reconstruction, refurbishing, and renewing phase, we wired umpteen hundreds of feet of new cable, ensuring our computer and other technology

would be well-suited to keep up with demands of the changing technology of the future. We have done much more below the surface and cosmetically to enhance the daily experience of coming into St. Olaf.

Each generation of pastors and parishioners have engaged in the same kind of efforts over the last 78 years.

During these times of construction, the patience of all of us is tested. The daily question has always been and is today, “When will this be done?” However, when it is finally finished, the end product is always “well worth it.” Father Kevin will not have the knowledge of the day-to-day challenges of our days of reconstruction, refurbishing, and renewal, although, he will probably have his own at some point. But at least right now, the building and infrastructure are in good shape. This is largely due to the generosity, the time, and the talent of parishioners and other skilled workers who participated in these enormous efforts over the last five years. Working together, putting up with disruption, and even finding humor in the mess, the “road” was renewed. It is smooth and free-flowing. Every inch has been updated and is now used to its fullest. With your support and assistance, he will focus on other things that matter to the present and future generations of parishioners. In the process, you and he will continue to keep St. Olaf, “The saving presence of Christ in the heart of the City.”



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

ST. OLAF IS OPEN DURING ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Does parking downtown cause you anxiety? It's not as bad as you think. Strengthen your nerves; bolster your resolve; gird, brace, fortify, and psych yourself up to do battle with road construction and find your treasure – a parking place near St. Olaf Catholic Church!

Enter our small lot off of 3rd Av. Enter the Minneapolis Club ramp off of 8th St. Park in the ramp at 8th St. and 2nd Av. with a voucher from our front desk security person. Park in the street lot at 10th St. and 2nd Av. and display a dashboard parking pass also from our security person.

KIT DOWNES IN CONCERT – SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 7:00PM

Innovative jazz musician and organist Kit Downes will present his unique talent on St. Olaf's Lively-Fulcher organ. The concert is co-sponsored by ECM Records and American Public Media's Pipedreams, and is free and open to the public.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

There will be one Mass on Independence Day, July 4, at 10:00am. The building will close after Mass. Offices are closed all day.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club will meet July 14. 2:30pm. *Bleeding Hands, Weeping Stones: True Stories of Divine Wonders, Miracles, and Messages* by Elizabeth Ficocelli. No meeting in August.

NURSERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to unforeseen circumstances, nursery services are suspended for the near future. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. We will announce in a future bulletin when services resume.

CENTERING PRAYER

Everyone is welcome at St. Olaf Saturday mornings for Centering Prayer, 9:15 – 11:30 in the Forliti Gathering Room.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- 9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER
- 12:00 PM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 4:00 PM **MASS**

BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- 6:00 AM **MASS**
- 8:00 AM **MASS**
- 10:00 AM **MASS**
- 12:00 PM **MASS**
- 4:00 PM **MASS**

MONDAY, JUNE 24

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

- 7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 7:00 AM AA
- 12:00 PM **MASS**
- 12:00 PM AA
- 6:00 PM ALANON

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS

- 7:00 AM **MASS/CONFESSIONS**
- 10:00 AM KNITTING CLUB
- 12:00 PM **MASS**
- 12:30 PM ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

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

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #49

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
June 3-June 9	31,004	\$26,052	\$4,952
YTD through Week #49	\$1,223,080	\$1,392,343	-\$169,263