

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
JULY 21, 2019

St. OLAF
Catholic Church



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

The Gift of Hospitality

by Fr. Kevin Kenney

Today the scriptures give us an opportunity to unwrap the great gift of hospitality. We hear about Abraham welcoming the three visitors and providing for them a place of rest and nourishment. Jesus visits Martha and Mary who received him into their home. Hospitality is a universal gift, and cultures treat hospitality in many ways but all do so with the reception and entertaining of friends, family, visitors, and strangers.

Reflecting upon the story of Abraham and the three guests, I remember the many times hospitality was offered to me along the way. One day while visiting a family in a remote village of Guatemala, my companion and I were invited to sit and enjoy some refreshments and a meal. As we waited, we had noticed that there were many chickens running around and suddenly there were fewer. We chatted with some of the family members, and soon a bowl of chicken soup appeared before us with some tortillas. Each bowl had a chicken leg in it, and we thought, "This must be the chicken that disappeared." On my visits to a family who live in a pueblo in Mexico, each time I arrive the whole pueblo greets me at the entrance of the village, and we walk together to my friends' home where we all share a meal. At times visiting families in Chicago, on the Westside of St. Paul, or in Mexico, when one stops to say hello, the family offers a beverage, and soon

you see one of the younger children running out the back to buy a couple bottles of pop. Oftentimes on trains, planes, or even in parks, people share what they have with those around them, offering hospitality to friends, family, and strangers. I always get a chuckle out of the Abraham story because culturally it would not fit in our day. Once the visitors accepted the hospitality of Abraham, "He hastened into the tent and told Sarah, 'Quick, three measures of fine flour! Knead it and make rolls.' He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice steer, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it." Now, in reality, how quickly does one make rolls and prepare a steer? It would take at least an hour or two to prepare all of this and then to serve it and to eat. We live in a culture of fast food and immediate gratification. If you were invited to someone's home and nothing was prepared when you arrived, and you waited an hour or two to be served, would you go back?

Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary strikes another nerve for many. Mary is sitting at the feet of Jesus listening to every word Jesus is saying whereas Martha is busying with serving the guests. I would suspect Martha is catching bits and pieces of the conversation, but she is burdened by doing all the work. Taking time to sit and have a conversation is a rarity today because we, like Martha, always have something to do. I have found myself in the

habit at times of being in a conversation with someone and while he/she is talking, I'll look off into the distance to see what is happening having to pull myself back to be more attentive to what is being said. Another habit many have is that while in conversation, they will check their cell phone or watch when it buzzes rather than giving 100% to the conversation. We can learn from Mary as well as Martha that we need to be attentive to the situation we are in and "chose the better part."

Saint Olaf does an excellent job of offering hospitality. I have seen in my first weeks here the friendly exchange of greetings, the gift of gathering and listening during hospitality, and the welcoming and generous reception of parishioners, friends, family, and strangers. Let us always remember as scripture says, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels." (Hebrews 13:2) Unwrap the gift of hospitality in your world and see that it still is of great value today, and that time is a precious gift to spend with another.



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

ST. OLAF DAY JULY 28

The patron saint of our parish is St. Olaf, King and Martyr. He is also the patron saint of Norway, where his feast day is celebrated on July 29. Each year on the weekend closest to this date we celebrate "St. Olaf Day" with special music, prayers, and food.

At all Masses next weekend, July 28, we will celebrate St. Olaf Day. Enjoy Scandinavian treats after all Sunday Masses. The St. Olaf Choir will minister at the 10:00am Mass in English, Norwegian, and Swedish.

Olaf Haraldsson (c. 995 – 1030) was born in Ringerike, Norway, son of a Viking lord. During a trip to Normandy, Olaf experienced the vibrant life of French Christianity and, exchanging Viking lore for the Christian faith, he was baptized at Rouen. Olaf brought a governing system, legal protections, and freedoms to the people under "King Olaf's law," which looked to Christ as the standard for action and law.

When we venerate St. Olaf, we honor his faith, courage, and commitment to spreading the gospel, no matter the cost. We ask for the grace to follow God's will for us and "to serve as a living sign of Christ's saving presence."

SAVE THE DATE!

The Second Annual "Of Ministry and Music" will be **Thursday, September 26, 2019** at the church. This event is for all parishioners, associate parishioners, family and friends of St. Olaf. It will be an evening of socializing, dinner, and music. More details to follow.



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.

AQUATENNIAL PARADE

The Aquatennial Torchlight Parade will go down 2nd Av. on Wednesday, July 24 at 8:30pm. Come and watch the parade on the St. Olaf block! St. Olaf staff and volunteers will hand out water and lemonade to parade-goers that night.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

SATURDAY, JULY 20

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, JULY 21

- 6:00 AM MASS**
- 8:00 AM MASS**
- 10:00 AM MASS**
- 12:00 PM MASS W/AFRICAN CHOIR**
- 4:00 PM MASS**

MONDAY, JULY 22

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

TUESDAY, JULY 23

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24

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

THURSDAY, JULY 25

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

FRIDAY, JULY 26

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, JULY 27

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

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #1

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
July 1-July 7	\$15,066	\$21,000	-\$5,934
YTD through Week #1	\$15,066	\$21,000	-\$5,934