



Baptism: Formed in Faith for Mission

By Michael Griffin, Parish Staff

I might have the most unique configuration of Godparents in the world. My Godmother, my aunt Kathy (Mom's sister), is a nun, and my Godfather, Uncle Pat (Dad's brother), is a priest. Now they were not yet in these chosen vocations when my parents asked them to serve as my Godparents. And it has already been suggested that the prospects for my eternal salvation drove them in these directions, so save your breath!

It is the role of Godparents to witness in faith the reality of the celebration of the sacrament of Baptism, and to help parents form the newly baptized child into living a life in God's love and answering the call to love our neighbor as Christ taught us. They represent the whole Christian community, and they commit the community to supporting the parents along the way. My Godparents, like most, had a certain approach and understanding of this at the time of my baptism, shaped by being teens themselves, being grandchildren of immigrants, and the times, especially life on the farm.

They also kept growing in this witness throughout their lives and have shared it generously with me and many others around them. A couple of years back, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Uncle Pat's ordination for this Archdiocese, and next year will be the

50th anniversary of Aunt Kathy joining the School Sisters of St. Francis. These are big-deal milestones for anyone with this longevity, but to persevere through the decades of a wonderful, but sometimes broken and sinful Church, is a bigger deal.

Family and an active faith community formed my Godparents (and parents and me!) and encouraged them to share their gifts in the world around them. These two elements also significantly shaped how they arrived at their vocation decisions, how they have lived it over the years, and how we as a family have celebrated it. At the 40 year mark, five generations gathered from my great-aunts to my new grandson who had just been baptized. Now he's 10, has an eight-year-old sister, and the generational roots only get deeper.

In our family and I'm sure yours, the phrases "Remember when..." or "I remember..." provide a frequent introduction to stories told to either a new set of ears to hear, or renewed for the umpteenth time and then sealed with the familiarity of joy, or tears or both, and always with plenty of laughter.

This very act of gathering the generations, remembering and sharing stories, puts into practice in ordinary fashion what we do in extraordinary fashion when we, as baptized people, gather to celebrate the Eucharist

every Sunday. We share the ancient scriptural stories of creation, covenant and cross, and we remember the gift of God's love in Christ's Body and Blood. We take all of this into the world for mission; at home, work, school and any place in need of love and mercy (and is there any place that doesn't?).

On the day of my Baptism, my then teenage Godparents stood with my somewhat overwhelmed parents (I was the first-born and only eight days old) and assorted other family members. All of us gathered that day inherited from countless earlier generations the witness and example that we are formed for a purpose; mission. To be faithful is to serve with the gifts we've been given even with our brokenness and sometimes sinfulness. God calls us by name even before we are born into a relationship of love, compassion, forgiveness, and service. Baptism celebrates our belonging to God and the Community. We are never alone. We are never expected to carry out the gospel mission alone. I have always found this to be a big relief and very exciting.

But even though we are not alone, we must still contribute our unique part as a baptized member of the Body of Christ. St. Olaf has been helping faithful folks for nearly 80 years by gathering the generations, proclaiming

Continued on next page

Baptism: Formed in Faith for Mission

Continued from front

the stories in God's Word, and responding to the gospel mission. We strengthen this effort by taking our baptismal call seriously, supporting the parish with our time, talent and treasure, and bringing the love of God to the world around us. We are never done growing in this opportunity/responsibility in faith.

So give thanks for those places and people that helped to form you, renew your own baptism at whatever state it is today (God fills in the gaps!), and contribute your part to the mission of St. Olaf and the gospel.



EVENTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org/events

READINGS FOR SUNDAY MASS

Sept. 22: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13.

Sept. 29: Am 6:1, 4-7; Ps 146; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31.

PRE-MARATHON MASS

Sunday, October 6 at 6:00am: We are inviting all participants, volunteers, and supporters of the Twin Cities Marathon to attend Mass here before the race. Fr. Joe Taphorn, Rector of the St. Paul Seminary and marathon runner, will preside.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING?

Fr. Wehmann will lead a 6 week series on the Catholic document, *Rerum Novarum* (On Capital and Labor), on Mondays from 12:30 -1:00pm, September 23-October 29 in the Forliti Gathering Room. There is no cost. Explore issues of poverty, wealth, economic justice, social organization, labor, and the role of the state in the light of authentic Church doctrine.

WEDNESDAY ORGAN RECITALS

Every Wednesday from September 18 through December 4, there will be an organ recital following the Noon Mass. Local Twin Cities organists will showcase the capabilities and versatility of our wonderful Lively-Fulcher instrument. Freewill donation.

JOIN A CHOIR!

Choir season has begun again for the fall, but it isn't too late to join the ranks of singers. If you are interested in singing in any of our choirs, or if you have any questions about music ministry at St. Olaf, contact Joel Anderson. There are a variety of times and commitment levels to choose from.

COVERING THE BASICS: DONATIONS FOR MEN & WOMEN

The League of Catholic Women (LCW) is a faithful partner with St. Olaf and Samaritan Ministry. They are hosting a drive on September 24 from 10:00am-Noon. Help support their effort to help others!

Needed: Underwear, Socks, Pajamas, Toiletries & Pedicure Kits, Bar Soap/Hygiene items, Totes, Sheets & Blankets.

BOOK CLUB

The next meeting will be Sunday, October 13 from 2:30 to 3:30. The book is: *Pope Fiction* by Patrick Madrid – chapters 1 through 15.



THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Additional Information at www.saintolaf.org

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER

10:00 AM RCIA

12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS

4:00 PM MASS

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SEPTEMBER 22

6:00 AM MASS

8:00 AM MASS

10:00 AM MASS

12:00 PM MASS

4:00 PM MASS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS

7:30 AM SAMARITAN MINISTRY HOSPITALITY

12:00 PM MASS

12:30 PM FR. WEHMAN RERUM NOVARUM

12:00 PM AA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS

10:00 AM LCW DRIVE

12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS

7:00 AM AA

12:00 PM MASS

12:00 PM AA

12:30 PM ORGAN RECITAL

6:00 PM ALANON

6:30 PM PARISH CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

7:00 AM MASS/CONFESSIONS

12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS

5:30 PM OF MINISTRY AND MUSIC II

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

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, SEPTEMBER 28

9:00 AM CENTERING PRAYER

10:00 AM RCIA

12:00 PM MASS/CONFESSIONS

2:00 PM AFRICAN CHOIR REHEARSAL

4:00 PM MASS

ANNUAL BUDGET AS OF WEEK #10

CONTRIBUTIONS	ACTUAL	BUDGET	DIFFERENCE
September 2 - 8	\$23,443	\$14,034	\$9,409
YTD through Week #10	\$170,227	\$206,460	-\$36,233