

# SAINT OLAF NEWS

SUMMER 2020 ■ NEWSLETTER OF SAINT OLAF CATHOLIC CHURCH, DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS, MN



**WHAT WILL SUMMER  
LOOK LIKE?**

*page 2*



**THE STORY CONTINUES**

More memories of Saint Olaf

*page 6*



**WHERE'S THE BEEF?**

*page 10*

*Serving as a living sign of  
Christ's saving presence in  
the heart of the city.*

# CONTENTS

2

WHAT WILL SUMMER LOOK LIKE

3

ORDINARY TIME IN AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

4

SAINT OLAF'S BELLS RING TO MARK CONTINUITY AMIDST  
UNCERTAIN TIMES

5

STEINWAY PIANO RESTORATION UPDATE

7

TREASURED MEMORIES LIVE ON WITH A FOREVER GIFT

8

PARISH MISSION IN THE HEART OF THE CITY (PMHC): IT'S YOU!

9

JUDY'S STORY

10

"WHERE'S THE BEEF?"  
CLEAN CLOSETS FOR SAINT OLAF SAMARITAN MINISTRY

11

ADULT SHELTER CONNECT: AN UPDATE

12

#StayHomeMN IS THE ORDER: BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HOME?

13

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: GOSPEL PRINCIPLES FOR TOUGH  
TIMES



# WHAT WILL SUMMER LOOK LIKE?

by Fr. Kevin Kenney

Have you asked yourself this same question? As the days pass and we find ourselves trying to figure out what our world will be like, do we continue to plan a summer vacation, family reunions, outings to ballgames, soccer fields, swimming pools? Watching BBC News the reporter at the end of the broadcast stated, "2020 is just getting weirder and weirder." What have we learned from all this weirdness?

Hopefully we have come to know what is important in our lives. Spending time with family, slowing down, reconnecting with friends and spending time in a new way with the Lord. When was the last time you had so much time on your hands? Did things really slow down or have we taken a different approach on life and again can see what really matters. It has been difficult at times because we have had to spend time with ourselves. Did you ever think you would befriend yourself in such away as you do today? Have you taken the time for self-reflection and realize the beautiful person you are? Sure we have struggled with unemployment, less food, more time and have probably spent too much time on-line. But in this struggle we have learned what self-survival might look like. I realized the experiences of the past have formed me into who I am today and today, I can make of this situation what I want to make of it. The Lord is near and Jesus walks with us in these days and so our lives in this short time become like those of the disciples hidden away in the upper room, waiting for the Advocate who

Jesus said would come. It was days and even maybe weeks before the Holy Spirit descended upon them. They were cooped up for fear of being persecuted. What did they talk about? Did they get along? Who did the cooking and cleaning? Suddenly one day in prayer, the room shook and the Holy Spirit descended upon them. We await the same Holy Spirit to come and awaken within us the potential for who we can be, giving us new life.

So, what will your summer look like? Will there be ballgames, soccer tournaments, festivals, Church services? Will the family gather for picnics, reunions, time at the lake? Only time will tell yet, we know that it will be different. Maybe we will be surprised with the "newness" of life. Maybe the Holy Spirit will free our spirits so we share the good news of Jesus Christ and bring healing, unity, and peace to our world. It all begins at home and now we know what home is like, whether we have spent the last weeks alone or surrounded by family, studying, working, and playing together. What perspective has this shone for us? Are you different today because of it?

What will our summer be like without air-conditioned movie theaters, Saint Paul's Izzy's Ice Cream on Marshall Ave, or Happy Hour on a crowded rooftop? Will we survive with home haircuts, home cooked meals, homemade masks that we now wear in public? Will there be fireworks, the State Fair, a free concert or two? What will

bring joy to our lives?

Hopefully, part of our summer will be spent sitting in a pew separated by ribbons where we can wave to each other, listen to a cantor or two, and get in and out of Church without having to touch anything except Jesus. Many have longed for the day when they could receive Jesus again and hopefully this is happening. We realized how special the Eucharist is, yet we knew Jesus was present in every moment throughout this pandemic. Receiving Jesus in the hand will be the norm and we have walked with Jesus hand in hand the last weeks. It was Saint Patrick's Day, when the last line of the Irish blessing stated, "Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand," that I realized as we have held Jesus momentarily in our hand, so God has held us together in the palm of his hand. This will be a challenge for some but when we think about others and not just ourselves, we are saving lives. Let us say "Amen" together that we may gather again and pray for continued, strength, wisdom, acceptance and healing.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen."



# ORDINARY TIME IN AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

By Virginia Stillwell, Director of Worship

The extraordinary Paschal Season of Lent and Easter 2020 is behind us. Gradually the heartbreak of fasting from the sacraments, from regular income, and from gathering with our loved ones and community is dissipating. Restrictions and the danger of serious illness may have lessened, but still we remain cautious about protecting our health and the wellbeing of those around us. These concerns have become, not extraordinary at all, but an ordinary part of daily living. We experience their effect everywhere – even at Saint Olaf.

For the time being the liturgy that we love has changed drastically, so much so that it may be difficult for us to feel the love and joy that the Mass has always brought to our hearts. But some aspects of the liturgy have not and will never change. We are entering into Ordinary Time again and the texts and prayers of the Sundays of Ordinary Time, especially, can provide spiritual support in this extraordinary year.

The Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year explain the main difference between the weeks of Ordinary Time and the weeks of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. During Ordinary Time “no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays.” (no. 43). Every Sunday, “the Lord’s Day... the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery.” (no. 4) In other words, the church “commemorates the Resurrection of the Lord... together with his blessed Passion.” (no. 1) What does the Paschal Mystery of the death and resurrection of Christ have to do with the situation we find ourselves in? How does the mystery of Christ support us in this extraordinary time?

Every Sunday, beginning June 21, we will hear from Matthew’s gospel about the way of discipleship – words that invite us to have the courage to take up our cross and follow Jesus. As disciples we will bear burdens, but

we need not fear. The way of discipleship opens up the plentiful grace of the kingdom of God. In parable after parable, Jesus will remind us of God’s inexhaustible kindness to all. He will summon us to a life of faith, prayer, courage, love, forgiveness, of hearing the word and bearing rich fruit. This seems to me to be what it means to live the Paschal Mystery. We may be confused and uneasy about what is happening, but opening our hearts to the word of God will surely give us hope that the Lord is leading us through it all. We may be struggling with the burden of illness in our families or inadequate income, but prayer brings us face to face with Jesus, who suffers with us and helps carry our load. We may be lamenting the loss of closeness to people we love, but faith in God’s love allows us to continue to care for those who need it most.

This summer we will also hear from the Letter to the Romans. Saint Paul will all but beg us to embrace the paschal mystery into which we have been baptized – that we, who die with Christ, are lifted up by Christ’s love and are being transformed through the life of the Spirit that has been given to us. These scriptures are like a pep talk - raising our spirits and giving us energy to be a living sign of Christ’s saving presence with others. It is surely a mystery and a blessing when we are not overcome by the losses or darkness we encounter, but instead welcome the light of the Spirit to enkindle in us the fire of Christ’s love.

Throughout Ordinary Time the Opening Prayers of the Sunday Masses will encourage us to rejoice in the gifts that God pours out on those who place their faith in Jesus Christ, the living Lord. Pray intently along with the priest who says these words each Sunday. No matter what extraordinary circumstances we go through together, these prayers will inspire us to embrace the hope and joy of life in the risen Christ.



## PATIENCE, ANTICIPATION, & FIRST COMMUNION

By Michael Griffin,  
Director of Social Ministry

Special occasions or meals generate their own momentum and heightened anticipation. We might be focused on the people who will gather, the activity planned, or the tastes associated with the selected food.

As people of faith we have certainly had this dynamic thrust upon us since March by the #StayHomeMN order of Governor Walz and the suspension of all Masses by Archbishop Hebda is still in effect as this edition goes to press. We long to return to Saint Olaf and to celebrate Mass together and receive communion.

There’s a special group of five children from three families with great anticipation of receiving the Eucharist. They have been preparing for their first Communion. By the time you receive this in your homes it will be about six weeks after the original date for their celebration. They continue to work on the preparation.

We have gathered for online sessions that sometimes even features a cat or a dog in the picture! We listened together to a video of the “testimony” of people of various ages as they “gave witness” to the place receiving communion has in their lives. The children were asked to interview someone they know and listen to their testimony.

The children have shown great patience in anticipation of celebrating their first Communion. Please pray for these five members of the parish and ask yourself the question, what is my testimony of the importance of receiving the Eucharist? Share your response with someone even if they are not interviewing you, as together we all anticipate celebrating with these children and their families.



## SAINT OLAF'S BELLS RING TO MARK CONTINUITY AMIDST UNCERTAIN TIMES

By Joel Anderson, Director of Music

Saint Olaf's tower bells are a familiar and abiding presence in the ambiance of downtown Minneapolis. They call us to prayer and unity, marking sacred and civic events alike. If you've been downtown at all during the coronavirus pandemic, you may have noticed that we have continued to ring our tower bells regularly. Although they have been unable to call us to assemble for worship during the stay-at-home order, they have yet served as a reminder of our presence and mission here in the heart of the city. We continue to ring the bells daily for the Angelus at 12:00pm and 6:00pm, including a hymn at 12:00pm. On Sundays they have also been playing hymns at 8:00am, 12:00pm, 2:00pm, and 4:00pm, until we are able to once again hold public liturgies.

Our nine bells are among the oldest tower bells in the state of Minnesota. Cast in 1882 by Meeneley Bell Works of New York, they were installed in the Universalist Church of the Redeemer, on our present property, that same year. The bells were gifted by C. W. Washburn of Gold Medal Flour, who was also a partial owner of

WCCO radio. The bells have endured two calamitous fires; in 1888 when the Universalist Church burned, and again on Ash Wednesday in 1953 when the first Saint Olaf Church burned. After the 1953 blaze, the bells were sent to the Verdin Bell Company in Cincinnati, Ohio, where they were refurbished and electrified. They were installed in our current tower in 1955.

In November 1982, a centennial commemoration was held, and the bells were named and christened: Mary, Gabriel, Isaiah, John the Baptist, Luke, Mary Magdalene, Jerome, Elizabeth Ann Seton, and Cecilia.

Those of you who have been part of the Saint Olaf community for longer than just a few years may recall that the bells were refurbished not long ago. In 2014, the bells were taken down and sent once again to the Verdin Bell Company, where they were refurbished and provided with new strikers and electrical components. There is a plaque in the Forliti Foyer with the names of those who generously donated to the restoration project. During the 2014

restoration, an electronic speaker system sounded bell tones while the bells were away. The Verdin company continues to inspect and service our bells annually.

Each bell in our tower is rung by a striker on the inside of the body with a clapper, because swinging the bells would put too great a strain on the tower. A digital system controls the ringing of the bells. Bells can be rung individually, in various combinations of tolls and peals, and can even play melodies. A variety of these peals, tolls, and melodies can be programmed in advance to ring at a specific time. There is also a remote control that conveniently enables the operator to set the bells ringing during certain special occasions, for example, during the Gloria on Holy Thursday, or while a wedding party is processing out of the church after the wedding liturgy. The bells can also be played manually from the sacristy.

Thanks to providence and good stewardship, the bells of Saint Olaf have been an enduring fixture of downtown for nearly 138 years, calling all who hear to prayer and thoughts of the divine.



# STEINWAY PIANO RESTORATION UPDATE

By Joel Anderson, Director of Music

In the Summer/Fall 2019 newsletter, I wrote an article outlining the need for repairs to our Steinway B piano that resides in the main church. The Steinway has served Saint Olaf faithfully for many years, and was beginning to show signs of age, wear, and tear. After consultation with several piano technicians who all concurred that restoration work was necessary, we made the decision to go ahead with the project, seeking funding and a reputable rebuilder. Thanks to generous donations, particularly one in memory of George and Alice Moskalik from the Tim and Susan Flynn family, I am very pleased to report that the project is now well underway. Early in the morning, on Tuesday, April 14, two days after Easter Sunday, Manny's Piano Movers came to take the piano to the shop of Mark Humphrey, piano rebuilder. Mr. Humphrey

has worked on pianos in some of the Twin Cities' top performance venues, like Orchestra Hall and the Ordway; in addition to rebuilding, restoring, maintaining, and tuning pianos on local college campuses and in other concert spaces.

The restoration work will take place in two distinct stages. First, the "belly" work which includes items like the strings, agraffes, felt, and everything else in the "belly" of the instrument that needs to be worked on or replaced. Second, the action work, which includes the mechanisms which connect the keys to the hammers which strike the strings. As of the writing of this article, the "belly" work is underway. The action work may take some more time because we are waiting on parts – like so many other places, the Steinway factory in New York has been temporarily shuttered

because of the coronavirus pandemic. Assuming that the needed parts will be on their way sometime in the coming weeks, we still hope to have the project completed in time for the celebration of the feast of our patron, Saint Olaf, on July 26. When the project is finished, the piano will require more frequent tuning, for about a year, while the new strings and pins settle.

Music is one of the important and visible ways in which we serve as a sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city for our parish community, our many visitors, and all who come through our doors or watch the TV broadcast of our liturgies. The restoration of the Steinway piano will help to ensure that our music ministry remains a vibrant source of comfort, joy, and inspiration for many years to come.



**SAVE  
THE DATE  
OCTOBER 1, 2020**

Of Ministry and Music III  
Watch the parish  
website for updates.





## THE STORY CONTINUES...

By Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

*"I alone cannot change the world,  
but I can cast a stone across the  
waters to create many ripples"*  
- Mother Teresa

It started out as a pondering, which then developed into a story, one that needed to be told – and so it was. Sam Cleveland, Associate Parishioner started a recent ripple when he dropped a story in front of those who know and love Saint Olaf in our Spring 2020 Saint Olaf Newsletter. In his reminiscing, he posed the question if he might be the "person with the longest time span of attendance [at Saint Olaf] of anyone – 78 years."

We move on to a phone call I received from Bernadine Fox, affectionately known as Bunny. She and her husband Tom have been Associate Parishioners of Saint Olaf since 1985, but the connection goes much further back than that, as you soon shall see. Tom had been in the hospital since early February, battling a life-threatening illness. Every day Bunny visited Tom and read messages and cards sent by friends, articles from the newspaper, and one day she grabbed the Spring 2020 Saint Olaf Newsletter. Bunny said she read it to Tom

from cover to cover and after she read Sam Cleveland's article, Tom shared that he "had a story about Saint Olaf to share as well, during the time of the fire."

Bunny related to me that in 1953, Tom, who was 19 at the time, was attending Loras College, a Catholic Liberal Arts school located in Dubuque, Iowa. One of his Rectors "encouraged all of the students to pray devotedly over the Lenten season to fight off Satan and his attempts to destroy souls and organizations devoted to the Catholic faith." They had a retreat scheduled to begin on Thursday, February 19, led by Fr. Cowley from Saint Olaf in Minneapolis. The morning of the retreat, the students were told that Fr. Cowley would not be leading the retreat as he had returned to Saint Olaf the night before after receiving word that Saint Olaf's church and rectory had been destroyed in the Ash Wednesday evening fire.\* That entire Lenten Season, Tom and his classmates prayed for Saint Olaf's church to be restored to serve the faithful in downtown Minneapolis. Later, he decided to make the visit to Saint Olaf to see the restored church that he had prayed for so diligently. When he and Bunny settled in the Twin Cities, Saint Olaf became one

of their parishes where they worshipped frequently.

The ripple of a story shared by Sam, and read aloud by Bunny to provide comfort, became one that helped Tom enjoy a lovely walk down memory lane highlighting his years at Loras, and his appreciation for Saint Olaf. We are so very thankful that his wife Bunny was able to tell us of the impact of Sam Cleveland's article to the Fox family. We may never know the impact of our words or our prayers, but they absolutely make a difference, changing hearts and lives as the ripple effect continues. Sadly, Thomas Fox passed away on April 24, 2020. The memories of a life well lived, and man much loved will provide comfort for all those who knew Tom.

*\*Tom's memory was indeed correct, from the book, *We Had a Fire*, written by Fr. Cowley, the very first page shares this fact that, indeed, Fr. Cowley was not present the evening of the fire as "I was in Dubuque, Iowa, about to conduct a retreat for the students at Loras College." (If you would like to read Fr. Cowley's memoir, *We Had a Fire*, we have copies available, call the parish office for a copy).*



From left to right: Pauline Altermatt †, Anna Brombach, and Doug Anderson

## TREASURED MEMORIES LIVE ON WITH A FOREVER GIFT

By Mary Kennedy, Parish Administrator

Gifts can take many forms, but the best ones are those given from the heart. Think about the gifts you have received over the years. The ones that made the most impact to you may be because it was obvious that the person who gave the gift put a lot of thought into their present to you, your gift may have come as a complete surprise, or it may have been exactly what you needed at that particular moment in time. Whatever the reason, the impact of a memorable gift can live on forever, long after it has been unwrapped and put to use.

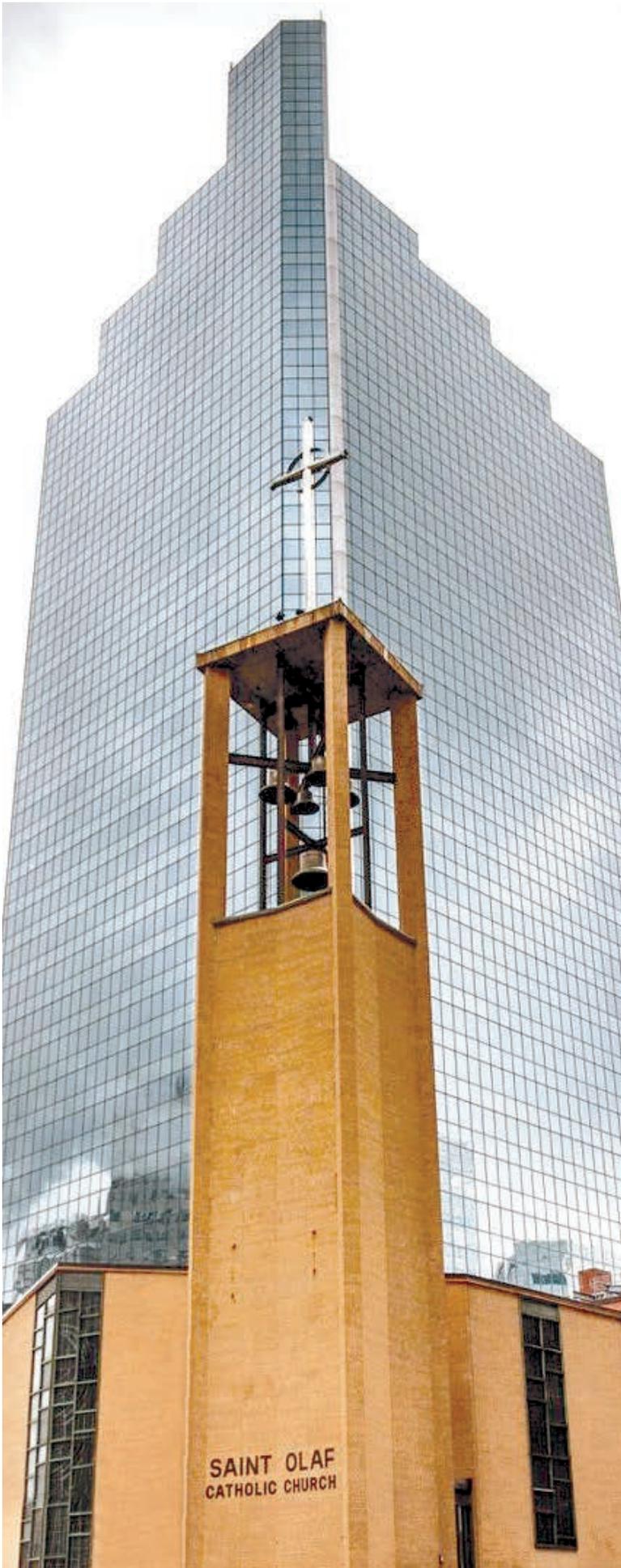
A gift of time and abundant talent is what Pauline Altermatt shared with Saint Olaf from the 1970's until a few months before she passed away in October of 2019. Pauline had an artistic eye and her passion and talents showed as she created beauty whether it was in the garden or in her events at Dayton's which she managed. She shared those abundant gifts with

Saint Olaf, transforming our worship space through the liturgical seasons, year after year. She amassed a devoted band of volunteers to help her with carrying out her vision. Her artful touch lifted up the worship experience at Saint Olaf to a completely new level of beauty. Those who assisted Pauline's dedicated ministry carry on her vision to this day, allowing new generations to be surrounded in the liturgical experience from the moment they enter Saint Olaf and our worship space.

If that was where our story ended, we would fondly remember Pauline and her ability to enhance our worship experiences through her gifts with the liturgical environment, and for that we would be very grateful. However, Pauline found a way to continue sharing her love and gifts with Saint Olaf. Pauline decided to name Saint Olaf in her estate plan and sometime this year, when all of the formalities are

settled, Saint Olaf will be the recipient of one last gesture of love from Pauline. Pauline's love and concern for Saint Olaf will help this parish keep striving to move forward our mission: serving as a living sign of Christ's presence in the heart of the city.

In these times of uncertainty with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic wreaking all sorts of havoc on our families, businesses, and the organizations that are most important to us, creating a Forever Gift can assist Saint Olaf long after you are gone. Working with your financial advisor, you can name a dollar amount or percentage of your estate to Saint Olaf or to our Saint Olaf Endowment Fund and help us continue our work in the heart of the city for years to come. If you would like more information about creating your own Forever Gift, please contact, Mary Kennedy, [mkennedy@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:mkennedy@SaintOlaf.org), or call 612-767-6204.



# PARISH MISSION IN THE HEART OF THE CITY (PMHC): It's You!

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

The goal of the Kennedy Initiative for Parish Mission in the Heart of the City (PMHC) is to convene Saint Olaf parish 3-5 times/year, along with the downtown community, and invite expert practitioners and other leaders to present, challenge and engage on topics related to the core pillars for Parish Mission in the Heart of the City.

The inaugural event last fall featured our pastor, Fr. Kevin Kenney, presenting his vision for Saint Olaf as he assumed leadership of the parish, returning 25 years after he was first assigned as an associate pastor. This past winter Fr. Michael Joncas was the second presenter of this first year of the initiative and centered on his hymn composition "A Place Called Home" and the gospel call to build inclusive communities.

The final presenter for the 2019-20 series was to be Alan Arthur, President and CEO of Aeon, a nonprofit builder and manager of affordable housing. Alas, shelter-in-place and social distancing meant this event will need to be rescheduled. This remains an important piece of PMHC because Aeon is the parish partner for developing nearly

200 units of affordable housing on our site, hopefully beginning in 2021. The final agreement details are being worked out as this edition goes to press.

But while it is helpful, even essential to bring experts, practitioners and other leaders into our midst, together we must never forget that the core of PMHC is you; members, visitors, and friends of Saint Olaf Catholic Church. Your faithful participation in the life of this community provides a unique, singular perspective of the power of God's love. Without it, we will miss an important piece as we build and become the Body of Christ in downtown Minneapolis.

This is especially true as our individual and communal responses to the COVID-19 pandemic challenge us to reconstitute what it means to carrying out our mission "to serve as a living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city". Our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure helped us this far. We know sharing this unique blend of love will move us and our parish into the future. Stay tuned for more on PMHC as the summer unfolds.

## PARISHIONER NEWS

### BAPTISMS

Lila Ray Liekhus  
February 15, 2020

Alec Noah M. Nasrabadio  
February 16, 2020

Freya Dlib Anunciacion  
March 7, 2020

### FUNERALS

Lawrence David Corbesia  
February 8, 2020

Leland LaVont Brady  
February 22, 2020

### WEDDINGS

Vanessa Goh and David Wacker  
November 23, 2019

Victoria Thelen and Nick Blonigen  
April 25, 2020



## SOME MOMENTS REMEMBERED

By Judy Murphy, Associate Parishioner

My first memory of Saint Olaf goes back to 1953—the fire. I was 17 years old. I remember having to attend Mass in a movie theater, (the Century) on 7th Street between Nicollet and Hennepin, during the repairs.

The fire's history was immortalized in my mind though because of my brother, Frankie Beddor. Frankie was a good friend of the pastor, Fr. Leonard Cowley. Fr. Cowley wanted to write a book about the history of the fire's seismic impact on our congregation, but he needed someone to print it. That's where my brother came in. Our family owned a printing company that Frankie thought could help out. The result of his collaboration with Fr. Crowley was a little red book entitled: *We Had a Fire*, which is still a common site around the Saint Olaf community today.

The following years were a whirlwind. I went to school, got married to my husband Bob, and started a family by the early 1960s.

At that time, a downtown, adult parish was not in vogue. Most families just went to their closest neighborhood church. But Saint Olaf was a special place. The parish was vibrant under the charismatic and progressive direction of Monsignor Francis Fleming. He is fondly remembered in our family as "the Johnny Carson of the Catholic Church".

His legendary 8 minute sermons were always smart, sophisticated and thought provoking. Scripture came to life. Each talk had hope, inspiration and a reason to laugh and smile. These rich homilies were always challenging, and had our family members, young and old alike, debating and sharing differing opinions around the breakfast table.

The liturgies were enhanced by going from Latin to English and expanding the use of music

and the arts. Saint Olaf had both a traditional choir and contemporary choir. The music on major feast days were a first for us and made our hearts sing and we wanted to sing out. Not only was there an organ but piano, trumpet, strings, and timpani all making a "joyful noise" to the Lord and to us.

On a more somber occasion the Monsignor brought in the Andahazy Ballet to enact the passion on Good Friday, an unforgettable experience.

Always innovative and progressive the Monsignor responded to the needs of the community. He started the Sunday afternoon masses with contemporary music. Unheard of at the time. Soon folks from across the metro area were showing up after sporting events or afternoon activities. Soon these masses were standing room only.

The Monsignor created an army of volunteers. Since my father had recently died I thought I could be a help and signed up for the funeral ministry. I kind of like working behind the scenes. The night I was to meet with the other volunteers and receive instruction I strayed into the wrong room and ended up with those wanting to be lectors. I stayed with this group and have been a lector ever since that time.

As a lector, I remember how deeply Monsignor Fleming cared about making every minute of time in church count for the parishioners. And it was a tough standard to live up to. He asked my husband Bob and I to give a talk for the annual fund appeal at some of the masses about why we supported Saint Olaf. He thought Bob was just fine but that I needed a little work. So back to the drawing board I went. A couple days later, he heard my new version and congratulated me on a job well done. A compliment from the Monsignor on my new draft carried me for a year.

Under Monsignor Fleming, Saint Olaf became home. My parents were buried from Saint Olaf. Four out of our six children were married at Saint Olaf and a few grandchildren were baptized there.

Who could follow in the Monsignor's shoes?

No one. Now we had new shoes in Fr. John Forliti, who was warm, thoughtful, Italian, a musician, and had a big heart. My 7 year old granddaughter, who had a special connection with Fr. Forliti after he had our families over for a pizza party, wanted to make her first communion at Saint Olaf with Fr. Forliti. She was the only first communicant that particular year. Our daughter, Marjie Blevins, had trained her through the Good Shepherd program and Fr. Forliti said she knew her bible stories backward and forward and she was ready. Gracie had also prepared a hymn and Bob Harvey, the director of the Contemporary Choir, had her sing a solo using the choir as a back drop. Just another Saint Olaf moment to treasure.

*Long-time parishioners, Judy and Bob Murphy, found those all-important connections within this community of faith, as we can see and feel in their story of special moments experienced at Saint Olaf. In addition, to sharing their memories, Saint Olaf is very grateful for the years of in-kind donations of exceptional quality printing they have provided through the Japs-Olson Company. From publishing Fr. Cowley's book, to our quarterly Newsletters, seasonal pew cards, Christmas and Easter booklets, and more, their generous gifts have provided the printed text to enhance many a liturgy, lift hearts, provide welcome, and share the story of Saint Olaf.*



## CLEAN CLOSETS FOR SAINT OLAF SAMARITAN MINISTRY

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

Most of us have had some extra at-home time in the last many weeks and perhaps that long-delayed (denial?) - closet cleaning project finally got some attention and now you might have all kinds of items looking for a new purpose. Saint Olaf Samaritan Ministry is here to help!

Our housewares department and clothing closets for adult men and women are always in need of restocking. Please help us by following these guidelines for donations:

- Only ADULT clothing for men and women is provided in our clothing closets. We do not provide children's clothing.
- Clothing must be new, or GENTLY used in good repair, and CLEAN. We do not have a capacity to wash clothing. If it's not clean, we cannot use it.
- Housewares must be in good repair and functional. Plates, glasses, cups, utensils, kitchen gadgets, pots and pans, bakeware.
- Kitchen electronics only (toasters, coffee makers, mixers, etc. No TV's, computers, stereos.
- Please place items in boxes if possible. It makes stacking for storage easier until we can sort and display items.

The deep satisfaction of completing your closet cleaning project will last even longer if you remember the great benefit this will have in the lives of those we serve through Samaritan Ministry. Items may be dropped off when the building is open. Please call or check the website in these ever changing times.

## WHERE'S THE BEEF?

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

To be of a certain age is to remember the TV commercial for a fast-food company featuring Clara, a kindly woman with a big personality asking assertively, "Where's the beef?" when comparing a competitor's version of a hamburger. The question "Where's the beef?" has found expression through the decades in a variety of settings, even if the answer has been elusive.

Finally there's an answer! Thanks to the generosity of Leticia and Mark Fogarty of Belle Plaine, about 400 pounds of beef is now secure in the freezer here at Saint Olaf. This farming connection to the heart of downtown is a story of faith. While attending daily Mass, Leticia noticed the differences in worshipping in the heart of the city and how all came together as a community of faith around the Eucharistic table. After asking questions about Saint Olaf, the couple was so moved by the service the parish provides to those experiencing homelessness that they looked at how they could help support this ministry. In sharing their gifts they asked if they could donate a two-year-old cow to help feed those we serve. They even arranged for a butcher to process the meat and covered the costs! The butcher, Mark Skluzacek of New Prague, appreciated the ministry too, and let us know he might have future donations for Saint Olaf as well.

A question posed in a TV commercial more than 30 years ago found a path to help carry out the mission of the gospel and the parish. We are so grateful to the Fogarty's for their generous support of Samaritan Ministry.

Think about the unanswered questions in your history and then ask what gifts you might share with Saint Olaf to help make a difference.

# Adult Shelter Connect



## ADULT SHELTER CONNECT: AN UPDATE

Simpson Housing Services Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing our community and how we take care of each other. Within congregate shelter settings for homeless adults, there exists a high risk of coronavirus transmission for guests, staff, and the general public. From the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, the Hennepin County Single Adult Shelter Collaborative has implemented extensive measures to ensure the safety of the people we serve and the staff members who work alongside them.

Due to Governor Walz's stay-at-home order, the ASC office is operating by phone only, providing intake appointments, shelter reservations and other resources. Since late March, ASC has helped more than 1,300 individuals transition into safe shelter.

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the ASC has been supporting the shelter collaborative's shared goal of isolating the most vulnerable shelter guests and deconcentrating our congregate shelters to reduce transmission risk. Hotel rooms continue to be part of the collaborative's strategy by accommodating guests who are at high risk for severe COVID-19, such as guests ages 65 and older and those

with underlying health conditions, and for guests confirmed to be COVID-19 positive who need to be moved to a safe quarantine space. More than 300 guests have been moved to hotels managed by Hennepin County staff, and additional hotel space managed by agencies within the collaborative is being added in the coming weeks. The transition of guests from larger shelters to individual hotel rooms helps reduce the density of guests at any one shelter location.

All five single adult shelter providers continue to successfully move people from shelter into transitional and permanent supportive housing. More than 30 guests have transitioned from shelters and hotels to permanent housing since late March.

During the summer months, the needs of shelters and guests will remain steady. Please go to [simpsonhousing.org](https://www.simpsonhousing.org) for ways you can help. Thank you for your support!

Since 2016 Simpson housing Services has operated the Adult Shelter Connect at Saint Olaf in Cowley Hall.



## JUNE 2020

14 FLAG DAY

21 FATHER'S DAY



## JULY 2020

4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

29 SAINT OLAF DAY



## AUGUST 2020

15 ASSUMPTION OF MARY

### SAINT OLAF IS NOW ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM!

Search for "Saint Olaf Catholic Church, Downtown Minneapolis" on Facebook and "saint\_olaf\_church" on Instagram. Like and follow us to see our daily posts and see what is new! Let us bring Saint Olaf to you!



Saint Olaf Catholic Church,  
Downtown Minneapolis



@Saint\_Olaf\_Church



# #StayHomeMN IS THE ORDER: BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HOME?

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

For most people connected to the Saint Olaf community, the question posed by the headline of this newsletter segment is not an empty one. It is real. You very likely know someone experiencing homelessness because you passed them in the corridors of the parish building, you sat near them during Mass on a Sunday or a weekday the last time you were here, or you sat with them at coffee and donuts after one of those Masses.

From its founding, Saint Olaf has sought to serve the downtown community. As this part of the city has grown, our location for nearly 80 years puts us in the very heart of Minneapolis. For decades programs and ministries have served those experiencing poverty as well as those working on the top floors of the tallest buildings. All are welcome and we strive to serve all, and the fabric of this parish reflects this spectrum.

To make this as effective as possible, it

means looking at the times and listening to the needs of those who come to our doors. It also means being nimble because the times can change quickly.

When state and city officials ordered residents to stay at home, the reality of the times changing quickly hit an unimaginable dimension. Through quick planning and amazing technology, Saint Olaf quickly added weekday masses to the already established Sunday mass for at home viewing (even in Spanish!). Other online resources joined the regular publication of the weekly bulletin.

While masses were suspended throughout the Archdiocese, compassion was not! Guests of the parish and Samaritan Ministry, who relied on Saint Olaf for support before the pandemic, continued to find our doors open and our hearts ready. You cannot #StayHomeMN when you do not have a home. And the other options usually available became

increasingly unavailable.

Nimble planning and following social distancing guidelines to keep guests and staff safe, furniture was rearranged, signs were posted and ministry and support continues. Little technology is needed to provide a place to sit and rest or use the bathroom. Online resources don't work when trying to provide food and drink. Emergency clothing and food shelf needs have also been met. All of this is possible because of the support you give to Saint Olaf parish ministries.

Experts tell us age and health factors increase vulnerability to the COVID-19 virus. To be around Saint Olaf means we also know not having a home is one of the greatest vulnerabilities imaginable. It also means a community of faith working so all might have a home so #StayHomeMN can be fulfilled for all.



# CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: GOSPEL PRINCIPLES FOR TOUGH TIME

By Michael Griffin, Director of Social Ministry

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended virtually every aspect of our lives. From daily habits to global institutions, things have been paused, dismantled and also constantly strive to return to something recognized as normal. Perhaps we are finding out about both our best selves and our worst. We also know the poor and vulnerable have been disproportionately impacted.

As people of faith, we are in the business of hope! In the midst of this Easter season we are renewed by the power of the Resurrection. Christ's broken body once on the cross now heals us. The light of Christ leads us out of the darkness of any tomb we might encounter.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) helps us sort, learn, and understand how we are called to do this as individuals and together as God's people. The following statements of the major themes of CST are taken from "*Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*", by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This offers some grounding and perspective so that as disciples of Jesus Christ, we might provide light to the world in these difficult times.\*

*cont. on page 15*

## Catholic Social Teaching: Major Themes

Modern Catholic social teaching has been articulated through a tradition of papal, conciliar, and episcopal documents that explore and express the social demands of our faith. The depth and richness of this tradition can be understood best through a direct reading of these documents ... In these brief reflections, we wish to highlight several of the key themes that are at the heart of our Catholic social tradition. We hope they will serve as a starting point for those interested in exploring the Catholic social tradition more fully.

### Life and Dignity of the Human Person

In a world warped by materialism and declining respect for human life, the Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Our belief in the sanctity of human life and the inherent dignity of the human person is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching. In our society, human life is under direct attack from abortion and assisted suicide. The value of human life is being threatened by increasing use of the death penalty. The dignity of life is undermined when the creation of human life is reduced to the manufacture of a product, as in human cloning or proposals for genetic engineering to create "perfect" human beings. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, and that the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person.

### Call to Family, Community, and Participation

In a global culture driven by excessive individualism, our tradition proclaims that the person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society, in economics and politics, in law and policy, directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. The family is the central social institution that must be supported and strengthened, not undermined. While our society often exalts individualism, the Catholic tradition teaches that human beings grow and achieve fulfillment in community. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Our Church teaches that the role of government and other institutions is to protect human life and human dignity and promote the common good.

### Rights and Responsibilities

In a world where some speak mostly of "rights" and others mostly of "responsibilities," the Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. Therefore, every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things required for human decency. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities, to one another, to our families, and to the larger society. While public debate in our nation is often divided between those who focus on personal responsibility and those who focus on social responsibilities, our tradition insists that both are necessary.

### Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

In a world characterized by growing prosperity for some and pervasive poverty for others, Catholic teaching proclaims that a basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich

and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

### The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

In a marketplace where too often the quarterly bottom line takes precedence over the rights of workers, we believe that the economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers must be respected, the right to productive work, to decent and fair wages, to organize and join unions, to private property, and to economic initiative. Respecting these rights promotes an economy that protects human life, defends human rights, and advances the well-being of all.

### Solidarity

Our culture is tempted to turn inward, becoming indifferent and sometimes isolationist in the face of international responsibilities. Catholic social teaching proclaims that we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that "loving our neighbor" has global dimensions in an interdependent world. This virtue is described by John Paul II as "a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good; that is to say to the good of all and of each individual, because we are all really responsible for all" (Sollicitudo Rei Socialis, no. 38).

### Care for God's Creation

On a planet conflicted over environmental issues, the Catholic tradition insists that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

\* Please see [usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/sharing-catholic-social-teaching-challenges-and-directions.cfm](http://usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/sharing-catholic-social-teaching-challenges-and-directions.cfm) for the selections of the CST used.



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## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### MONDAY

7:00AM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

### TUESDAY

7:00AM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

12:00PM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

### WEDNESDAY

7:00AM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

12:00PM ..... MASS

### THURSDAY

7:00AM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

12:00PM ..... MASS

### FRIDAY

7:00AM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

12:00PM ..... MASS

12:00PM ..... ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

### SATURDAY

12:00PM ..... MASS/CONFESSIONS

1230PM ..... ROSARY: IN THE CHAPEL FOLLOWING MASS

4:00PM ..... MASS

### SUNDAY

6:00AM ..... MASS

8:00AM ..... MASS

10:00AM ..... MASS

12:00PM ..... MASS

4:00PM ..... MASS

Saint Olaf Catholic Church  
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Minneapolis, MN 55402

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Mondays at 10:00 am on MCN Cable TV Channel 6 and YouTube

#### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

**Saturday:** 12:00noon, 4:00pm

**Sunday:** 6:00am, 8:00am, 10:00am,  
12:00noon, 4:00pm

#### **WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Monday-Friday:** 7:00am, 12:00noon

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

**Monday-Friday:** following 7:00am Mass

**Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday:**  
following 12:00 noon Mass

#### **ADORATION IN THE CHAPEL**

**Fridays:** 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm

#### **PASTORAL TEAM**

Fr. Kevin Kenney

Fr. Michael Krenik

Fr. Mark Wehmann

#### **CONTACT**

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#### **OFFICE HOURS**

**Monday-Thursday:** 9:00am-4:00pm

**Friday:** Closed

For updated building information and  
details on parking while at Saint Olaf, visit  
us online at [saintolaf.org](http://saintolaf.org) or check at the  
Forliti Foyer Hospitality Desk.

Contact Parish Advisory Board or Financial  
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