

# St. OLAF

Catholic Church

Downtown Minneapolis

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

DECEMBER 18, 2011 ~ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## We Plan, God Laughs

by Fr. Mark Pavlik

Have you ever heard the saying “We Plan, God Laughs?” Ain’t that the truth? As we come to the last Sunday of Advent, we hear in today’s readings about plans — both human plans, and divine plans — and these plans reveal two great mysteries to us.

In our first reading, we hear about King David’s plans. He has, through the grace of God, secured his kingdom; “the Lord had given him rest from his enemies on every side.” Responding to a noble inspiration of his heart, King David wants to do something to express his gratitude towards the Lord. He wants to build the Lord a house, a temple, that is worthy of God’s glory.

“We Plan, God Laughs.”

While David’s intentions are certainly the best, God reminds him that He does not need anything from us. The Lord reminds David that He does not dwell in a house made by human hands, but rather “I have been with you wherever you went...”

In today’s Gospel reading, we hear that God’s promise to David will be fulfilled in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mary most likely had

her own plans for her life, which one can safely say was not to give birth to the Messiah.

“We Plan, God Laughs.”

All of us can think of times when God has disrupted our plans. Often when we are really busy and we do not want any interruptions, God brings us into contact with someone who needs our help. These events will invariably occur. How do we respond? Do we respond like Mary who said “YES” to God?

Mary’s “yes” lead her soul to “proclaim the greatness of the Lord,” and her spirit to “rejoice in God” her Savior. In this final Sunday of Advent we are being invited to allow God to disrupt our plans, so that we will make room for Christ Jesus to dwell in our lives. Then we will forever sing the goodness of the Lord.





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**OFFICE HOURS**  
9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Monday - Friday

### Pastoral Staff

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## Advent and Christmas 2011 at St. Olaf

# Advent

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday through Saturday: following morning Mass  
Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday: following 12:00 Noon Mass  
Thursday, December 22 — 12:30-2:30 PM; 4:30-6:30 PM  
Friday, December 23 — 12:30-2:30 PM; 4:30-6:30 PM

### BENEDICTION TO THE BLESSED SACRAMENT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Fridays, 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Eucharistic Adoration, Chapel

# Christmas

### MASS SCHEDULE

## CHRISTMAS EVE

### Saturday, December 24

*(No 8 AM and Noon Mass. No confessions will be heard on Christmas Eve.)*

**5:00 PM Mass:** Fr. Mark Pavlik, presider  
Contemporary Choir and Music Ensemble *(Prelude begins at 4:30 PM.)*

**7:30 PM Mass:** Fr. A. Michael Sauber, presider  
Cantor *(Prelude begins at 7:15 PM.)*

**12:00 Midnight Mass:** Fr. Mark Pavlik, presider  
St. Olaf Parish Choir *(Prelude begins at 11:30 PM.)*

## CHRISTMAS DAY

### Sunday, December 25

**8:00 AM Mass:** Fr. A. Michael Sauber, presider  
Cantor

**10:00 AM Mass:** Fr. Mark Pavlik, presider  
St. Olaf Parish Choir *(Prelude begins at 9:45 AM.)*

**12:00 Noon Mass:** Fr. Mark Pavlik, presider  
Schola of the St. Olaf Parish Choir *(Prelude begins at 11:45 AM.)*

**4:00 PM Mass:** Fr. A. Michael Sauber, presider  
Contemporary Music Ensemble *(Prelude begins at 3:45 PM.)*

*(Christmas Mass is broadcast at 8:00 PM on Sunday, December 25 on Relevant Radio, 1330 on the AM dial and televised on MCN Cable Ch. 6 on Saturday, December 24 at Midnight, Sunday, December 25 at 8:00 PM, and Monday, December 26 at 10:00 AM.)*

### SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday, January 1

### EPIPHANY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 4:00 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 4:00 PM

## Simply Stewardship . . .

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" – "I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." – that the promise finds fulfillment.

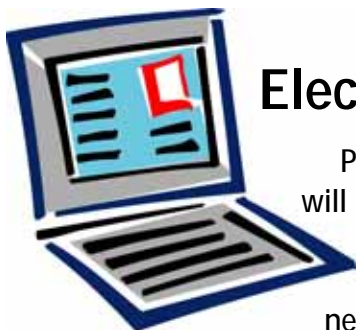
## YEAR-END REMINDERS

**2011 CONTRIBUTIONS:** All payments on your 2011 commitments to St. Olaf, postmarked by December 31, 2011, will be recorded on your 2011 statement. Any payments postmarked after December 31 will be credited to your contributions for 2012. *We thank you for your support of this parish.*



**GIFTS OF STOCK** are always welcome. This method may be used to complete your annual pledge. Call your broker and Peter Barrett, Parish/Business Administrator, at 612-767-6205 for information.

**VEHICLE DONATION** – Cars with Heart handles vehicle donations for St. Olaf. Call Peter Barrett at 612-767-6205 for more information.



## Electronic Giving Option

Please note that your electronic giving will continue without interruption for the new year unless you request that it be stopped. It will be updated with your new pledge information as well. There is no need to re-apply for this option. If you would like to utilize electronic giving, please call the parish office at 612-332-7471 and ask for an authorization form.



## Christmas Music & Good Cheer

Join our parish CAROL CHOIR to sing for the Exodus Residence Holiday Party on Sunday, December 18. Meet at 4:00 pm in the Chapel. The program is 5:30 - 6:00 pm in Fleming Hall. *Lotsa fun!*

## IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PAUL

Join the Archdiocesan Pilgrimage Choir (APC) on an excursion to Turkey and Greece October 14-23, 2012. Singers, non-singers, all travelers welcome! Istanbul, Athens, Rhodes, Patmos, Ephesus, and Corinth, including a three-day cruise on the Mediterranean. Since 1996 the APC, under the direction of Dr. Lynn Trapp, Wendy and Michael Silhavy, has travelled much of Europe and the Holy Land.

Contact Anne Susag at [asusag@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:asusag@SaintOlaf.org), 612-767-6214 or Lynn Trapp at [ltrapp@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:ltrapp@SaintOlaf.org), 612-767-6213.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION ON FRIDAYS

INTENTION FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

*That the nations of the world may walk in fidelity to the Gospel  
and progress in justice and peace.*

Save the Date!

*Engaging Our Faith Series: "Is Ending Homelessness Possible?"*

Tuesday, January 24 in Fleming Hall at St. Olaf  
6:00 - 6:30 pm hospitality;  
6:30 - 8:00 pm presentation.  
Presented by the staff of Heading Home Hennepin, the city/county office to End Homelessness. For more information, call Joan Miltenberger at 612-767-6211 or [jmiltenberger@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:jmiltenberger@SaintOlaf.org).



Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

- Ramona Roth*
- Lawrence Chesney*
- Robert Nee*
- Daniel W. McKasy*
- Eugene Vader*
- Joanne Bednar*
- Helen King*
- Mary Jane Halligan*

who died recently.

*May they rest in the peace of the Lord forever.*



**GET YOUR BULLETIN VIA EMAIL...**

If you would like to get the St. Olaf bulletin sent electronically to your email box each week, send your request to: [PMoses@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:PMoses@SaintOlaf.org).

## THE JESUS OF SCRIPTURE

Presented by Fr. Donald Senior, CP, STD  
DVD presentations facilitated by Fr. Mark Pavlik & Sr. Joan Tuberty



Fr. Don Senior returns to us as the presenter in this Scripture Study Series. 25-minute lectures will be offered in the six weeks preceding Christmas.

There will be one lecture before the 12:00 noon Mass on Monday and a second lecture with different content after Mass — accompanied by a light lunch. On Tuesday following the 5:15 evening Mass, 5:45-6:45, two 25-minute lectures will be accompanied by light supper. This series has been prepared by Now You Know Media ([www.nowyouknowmedia.com](http://www.nowyouknowmedia.com)). The series concludes on these dates in the Gathering Room:

**Monday, December 19**

**11:25-11:50 am and 12:30-1:00 pm**

**Tuesday, December 20 from 5:45-6:45 pm**

REGISTER AT THE PARISH OFFICE OR CALL 612-332-7471. Walk-ins welcomed but registration is needed to provide food and printed materials. Freewill offerings at each session.



**Sunday, December 18, 12:00 noon**

### **AFRICAN MASS**

Celebrate the Eucharist with global languages and African traditions of music and dance led by our African International Choir.

The African Mass is celebrated the third Sunday of each month at 12:00 noon.

*Prelude music begins at 11:45 am.*

## This week's RCIA topic is *Prayer*

All are invited to come and listen to the talk, presented by Fr. Mark Pavlik, in the Education Room following the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 18.

# Ask the Deacon

## Why is Advent important?

In the four weeks prior to Christmas, Advent begins the Church liturgical year with the celebration of the coming of Christ.

Advent in Latin means "Coming!" So, perhaps it is more significant in your journey to self-discovery and self-understanding. Think for a moment that it is not just the coming of Christ to you, but your coming to Christ. It is an important time to think about why your life is not quite what you want it to be.

Jesus says "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). You might ask, "So, where is my rest?" But, just look at the Christmas season and how much meaningless activity you are involved in that you won't remember when the season passes.

In a way, we live unconscious lives. In any moment, we are caught in the past or compressed into the future. Jesus calls us to live in the moments, so practice this during the busiest time of the year: the Advent season and the Christmas season. Essentially, the Christmas season begins Christmas day and lasts for 12 days until the feast of the Epiphany. But typically by then, most people have packed any trace of Christmas away in the basement for another year.

Think of Advent as a time to get to know your self better by seeking out Christ in a special way. Create a daily reading routine of short scripture passages with questions like "What am I doing that separates my soul from the joy and peace of Christ in my life?" Keep it in plain sight.

Before you drop from sheer seasonal exhaustion into bed at night, review what insight came to you that day. Let's simplify ourselves on the way to Bethlehem.

*Address questions to Deacon Thom Winner at St. Olaf Catholic Church or e-mail him at: [twinner@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:twinner@SaintOlaf.org).*

*St. Olaf Worship and Sacred Music Series presents*

## **TOTAL PRAISE** **Winter Picnic & Concert**

Total Praise Gospel Choir  
Othello Collins, director  
Saturday, January 14, 2012  
at 5:30 pm

Join us for a festive evening of music, feast and fellowship. Warm your heart, body and soul with a concert of music by Total Praise Gospel Choir, the piano stylings of Othello Collins and winter picnic fare. The Gospel Choir is enjoyed each year at St. Olaf on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The evening will include a silent auction to benefit the St. Olaf Music Ministry.

Tickets: \$25. Call 612-767-6214; also available at St. Olaf's Store and after all Masses in the skylight area December 17/18, December 31/January 1, and January 7/8.



*MARK YOUR CALENDAR!*

### *"A Taste of Risen Christ — Mardi Gras Style"*

A Friend and Fundraiser for Risen Christ Catholic School Saturday, February 11, 5:00 to 7:00 pm in Fleming Hall St. Olaf Catholic Church

Ethnic foods including delicious Mexican, Vietnamese, Cuban, African, and Italian items; student hospitality and sharing of student successes; Mardi Gras games for all. Tickets will be available after Christmas. For information, contact Joan Miltenberger at 612-332-7471, ext. 247 or [jmiltenberger@SaintOlaf.org](mailto:jmiltenberger@SaintOlaf.org).

## Preparing for Next Sunday's Liturgy

### DECEMBER 25 The Nativity of the Lord — Christmas

*FIRST READING:*  
*Isaiah 62:11–12*

*RESPONSORIAL PSALM:*  
*Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12*

*SECOND READING:*  
*Titus 3:4–7*

*GOSPEL:*  
*Luke 2:15–20*

*(Readings are from the Mass at Dawn)*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

And so it is finally that time of year when we push back all the darkness and welcome all the light—the small lights that deck our halls, the greater interior lights that we call insight, the greatest light of faith by which we find our way in the world. The light that first shone over the fields and hills of Bethlehem must now be shared. The Light who is Christ must shine through us.

1. *Everyone talks about the “true meaning of Christmas.” Make a group list of the actions and liturgies that honor Christmas as the day when God came to dwell with us.*

2. *Who have been the unlikely “evangelists” in your life? That is, who has borne good news, either by their words or example, or both?*

3. *Do your “evangelists” know that they have made a significant difference in your faith journey? Why not tell them? Write a Christmas letter or send an e-mail or make a phone call.*

## MASS SCHEDULE

*Music is part of all weekend Masses*

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 pm

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

Monday - Friday: 7:00 am, 12:00 noon, 5:15 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am, 12:00 noon

### Sacrament of Penance / Confessions

Monday through Saturday: Following morning Mass

Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: Following 12:00 noon Mass

### Benediction / Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Fridays at 12:30 pm, chapel

*(following 12:00 noon Mass in the church)*

Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until 5 pm

5:15 pm Mass, chapel

### Broadcasts

Sunday 10:00 am Mass is broadcast Sundays at 8:00 pm on Relevant Radio, WLOL, 1330 AM.

Sunday Mass is broadcast Sundays at 8:00 pm and Mondays at 10:00 am on MCN Cable TV Channel 6.

## Downtown Coalition for Grief Support

Excellent speakers, trained facilitators and a group of others who have experienced loss make these sessions a place of healing. It's possible to walk the path of grief alone, however the companionship of others who are also wounded by loss is tremendously consoling and powerfully healing.

### Meetings every Saturday from 9:30 - 11:30 am

Through December 31, meetings are held at:

**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church  
511 Groveland Avenue, Minneapolis**

For more information, call 612-871-5303  
or visit [www.mplsgriefsupport.com](http://www.mplsgriefsupport.com)

A small weekly donation is gratefully accepted.



Fourth Sunday of Advent — December 18, 2011

# Order of the Mass

**Hymnal #153 (12noon African Mass, see separate handout)**

*Our celebration of the Mass lasts about one hour. Why depart early?*

*“So you could not keep watch with me for one hour?”*

Jesus, in the Garden of Gethsemane, before he gave his life for our salvation

## PRELUDE

Sat. 4pm, Sun. 8am: Prelude on *Creator Alme Siderum*  
(*Creator of the Stars of Night*) by R. Warner

Sun. 10am: *I Am the Rose of Sharon* by C. Bryant  
*I Sing of a Maiden* by W. Goldberg

(Vicki Vargas, mezzo-soprano; Jonathan Flory, violin)

Sun. 4pm Ensemble: *My Lord, He Is a Comin' Soon*  
by L. Winnen/J. Cothran

## OPENING

*Come, O Just One* by L. Trapp

Sun. 4pm: *Sing Out, Earth and Skies* by M. Haugen #499

## KYRIE

from *Mass for a Servant Church* by M. Guimont  
Sun. 4pm: by M. Haugen

## Liturgy of the Word

*We open our minds and hearts to the Word of God.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

*2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16*

*King David built a house for the Lord to dwell in. “Your house and your kingdom shall endure forever before me; your throne shall stand firm forever.”*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM 89

by M. Guimont; Sun. 4pm: by M. Haugen #82

### SCRIPTURE READING

*Romans 16:25-27*

*The gospel reveals the mystery made manifest in Christ Jesus.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

tune: Noel Nouvelet, arr. L. Trapp  
Sun. 4pm: by M. Mangan

### GOSPEL

*Luke 1:26-38*

*The angel Gabriel announced to Mary, “You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus.”*

### HOMILY

### CREED

### PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

sung response

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

*Our communion with the Lord and one another.*

### PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*God of All People* by D. Haas #331

Sun. 10am Choir: *Ave, Ave, the Angel Sang* by R. Lau

Sun. 4pm: *Immanuel* by M. Card

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER ACCLAMATIONS

tune: Veni, Emmanuel

*The community prayer of praise, petition and thanksgiving is offered. Christ, the Saving Victim is present in the consecrated Body and Blood.*

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

### LAMB OF GOD

from *Mass of the Divine Word* by H. Hughes  
Sun. 4pm: by N. Gouin/J. Breedlove

### COMMUNION SONG

*The Virgin Shall Conceive* by J. Biery

Sun. 4pm: *Emmanuel* by V. Ambrosetti

### MEDITATION

Sun. 10am Choir: *Advent Introit:*

*Christ is Coming Through the Night* by D. Music

Sun. 4pm Ensemble: *The Face of God* by M. Francisco

### SENDING FORTH

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #368

Sun. 4pm: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* #317

### POSTLUDE

Sat. 4pm, Sun. 8am, 10am:

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* by J. Brahms

Sun. 4pm: *Veni, Emmanuel* by M. Cori

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