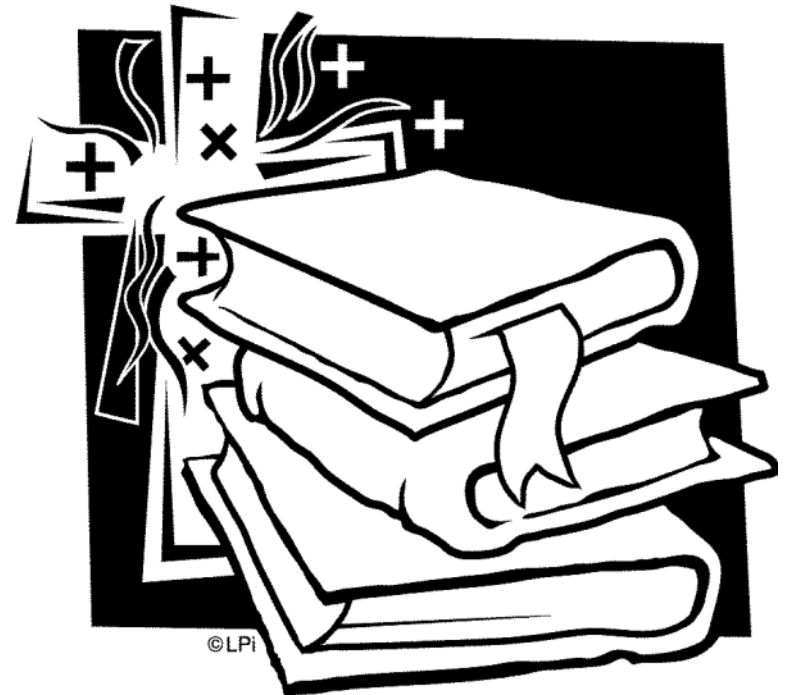


# Faith Formation Resources Handbook 2017-18



*St. Olaf Parish  
DeForest, Wisconsin  
(608) 846-5726*

## Contact Information

### Director of Religious Education: (Grades PreK-12)

Paula Hill 846-5726, ext. 11  
[dre@saintolafchurch.org](mailto:dre@saintolafchurch.org)

### Parish Center Secretary:

Barb Accola 846-5726, ext. 10  
[pcsec@saintolafchurch.org](mailto:pcsec@saintolafchurch.org)

### Director of Liturgy and Music:

Valerie Richardson 846-5726, ext. 12  
[dlim@saintolafchurch.org](mailto:dlim@saintolafchurch.org)

### Pastor:

Fr. Vince Brewer 846-5726, ext. 16  
[pastor@saintolafchurch.org](mailto:pastor@saintolafchurch.org)

#### MAILING ADDRESS

St. Olaf Faith Formation Office  
 623 Jefferson Street  
 DeForest, WI 53532

#### TELEPHONE

(608) 846-5726

#### PARISH WEBSITE

[www.stolafdeforest.org](http://www.stolafdeforest.org)

## St. Olaf Teen Choir Schedule

Rehearsals—10:00-11:00 AM

### Fall 2017 Schedule

Sunday, September 17.....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, September 24.....Rehearsal  
**Saturday, October 7.....Arrive 4:30 PM in choir room/Sing 5:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, October 22.....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, October 29.....Rehearsal  
**Saturday, November 4.....Arrive 4:30 PM in choir room/Sing 5:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, November 12.....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, November 19.....Rehearsal  
**Saturday, December 2.....Arrive 4:30 PM in choir room/Sing 5:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, December 10.....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, December 17.....Rehearsal  
**CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24 –**  
**Sing 5:30 PM Prelude, 6:00 PM Family Mass (Arrive 4:45 PM)**

### Winter & Spring 2018 Schedule

Sunday, January 7.....Rehearsal  
**Saturday, January 13.....Arrive 4:30 PM in choir room/Sing 5:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, January 28 .....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, February 4 .....Rehearsal  
**Saturday, February 10.....Arrive 4:30 PM in choir room/Sing 5:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, February 18.....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, February 25.....Rehearsal  
**Sunday, March 4.....Sing for Stations—10:15 AM and 6:00 PM**  
**Wednesday, March 7.....Sing for Stations—5:00 PM (Pizza) and 6:30 PM**  
 Sunday, March 11.....Rehearsal  
**Saturday, March 17.....Arrive 4:30 PM in choir room/Sing 5:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, March 25.....Rehearsal  
 Tuesday, March 27.....Combined Choirs for Holy Week practice (7 PM in church)  
**HOLY SATURDAY, March 31, 2018 – Arrive 7 PM in choir rm./8:00 PM Mass**  
 Sunday, April 15.....Rehearsal  
 Sunday, April 22.....Rehearsal  
**Sunday, April 29.....Arrive 8:30 AM/Sing at 9:00 AM**  
**Senior Recognition Mass**



# St. Olaf Spirit Singers Schedule

Rehearsals in Choir Rm. (4:15-5:00 PM)

## Fall 2017 Schedule

Wednesday, September 27.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 4.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 11.....Rehearsal

**Sunday, October 15.....Arrive 8:30 AM in church/Sing 9:00 AM Mass**

Wednesday, October 25.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 8.....Rehearsal

**Sunday, November 12....Arrive 8:3 AM in church/Sing 9:00 AM Mass**

Wednesday, December 6.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 13.....Rehearsal

Sunday, December 17 (with Teen Choir)...Rehearsal

**Wednesday, December 20...Lead singing at 6 PM Christmas Story (Arrive 5:30 PM)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24 –**

**Sing 5:30 PM Prelude, 6:00 PM Family Mass (Arrive 4:45 PM)**

## Winter & Spring 2018 Schedule

Wednesday, January 10.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 17.....Rehearsal (*even through no RE classes*)

**Sunday, January 21.....Arrive 8:30 AM in church/Sing 9:00 AM Mass**

Wednesday, January 31.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 7.....Rehearsal

**Sunday, February 11.....Arrive 8:30 AM in church/Sing 9:00 AM Mass**

Wednesday, February 28.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, March 14.....Rehearsal

**Sunday, March 18.....Arrive 8:30 AM in church/Sing 9:00 AM Mass**

Wednesday, April 4.....Rehearsal

Wednesday, April 11.....Rehearsal

**Sunday, April 15.....Arrive 8:30 AM in church/Sing 9:00 AM Mass**

**\*\*Please call the Parish Office when you know your child will be absent—  
(846-5726). Thank you!**



August 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

St. Matthew's gospel concludes with a section that is known as the commissioning of the disciples: "The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

This gospel passage is the one that is most commonly proclaimed at a child's baptism. What I always try to remind new parents who bring their children to be baptized is that Jesus gives two commands to his disciples in these last words of his: "go and baptize" and also "to teach them to observe all that I have commanded you". Each of us has a role in this command. Following their child's baptism, the parents are the ones that are first entrusted with Jesus' instruction to "teach".

Our duty in the parish is to assist the parents in their mission to help bring up their child in the practice of the faith, to help them to learn more about God and his Church, but above all to help them develop a closer relationship with God that can help each young disciple become a lifelong follower of Jesus. For us to succeed at this mission, it requires all of us to do our best to grow in faith and to practice our faith so that we provide the best example that we can provide for those that God has entrusted to our care. It is a solemn obligation that all of us, Jesus' disciples, are called upon to fulfill.

We look forward to working with you this year. God has many blessings in store for each of us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Vince Brewer



## Sacramental Preparation (for children Gr. 3 and older)

We offer separate classes for First Reconciliation and/or First Eucharist for children or youth in grades 3 and older. Contact the parish office if you would like your child to prepare for these sacraments.

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### Safe Environment

St. Olaf follows the Safe Environment guidelines of the Diocese of Madison. All staff and volunteers are required to take the Virtus "Protecting God's Children for Adults" program. Background checks have also been done on all adult volunteers. St. Olaf has an open door policy, which means parents are welcome and encouraged to come into the classroom at any time. If you have any concerns or questions about safety issues at St. Olaf, please contact Paula Hill, St. Olaf's Safe Environment Coordinator.

### Children/Youth

"Valuing God's Gifts in Ourselves and Others" program will be presented to Grades K through Grade 10 in November. The goal of this program is to provide teaching that will promote and protect, as much as possible, the health and safety of our young people. Parents are invited to attend this class with their child(ren). The program is on the Diocese of Madison website.

### Parking Lot Safety

Safety is our priority with our Parking Lot Policies.

**Please follow these basic traffic safety policies:**

- No Parking directly in front of the Parish Center
- ONE WAY TRAFFIC: **Enter** on Jefferson Street & **Exit** on Cleveland
- No driving on the driveway directly in front of the Church
- Speed limit is 5 MPH

### Additional Drop Off and Pick Up Policies

**PreK-Grade 4:** Parents must park their cars and escort their children to the Parish Center to begin class. Parents must park their cars and come into the Church to get their children after class.

**Grades 5-8:** Parents may drop off their children in the drop off lane directly in front of the parish center. Please stay in a line so children are not crossing in front of cars, patience is necessary. Parents must come into church at the end of class to get their children.

**Grades 9-10:** Parents may drop off their children in the drop off lane directly in front of the parish center. Follow safety rules, don't let your children cross in front of traffic. High school youth may exit the church without their parents, unless this becomes a problem. \*NOTE: *Students, if you are driving, please park in the lot by Cleveland Street. Thank you!*

**\*PARENTS: You are encouraged to attend the prayer services with your children the last 15 min. of class for ALL grades!**

### Teen Choir (Grades 7-12)

This group is open to singers in 7<sup>th</sup> grade through Senior in High School. The choir sings approximately once a month beginning in October. Those times include Saturday 5:00 PM Masses, the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Mass, and the 7:30 PM Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. Rehearsals take place on Sunday mornings at 10:00-11:00 AM. Those who sing in choirs at school are encouraged to consider sharing that talent at St. Olaf's by singing with the Teen Choir. We'd love to add guitar and woodwinds to this ensemble. See the schedule on page 11 and sign up on the registration form.

### The Spirit Singers (Grades 3-6)

Our children's choir, the Spirit Singers, is open to all 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. The choir sings approximately six or seven times per year beginning in October and ending in April. Those times include Sunday 9:00 AM Masses, and the 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Mass. **Rehearsals take place on Wednesday afternoons at 4:15-5:00 PM.** Whenever possible this choir's rehearsals are scheduled on Religious Education class days. Any child who enjoys singing is welcome and encouraged to join! The Spirit Singers lift our hearts when they lead us in singing! See the schedule on page 10 and sign up on the registration form.

### Instrumentalists

Instrumentalists often add an inspirational quality to our worship together. Those who are interested in sharing their talents in this area should contact Valerie to discuss the possibilities (846-5726, ext. 12)



## Student Involvement in the Liturgical Life of St. Olaf Parish

There are several ways in which the young people of our parish can become involved in the liturgical life of St. Olaf Parish. By taking on a more active role in our Sunday Masses and other liturgical celebrations, our youth make our liturgies more complete and they may get more out of Mass. Here are a few ways to become involved. For more information about any of these or other opportunities, please contact Valerie Richardson, Director of Liturgy & Music at 846-5726, extension 11 or [d1m@saintolafchurch.org](mailto:d1m@saintolafchurch.org).

### Altar Server (Grade 5 and up)

Being an Altar Server builds a sense of commitment and responsibility and helps youth to learn more about Catholic liturgy. Altar Servers play a very important part in our liturgies. During a weekend Mass, they assist the priest throughout the liturgy, and are responsible for the care of our sacred vessels. Servers are also encouraged to sign up to help with special liturgies during the year, especially during Holy Week. Training will be in September for new servers. Fill out the sign-up sheet so that you can be informed about training.



### Reader/Lector

For those that have the talent and confidence for public speaking, the ministry of reader/lector is a wonderful way to become a part of our liturgies. 8th Grade and High School youth involved in this ministry will have the opportunity to proclaim readings and petitions at Masses when needed. 8th Grade and High School students who are interested should fill out the sign-up sheet included in this handbook.

## Cancellation of Class

In the event of bad weather or threatening weather conditions, religion classes may be canceled.

—If schools are canceled on **Wednesdays** because of bad weather, **all** religion classes are also canceled. If the weather becomes bad later in the afternoon or evening, students will be contacted by phone.

—Check website ([www.stolafdeforest.org](http://www.stolafdeforest.org))

—On **Sundays**, if the weather is threatening, please use your discretion on whether to bring your child to religion class. In the event of class cancellation, students will be contacted by phone.

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### Dinner on the Run



We are continuing “Dinner on the Run” on Wednesdays.

Wednesdays can be hectic for families with Spirit Singers, Faith Formation classes and school sports practices. **Beginning in October** we will start serving a simple meal from

4:45-6:15 p.m. on Wednesdays. The meal will consist of

sandwiches and water for a free will donation. We need people to help serve. We hope this makes your Wednesday meal time easier! We could use donations of bread, peanut butter and jelly. Let us know if you need meat instead of peanut butter. (More information at parent meetings.)

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### Youth Activity Planning Group

Did you know that St. Olaf has a youth group for middle and high school youth? We offer a variety of activities and events for youth in grades 5-12. We try to have one activity or event



per month. Planning sessions are also held monthly. Any youth or adult who is interested in attending a planning session is welcome to attend. **Our first planning session is Sunday, August 27 at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Center. Future meeting dates and times will be set at that first meeting.

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### Faith Formation Commission

The Faith Formation Commission of St. Olaf Parish exists to promote and encourage the faith formation of the families of our parish by supporting the religious education staff and catechists and acting as a liaison for parish families. You are invited to join this commission and help us create the best possible programs. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in joining us.

# 2017-18 Faith Formation Schedule

## SUNDAYS

(Elementary: 10:15-11:30 AM)  
(Gr. 5-10: 6:00-7:30 PM)

September	17	FIRST CLASS
	24	CLASS
October	1	Fall Festival—NO Class
	8	CLASS
	15	CLASS
	22	CLASS
	29	NO Class
November	5	CLASS
	12	CLASS
	19	NCYC—NO Class
	26	Thanksgiving—NO Class
December	3	PARISH MISSION— NO Class
	10	CLASS
	17	CLASS
	20	(Wed.) Christmas Story Program
	24	Christmas Eve—NO Class
	31	New Year's Eve—NO Class
January	7	Winter Break—NO Class
	14	CLASS
	21	CLASS
	28	CLASS
February	4	OPEN HOUSE
	11	CLASS
	18	CLASS
	25	Living Stations
March	4	CLASS
	11	CLASS
	18	CLASS
	25	Spring Break—NO Class
April	1	Easter—NO Class
	8	CLASS
	15	CLASS
	22	CLASS
	29	FINAL CLASS

## WEDNESDAYS

(Elementary: 5:00-6:15 PM)  
(Gr. 5-11: 6:30-8:00 PM)

September	20	FIRST CLASS
	27	CLASS
October	4	CLASS
	11	CLASS
	18	CLASS
	25	NO Class
November	1	CLASS
	8	CLASS
	15	NCYC—NO Class
	22	Thanksgiving—NO Class
	29	CLASS
December	6	PARISH MISSION— NO Class
	13	CLASS
	20	Christmas Story Program
	27	Winter Break—NO Class
January	3	Winter Break—NO Class
	10	CLASS
	17	Jump Start—NO Class
	24	CLASS
	31	CLASS
February	4	(Sun.) OPEN HOUSE
	7	CLASS
	14	Ash Wed.—NO Class
	21	CLASS
	28	CLASS
March	7	CLASS (Living Stations)
	14	CLASS
	21	CLASS
	28	Spring Break—NO Class
April	4	CLASS
	11	CLASS
	18	CLASS
	25	FINAL CLASS

## Special Events/Activities:

*Elementary—Middle School—High School*

### Mandatory PARENT MEETINGS (at Church), during the First Class:

*(Parents must attend ONE)*

**Sunday, September 17—at 10:15 AM and at 6:00 PM**

**or Wednesday, September 20—at 5:00 PM and at 6:30 PM**

**YOUTH ACTIVITY PLANNING:** These meetings are for youth (grades 5-12) and adults who are interested in planning youth activities and events. The first meeting is: **Sunday, August 27 at 6:00 PM** in the Parish Center. The meeting schedule will be set at that time.

**VALUING GOD'S GIFTS:** **Wed., Nov. 8** and **Sun., Nov. 5** (during class time)

**"CHRISTMAS STORY" PROGRAM:** Wednesday, December 20 (6:00 PM)

**Faith Formation OPEN HOUSE: (for ALL grades, PreK-11!)**

**Sun., Feb. 4, 2018**, following the 9:00 AM Mass (held in the Parish Center)

### **FIRST RECONCILIATION Special Dates:**

**Parent Meetings:** During class time (Wed., October 11 and Sun., October 15)

**Rite of Enrollment:** Sat., October 21 at 5:00 PM Mass

Sun., October 22 at 9:00 AM Mass

**Parent's Retreat:** Sat., January 13, 2018 (9:00-11:00 AM)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Sat., January 27 (9:00 AM)

### **FIRST COMMUNION Special Dates :**

**Parent Meetings:** During class time (Sun., March 11 or Wed., March 14)

**First Communion Family Retreat:** Sat., April 14, 2018 (9:00-11:00 AM)

**Group Photo:** Sat., April 28 (9:00 AM in Church)

**Practice:** Wed., May 2

**First Communion:** **Sat., May 5** (5 PM Mass) or **Sun., May 6** (9 AM Mass)

### **CONFIRMATION Special Dates (Grades 9-10):**

**Confirmation Meeting:** Sun., September 10

**Sophomore Retreat:** Sun., October 22 (10:00 AM—4:30 PM)

**Freshman Retreat:** Sun., November 5 (10:00 AM—4:30 PM)

**Rite of Welcome:** Sat., October 14 at 5:00 PM Mass and

Sun., October 15 at 9:00 AM Mass

\*The Confirmation date has not been set by the Bishop's office.