

# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH



*The 3RD SUNDAY of ADVENT • DECEMBER 17, 2023 • Gaudete!*

# ABOUT

## Parish Mission Statement

*Promulgated October 7, 2019*

Nativity of our Lord is a vibrant Catholic community committed to helping each person answer the call of Jesus Christ to serve as his disciple by...

- Nurturing a rich sacramental and spiritual life;
- Supporting strong Catholic education and faith formation;
- Fostering fellowship and community;
- And providing abundant opportunities to participate in the parish's long tradition of Christian witness.



Learn more about our parish mission statement at [nativitystpaul.org/news/mission-statement](http://nativitystpaul.org/news/mission-statement).

# LEADERSHIP

**Pastor** | Father Rolf Tollefson (651) 696-5401  
**Parochial Vicar** | Father Bill Duffert (651) 696-5440  
**Deacon** | Rev. Mr. Don Tienter (651) 696-5401

**Business Administrator** | Laura Barr (651) 696-5423  
**Director of Advancement** | Beth Giese (651) 696-5430  
**Accounting** | Joyce Kotta (651) 696-5436  
**Parish Secretary** | Beth Erickson (651) 696-5401  
**Facilities Director** | Steve Boatman (651) 696-5434  
**Dir. of Communications & Marketing** | Isaac Huss (651) 696-5425

**Director of Discipleship** | Mahalia Marcelin (651) 696-5441

**Director of Music** | Brian Carson (651) 696-5401  
**Nativity Choir Director** | Rob Pontious (651) 653-3655  
**Liturgy Coordinator** | John Paul Beane (651) 696-5424

**School Principal** | Kate Wollan (651) 699-1311  
**Early Learning Center Director** | Nicole Clausen (651) 696-5437

**Lay Trustees**  
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Tom Tucci (651) 696-5401

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Tom Margarit [tmargarit@myboyum.com](mailto:tmargarit@myboyum.com)

**Pastoral Council**  
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Lanita Brandt (Secretary)  
Anna Burgason Dirksen Elizabeth Kappenman  
Dusty Clements Chris Nei  
Nate Hughes Diane Reisdorfer

# INFORMATION

## Pastor

Father Rolf Tollefson (pictured)



## Church

1938 Stanford Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-4:30pm  
Friday: 8:30am-Noon




## Lannan Parish Center (Parish Office)

Phone: (651) 696-5401 | Fax: (651) 696-5458  
1900 Wellesley Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

**Website** | [nativitystpaul.org](http://nativitystpaul.org)

**Email** | [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org)

**Staff Email Directory** | [nativitystpaul.org/parish-staff](http://nativitystpaul.org/parish-staff)

   @NativityStPaul

## School Office

(651) 699-1311 | [school@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:school@nativitystpaul.org)  
1900 Stanford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

## STANDARD MASS & PRAYER TIMES

*All liturgies are open to the public and do not require reservations. See back page calendar for this week's schedule.*

## Lord's Day Mass

Saturday: 5pm vigil  
Sunday: 7:30am, 9am, 11am, 5pm

## Daily Mass

Monday-Saturday: 8:15am; Tuesday, Friday: 5pm

## Confession

Tuesday, Friday: 4:15-4:45pm  
Wed.: 4:30-5:30pm; Sat.: 3:30-4:30pm

## Adoration

Sat.: 6-9pm; Sun: 6-10pm; Mon.: 9am-9pm;  
Tues.: 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am;  
Wed.: 12-8am, 3-5pm; Fri.: 9am-5pm, 5:30-9pm

## Emergency Anointing of the Sick (24 hours)

(651) 696-5401 (press 1 at the recording)

## Prayer Line (9am-7pm)

Mary Kay O'Rourke | (651) 698-5638

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

## Pastoral Care

(651) 334-2935

(651) 696-5401



# FUNERALS

## Our Faithfully Departed

Please remember in your prayers:

**Margaret MacNeill**

*May her soul and those of all the faithfully departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, amen.*

## Scheduling

Please always contact the parish office when anyone has died at (651) 696-5401 or [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org). Please also tell us if you or someone you know is near death, has experienced a significant decline in health, has entered palliative or hospice care, or is having surgery, and we will arrange a sacramental visit from a priest.

# HOLY MATRIMONY

## Wedding Planning

To be married at Nativity of Our Lord, the bride, groom, or one of their parents must be an active, registered parishioner for at least six months prior to requesting a wedding date. Contact the parish office to inquire at (651) 696-5401 or [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org).

*Photo by Jennifer Sanders*

[jenniferlynnanders.smugmug.com](mailto:jenniferlynnanders.smugmug.com)).



## Cana Dinner | January 27 *(update)*

Looking for a great date night? Save the date for a fun night out with other couples from Nativity of Our Lord at our annual Cana Dinner on Saturday, January 27.

The Cana Dinner is a night to celebrate your marriage and lift up the good news about being married.

Engaged couples, married couples, widows, and widowers all are invited to attend.

The night will consist of Mass at 5pm followed by a social hour, dinner, and guest speaker Kate Walsh Soucheray, Ed.D, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Emeritus. She will present "A Virtuous, Catholic Marriage: Our Call to Transform the World." Free babysitting will be available! Registration is \$40 per person and will be available soon.

# BAPTISMS

## Scheduling

Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 12pm, and an informational class is required for first-time parents.

Contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 or [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org) for more information. *Photo courtesy of Brenna Gerten*



# LITURGY

## Advent Penance Service | Tuesday, Dec. 19, 7pm *(new)*

Come be reconciled to Our Lord in anticipation of his arrival at our annual Advent Reconciliation Service this Tuesday evening in the church. Several visiting priests will be offering Confessions in addition to our own.

## 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas | Dec. 23-25

Please make plans to join us for Mass on both the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas), our parish's patronal feast day — which this year fall on consecutive days.

To fulfill both the Sunday obligation and the Holy Day obligation, attendance at two separate Masses is required: one for the 4th Sunday of Advent liturgy (next Saturday evening or Sunday morning) and one for the Christmas liturgy (next Sunday afternoon/evening or Monday). See below for Mass times at Nativity of Our Lord.

## 4th Sunday of Advent:

- Vigil (Saturday, 12/23): 5pm
- Sunday, 12/24: 7:30am, 9am, 11am

## Nativity of Our Lord:

- Christmas Eve (Sun., 12/24): 2pm, 4pm, (no 5pm), 6pm
- Midnight Mass: 12am
- Christmas Day (Monday, 12/25): 7:30am, (no 9am), 11am, (no 5pm)

# YOUTH *(new)*

Contact Emily Meyer at [emeyer@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:emeyer@nativitystpaul.org) or visit [nativitystpaul.org/youth-ministry](http://nativitystpaul.org/youth-ministry) for more information on any of the following events.

## Christmas Movie Night | Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6:30-8pm

Grab a blanket, don your comfiest clothes, and join Nativity Youth Ministry for a Christmas movie night! There will be popcorn, a hot chocolate bar, and we'll keep half the lights on so feel free to bring homework, too. We'll meet in Steiner Hall this Wednesday evening.

## Youth Christmas Caroling | Friday, Dec. 22, 5:30pm

This Friday evening, we will be heading over to Alton Memory Care in St. Paul to go Christmas Caroling. We will meet in the Nativity school parking lot at 5:30pm and head over to the facility together to spread some Christmas cheer to residents of the facility. Music will be provided that night — but don't worry, we'll only be singing the classics!

## Convivium Christmas Party | December 27

Come celebrate the Octave of Christmas on Wednesday, December 27 from 6-8pm. We will have dinner, desserts, music, games, and fun! There will be a white elephant gift exchange, so bring a wrapped gift valued at \$10. (There will be extras if you forget.)

# SCHOOL

## Tours for Prospective Families

We are now again offering individual tours this fall and early winter for those interested in learning more about Nativity School. Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions for parents! We love helping families who want their children to thrive during their formative years. Touring during a typical school day provides an opportunity for parents to see the learning process, which is grounded in our Catholic faith.



We would love to partner with you as your child embarks on this educational journey. If you would like to schedule a tour, please call the School office and speak with Mary Jo at (651) 699-1311. We look forward to meeting you!

# SVDP

## Christmas Coat (and Winter Wear) Drive

Looking for a way to help those less fortunate this Christmas? Give the gift of warmth in the cold Minnesota winter. Bring new or gently used coats, caps, mittens, and gloves (for men, women, or children) with you to the Men's Club Christmas Tree Lot. Drop them in the bin marked for that purpose. Our St. Vincent de Paul members will see that they get to those who need them. Thank you!



## Thrift Store Volunteer Opportunity *(new)*

Volunteers are always welcomed at the Nativity Conference of St. Vincent DePaul. The W 7th St. Thrift Store is a resource for many people and also an opportunity to get involved. Some are shopping for vintage finds, some affordable clothing, electronics, and household goods, and some people are given clean, dry, seasonally appropriate clothing.

Starting January 1, 2024, there are two openings to volunteer at the Thrift Store. On Mondays, one person is needed to check games and puzzles for resale. If you can count to 100 and like attention to detail, you should be part of the game/puzzle resale team. Your two hours of volunteer time means complete, quality games and puzzles are sold at affordable prices. On Thursdays, one person is needed to put price tags on various items such as holiday decor, stuffed animals, and games. For two hours on Thursday, you can volunteer putting the price tags on items ready for resale.

A minimum of two hours/week volunteering is preferred. Volunteers are needed during the business hours of 9:30am-5pm at 461 7th St W, Saint Paul. Contact Pam for more information at (651) 334-2935. Thank you!

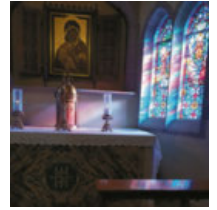
# ADORATION

## Holiday Closure | December 24-25 *(new)*

There will be no Adoration on Christmas Eve (next Sunday, December 24) or Christmas Day (Monday, December 25).

## Hours Expansion Effort

We have now expanded our weekly schedule of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to include the hours from 9am-9pm on Mondays. That said, our longterm goal to return to Perpetual Adoration: 24 hours of Adoration, 7 days a week remains the same! If you are open to committing to a new or additional hour in the near future (the next 1-2 months or so), please fill out the form at [nativitystpaul.org/adoration-future-expanded-hours-interest-survey](http://nativitystpaul.org/adoration-future-expanded-hours-interest-survey). Thank you!



# SUBMISSIONS

## Publishing Deadlines *(update)*

Bulletin content is typically required by Monday at noon for the following Sunday's bulletin, while digital content requires at least two business days prior to desired publication. Please note the following early deadlines:

- *(Submissions for the 12/24 bulletin were due 12/12.)*
- *Submissions for the Sunday, December 31 bulletin are due by 9am this Tuesday, 12/19.*
- *Submissions for the 1/7 bulletin are due by 12/29.*

Visit [nativitystpaul.org/content-submissions](http://nativitystpaul.org/content-submissions) for more information, or to submit copy for the parish bulletin, website calendar, social media, and email newsletter. Images must be sent to [ihuss@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:ihuss@nativitystpaul.org). Bulletin submissions can also be sent to [bulletin@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:bulletin@nativitystpaul.org).

Publishing is not guaranteed, and is generally granted on a first-come, first-served basis, giving priority to official Nativity of Our Lord events and communications.

— Isaac Huss, Comms. Director and Bulletin Editor

# HEALTH & SAFETY

## Pastoral Safety

Nativity of Our Lord and its leadership is committed to protecting children, youth, and vulnerable adults in all parishes, Catholic schools, and other church ministries, here at Nativity and beyond.

To learn more about our commitment to protecting the vulnerable, contact our Safe Environment Coordinators:

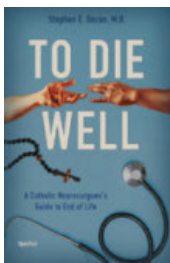
- Parish: Beth Erickson, Parish Secretary  
(651) 696-5401 | [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org)
- School: Molly Dressen, Administrative Assistant  
(651) 696-5411 | [mdressen@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:mdressen@nativitystpaul.org)

# RESPECT LIFE

**Book Discussion** | January 26, 30 (*update*)

Our next book discussion will cover *To Die Well, A Catholic Neurosurgeon's Guide to End of Life* by Dr. Stephen Doran.

Dr. Doran draws from his vast experience as a neurosurgeon, bioethicist, and permanent deacon to provide a detailed, yet readily understandable guide to the Catholic perspective on the art of dying well. He includes stories "helping us to understand the spiritual and moral issues related to death and the process of dying, along with the rites that accompany the death of a Catholic. *To Die Well* will help readers contemplate, pray about, and prepare for the end of their earthly lives," according to Ignatius Press.



We will meet to discuss the book with potluck meals on Friday, January 26 at 11:30am in Minneapolis, and again on Tuesday, January 30 in Steiner Hall from 6-8pm. Contact Karen at (612) 964-4522 to RSVP or for a copy, which is available for \$19 or for loan.

## **Oppose Assisted Suicide** (*update*)

Assisted suicide is neither compassionate nor about real choice. Protecting the choices of a few by legalizing assisted suicide will endanger the health care choices of all. H.F. 1930 / S.F. 1813 is one of the most aggressive physician-assisted suicide bills in the country because it lacks meaningful safeguards for older adults and people with disabilities. It has no family notification or witness requirement and no way to predict an accurate prognosis. Learn more about the issue and how you can make a difference at [archspm.org/support-real-care-at-the-end-of-life-not-assisted-suicide](http://archspm.org/support-real-care-at-the-end-of-life-not-assisted-suicide).

# PASTORAL CARE

## **Holy Communion Off Campus**

If the weather, an illness, on any other reason prevents anyone from attending a Mass, and he or she would like to receive Holy Communion sometime in the week that follows, contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 or [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org) and we'll come to them (or you!)

## **Anointing of the Sick**

Anyone who is seriously ill is encouraged to contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 to receive the sacrament of Anointing as soon as possible, and if anticipating major surgery to make an appointment prior to the operation.

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

We are looking to relaunch a formal Prayer Shawl Ministry here at Nativity of Our Lord. If you have been knitting or crocheting for the sake of those in need of comfort and solace or celebration and joy, or would like to join a group doing the same, please contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 or [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org).

# PARISH LIFE

**Christmas Giving Tree** | Ends Tuesday, December 19

Please remember our neighbors in need as you plan your holiday gift giving. The Christmas Giving Tree is located in the back of the church and is one of our annual Advent programs. It supports participants of Catholic Charities' programs for children, home stability including homeless teens, seniors, and the disabled. Simply take an ornament from the tree, purchase the item listed, and return the unwrapped item along with the ornament to the Giving Tree area by this Tuesday.



Small additions to your gift of basic needs like socks and underwear are always appreciated. Contact Julie Talens Paske at (651) 600-0245 with questions. Thank you!

## **37th Fr. Kelly Cribbage Tournament** | January 5

The 37th Fr. John W. Kelly Cribbage Open Tournament is Friday, January 5 in Steiner Hall. Grab a partner, young or old, man or woman, and come to this free event hosted by the Men's Club. If you don't have a partner, come anyway and we will work to find you one. Sign-up starts at 5:30pm, with play starting at 6:30pm. As usual, a light dinner and beverages will be provided. Call John Dery at (651) 308-1605 with questions. *Pro Liberis!*

# STEWARDSHIP

## **Pledge Forms Reminder** (*new*)

Registered parishioners have now received invitations to make a stewardship commitment in the mail. If you have yet to return your completed 2024 Stewardship pledge form, please do so as soon as possible. If you have not received your stewardship invitation, please contact Beth Giese, Director of Advancement, at (651) 696-5430 or [bgiese@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:bgiese@nativitystpaul.org). Thank you!

## **Online Giving**

We are pleased to offer electronic giving right on our parish website at [nativitystpaul.org/online-giving](http://nativitystpaul.org/online-giving).

The QR code at right will bring up a form to give to our general parish "Stewardship" fund, as well as links to donate to 2nd Collections and other targeted giving options. Nativity of Our Lord simply could not carry out its mission without our faithful parishioners and generous donors. Thank you!



# IMAGES


## **Cover Image**

*Nativity Men's Club Tree Lot with Snowfall*

By Therese Steinhoff | December 2023

[theresesteinhoff.com](http://theresesteinhoff.com)





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Molly Murphy O'Keefe Parishioner

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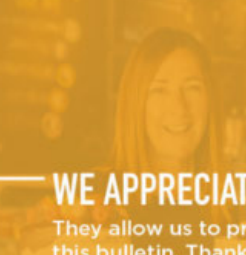


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# CALENDAR • DECEMBER 18-24

Mon., 12/18	Tuesday, 12/19	Wed., 12/20	Thurs., 12/21	Friday, 12/22	Sat., 12/23	Sun., 12/24
<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am •5pm	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am •5pm ( <i>vigil</i> )	<b>4th Sunday of Advent Mass:</b> •7:30am •9am •11am •(No 5pm)
<b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am	<b>Grandparents Rosary:</b> 8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> •4:15-4:45pm •7pm	<b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> •4:30-5:30pm	<b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am	<b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> •4:15-4:45pm	<b>Confession:</b> •3:30-4:30pm	<i>See Page 2 for Christmas Liturgy Schedule</i>

*Liturgy times reflect the current week. See page 1 for standard schedule.*

*All morning Masses and Saturday at 5pm are livestreamed and recorded and available at [nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies](http://nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies).*

Adoration: 9am-9pm ( <i>new</i> )	Adoration: 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 3-5pm		Adoration: 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-9pm	Adoration: 6-9pm	Adoration: None
(3rd Week of Advent)	<b>Preschool Christmas Program</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 10-11am  <b>Grief Support Mtg.</b> <b>Bride's Room</b> 6:30pm  <b>SVdP Meeting</b> <b>Gather Room</b> 6:30pm  <b>Christmas Band Concert</b> <b>Auditorium</b> 6:30pm	School Out at 11:30am  <b>Convivium Movie Night</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 6:30-8pm  <b>Faith Formation &amp; OCIA</b> <b>School</b> 6:30-8pm	<i>St. Peter Canisius*</i>  No School	No School NELC Closed  <b>Youth Christmas Caroling Off Campus</b> 5:30pm	<i>St. John of Kanty</i>	<b>4TH SUNDAY of ADVENT</b> (The Vigil of Christmas)  <i>Please see page 2 for full Christmas liturgical information.</i>  <i>*Nativity relics on display in Heritage Room</i>

*Changes to the parish schedule since Tuesday, and sometimes even earlier, are not reflected here. Pulpit announcements share the most up-to-date information, followed by the e-newsletter and website. When in doubt, contact the parish office.*

## NOW HIRING

### Assistant Director of Discipleship

We are hiring a new person for our Discipleship Office! Under Fr. Rolf Tollefson's leadership, Nativity of Our Lord's mission and vision are expanding, and we have discerned that we will hire a Assistant Director of Discipleship to serve under Mahalia Marcelin, Director of Discipleship. (This is an updated title.) Visit [nativitystpaul.org/careers](http://nativitystpaul.org/careers) for a job description.

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25  
**Tuesday:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25  
**Wed.:** Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38  
**Thursday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18;  
Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
**Friday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8; Lk 1:46-56  
**Saturday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5, 8-10 and 14;  
Lk 1:57-66  
**Sunday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;  
Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

## MASS INTENTIONS

		8:15am	5pm (or private)
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>12/18</b>	Tim Huberty	Stephen Lauinger
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>12/19</b>	David Peter Bahl +	Mary + and Jerry + Mikschl
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12/20</b>	Jackie Hernandez +	Pil-eung Kim +
<b>Thu.</b>	<b>12/21</b>	Dan Strub +	Anne Pulver +
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12/22</b>	Barb Wollan +	Debra Diehl +
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>12/23</b>	Paul Doner +	-

## COMMUNICATIONS

### Email Newsletter

Have you signed up for Nativity News yet? Nativity of Our Lord's weekly email newsletter highlights events of the upcoming weekend, and connects parishioners to helpful resources on the web. Visit [nativitystpaul.org/email-newsletter](http://nativitystpaul.org/email-newsletter) to sign up.