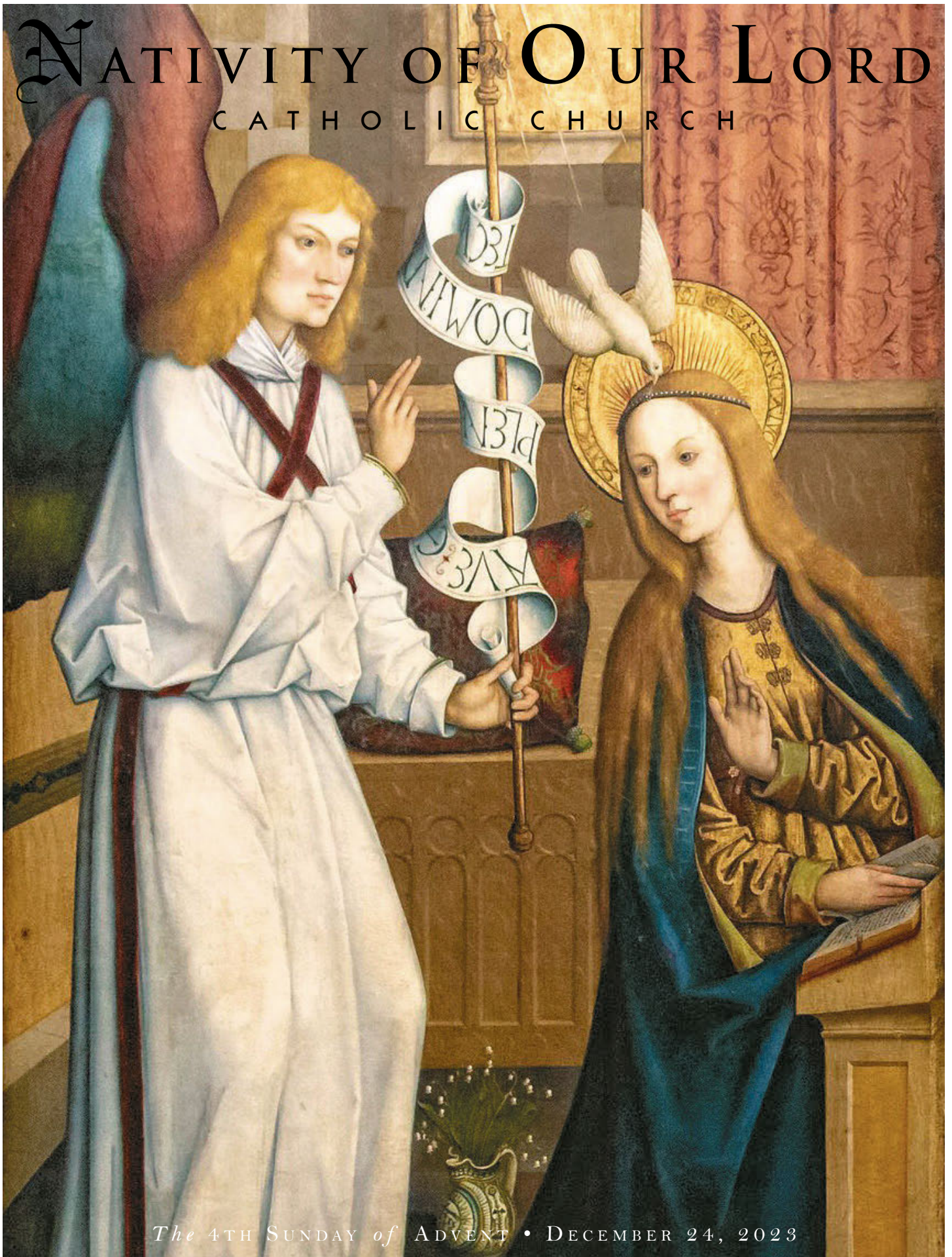


# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH



*The 4TH SUNDAY of ADVENT • DECEMBER 24, 2023*



# 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**  
Christina Crow (651) 696-5401  
Tom Tucci (651) 696-5401

**Finance Council Chair**  
Tom Margarit [tmargarit@myboyum.com](mailto:tmargarit@myboyum.com)

**Pastoral Council**  
Lucas Tucker (Chair) (651) 696-5401  
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

# HOLY MATRIMONY

**Caná Dinner** | January 27 (*update*)

Looking for a great date night? You're invited to a fun night out with other couples from Nativity of Our Lord at our annual Caná Dinner on Saturday, January 27.

The Caná 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 now open through Thursday, January 11 for \$40 per person at [nativitystpaul.org/cana-dinner](http://nativitystpaul.org/cana-dinner). See you there!

## 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](http://jenniferlynnanders.smugmug.com)).



# FUNERALS

## 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.

# 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*



# PRAYER

**No Rosary for Life** | December 25, January 1 (*new*)

There will not be a Rosary for Life this Monday (Christmas Day) or next (New Years Day).

# FROM THE PASTOR

**My First Noel (At Nativity of Our Lord)**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The solemn feast of the Nativity of Our Lord is upon us, my very first as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord.

Celebrating the feast day which bears our name is a big deal, and it's been my great pleasure to experience the rich and dynamic ways our community comes together to immerse ourselves in the seasons of Advent and Christmas! Beginning with our wreath and tree sales; then our outdoor market, food and clothing drive, and Giving Tree; the School liturgies and pageantry; and even the concerts we host, we do it right around here.

It all culminates with our Reconciliation liturgy last week, followed by this 4th Sunday of Advent, and then finally the main event, our patronal feast day: the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord, celebrated in grand fashion thanks to our clergy, staff, volunteers, and worshipers beginning this Sunday afternoon.

All the extra lights, sights, smells, and bells are certainly fitting for our namesake and one of the two highest feasts on the Church calendar. But it's not just for show: indeed Our Lord and Savior wants "God and sinners reconciled" particularly on this day, and in particular for this parish community in St. Paul, Minnesota, U.S.A.

In fact, attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Nativity on our patronal feast day avails us of a plenary indulgence, a powerful gift from the Church to free us from the lingering aftermath of our sins so that we are better and more fully able to unite our hearts with His.

So please do make plans to join us, if you haven't yet, for Christmas Mass, in addition to the 4th Sunday of Advent. It's much more than just an obligation. It is a gift from God to shower us with love and grace (x2!), and an opportunity to draw near to the One who drew near to us — in the flesh — just over 2,000 years ago.

As our Advent longing turns to Christmas joy, may God bless you and your families ever more abundantly.

Fr. Rolf Tollefson, Pastor of Nativity of Our Lord

# COMMUNITY

**Nativity Musicians in Concert** | Sat., Dec. 30, 2pm (*new*)

Recording artist and Nativity of Our Lord guest pianist Steven C. Anderson will reprise his successful "Christmas Together" concert, featuring Nativity's Kathryn Budzien, and Nativity guest vocalist Jillian Gubash Anderson, at St. Joseph in West St. Paul next Saturday, December 30. Admission is free, and CDs will be available for purchase.

# LITURGY

**4th Sunday of Advent, Christmas** | Dec. 23-25 (*update*)

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 Christmas liturgy (this Sunday afternoon/evening or Monday), and an additional Mass this Saturday evening or Sunday.

See below for Mass times in our main parish church sanctuary. Each will also be live-streamed at [nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies](http://nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies), with overflow seating available downstairs in Steiner Hall.

*Please note that livestreamed video is provided as a courtesy, cannot be guaranteed, and is not to be understood as a suitable substitute for in-person attendance for able-bodied Catholics under normal circumstances.*

## Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent:

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

## Masses for the Nativity of Our Lord:

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

# PARISH LIFE

**Holiday Schedule** | Dec. 25-26, 29; January 1-2 (*new*)

The Nativity of Our Lord parish office will be closed this Monday and Tuesday, as well as next Monday and Tuesday, January 1-2. The Nativity Early Learning Center (NELC) will be closed this Monday and Friday.

**38th Fr. Kelly Cribbage Tournament** | January 5

The 38th (not 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.

# IMAGES

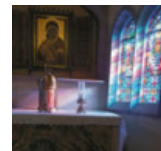
## Cover Image

*The Annunciation to the Virgin* by Bartholomäus Zeitblom 1496 | Tempera and oil painting on conifer panel  
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# ADORATION

**Holiday Closure** | Sunday-Monday, Dec. 24-25 (*update*)

There will be no Adoration on Christmas Eve (this Sunday, December 24) or Christmas Day (this Monday), as well as New Year's Eve (next Sunday, December 31) or New Year's Day (Monday, January 1).



**Hours Expansion Effort** | Wednesdays, 9am-9pm (*new*)

We have now expanded our weekly schedule of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament to include the hours from 9am-9pm on Mondays. Our next goal on our way back to Perpetual Adoration (24 hours/day, 7 days/week) is to fill the hours of 9am-9pm on Wednesdays. If you are able to begin a new committed hour, please contact Fr. Bill Duffert, Parochial Vicar, at (651) 696-5440 or [frbduffert@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:frbduffert@nativitystpaul.org). Thank you!

# SUBMISSIONS

## Publishing Deadlines

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 12/31 bulletin were due by 12/19.*)
- *Submissions for the 1/7 bulletin are due by 9am this Friday, 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

# SCHOOL

## Tours for Prospective Families

We are now again offering individual tours this 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!





# YOUTH

**Convivium Christmas Party** | Wed., Dec. 27, 6-8pm  
All youth in the 7-12th grades are invited to celebrate the Octave of Christmas this Wednesday with 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.) 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.

## Steubenville St. Paul 2024 | July 26-28 (new)

Calling all current 8-12th graders!  
Join 1,000+ Catholic teens at Steubenville St. Paul at the University of St. Thomas July 26-28 to experience the peace of Jesus Christ, who is always faithful and will never abandon us.



Visit [nativitystpaul.org/steubenville](http://nativitystpaul.org/steubenville) via the QR code to register and submit a \$100 deposit. Total cost of registration is \$299. For more information, visit [steubenvilleconferences.com/youth](http://steubenvilleconferences.com/youth) or contact Mahalia Marcelin, Discipleship Director at (651) 696-5443 or [mmarcelin@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:mmarcelin@nativitystpaul.org).



# 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:

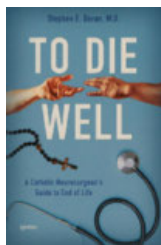
- Parish: Beth Erickson, Parish Secretary  
(651) 696-5401 | [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org)
- School: Molly Dressen, Administrative Assistant  
(651) 696-5411 | [mdressen@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:mdressen@nativitystpaul.org)

# RESPECT LIFE

## Book Discussion | January 26, 30

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.



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.

# STEWARDSHIP

## Christmas Stewardship | Sun.-Mon., Dec. 24-25 (new)

We are grateful to our many parishioners and friends who offer a special Christmas donation above and beyond their weekly stewardship contribution. Even while some of our Christmas liturgies fall on a Sunday this year, we would like to invite you to again consider an extraordinary contribution in honor of the Nativity of Our Lord, our patronal feast day. Thank you!

## Year-End Giving (new)

As the calendar year nears its end, please help us by fulfilling your 2023 stewardship commitment and/or by providing Nativity of Our Lord with a special year-end gift. Thank you for your generosity!

## Gifts of Stock and Retirement Distributions (new)

If you would like to give the gift of stock, IRA distributions, or would otherwise like to make our parish a designated beneficiary, please call Parish Business Administrator Laura Barr at (651) 696-5423, or Joyce Kotta, parish accounting, at (651) 696-5436 for assistance. You can also contact the Catholic Community Foundation to learn more about maximizing your charitable giving by calling (651) 389-0300, or visit [ccf-mn.org](http://ccf-mn.org).

## Deadlines for Gifting (new)

Next weekend is the last regular Sunday offertory collection of the year. To take advantage of a tax deduction for your 2023 contributions, all financial contributions must be received by the parish office or, if mailed, postmarked on or before next Sunday, December 31. Anything received (or postmarked) beginning Monday, January 1 will be recorded as a 2024 donation.

## 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!



## Catholic Services Appeal

We have reached our 2023 Catholic Services Appeal parish goal, which funds 20 Designated Ministries Archdiocesan-wide. Half of additional donations are returned to the parish to fund our ministries and operations. If you still wish to donate, envelopes must be postmarked en route for CSA offices by next Sunday, December 31 to be eligible for this Parish Sharing incentive. Find more information at [nativitystpaul.org/catholic-services-appeal](http://nativitystpaul.org/catholic-services-appeal), or give directly at [csafspm.org/online-giving](http://csafspm.org/online-giving) via the QR code above, marking your parish as Nativity of Our Lord-St. Paul. Thank you!





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Molly Murphy O'Keefe Parishioner

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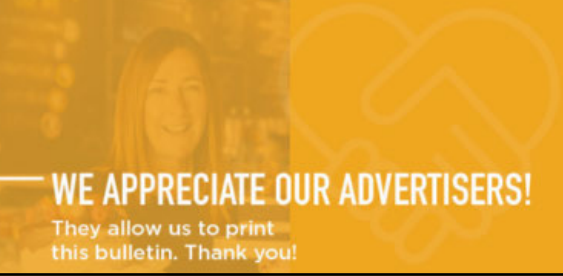
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# CALENDAR • DECEMBER 25-31

Mon., 12/25	Tuesday, 12/26	Wed., 12/27	Thurs., 12/28	Friday, 12/29	Sat., 12/30	Sun., 12/31
<b>Mass:</b> • 12am ( <i>prelude at 11:30pm</i> ) • 7:30am • (no 8:15am) • 11am  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> • None	<b>Mass:</b> • 8:15am • 5pm  <b>Grandparents Rosary:</b> 8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> • 4:15-4:45pm	<b>Mass:</b> • 8:15am  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> • 8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> • 4:30-5:30pm	<b>Mass:</b> • 8:15am  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> • 8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> • 4:15-4:45pm	<b>Mass:</b> • 8:15am • 5pm ( <i>vigil</i> )  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> • 8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> • 4:15-4:45pm	<b>Mass:</b> • 8:15am • 5pm ( <i>vigil</i> )  <b>Confession:</b> • 3:30-4:30pm	<b>Mass:</b> • 7:30am • 9am • 11am • 5pm
<i>Liturgy times reflect the current week. See page 1 for standard schedule.</i> <i>All morning Masses and Saturday at 5pm are livestreamed and recorded and available at <a href="http://nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies">nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies</a>.</i>						
<b>Adoration:</b> None	<b>Adoration:</b> 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	<b>Adoration:</b> 12-8am, 3-5pm		<b>Adoration:</b> 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-9pm	<b>Adoration:</b> 6-9pm	<b>Adoration:</b> None
<b>The NATIVITY of OUR LORD</b>  Parish Office, NELC Closed  <i>Please see page 3 for full Christmas liturgy schedule.</i>	<b>ST. STEPHEN</b>  Parish Office Closed	<b>ST. JOHN*</b>  <b>Convivium Christmas Party</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 6-8pm		<b>The HOLY INNOCENTS</b>  NELC Closed	<b>St. Thomas Becket</b>	<b>The HOLY FAMILY</b>  New Year's Eve  <i>*Nativity relic on display in Heritage Room</i>
No School (Christmas Break)						
<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.</i>						

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Monday:** (*Vigil*) Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25  
 (*Night*) Is 9:1-6; Ps 96: 1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14  
 (*Dawn*) Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20  
 (*Day*) Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18

**Tues.:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3-4, 6, 8, 16-17; Mt 10:17-22

**Wed.:** 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1-8

**Thurs.:** 1 Jn 1:5 - 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7-8; Mt 2:13-18

**Friday:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5-6; Lk 2:22-35

**Sat.:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

**Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

## MASS INTENTIONS

		8:15am	5pm (or private)
<b>Mon. 12/25</b>		Pil-eung Kim +	For the Parish
<b>Tues. 12/26</b>		Sally + and Emanuel Boasberg III	Robert E. O'Connell +
<b>Wed. 12/27</b>		Dan Strub +	Lambert Hoffman +
<b>Thu. 12/28</b>		Theresa and Kurt Lauber	John Thames +
<b>Fri. 12/29</b>		Bill Trueman +	Mary Frances Cox +
<b>Sat. 12/30</b>		Barb Wollan +	-

## 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.

## VOLUNTEER

### Loaves and Fishes (*new*)

Want to help feed the hungry in our community? Join fellow parishioners to serve meals at the Dorothy Day Center downtown St. Paul! Contact Mickey Nickelson at [mickeyn925@gmail.com](mailto:mickeyn925@gmail.com) or (651) 698-3708 to learn more.

### Thrift Store Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed at the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store (461 7th St. W, Saint Paul) during business hours of 9:30am-5pm for 2+ hours per week starting next Monday, January 1. The store is a resource for many people and also a great opportunity to get involved. Contact Pam for more information at (651) 334-2935. Thank you!