

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH



The HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY, and JOSEPH • DECEMBER 31, 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.

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

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

Email | info@nativitystpaul.org

Staff Email Directory | nativitystpaul.org/parish-staff

   @NativityStPaul

School Office

(651) 699-1311 | 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

BAPTISMS

Announcements

Please join us in welcoming our newest baptized members of the Catholic faith!

Lucian Eric LaSorsa

Parents: Paul and Madeline (Gilmore) LaSorsa

John William Veinfurt

Parents: Frederick and Kelly (O'Connell) Veinfurt

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 for more information. *Photo courtesy of Brenna Gerten*



HOLY MATRIMONY

Banns

Please pray for all our engaged couples as they prepare to receive the sacrament of Holy Matrimony, particularly...

Katelyn Marie Rascher and Joseph Thuente

Saturday, January 20, 2024

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 info@nativitystpaul.org or (651) 696-5401.

FUNERALS

Scheduling

Please always contact the parish office when anyone has died at (651) 696-5401 or 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.

FROM HOME

Video Mass from Nativity of Our Lord

Livestreamed and archived liturgies continue to be available at nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies, as well as on our parish website homepage. See the back page calendar for this week's days and times.

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.

LITURGY

Mary, Mother of God | Monday, January 1, 9am

Please join us for Mass this Monday morning for the solemn feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God. Please note that this 9am Mass will replace the 8:15am Mass that day, and this is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

Holy Day Collection | Monday, January 1, 9am *(new)*

Beginning this Monday, the Mass for the solemn feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God, we will take up a Holy Day collection at the Masses celebrated on each of the Holy Days of Obligation throughout the year, in addition to Christmas. This collection will help support our annual stewardship budget as well as foster a spirit of gratitude and generosity on the high holy days of the year.

PARISH LIFE

Holiday Schedule | Monday-Tuesday, January 1-2

The Nativity of Our Lord parish office will be closed this Monday and Tuesday. The Nativity Early Learning Center (NELC) will be closed Monday.

First Friday Fellowship | Friday, January 5, 8:45am

All are welcome to gather after the 8:15am Mass this Friday morning for First Friday Fellowship. The Nativity Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) provides coffee, tea, juice, and treats, typically on the first Friday of each month during the school year in Steiner Hall. For more information, contact Sheila Casper at mamasheshe@icloud.com.

Fr. Kelly Cribbage Tournament | Friday, Jan. 5, 5:30pm

The 38th (not 37th!) Fr. John W. Kelly Cribbage Open Tournament is this Friday evening 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.

Caná Dinner | January 27

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. See you there!

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!

VOLUNTEER

Loaves and Fishes

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 or (651) 698-3708 to learn more.

PRAYER

No Rosary for Life | Monday, January 1

There will not be a Rosary for Life this Monday, New Years Day.

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.

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.

ADORATION

Holiday Closure | Sunday-Monday, Dec. 31 - Jan. 1

There will be no Adoration on New Year's Eve (this Sunday, December 31) or New Year's Day (this Monday, January 1). And while the Adoration Chapel (and external southeast door) typically remains open even as the Blessed Sacrament is reposed, the entire church will be locked this Sunday, December 31 from 5pm Mass until 8:15am Mass on Tuesday, January 2 (except for the 9am Mass on Monday, January 1).

Hours Expansion Effort | Wednesdays, 9am-9pm

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. Remaining hours in need of a weekly committed adorers:

- 12-1pm
- 1-2pm
- 6-7pm
- 7-8pm



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. Thank you!

Inclement Weather

As the temperature continues to drop and snow falls, please remember that adorers should decide when travel conditions present a risk to their safety when commuting to the Adoration Chapel for their commitment. Just contact your partner(s) and those before and after on the schedule, when applicable. Even in the case of inclement weather, however, the chapel will typically remain open for those who still wish to pray.

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 1/7 bulletin were due by 12/29.)

Visit 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. Bulletin submissions can also be sent to 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

YOUTH

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Visit 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 or contact Mahalia Marcelin, Discipleship Director at (651) 696-5443 or 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
- School: Molly Dressen, Administrative Assistant
(651) 696-5411 | mdressen@nativitystpaul.org

IMAGES

Cover Image

First Grade Paraliturgie (Christmas Pageant)

Courtesy of Nativity of Our Lord School

Friday, December 15, 2023

ARCHDIOCESE

Archbishop's Response to New Vatican Document

The recent Declaration regarding pastoral blessings issued by the Vatican was intended to offer nuance to the Church's teaching on blessings (which can vary in form and purpose) without in any way changing the Church's perennial teaching on marriage or on sexual morality. Nevertheless, the hope is that these blessings can assist those who request them to "open their lives to God, to ask for his help to live better, and also to invoke the Holy Spirit so that the values of the Gospel may be lived with greater faithfulness."

Visit archspm.org/statement-regarding-pastoral-blessings for the rest of Archbishop Hebda's statement, as well as for a link to the Vatican document itself, *Fiducia Supplicans*.

STEWARDSHIP

Year-End Giving

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!

Online Giving

We are pleased to offer electronic giving right on our parish website at 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!



Deadlines for Gifting

This weekend is the last 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 in physical or digital form or, if mailed, postmarked on or before this Sunday, December 31. (See above for online giving.) Anything received (or postmarked) beginning this Monday will be recorded as a 2024 donation.

2024 Pledge Forms Reminder

Registered parishioners have now received invitations to make a stewardship commitment for 2024 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. Thank you!

Annual Report and Mission Update *(new)*

The 2023 Nativity of Our Lord Annual Report and Mission Update covering the 2022-2023 fiscal year (July 2022 - June 2023) has now been published and mailed to registered parishioner homes (separately from stewardship invitation letters). You can now view a digital copy, as well as past years, at nativitystpaul.org/annual-mission-update. If you have not received your document, please contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 or info@nativitystpaul.org.

Catholic Services Appeal

If you still wish to donate to the 2023 Catholic Services Appeal, envelopes must be postmarked en route for CSA offices by this Sunday, December 31 to be eligible for the Parish Sharing incentive. (Half of new donations are returned to the parish, as we have surpassed our parish goal). Find more information at nativitystpaul.org/catholic-services-appeal, or give directly at 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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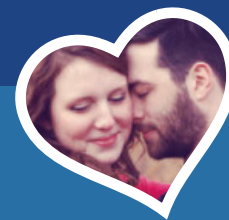


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Nativity of Our Lord Church, Saint Paul, MN

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CALENDAR • JANUARY 1-7

Monday, 1/1	Tuesday, 1/2	Wed., 1/3	Thursday, 1/4	Friday, 1/5	Saturday, 1/6	Sunday, 1/7
Mass: •9am	Mass: •8:15am, 5pm	Mass: •8:15am	Mass: •8:15am	Mass: •8:15am, 5pm	Mass: •8:15am •5pm (<i>vigil</i>)	Mass: •7:30am •9am •11am •5pm
Rosary for Life: •None	Grandparents Rosary: 8:45am	Rosary for Life: •8:45am	Rosary for Life: •8:45am	Rosary for Life: •8:45am	Confession: •3:30-4:30pm	
	Confession: •4:15-4:45pm	Confession: •4:30-5:30pm		Confession: •4:15-4:45pm		
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 .						
Adoration: None	Adoration: 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 3-5pm		Adoration: 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-9pm	Adoration: 6-9pm	Adoration: 6-10pm
MARY, the HOLY MOTHER of GOD	<i>Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</i>	<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>	<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton*</i>	<i>St. John Neumann*</i>	<i>St. André Bessette</i>	<i>The EPIPHANY of OUR LORD</i>
New Year's Day, World Day of Peace	Parish Office Closed				Food Collection	Food Collection
Parish Office, NELC Closed	Grief Support Mtg. Bride's Room 10am	Convivium Auditorium 6:30-8pm	Synod Exec. Team Mtg. Lannan Conf. Room 4:30pm	First Friday Fellowship Steiner Hall 8:45am		
	Small Group Trial Steiner Hall 6-8:30pm	Faith Formation & OCIA School 6:30-8pm	Small Group Trial Steiner Hall 6-8:30pm	Cribbage Tournament Steiner Hall 5:30pm		
No School (Christmas Break)						
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.						

WEEKLY READINGS

Sunday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3; Ps 128:1-5 or Ps 105:1-6, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40
Monday:	Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21
Tuesday:	1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28
Wednesday:	1 Jn 2:29 - 3:6; Ps 98:1, 3-6; Jn 1:29-34
Thursday:	1 Jn 3:7-10; Ps 98:1, 7-9; Jn 1:35-42
Friday:	1 Jn 3:11-21; Ps 100:1-5; Jn 1:43-51
Saturday:	1 Jn 5:5-13; Ps 147:12-15, 19-20; Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38
Next Sun.:	Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-1

MASS INTENTIONS

		8:15am (or 9am)	5pm (or private)
Mon.	1/1	Fr. John Rumpza	Kurt Budzien +
Tues.	1/2	Jackie Hernandez +	Mary Beth Stupka +
Wed.	1/3	Barbara Wollan +	Mary Ellen Coyle +
Thu.	1/4	Sharon Bocker +	Ray Rudd +
Fri.	1/5	Reginald Perera +	Michael Jay +
Sat.	1/6	Don Hesse +	-

PASTORAL CARE

Grief Group | Tuesday, January 2, 10am
The Nativity of Our Lord Grief Support Group meets monthly on first Tuesdays from 10-11:30am and third Tuesdays from 6:30-8pm in the Bride's Room.
Register at nativitystpaul.org/grief-group-registration.

Food Collection | Saturday-Sunday, January 6-7
Please consider bringing a bag of nonperishable food to church next weekend for Keystone Community Services, our local food shelf partner. Visit nativitystpaul.org/events/food-collection-weekend-2024-january for more information. Thank you!

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 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.