

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH



The 3RD SUNDAY of ADVENT • DECEMBER 14, 2025

ABOUT

Parish Mission | Announced December 7, 2024

Our new parish mission, formulated by our Pastor, Fr. Rolf Tollefson — as a response to the suggestions of One Nativity 2035, parish staff, the pastoral council, and other valued lay leaders — is three-fold, aligning with the liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas and centering upon, fittingly, the celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord itself:

- 1.) **Prepare** the Way of the Lord,
- 2.) **Celebrate** "God With Us," and
- 3.) **Shine** with the Light of Christ.



Learn more about our new parish mission at nativitystpaul.org/mission.

INFORMATION

Pastor

Father Rolf Tollefson (*pictured*)



Church

1938 Stanford Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55105

Office Hours

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

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
Sun.: 7:30am, 9am (*Family Mass*), 11am (*w/incense*), 5pm

Daily Mass

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

Confession

Tuesday, Friday: 4:15-4:45pm
Wednesday: 4:30-5:30pm; Saturday: 3:30-4:30pm

Adoration (*denotes newly expanded time)

Sat.: 6-9pm; Sun: 6-11pm; Mon.: 5am-8am, 9am-12am
Tues.: 12am-8am; 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am
Wed.: 12-8am, 9am-12am
Thurs.: 5am-8am, 9am-12pm*
Fri.: 4am-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30-9pm

Anointing of the Sick (**Press 1 at the recording**)

Emergency Line (24 hours) | (651) 696-5401

First Saturdays: 8:45am (*and by appointment*)

Prayer Line (9am-7pm)

Mary Kay O'Rourke | (651) 698-5638
Lucy Plunkett | (612) 817-0351

Pastoral Care

St. Vincent de Paul Society | (651) 696-5401

| (651) 334-2935

LEADERSHIP

Pastor | Fr. Rolf Tollefson (651) 696-5401

Parochial Vicar | Fr. John Paul Erickson (651) 696-5440

Deacon | Rev. Mr. Don Tienter (651) 696-5401

Parish Administrator | Beth Giese (651) 696-5430

Accounting Specialist | Nick Erickson (651) 696-5436

Dir. of Marketing & Communications | Isaac Huss (651) 696-5425

Assistant Director of Discipleship - Small Groups and Youth Ministry | Emily Meyer (651) 696-5401

Parish Secretary | Beth Erickson (651) 696-5401

Volunteer Coord. | Sonny Herrington (651) 696-5401

Facilities Director | Steve Boatman (651) 696-5434

Discipleship Admin. | Marian Layman (651) 696-5443

Director of Music | Brian Carson (651) 696-5401

Nativity Choir Director | Rob Pontious (651) 245-5969

School Principal | Kate Wollan (651) 699-1311

Early Learning Center Director | Nicole Clausen (651) 696-5437

Lay Trustee | Christina Crow (651) 696-5401

Lay Trustee | Tom Tucci (651) 696-5401

Finance Council Chair | Tom Margarit
tmargarit2024@outlook.com

Pastoral Council (651) 696-5401

Chris Nei (chair)

Lanita Brandt

Martha Conners

Judd Fenlon

Nate Hughes

Stephen Maas

Lucas Tucker

HOLY MATRIMONY

Banns

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

Saturday, January 3, 2026 (new)

Catherine Conners and Alexander Edwin Miller

Marital Discernment & Wedding Planning

In order for Nativity of Our Lord to best help individuals and couples discern vocations to sacramental marriage, we encourage active participation in parish life, including registering as a parishioner, at least six months prior to requesting a wedding date. Contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 or info@nativitystpaul.org to learn more.

Cana Dinner | February 7 (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 Cana Dinner on Saturday, February 7. 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 begin with Mass at 5pm followed by a social hour, buffet dinner including wine and dessert, and guest speakers Peter and Theresa Martin. They will present on the book they authored, *The Rule: St. John Paul II's Rule for a Joy-Filled Marriage of Divine Love*. Free babysitting will be available courtesy of 7th and/or 8th graders, who will be supervised by a Virtus-trained adult. Save the date and stay tuned for registration details.

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

Electronic giving is available on our parish website at nativitystpaul.org/online-giving via the QR code at right for our general parish "Stewardship" fund, as well as for special 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!



COMMUNICATIONS

Email Scheme Impersonating Fr. Tollefson

New, more sophisticated fraudulent phishing emails claiming to come from "Fr. Rolf Tollefson" are being sent to parishioners with the intent to confuse, manipulate, and steal. For more information, visit nativitystpaul.org/news/phishing-emails, and when in doubt contact the parish office at (651) 696-5401 or info@nativitystpaul.org. Please be on guard — and please spread the word, particularly to those who may be most vulnerable.

PARISH LIFE

NMC Donut Sunday | Sun., Dec. 14, 8am-12:30pm

Please join us for coffee, donuts, and great conversation with your fellow parishioners downstairs in Steiner Hall this Sunday immediately after morning Masses, sponsored by the Nativity of Our Lord Men's Club.

Donuts Every Sunday | Sun., Dec. 21, 8am-12:30pm

The Hospitality Team at Nativity of Our Lord is now hosting donuts and coffee every Sunday when the Men's Club is not hosting their popular Donut Sunday events, after all morning Masses in Steiner Hall! We are asking for the support of the parish community to help make this endeavor a success. To donate online, visit nativitystpaul.org/hospitality-sunday via the QR code. Thank you!



Christmas Giving Tree | Ends Friday, 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 supports participants of Catholic Charities' programs for children, home stability/homeless teens, seniors, and the disabled. Participation is easy! Simply take an ornament from the tree, purchase an item listed, and return the unwrapped item along with the ornament to the Giving Tree area by this Friday. Small additions to your gift of basic needs like socks and underwear are always appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Talens Paske at (651) 600-0245. Thank you!

40th Fr. Kelley Cribbage Tournament | January 2

Grab a partner, young or old, man or woman, and plan to join us for the 40th annual Fr. Kelley Open Cribbage Tournament, a free event hosted by the Nativity of Our Lord Men's Club on Friday, January 2 in Steiner Hall at 5:30pm. As usual, a light dinner and beverages will be provided. If you don't have a partner, come anyway and we will work to find you one. Players should come with a general understanding of game play and rules. Call John Dery at (651) 308-1605 with questions. *Pro Liberi!*



SERVICE

Christmas Spirit Referrals | Due Sunday, December 14

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul at Nativity of Our Lord will deliver poinsettias and spend time with our parishioners in senior living communities or in their own homes this coming week. So please call the parish office at (651) 696-5401 and leave a voicemail this weekend to let us know if someone you know (or you yourself!) might appreciate a visit this holiday season. Thank you!



LITURGY & PRAYER

Advent Reconciliation Service | Wed., Dec. 17, 6:30pm
Our annual Advent Reconciliation Service is this Wednesday evening. Come and be reconciled to God in preparation for the coming of his son at Christmas! Several visiting priests as well as our own will be available to hear Confessions at our annual parish Advent Penance Service, so as many people can receive the sacrament as swiftly as possible.

Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ. Yes, Christ was born in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago, but the fact is “He will come again to judge the living and the dead,” according to our creed. And nobody knows the day or the hour. So, are you ready?

Christmas Schedule | December 24-25

Please also make plans to join us in worship on the solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas), our patronal feast day a another holy day of obligation. See below for this year's Mass times at Nativity of Our Lord:

- Christmas Eve (Wednesday, 12/24): 2pm, 4pm, 6pm
- Christmas Day (Thursday, 12/25): 12am, 7:30am, (no 8:15am), 11am

Adoration Expands | Thursdays, 11pm-12am (*new*)

We are grateful to announce that Adoration has now expanded to include the 11pm-12am hour on Thursdays. The next hours we are seeking to fill:

- 11pm-12am on Sundays
- 12-5am on Mondays and Thursdays

Please consider taking a new weekly hour, whether by yourself or with a friend. Visit nativitystpaul.org/news/adoration-expansion-update for more information, or visit adorationpro.org/nativity to sign up today (and click Weekly Commitment). Contact Sonny at (651) 696-5401 or sherrington@nativitystpaul.org for further questions.

SUBMISSIONS

Early Deadlines | Thursday, December 18, 9am

Bulletin content is typically required by Monday at noon for the following Sunday's bulletin. Please note the following early deadlines:

- (*Submissions for the 12/21 bulletin are past due*)
- Submissions for the **Sunday, 12/28** bulletin are due this **Thursday, December 18** by 9am.
- Submissions for the **Sunday, 1/4** bulletin are due by **Monday, December 22** at 9am.

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. Visit nativitystpaul.org/content-submissions for more information, or to submit copy for the parish bulletin, website calendar, social media, and email newsletter.

— Isaac Huss, Comms. Director and Bulletin Editor

FAMILY FORMATION

Family Corner: Music and Prayer | December

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Here at the beginning of Advent, we sing with longing. We call out to our Savior — be with us! We also begin to hear the glorious carols of celebration — *Joy to the World!* For many of us, the music



of Advent and Christmas is the most beloved of all! We sing our favorite hymns and carols by heart. We find a commonality among other Christians and neighbors who know the same dear lyrics. The music of this season gives us powerful ways to pray, to connect with our families, and to celebrate within our communities.

Through the *Reclaiming Sundays* guide, we are invited to pray with music in a number of ways.

Visit nativitystpaul.org/family-corner for specific ideas for December to enhance our Sunday joy here in our parish and in our neighborhood.

COMMUNITY (new)

St. Helena Mission | Sun.-Thurs., Dec. 14-18, 6pm

The Church of St. Helena (3204 E 43rd St., Minneapolis) invites you to its Parish Mission this Sunday through Thursday in the church beginning each evening at 6pm with a presentation by Fr. Ben Cameron, C.P.M., a Father of Mercy from Kentucky, along with the availability of the Sacrament of Confession. Participants may come to any or all nights. For further information, call (612) 275-0431.

Advent Concert | Thursday-Friday, December 18-19

Steven C. Anderson will be joined by Nativity's own Kathryn Budzien, Jillian Anderson, Jack Cassidy, Grammy-award winning performer Pat Donahue, plus cello, organ, violin, and mandolin for Steven C's 9th annual Christmas Together concert this Thursday, at 7pm and this Friday at 2pm and 7pm at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Guiding Star Wakota Golden Gala | February 28

Join us in celebrating half a century of compassionate, life-affirming support for women and families on Saturday, February 28! The evening will feature Archbishop Bernard Hebda, keynote speaker Rebekah Hagan, dessert and live auctions, games and a premier raffle, and dinner and a program. Visit guidingstarwakota.org/gala for details.

Mind. Body & Spirit Presentation | March 3

Parishioner, local author, R.N., and Public Health nurse Mrs. Sydney March, M.S. (Bioethics), M.A. (Moral Theology) will present “Suffering and Chronic Illness” as part of this Health Care From a Catholic Perspective series at St. John Newman in Eagan on Tuesday, March 3. Visit sjn.org/pastoral-care for details.

PICTURE DIRECTORY

Updating Contact Information

If any of your contact information is listed incorrectly in the Parish Directory, if you would like to update your privacy preferences, or if there is any way we can be of further assistance, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Isaac Huss, Director of Communications, at ihuss@nativitystpaul.org or (651) 696-5425.

As we continue to build up our databases and fine-tune our processes, we want to ensure that we have your correct information on file. This includes your contact information as well as any preferences to share it with the parish community or to keep it confidential.

Pick-Up at Parish Office

The 2025 Nativity of Our Lord Picture Directories have arrived! As promised, all individuals and families who sat for a portrait will receive a free printed directory. The books are now available for pickup at the Lannan Center. Just have one of your household members stop by who can be identified in the book! Contact the parish office with questions at (651) 696-5401 or info@nativitystpaul.org.

Digital Application Coming Soon

If your photo isn't published in the new Picture Directory, whether you're new to the parish or otherwise, don't worry! You can still be included in our electronic smartphone application version. Stay tuned for details on how to participate.

PASTORAL CARE

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. The sacrament is now also offered immediately after the 8:15am Mass in the church on the first Saturday of each month, unless otherwise noted.

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)!

IMAGES

Cover Image

Archbishop Hebda Celebrates the Family Mass at Nativity of Our Lord and Ms. Kate Wollan Gathers Group for Children's Liturgy of the Word by Therese Steinhoff
Sunday, December 7, 2025 | theresestehnhoff.com

NATIVITY SCHOOL

Explore PreK, Kinder Programs | January 8 (*new*)

Join us for our Preschool Open House on Thursday, January 8 from 6-7:30pm to explore our joyful, Catholic faith-filled preschool programs. Prospective families are also invited to our Kindergarten Round-



Up on Thursday, January 22 at 6:30pm to learn more about what makes Nativity's Kindergarten experience exceptional. If you have yet to schedule a tour, please contact Michelle Henningsgard at (651) 699-1311, or visit school.nativitystpaul.org/schedule-a-tour.

SACRED MUSIC

Celebration Choir Sunday #2 | January 4 (*update*)

Your next opportunity to join the Nativity Choir for a Sunday is Epiphany Sunday at the 11am Mass. Come and enjoy the fun of singing Christmas music with a choir. Visit nativitystpaul.org/news/celebration-choir-sunday for a link to RSVP for the next Celebration Choir Sunday.

We meet in the choir room at 9:45am for seating, warm up, and rehearsal of the two anthems for Sunday. We will sing two Christmas classics: "What Child is This?" arranged by Dale Warland and "I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In" arranged by John Rutter. No prior singing experience is required; just an interest in trying 11am Mass from the perspective of the Nativity Choir.

If you are unable to attend the first two Celebration Choir Sunday, there is one other meeting planned this choir season. Celebration Choir Sunday #3 will be in the Octave of Easter on Sunday, April 12. Music selections for that day are yet to be decided. So, whether you are an experienced choral singer or just looking to give it a try, all are welcome. If you have questions, feel free to contact Rob Pontious, Nativity Choir Director at (651) 245-5969 or rpontious@nativitystpaul.org.

SMALL GROUPS

Men's Fellowship | Tuesdays at 6:45am

All men of Nativity of Our Lord are invited to the new men's fellowship small group, now meeting at 6:45am (instead of 7am) every Tuesday in Steiner Hall.

Our goal is to aid and assist one another as we seek to grow in prayer and deepen our relationships with Christ, our families, and our communities, all while striving to become men of virtue and authentic witnesses and servants of the Gospel. For December, we are discussing *Rejoice! Advent reflections with St. Joseph* at Fr. Tollefson's suggestion. If you are interested in joining us, contact Matt Bannick at (651) 492-1945. Books will be provided.



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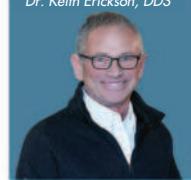
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ALIGNING SMILES FOR A BRIGHT TOMORROW

Dr. Keith Erickson, DDS



Dr. John Aamodt, DDS, MS



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Apple Valley, MN 55124
952.431.1111

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4790 White Bear Pkwy
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Nativity of Our Lord Church, Saint Paul, MN

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CALENDAR • DECEMBER 15-21, 2025

Mon., 12/15	Tues., 12/16	Wed., 12/17	Thurs., 12/18	Friday, 12/19	Sat., 12/20	Sun., 12/21
Mass: • 8:15am	Mass: • 8:15am • 5pm	Mass: • 8:15am	Mass: • 8:15am	Mass: • 8:15am • 5pm	Mass: • 8:15am • 5pm (<i>vigil</i>)	Mass: • 7:30am (<i>no music</i>) • 9am (<i>Family Mass</i>) • 11am *** • 5pm
Rosary for Life: • 8:45am	Grandparents Rosary: 8:45am	Rosary for Life: • 8:45am	Rosary for Life: • 8:45am	Rosary for Life: • 8:45am	Rosary for Life: • 8:45am	
<i>*Newly expanded</i>		Confession: • 4:15-4:45pm	Confession: • 4:30-5:30pm • 6:30pm	Confession: • 4:15-4:45pm	Confession: • 3:30-4:30pm	<i>***With incense</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.

Adoration: 5am-8am, 9am-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 9am-12am	Adoration: 5-8am, 9am-12am *	Adoration: 4-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30-9pm	Adoration: 6-9pm	Adoration: 6-11pm
<i>(3rd Week of Advent)</i>	Men's Fellowship Small Group Steiner Hall 6:45am Pastoral Council Meeting Lannan Center 6pm SVdP Meeting Steiner Hall 6:30pm	Faith Formation, OCIA Meeting School 6:30-8pm Reconciliation Service Church 6:30-8pm		School Out at 11:30am		4TH SUNDAY of ADVENT (St. Peter Canisius**) Hospitality (Donut) Sunday Steiner Hall 8am-12:30pm High School Youth Night Steiner Hall 6-8pm

Changes to the parish schedule since last 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.

PASTOR'S CORNER

Hope Video Series with Deacon Michalak ([new](#))

This Advent, the Archdiocese is offering a new video series on Hope led by Deacon Michalak. This six-episode series will accompany you and your small groups through the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, a time to reflect, rejoice, and rediscover the hope we have in Christ. Visit nativitystpaul.org/videos for a link to Session I.

MASS INTENTIONS

This Week's Schedule

		7:30am	8:15am	9am	11am	5pm
Mon.	12/15		Martin F. Ludden +			
Tues.	12/16		Mark Baron +			Therese Steinhoff
Wed.	12/17		Bea Bement +			
Thu.	12/18		Fr. John Paul Erickson			
Fri.	12/19		John Healy +			Mike Kelleher +
Sat.	12/20		Carol Murphy Faricy +			Matt Pietrzak
Sun.	12/21	Millie Cory +		Louise Roth	For the People	Celeste Pariana

MASS READINGS

Sunday: Is 35:1-6, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10;
Mt 11:2-11

Monday: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17; Ps 25:4-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23;
Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17

Thursday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25

Friday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Next Sun.: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24