

# NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH



*The 6TH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME • FEBRUARY 15, 2026*

# 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](http://nativitystpaul.org/mission).

# 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

**Head of School** | Kate Wollan (651) 699-1311

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

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

**Parish Secretary** | Beth Erickson (651) 696-5401

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

**Facilities Director** | Steve Boatman (651) 696-5434

**Accounting Specialist** | Nick Erickson (651) 696-5436

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

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

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

**Discipleship Admin., Sacramental Records**  
Marian Layman (651) 696-5443

**Lay Trustee** | Christina Crow (651) 696-5401

**Lay Trustee** | Tom Tucci (651) 696-5401

**Finance Council Chair** | Tom Margarit  
[tmargarit2024@outlook.com](mailto:tmargarit2024@outlook.com)

**Pastoral Council** (651) 696-5401

Chris Nei (chair)

Lanita Brandt Nate Hughes

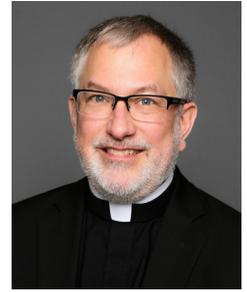
Martha Conners Stephen Maas

Judd Fenlon Lucas Tucker

# INFORMATION

## Pastor

Father Rolf Tollefson (*pictured*)



## Church

1938 Stanford Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 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](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

*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 (*\*denotes newly updated time*)

Monday-Saturday: 8:15am

Tuesday, \*Wednesday, and Friday: 5pm

## Confession

Tuesday, \*Wednesday, and Friday: 4:15-4:45pm

Saturday: 3:30-4:30pm

## Adoration

Sat.: 6-9pm; Sun: 6-11pm; Mon.: \*6am-8am, 9am-12am

Tues. and \*Wed.: 12am-8am; 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am

Thurs.: 5am-8am, 9am-12am

Fri.: 4am-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30-9pm

## Anointing of the Sick

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

(*Press 1 at the recording*)

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

(651) 696-5401

## St. Vincent de Paul Society

(651) 334-2935

# FUNERALS

## Funeral Information

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.

# BAPTISM

## Preparation and Scheduling

Baptisms are typically 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.

# HOLY MATRIMONY

## 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](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org) to learn more.

# 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](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org) and we'll come to them (or you)!

# COMMUNITY

## Mind, Body & Spirit Presentation | March 3

Parishioner Sydney March, R.N., M.S. (Bioethics), M.A. (Moral Theology) will present "Suffering and Chronic Illness" as part of the Health Care from a Catholic Perspective series at St. John Newman in Eagan on Tuesday, March 3. Visit [sjn.org/pastoral-care](http://sjn.org/pastoral-care) for details.

# LENT

## Ash Wednesday | Wednesday, February 18 (*update*)

Please join us in worship as we begin the great penitential season of Lent in preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum. Mass this (Ash) Wednesday will be celebrated at 7am, 8:15am (with music and incense), and 5pm (with music). Additionally, Confessions will begin at 4pm (instead of 4:15pm).

## Abstinence and Fasting | Wednesday, February 18 (*new*)

Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from eating meat this (Ash) Wednesday, as well as Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 (inclusive) are also required to fast this (Ash) Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days, one full meal is allowed. Food may be taken at two other times during the day, in order to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

## Daily Lenten Disciplines (*new*)

Each weekday of Lent (with the exception of St. Joseph Day on March 19 and the Annunciation on March 25) is an obligatory day of penance to be marked by prayer and increased devotion to spiritual practices.

Some recommendations are daily Mass, Adoration (*see "Challenge" on next page*), increased personal prayer time or spiritual study, self-imposed fasting or abstinence, works of charity, almsgiving, Stations of the Cross (*see below*), the Rosary, retreats, and especially the sacrament of Reconciliation. Visit [NativityStPaul.org/Lent](http://NativityStPaul.org/Lent) for more information on this great penitential season.

## Soup Suppers | Friday, February 20, 5:30-6:45pm

To help make Lenten Fridays more family-friendly, a simple meal (with fellowship!) will be offered on three Fridays in Steiner Hall beginning this week, as well as March 13 and 27. The Respect Life committee of Nativity of Our Lord will provide the soup this Friday.

## Sacred Art Reflections | Friday, Feb. 20, 6:15-6:45pm

Also new this year on (most) Lenten Fridays: An expert-led art reflection (sometimes described as Visio Divina) will be offered in Steiner Hall. Please join us this Friday evening and on all Fridays in March. On Fish Fry evenings (March 6 and 20), bring your meal from the cafeteria. This event is appropriate for all ages! This Friday, Fr. John Paul Erickson will lead an art reflection on *The Call of Matthew* by Caravaggio.

## Stations of the Cross | Friday, February 20, 7pm

The Stations of the Cross, the devotion of following the footsteps of Christ to his death on Mt. Calvary, will be offered in the church every Friday in Lent at 7pm beginning this week.

# PARISH LIFE

**Donuts Every Sunday** | Sunday, Feb. 15, 8am-12:30pm  
Join us this Sunday morning as the Hospitality Team at Nativity of Our Lord continues hosting donuts and coffee every Sunday (when the Men's Club is not hosting their popular Sunday morning events) after all morning Masses in Steiner Hall. To volunteer for a shift or donate to this ministry online, visit [nativitystpaul.org/hospitality-sunday](http://nativitystpaul.org/hospitality-sunday) via the QR code. Thank you!



## A Challenge For Lent *(new)*

Lent is upon us. Why not try something new in your faith life, and help Nativity of Our Lord along the way? We invite you to a Lenten Adoration Challenge: sign up for one of our open hours, and commit to the hour for the six weeks of Lent. Come Easter, you can "resign" from your hour, or keep it. If something comes up in a given week, ask for a substitute adorer. Our open hours don't work? Pick any hour that works for you. To see our open hours and to sign up, visit [adorationpro.org/nativity](http://adorationpro.org/nativity) and click "Weekly Commitment." Thank you!

## Lenten Fish Fry Events | March 6, 20

Save the dates for our annual Lenten Fish Fry events, sponsored by the Nativity Men's Club! Plan to join us in the School cafeteria for food, beverages, and great fellowship. There will also be a drive-up to-go option at the garage on Wellesley Avenue.

# STEWARDSHIP

## Catholic Services Appeal 2026

This year's Catholic Services Appeal has begun! We can be authentic witnesses to Christ's teachings by supporting efforts that bring his love and mercy to others, which is exactly why the Catholic Services Appeal exists.



Many people depend on us to carry out Our Lord's mission! Please prayerfully consider how you can help, if you haven't already. Visit [archspm.org/catholic-services-appeal](http://archspm.org/catholic-services-appeal) for details, or scan the QR code to donate today.



## Online Giving

Electronic giving is available on our parish website at [nativitystpaul.org/online-giving](http://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!



# FAMILY FORMATION

**Emmaus Family Night** | Sunday, Feb. 22, 3-6pm *(new)*  
Calling all Nativity of Our Lord families! Join Fr. John Paul Erickson and our Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus for our next Emmaus Family Night next Sunday, the First Sunday of Lent. These gatherings are a chance to honor the Lord's Day together as a parish family one Sunday per month throughout the school year.



EMMAUS FAMILY NIGHTS  
PRAY · PLAY · EAT

We'll begin at 3pm in the church with family-friendly prayer, followed by games in the gym with the Sisters and a shared meal. RSVP by Tuesday at [tinyurl.com/emmaus-family-nights](http://tinyurl.com/emmaus-family-nights) via the QR code to help us plan. And save the dates for upcoming events on March 15 and April 26.



# SMALL GROUPS

**New for Lent 2026** | Register by Sunday, February 15  
Lent starts this (Ash) Wednesday *(see details on previous page)* and it's the perfect time to focus on growing in our faith. Below are some new small groups that are looking for participants. Sign up for these groups by this Sunday at [bit.ly/3vAtTzg](http://bit.ly/3vAtTzg) via the QR code or contact Emily Meyer at [emeyer@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:emeyer@nativitystpaul.org) or Randall McClure at [randallmcc715@gmail.com](mailto:randallmcc715@gmail.com).



**OCIA/RCIA Alumni** | Begins Sunday, February 22, 8am  
All adults who received the Rites of Initiation through OCIA (formerly RCIA) are invited to join a newly formed small group of new adult Catholics, meeting after the 7:30am Mass every other Sunday in Lent.

**Enriching Sundays w/JP2** | Begins Sun., Feb. 22, 3pm  
This study group of Pope St. John Paul II's apostolic letter *Dies Domini* on the meaning of Sunday and the reasons for living it as a day set apart will deepen our understanding of this rich and holy day. The group will meet on three Sunday afternoons from 3-4:30pm: Next Sunday, February 22, and March 1 and 8.

**Reclaim Sundays. Seriously!** | Feb. 24, March 3 and 10  
The Archdiocese has provided monthly videos and ideas for reclaiming Sundays, highlighted in our Family Corner items in the bulletin *(see opposite page)*. We'll learn ways to make Our Lord's Day more fruitful on three Tuesday evenings in Lent from 7:30-8:30pm in Steiner Hall.

**Stewardship: Beyond the Money!** | March 17, 24, 31  
We'll discuss videos by Fr. Marc Paveglio, Pastor of St. Rose of Lima in Roseville, on three Tuesday evenings in March from 7:30-8:30pm in Steiner Hall.

# RESPECT LIFE

**40 Days for Life Vigil** | Wed., Feb. 18, 3pm (*new*)  
Join Pro-Life Action Ministries in this international movement of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach to end abortion spanning February 18 - March 29, with the opening vigil this (Ash) Wednesday afternoon. Contact Karen McCann at (612) 964-4522 or [karenmccann3@gmail.com](mailto:karenmccann3@gmail.com) to help organize our parish's activities for this annual Lenten effort. For more information, visit [plam.org](http://plam.org) or [40daysforlife.com](http://40daysforlife.com).

**Book Discussion and Potluck** | Thurs., Feb. 19, 6-8pm  
Join in reading and discussing the inspirational memoir, *Two Patients: My Conversion from Abortion to Life-Affirming Medicine*, by Dr. John Bruchalski, M.D. this Thursday evening in Steiner Hall. This amazing story highlights how a physician who practiced abortion came to question the medical status quo and to pioneer an approach to reproductive medicine that respects female fertility. It also gives a glimpse of just how merciful the relationship between a doctor and his two patients — mother and child — can be. To RSVP and/or to buy (\$7.50) or borrow a copy of the book, please contact Karen McCann.

# WOMEN'S RETREAT

**Registration Now Open** | February 27-28

All women of the parish are invited for Chosen & Beloved, a two-day (but not overnight) retreat at Nativity of Our Lord, led by our Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus. We will start with the 5pm Mass on Friday and end at 9pm, then begin again on Saturday with 8:15am Mass and end at 3:30pm. The retreat will also include time for Adoration, Confession, and fellowship and will be held in the church and Steiner Hall.



Registration is \$60 at [nativitystpaul.org/womens-retreat](http://nativitystpaul.org/womens-retreat) via the QR code and includes all meals. Financial assistance is available — no one will be turned away! Just make a request through the form, or contact Marian Layman at (651) 696-5443 or [mlayman@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:mlayman@nativitystpaul.org) to learn more.



# COMMUNICATIONS

## Weekly 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. 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.

— Isaac Huss, Comms. Director and Bulletin Editor

# SCHOOL PLAY

**Annie, Jr.** | March 1, 6-8 (*new*)

All are invited to this year's 7th and 8th grade production of *Annie, Jr.* under the direction of Jay Woods, Michael Loonan, and Dan Wicker. The students have worked hard and are eager to have you enjoy this spectacular show with them. Show times are 6:30pm on Friday, March 6 and Saturday, March 7, with a matinee on Sunday, March 8 at 1pm. All performances will be in the Nativity School Auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students and will be available at the door. Children under the age of five are free.

We also have a special invitation to offer the senior members of our parish community: Join us for a free "sneak preview" of our production on Sunday, March 1 at 1pm, also in the Auditorium. This will be the final dress rehearsal before opening night!

# PRAY IN THE SPIRIT

**Fire on the Hill** | Saturday, February 21, 6:30pm

All are invited to a monthly time of Adoration with praise and worship and an offering of prayer for healing and prophetic ministry at the Cathedral of St. Paul following the 5:15pm Mass next Saturday. Future dates include March 21, April 18, and May 23 (which is a change from previous promotions), when Fire on the Hill will follow the vigil Mass for Pentecost with Archbishop Hebda.

# IMAGES

## Cover Image

*Candlemas 2026 Procession* by Therese Steinhoff  
Monday, February 2, 2026 | [theresesteinhoff.com](http://theresesteinhoff.com)

# FAMILY CORNER

**Unplugging and Prayer** | February 2026

Turn off the devices and turn on the connections! This month, the Archdiocese invites us to reclaim the gift of Sunday rest by developing the real interactions and relationships that give us joy — while limiting our use of technology. We all know how dependent we can be on our phones, tablets, and laptops. We use them for everything — from checking recipes to paying bills to chatting with family to checking spelling!

How can we cultivate more peaceful and prayerful habits for Sundays? How can we use this upcoming Lent to help develop healthier patterns of technology use? Visit [nativitystpaul.org/news/family-corner-unplugging-and-prayer](http://nativitystpaul.org/news/family-corner-unplugging-and-prayer) via the QR code for these answers and more in the Reclaiming Sundays Guide.



# CALENDAR • FEBRUARY 16-22, 2026

Mon., 2/16	Tues., 2/17	Wed., 2/18	Thurs., 2/19	Friday, 2/20	Sat., 2/21	Sun., 2/22
<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am •5pm  <b>Grandparents Rosary:</b> 8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> •4:15-4:45pm	<b>Mass:</b> •7am •8:15am * (music) •5pm (music)  <b>Confession:</b> •4-4:45pm	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am •5pm  <b>Rosary for Life:</b> •8:45am  <b>Confession:</b> •4:15-4:45pm	<b>Mass:</b> •8:15am •5pm (vigil)  <b>Confession:</b> •3:30-4:30pm *With incense	<b>Mass:</b> •7:30am •9am (Family Mass, music) •11am * (music) •5pm (music)  <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](http://nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies).*

Adoration: 6am-8am, 9am-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	Adoration: 12-7am, 12-5pm, 6pm-12am	Adoration: 5-8am, 9am-12am	Adoration: 4-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30-9pm	Adoration: 6-9pm	Adoration: 6-11pm
Presidents' Day  No School NELC Closed	<i>The Seven Holy Servite Founders</i>  <b>Men's Small Group</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 6:45am  <b>Exodus 90 Mtgs.</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 8-9am, 5:30-6:30pm  <b>Parent-Teacher Conferences</b> <b>School</b> 3-8pm  <b>SVdP Meeting</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 6:30pm	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>  <i>(Abstinence and Fasting — see page 2 for penitential directives)</i>	School Early Dismissal at 11:30am  <b>Parent-Teacher Conferences</b> <b>School</b> 1-8pm  <b>Respect Life Book Discussion &amp; Potluck</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 6-8pm	<i>(Abstinence — see page 2)</i>  <b>Soup Supper</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 5:30-6:45pm  <b>Sacred Art Reflections</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 6:15-6:45pm  <b>Stations of the Cross</b> <b>Church</b> 7pm	<i>St. Peter Damian**</i>          <i>**Nativity relic on display in Heritage Room</i>	<b>The FIRST SUNDAY of LENT</b>  <b>Hospitality (Donut) Sunday</b> <b>Steiner Hall</b> 8am-12:30pm  <b>Rite of Sending Church</b> 11am Mass  <b>Rite of Election</b> <b>Cathedral</b> 2pm  <b>Emmaus Family Night</b> <b>Church &amp; Gym</b> 3-6pm

*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.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Masses Available

Due to the newly reinstated 5pm Wednesday Mass, in addition to last year's decision to make intentions for Sunday Masses available, we have a number of upcoming liturgies available for Mass intention requests. The suggested donation per Mass is \$7-10, which helps offset our practical liturgical expenses. If you would like to request an intention, please stop by the parish office, or contact us at [info@nativitystpaul.org](mailto:info@nativitystpaul.org) or (651) 696-5401.

### This Week's Schedule

		7:30am	8:15am	9am	11am	5pm
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>2/16</b>		Laura Bowers			
<b>Tues.</b>	<b>2/17</b>		Richard Huberty +			John Zobel +
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>2/18</b>		Gloria Rossini O'Connell +			Nancy Barrett
<b>Thu.</b>	<b>2/19</b>		Rolf Middleton +			
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>2/20</b>		Paul Doner +			Joel and Johnny Branson-Figge +
<b>Sat.</b>	<b>2/21</b>		Nick Dombrow			Richard Goblirsch +
<b>Sun.</b>	<b>2/22</b>	Richard Wing		Scott Prinz Plum +	For the People	Mary Buivid +

## MASS READINGS

**Sun.:** Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22, 27-28, 33-34, 37  
**Mon.:** Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13  
**Tues.:** Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21  
**Wed.:** Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thu.:** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25  
**Fri.:** Is 58:1-9; Ps 51:3-6, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15  
**Sat.:** Is 58:9-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32