

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



The FIRST SUNDAY *of* LENT • FEBRUARY 22, 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.

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

Pastoral Council (651) 696-5401

Chris Nei (chair)

Lanita Brandt

Martha Conners

Judd Fenlon

Nate Hughes

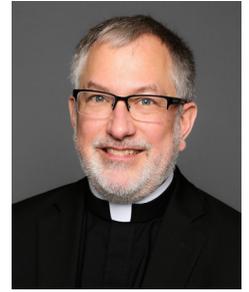
Stephen Maas

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

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

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, 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. 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 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 to learn more. *Photo by Jennifer Sanders* (jenniferlynnsanders.smugmug.com)



PASTORAL CARE

Food Collection | Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 28 - March 1
Please bring non-perishable food with you to Lord's Day Mass next weekend. All food collected is donated to Keystone Community Food Shelf. Thank 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. The sacrament is 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)!

LENT

Abstinence | Friday, February 27

Catholics 14 years of age and older must abstain from eating meat on all the Fridays of Lent plus Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Stations of the Cross | Friday, February 27, 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.

Daily Lenten Disciplines

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" below*), increased personal prayer time or spiritual study, self-imposed fasting or abstinence, works of charity, almsgiving, Stations of the Cross (*see above*), the Rosary, retreats, and especially the sacrament of Reconciliation. Visit NativityStPaul.org/Lent for more information on this great penitential season.

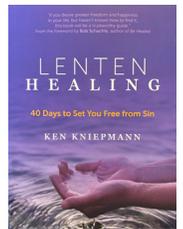
A Challenge For Lent

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 and click "Weekly Commitment." Thank you!

SMALL GROUPS

Men's Lenten Study | Tuesdays, 6:45am (*update*)

All men of Nativity of Our Lord are again invited to our ongoing Men's Fellowship small group book study. Fr. Tollefson has requested we take another break from the *BeDaditudes* for the Lenten season so we can read and reflect upon Ken Kniepmann's book, *Lenten Healing: 40 Days to Set you Free from Sin*. Books will be available to all who join us at our Tuesday morning meetings.



Based upon the popular spiritual healing program designed by Bob Schuchts and the John Paul II Healing Center, *Lenten Healing* is a daily devotional that offers a unique approach to Lent, focusing on the seven deadly sins and their corresponding virtues. We'll reexamine the psychological and spiritual roots of sin in our lives with the help of reflections and prayer exercises for overcoming sinful habits and acquiring virtuous ones.

PARISH LIFE

Donuts Every Sunday | Sunday, Feb. 22, 8am-12:30pm

Join us this Sunday morning and next 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 via the QR code. Thank you!



VOCATIONS (new)

Papal Monstrance | Mon.-Thu., Feb. 23-26, 9am-12pm

During the Year of the Eucharist in 2004-2005, Pope St. John Paul II asked the then-Cardinal Ratzinger to bless and send forth a monstrance for vocations when he was elected Pope. That same year, John Paul passed away, and Cardinal Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI. He honored his promise and entrusted a monstrance to Serra International, a lay apostate dedicated to increasing vocations. Nativity of Our Lord will host this precious monstrance this Monday through Thursday mornings, displaying the Blessed Sacrament during Adoration. Let's all pray together for vocations and for the future of the Church!



IMAGES

Cover Image

The Temptation of Christ by (Studio of) Ary Scheffer
1854 | Oil on canvas | Walker Art Gallery
Liverpool, England | {{PD-US-100}} | artuk.org/discover/artworks/the-temptation-of-christ-98304

SCHOOL PLAY

Free Dress Rehearsal for Seniors | Sun., March 1, 1pm

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 next Sunday, March 1 at 1pm, also in the Auditorium. This will be the final dress rehearsal before opening night!

FAMILY FORMATION

Emmaus Family Night | Sunday, Feb. 22, 3-6pm

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 this 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 via the QR code to help us plan. And save the dates for upcoming events on March 15 and April 26.



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.



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SERVICES APPEAL

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 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 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!



Parish Collections | January 2026 (new)

	Monthly Actual	Fiscal Year to Date Actual	Fiscal Year to Date Budget
Envelope & Electronic Giving	\$127,964	\$1,151,838	\$1,109,917
Plate Collections	\$2,701	\$50,164	\$58,333
Total	\$130,665	\$1,202,002	\$1,168,250

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Registration Closes Tuesday | Fri.-Sat., 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.



Come learn how God has created us as women, the particular gifts and struggles we tend to have, and how they affect our spiritual life. The Handmaids will also discuss the identities of women and give us tools to help deepen our prayer and overall relationship with Our Lord.

Registration is \$60 at 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 m Layman@nativitystpaul.org to learn more.



(We also invite you to consider sponsoring a fellow parishioner, which you can also do via the online form. Thank you!)

RESPECT LIFE

40 Days for Life | February 18 - March 29 *(update)*

40 Days for Life's Spring/Lenten campaign has now begun. Join Pro-Life Action Ministries, parishioners, and friends in this international movement of prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach to end abortion. We will pray together in front of the Planned Parenthood on Vandalia St. in St. Paul from 7am-6pm on Friday, March 13 and Wednesday, March 25.

Sign up for an hour or more of prayer on these adopted days at nativitystpaul.org/events/40-days-for-life-2026-spring. Contact Karen McCann at (612) 964-4522 or karenmccann3@gmail.com to learn more. For more information, visit plam.org or 40daysforlife.com.

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 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

'tis a tea we're have'n!
 NATIVITY WOMEN PRESENTS
An Irish Afternoon Tea
 Saturday | March 7th, 2026 | 2:30-4:30 pm
 Featuring Irish music and dancers
 STEINER HALL
 For all women of the parish:
 Mothers & Daughters, Grandmothers & Aunts,
 Godmothers, Sisters & Friends
 Optional: Wear your best tea hat!

R.S.V.P.

BY MARCH 5TH

- _____ Adults \$15.00
- _____ Children (5-12) \$5.00
- _____ Children under 5 are free

NAME(S)

Total amount included \$ _____

Please return to the parish office by March 5th. Contact Laurie Murphy with questions at (612) 210-3818 for more information.

or Sign-up online here:



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Dr. John Aamodt, DDS, MS



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Nativity of Our Lord Church, Saint Paul, MN

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CALENDAR • FEBRUARY 23 - MARCH 1, 2026

Mon., 2/23	Tues., 2/24	Wed., 2/25	Thurs., 2/26	Friday, 2/27	Sat., 2/28	Sun., 3/1
Mass: •8:15am	Mass: •8:15am •5pm	Mass: •8:15am •5pm	Mass: •8:15am	Mass: •8:15am •5pm	Mass: •8:15am •5pm (<i>vigil</i>)	Mass: •7:30am •9am (<i>Family Mass, music</i>) •11am* (<i>music</i>) •5pm (<i>music</i>) *With incense
Rosary for Life: •8:45am	Grandparents Rosary: 8:45am Confession: •4:15-4:45pm	Rosary for Life: •8:45am Confession: •4:15-4:45pm	Rosary for Life: •8:45am	Rosary for Life: •8:45am Confession: •4:15-4:45pm	Confession: •3:30-4:30pm	
<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 nativitystpaul.org/online-liturgies.</i>						
Adoration: 6am-8am, 9am-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	Adoration: 12-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30pm-12am	Adoration: 5-8am, 9am-12am	Adoration: 4-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30-9pm	Adoration: 6-9pm	Adoration: 6-11pm
<i>St. Polycarp</i>	Men's Small Group Steiner Hall 6:45am Exodus 90 Meetings Steiner Hall 8-9am, 5:30-6:30pm	Faith Formation, OCIA Meeting School 6:30-8pm		<i>St. Gregory of Narek</i> (<i>Abstinence — see page 2 for penitential directives</i>) Women's Retreat Church & Steiner Hall 5-9pm Stations of the Cross Church 7pm	Women's Retreat Church & Steiner Hall 8:15am-3:30pm	<i>The 2ND SUNDAY of LENT</i> Hospitality (Donut) Sunday Steiner Hall 8am-12:30pm Lay Carmelites Mtg. Steiner Hall 12:30-4pm School Play for Seniors Auditorium 1pm H.S. Youth Night Steiner Hall 6-8pm
Papal Monstrance Adoration Chapel 9am-12pm				Food Collection		
<i>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.</i>						

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. If you would like to request an intention, please stop by the parish office, or contact us at info@nativitystpaul.org or (651) 696-5401.

This Week's Schedule

	7:30am	8:15am	9am	11am	5pm
Mon. 2/23		Cathy Clyde			
Tues. 2/24		Bill Bahl			Peter and Fr. Paul Treacy
Wed. 2/25		Karen McCann			Mary Jo Johnson
Thu. 2/26		Pil-Eung + and In-Soo + Kim			
Fri. 2/27		Theresa and Kurt Lauber			Gerald Lange
Sat. 2/28		Martha Bjornson +			Jean Bradshaw +
Sun. 3/1	Faye J. Sitzmann +		Jim Dickmeyer + and Karla Koch +	For the People	The Youth of Nativity

MASS READINGS

Sun.: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19; Mt 4:1-11
Mon.: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15; Mt 25:31-46
Tues.: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wed.: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32
Thurs.: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Sat.: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48