

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH



*Happy 25th Anniversary,
Father Rolf Tollefson!*

Solemnity of Corpus Christi • SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

PARISH LIFE

Farewell to Father Erickson Ice Cream Social Next Sunday

There will be an ice cream social after all Sunday morning Masses on June 14 as a farewell and thank you to Father John Paul Erickson. Stay tuned for more details.



Congratulations to Ian Willnerd on becoming an ordained Deacon!

On May 9th at St. Mark's Church, Ian Willnerd was ordained a Deacon. Please keep Deacon Ian in your prayers as he continues his journey towards priesthood.



Children's Liturgy of the Word pauses for the Summer.



This past Sunday, May 31, was the final Children's Liturgy of the Word during the 9:00am Mass for this school year. We look forward to welcoming children back to this beloved and enriching program in the fall.

We are deeply grateful to our catechists, especially Laura Hester, Katie Persons, and Molly Yardley for sharing their time, faith, and dedication to help make this ministry such a meaningful part of parish life this year. Thank you for helping our youngest parishioners grow in their understanding and love of God's Word!

PUBLICATION

Bulletin content is 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.

IMAGES

The cover image and image of Ian Willnerd's diaconate ordination were provided by Father Rolf Tollefson.

YOUTH SUMMER

A poster for the 'Breakfast Club' event. It features various food and drink icons: a slice of toast, a cup of coffee, a croissant, a string of prayer beads, a coffee pot, a fork, a loaf of bread, a book with a cross, a coffee cup, and a teapot. The text reads: 'Nativity Youth Ministry Presents: Breakfast Club'. Below this, it says 'Join us for daily Mass, breakfast, and storytelling'. Then, 'Every Wednesday of the summer from June 10-Aug 12 8:15-9:30am'. Finally, 'Bride's room after mass' and 'Grades 6-12'.

Totus Tuus Sign up

If you are still looking for camps for your kids this Summer, you won't want to miss this one!

Totus Tuus | June 21-25



Totus Tuus (Latin for "Totally Yours") is a fun, parish-based summer catechetical program, for both grade school-age children and junior and senior high school youth. Led by faithful, young missionaries, students will learn about the Catholic faith from energetic witnesses of the Gospel.

The Day Program is open to those heading into grades 1-6 and runs June 22-26 from 9am-2:30pm each day. The Evening Program is open to those heading into grades 7-12 and runs June 21-25 from 5:30-8:30pm each night. Scan the QR code to register.

NATIVITY SCHOOL

Summer School Office Hours

The Nativity School office will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM during the summer months.

Please note that beginning June 26 through July 31, the school office will be closed on Fridays. Families may still leave a voicemail or email school@nativitystpaul.org, and messages will be checked regularly throughout the summer.



ON MAY 26, 2001, then transitional Deacon Rolf Tollefson was ordained a priest at the St. Paul Cathedral. Raised in the United Church of Christ, Fr. Tollefson felt called to be a priest before he converted to Catholicism. While he was a student at St. Olaf College, he took a class with a “Catholic-leaning” Lutheran professor who helped him become Catholic. Following is a Q and A reflection by Fr. Tollefson on his 25 years as a priest.

When did you first feel called to the priesthood?

I had good grades in Math and Chemistry in High School and considered becoming a doctor, but I struggled with my grades in college. When the Lord shuts a door, he opens another. In college, I learned that I was meant to be a spiritual healer, and not a physical one.

Who were the biggest influences on your vocation?

When I was growing up there was a long haired, clog wearing, associate pastor in my church named Glen Herrington-Hall. Glen was inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. and powerfully preached against racism—this preaching greatly inspired me. He and his wife Barb led mission trips in which I participated. In college my professor Dr. Robert Jenson introduced me to Father Richard John Neuhaus who also helped me to convert. I entered the Catholic Church in 1994. Father Larry Blake was my sponsor.

What has sustained your vocation through the years?

A life of prayer has sustained me—and I would also say it's been the friendships I have made, especially with the families from my parishes and brother priests. I was blessed to be assigned to parishes with many families—St. Charles Borromeo, St. Hubert, and now Nativity. Families are the future of our Catholic Faith, and I love to be surrounded by them. I have also been transformed by retreats with the Institute of Priestly Formation in Omaha.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not working?

I enjoy being out in nature. I love cross-country skiing and camping. I also enjoy listening to lectures.

Who are your favorite Saints?

I have three favorite saints: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Josephat, and St. Therese for three different reasons. St. Francis teaches us how to be poor, St. Therese of Lisieux teaches us how to be little, and St. Josephat teaches us to be one. They remind me that I have to be poor, little, and facilitate unity to be happy.

What is something parishioners might be surprised to learn about you?

I am a big Star Trek fan. I also am a bi-ritual priest in the Byzantine Catholic Church. Once a year I say a Mass at St. John's Byzantine Church in Minneapolis.

What is your favorite food?

I love Middle Eastern food—especially Lebanese food.

Do you have any advice for young people discerning a religious vocation?

Knowing your vocation must include first knowing Christ and trusting in His goodness. You also need to realize that God is giving us his help when we suffer. Then, once you know his goodness and reliability, you find yourself more willing to do the things He wants you to do.

For you what is the joy of the priesthood?

I know that if I hadn't become a priest then it's unlikely that I would be healed from the things that I needed to be healed from. Also, you think you know how your priesthood will go, but you never do. I was surprised to be asked to be the Spiritual Director of St. John Vianney seminary, but along the way you become equipped with what you need to do what is needed.

COUNTY FAIR



Support Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School - Sponsor the Fair

We invite school families, parishioners, alumni, local businesses, and supporters near and far to celebrate the tradition of the Nativity County Fair while supporting Nativity of Our Lord Catholic School.

Sponsorship directly supports Nativity Catholic School's commitment to faith formation, academic excellence and character development, leadership, while helping students grow within a strong Catholic school community that prepares the servant leaders of today and tomorrow.

Whether you sponsor as a family, business, or community partner, your support helps invest in the students, programs, and the future of Nativity Catholic School while connecting your name or business to one of our community's most cherished traditions.

Contact us to learn more and sponsor the 2026 Nativity County Fair! nfcsponsorship@gmail.com | Jim Runyon: (651) 246-7974 | Scan for more info

2026 Nativity County Fair Emeritus Chairs
Niki & Morgan Catlin
Michaela Kronlage & Andy Pieper
Alissa & Jim Runyon



ADORATION

Call for Adorers

As we approach the Feast of Corpus Christi, we invite you to consider becoming a weekly scheduled adorer or join the substitute list. Go to adorationpro.org/nativity and click "Weekly Commitment" or "Join Sub List" or see the placards at the exits to sign up (if room). We'd particularly like to fill Wed 11 pm, Thu 9 am and 8 pm, Fri 5:30-6:00 pm after Mass, and Sun 11 pm.

500 Holy Hours For Our Nation

In a landmark historical moment, the United States Bishops will officially consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11 at their spring assembly, to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4. The Bishops are inviting us to pray for our country and for peace by offering Holy Hours of Adoration or visits to our Adoration Chapel through July 4. See the sheets at the Adoration table to commit your Holy Hours and visits.

Morning of Recollection for Adorers |

Saturday, June 13, 9:00-11:00 am in Steiner Hall

Come join Father Erickson for breakfast and an update on our Adoration program. Please RSVP to randallmcc715@gmail.com.

FAMILY CORNER

June in Minnesota is like heaven on earth: the mosquitoes aren't thick yet, the fish are biting, the flowers are blooming, and the sunsets are gorgeous. Sundays in June can be particularly glorious. The archdiocese encourages us this month to Reclaim our Sundays by skipping the screens—the phones, tablets, TVs, and computers—that dominate our senses and steal our time.



But how can we do get along without these tools, even for a few hours a week? June offers special liturgical opportunities to begin building new habits:

- This Sunday, June 7, we celebrate the Solemnity of Corpus Christi and our pastor's anniversary of ordination. Make plans to join the parish celebrations including the Eucharistic procession after the 9:00 am Mass, or the 11:00 am Mass, followed by the luncheon and Holy Hour of Gratitude in honor of Fr. Tollefson's 25th Anniversary
- On June 14, we thank Fr. Erickson for his service to us at Nativity with ice cream after each of the Sunday morning Masses.
- June 29 is the feast of our diocesan patron, Saint Paul. Consider going to Mass at or making a visit to the Cathedral.

June also means school is out, baseball and soccer are in season, and gardens need tending. We are spending more time outdoors, and we might grow through the gifts of these rare days:

Connect with others by suggesting a potluck picnic with extended family or neighbors.

- Teach kids to say a quick prayer as they step up to the plate or hold the hose over the tomato plant.
- To relax, watch the ducks at the pond or the songbirds at the feeder instead of Netflix. Watch the sun go down and for the first stars to appear. Stroll rather than scroll.
- Pray the rosary during each drive to the cabin or with morning coffee on the deck.

Perhaps it's really not so hard to turn away from the screens. We just need the will to do it. And when we do, we will discover the colorful, richly textured, and joyful seasons of our faith and our created world!

NATIVITY WOMEN

Thank you to Mickey Nickelson and Peggy Rolfes for leading the Blood Drive on Thursday, May 28. The goal was for 32 pints of blood to be donated and that goal was exceeded with a total of 35 pints! Thank you to the volunteers and donors. We will be working on our calendar of events for 2026/27 over the Summer. Stay tuned!



FUNERALS

Our Faithful Departed

Please remember in your prayers:

Michael McCann

May his soul and those of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, amen.

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

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

Jacqueline Nha Quynh Solge

parents: Joshua Solge and Anna Nguyen

Preparation and Scheduling

In accordance with Canon Law, parents should have their babies baptized preferably within the first weeks of birth. 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

We invite engaged couples to celebrate the sacrament of marriage at our beautiful Church by registering as a parishioner at least 6 months prior to requesting a wedding date. Contact the parish office at info@nativitystpaul.org or (651) 696-5401 to learn more.

MASS INTENTIONS

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. Please stop by the parish office, or contact us at info@nativitystpaul.org or (651) 696-5401.

THIS WEEK

See the information section on the back page for Mass, confession, adoration, and rosary times. Changes to the parish schedule since last Tuesday will be communicated through pulpit announcements, in the e-newsletter and on the web site.

Tuesday, June 9

feast: St. Ephraim

Wednesday, June 10

feast: St. Barnabus

Thursday, June 11

Men's Club Meeting Steiner 7:00-9:00pm

Friday, June 12

feast: Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, June 13

feast: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Morning of Recollection for Adorers Steiner 9:00-11:00am

Sunday, June 14

**Farewell and Thank you to Father John Paul Erickson
Ice Cream Social Outside in between the Church and the School After morning Masses**

MASS READINGS

Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-15, 19-20/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58

Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6/ Ps 121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16/ Ps 4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8/Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39/ Ps 16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 (580)/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13/Mt 5:20-26

Friday: Dt 7:6-11/Ps 103:1-7, 8, 10/1 Jn 4:7-16/Mt 11:25-30

Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21/Ps 16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10/Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday: Ex 19:2-6a/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5/Rom 5:6-11/Mt 9:36-10:8

		7:30am	8:15am	9am	11am	5pm
Mon.	6/8		Helen Duffy Murphy +			
Tues.	6/9		Charles Hepburn +			JoAnn Nelson +
Wed.	6/10		Pat Miller+			Marie Whelehan
Thu.	6/11		Ed and Mary Stangler			
Fri.	6/12		Anne Keenan			Robert + and Margaret + Dill
Sat.	6/13		Kolbe Erickson			Mark & Melissa Hortman +
Sun.	6/14	Jane Doherty +		John + and Gretchen + Healy	For the People	Katie McKenzie +

INFORMATION

Pastor

Father Rolf Tollefson



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

School Office | (651) 699-1311 |

school@nativitystpaul.org

1900 Stanford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55105

STANDARD MASS & PRAYER TIMES

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.: 2am-8am, 9am-5pm, 5:30-10pm

Rosary

Rosary for Life: M, W, Th, Fr: 8:45am

Grandparents Rosary: Tuesdays: 8:45am

STEWARDSHIP

Online Giving

Electronic giving is available 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!



ABOUT

Parish Mission

Our 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: **Prepare** the Way of the Lord, **Celebrate** "God With Us," and **Shine** with the Light of Christ.

Learn more about our parish mission a

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

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

NELC Director | Nicole Clausen (651) 696-5437

Parish Secretary, Pastoral Care |
Beth Erickson (651) 696-5401

Hospitality, Outreach, and Communications

Coordinator | Therese Steinhoff (651) 696-5425

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

Director of Formation and Evangelization

Jarred McKinney (651) 696-5441

Assistant Director of Discipleship - Small Groups and

Youth Ministry | Emily Meyer (651) 696-5401

Discipleship Admin., Sacramental Records

Marian Layman (651) 696-5443

Adoration | Randall McClure (651) 260-9045

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) Nate Hughes

Christine Bartley Anne Keenan

Martha Conners Stephen Maas

Judd Fenlon

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

Safe Environment Coordinator |

Beth Erickson (651) 696-5401

St. Vincent de Paul Society (651) 334-2935