



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CATHOLIC CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT *and* MISSION UPDATE 2024



ANNUAL REPORT *and* MISSION UPDATE 2024

Our Faithfully Departed

Commemorated at our annual Memorial Mass on All Souls Day (Saturday, November 2, 2024)

Please remember in your prayers:

James Ahler	Erin McCrum
Patricia "Patt" Berendt	Catherine Michel
Paul Bernabei	Shelly Ann Moorman
LaVerne Brennan	Judy Regnier
Mary Catherine "Kay" Ek	Gianna Samountry
Mary Geraldine "Gerri" Fonfara	Loralyn "Lolly" Santoski
Betty Lou Hammargren	Adeline Schmidt
Bette Hoffman	Arthur Schneider
Joseph Hugley	Neil St. Peter
James "Jim" Huot Sr.	Jean Staples
Patricia Hurley	Genevieve Strauss
Margaret Jane Koenen	Alton Todd
Brenda Loomis	Lang Vu
Margaret MacNeill	Nancy Walsh
Helene Madigan	Frances Weier
Pierre Marcelin	Amy Wivell
Ann Marie Mason	Ed Wollerman

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



Emergency Anointing of the Sick (24 hours)
(651) 696-5401 (press 1 at the recording)

Lannan Parish Center (Parish Office)
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   @NativityStPaul

Staff Directory | nativitystpaul.org/parish-staff

Office Hours | Mon.-Thurs.: 8:30am-4:30pm
Friday: 8:30am-Noon

New Parishioners and Hospitality

Allison "Sonny" Tengblad, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Between July 2023 and June 2024, Nativity of Our Lord welcomed more than 80 new households into the parish, including 30 with school-aged children. Nativity is a warm and supportive community, but some say it can be hard for outsiders to break in. To combat this, the Discipleship team held open working group sessions to identify ways we can better meet the needs of both new families and longtime members.



Three primary opportunities were identified: 1) People need to feel welcomed and accepted; 2) They desire community support for the challenges of life, and 3) want more ways to serve others in the parish and the broader community. A newly formed Hospitality Committee is taking the first steps to address these needs, guided by the story of Christ seeing Zacchaeus in the tree. Like Christ, we should look up, notice the other, and with great love be present to them.

At a Glance | October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024
Includes sacraments celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Chapel at St. Catherine University

40	Infant Baptisms (up to age 1)
7	Child Baptisms (age 1-6)
0	Minor Baptisms (age 7-17)
1	Adult Baptisms (age 18+)
(48)	(Total Baptisms)
89	First Holy Communion Received
1	People Received into Full Communion
77	Confirmations
13	Marriages
0	Ordinations
53	Anointings of the Sick, including healing Masses and Last Rites (approximation)
35	Parishioners who Passed Away
30	Funerals Celebrated
1760	Registered Parishioner Households
6,341	Registered Parishioners
30	K-12 Faith Formation Students
7	Volunteer Catechists

LETTER *from the* PASTOR

Friday, February 14, 2025

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am pleased to share with all of you our 2024 Annual Report, detailing my first fiscal year as pastor of Nativity of Our Lord.



It has been my honor and a great joy to serve all of you, to carry on the great work already underway, and to set a new vision for our mission together at this great, historic parish, now in its second century.

The fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 saw our church renovation project largely completed and the School mortgage paid off, as well as a reorganization of our parish staff, including the establishment of the Office of Discipleship.

Entering this new fiscal year 2025, I announced my vision for a new mission for the parish, as a response to the suggestions of One Nativity 2035, parish staff, the pastoral council, and other valued lay leaders. The new mission 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 Our Lord,
- 2.) Celebrate “God With Us,” and
- 3.) Shine with the Light of Christ.

I’ve said it before: this parish knows how to celebrate — perhaps thanks to a special charism given by God to a parish named after his son’s birthday! It’s also clear to me that there’s more to be uncovered in that gift, and in particular for us to better receive the gift of Our Lord himself he wants to give to each of us — on Christmas Day, yes, but also each and every moment of our lives.

I wish to personally thank all of our parishioners, School families, and event sponsors for your continued investment in Nativity of Our Lord. It is my goal to continue to earn your trust, confidence, and support — both now and into the future.

Yours in Jesus Christ, Our Lord,

Fr. Rolf Tollefson
Pastor of Nativity of Our Lord



Parish Finances in Brief

Tom Margarit, *Finance Council Chair*

The accompanying Parish and School Financial Reports reflect the actual day-to-day revenues and expenses for the twelve months ended June 30, 2024 compared to the budget, as well as presents the current fiscal year (ending 6/30/2025) budget, for both operations.



The Net Change on the financial report represents the day-to-day operations for the entire parish including the school. This amount includes all operating cash items — including operating revenue such as stewardship and plate; operating expenses such as staffing, benefits, and utilities; and capital repair and maintenance — incurred during the fiscal year 2024. We ended the fiscal year with a Net Operating deficit of \$242,347.

The envelope and plate collections have been relatively flat for the past several years, while inflation has steadily increased the costs of our ministries and administration. *(See table at right.)*

Additionally, to the build up of reserves over the years to ensure the sustainability of the parish, there are funds earmarked for the continuing repair and replacement of the equipment and facilities of the church and School, including a roof replacement on the School building, the upgrade and remodeling of Steiner Hall, the lower stained glass windows in the worship space and planned substantial repairs and improvements to the east parking lot.

Parish Endowment Fund	
<i>Financially benefits the mission of Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church and its religious, charitable, and educational ministries</i>	
Beginning Market Value (as of 7/1/23)	\$4,088,703
Donations	\$2,576
Distribution to Operations	\$(327,941)
Investment Gain (Loss) Less Fees	\$433,581
Ending Market Value (as of 6/30/24)	\$4,196,919

Balance Sheet	
Assets	
Cash and Short Term Investments	\$6,374,700
Tuition Receivable	\$60,358
Endowments	\$5,239,699
Fixed Assets: Buildings, Equipment, and Land	\$18,987,618
Total Assets	\$30,662,375
Liabilities	
	\$744,178
Net Assets	
Undesignated	\$23,997,357
Board Designated/Restricted	\$5,920,840
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$30,662,375

Envelope, Plate, and Offerings	
FY 2020	\$1,817,378
FY 2021	\$1,721,609
FY 2022	\$1,696,249
FY 2023	\$1,655,323
FY 2024	\$1,674,199





PARISH FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

	FY 2025 Budget (ends 6/30/25)	FY 2024 Actual (ended 6/30/24)	FY 2024 Budget (ended 6/30/24)	FY 2024 Actual to Budget Variance	FY 2023 Actual (ended 6/30/23)
Operating Revenue					
Envelope, Plate, and Offerings	\$1,674,199	\$1,682,571	\$1,842,008	\$(159,437)	\$1,655,323
County Fair	-	-	-	-	\$250,000
Endowment Distribution	\$165,000	\$164,992	\$165,000	\$(8)	\$162,949
Miscellaneous Income	\$5,100	\$3,280	\$7,750	\$(4,470)	\$605,636
Gifts (Memorials, Stipends, Votive)	\$69,000	\$84,902	\$74,000	\$10,902	\$78,584
Catholic Services Appeal Rebate	\$25,000	\$19,547	\$25,000	\$(5,453)	\$25,659
Interest Income	\$150,000	\$196,682	\$27,500	\$169,182	\$33,461
Hunger Box / Loaves and Fishes	\$3,500	\$2,524	\$6,000	\$(3,476)	\$3,430
Rental Income	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$(1,000)	\$850
Early Learning Center (Net)	\$10,416	\$77,493	-	\$77,493	\$167,291
Total Operating Revenue	\$2,105,215	\$2,233,990	\$2,150,258	\$83,732	\$2,983,183
Operating Expenses					
School Investment	\$425,096	\$375,268	\$453,368	\$(78,100)	\$866,066
Church Facilities	\$298,906	\$248,438	\$295,000	\$(46,562)	\$268,462
Clergy and Rectory	\$253,253	\$231,543	\$210,001	\$21,542	\$218,381
Liturgy and Music	\$243,794	\$241,273	\$232,300	\$8,973	\$210,123
Discipleship	\$393,529	\$215,444	\$210,000	\$5,444	\$132,340
Pastoral Ministry	-	-	-	-	\$8,019
General Parish Administration	\$457,020	\$552,909	\$709,000	\$(156,091)	\$569,596
Development	\$192,296	\$90,321	\$92,000	\$(1,679)	\$33,026
Archdiocese Assessment	\$92,300	\$142,778	\$155,000	\$(12,222)	\$126,564
Hunger Box / Loaves and Fishes	\$7,000	\$7,951	\$6,000	\$1,951	\$7,407
Capital Improvement and Repairs	\$115,000	\$370,413	\$50,000	\$320,413	\$209,137
Depreciation Expense ¹	\$650,000	\$697,234	-	\$697,234	\$677,989
Total Operating Expense	\$3,128,194	\$3,173,571	\$2,412,669	\$760,902	\$3,287,109
Net Change from Operations	\$(1,022,979)	\$(939,581)	\$(262,411)	\$(677,170)	\$(303,926)
Add Back: Non-Cash Depreciation Expense ¹	\$650,000	\$697,234	-	\$697,234	\$677,989
Total Net Change from Operations	\$(372,979)	\$(242,347)	\$(262,411)	\$20,064	\$334,062

¹ Nativity of Our Lord records depreciation (a non-cash expense) for future capital repairs and replacement. FY 2024 depreciation totaled \$697,234.

Note: Due to the large financial operation, Nativity, by the request of the Pastor, Trustees, and Finance Council undertakes a fully-accredited audit each year. This report is based on this year's audit. The financial statement included revenues and expenses as it relates to parish operations. Nativity reports on a full accrual basis; therefore, we recognize revenues and expenses at the time they were earned and incurred.

Advancement UpdateBeth Giese, *Director of Advancement*

The past year was an exciting and eventful one, including major renovations to the church, paying off the School mortgage, and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Nativity County Fair. Below are some highlights of the year from the Advancement perspective. We wish to thank all of our parishioners, School families, and event sponsors for your continued investment in Nativity of Our Lord. Please know that we will work diligently to merit your ongoing confidence and support into the future!

Centennial Campaign

To date, \$2.9 million (66%) of the \$4.4 million in Centennial Campaign commitments have been paid. Thanks to our many generous donors, this means we have been able to retire the School debt and complete the vast majority of renovations to our beloved church on time and under budget. The church renovation was originally budgeted at just over \$1.9 million and came in at \$1.455 million because we did not have to use \$460,000 included in the original budget for contingency costs and cost escalation.

The last piece of the church renovations are the 38 lower windows in the church. Design and fabrication of these stained glass windows will be completed under the direction of Fr. Rolf Tollefson, parishioner Joshua Cunningham, and a small committee. The savings realized on the main church renovations from contingency and escalation will cover these costs. Then, our next priority will be the renovations to Steiner Hall, which is a vital gathering space serving our community's many needs including funeral lunches, the Men's Club Donut Sundays, NCCW's Irish Tea, teacher trainings, NCF and Night to Shine Gala steering meetings, and so much more.

2024 Stewardship and Catholic Services Appeal

Nativity's 2024 calendar year Stewardship drive finished the year at \$1,682,571, largely on par with our \$1,655,323 total in 2023. For the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal, Nativity raised a total of \$166,314 versus \$123,907 in 2023. Our goal in 2024 was \$82,766, which resulted in a total rebate to Nativity of \$52,375.94 from the Archdiocese.

**Night to Shine Gala**

The 2024 Night to Shine Gala took place on April 6, 2024 and celebrated the School's 100th anniversary. By all accounts it was a tremendous success. The Minnesota Twins Big League Experience at Target Field was once again the top seller in the Live Auction. Fund A Need brought in \$166,500 as a one-and-done designation for teacher compensation, which allowed us to bridge the gap created by School debt service payments. Now that the debt has been paid off — thanks to our generous Centennial Campaign donors — the funds previously allocated to debt service may now be used to support our amazing teachers.

Thanks to all of our generous guests and sponsors, the event raised \$400,000 in gross proceeds. After subtracting the Fund A Need and event expenses, the Night to Shine Gala netted an impressive \$116,350 in support for School operations. Please mark your calendars for April 5 for the 2025 Night to Shine Gala!

Nativity County Fair

Last September 13-15 marked the 50th anniversary of the Nativity County Fair. It was a magical community-building weekend despite a few short bouts of rain on Saturday. Fair attendees enjoyed carnival rides, games, amazing food, and fantastic entertainment, as well as the ever-popular outdoor Mass on Sunday, when we formally announced the retirement of the School debt. While first and foremost the Fair is an event focused on fellowship and community, it is also a vital fundraiser benefiting Nativity School. This year \$430,290 was raised and, after subtracting out expenses of \$256,965, the event netted \$173,325 for School operations.

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you."

— Luke 6:38

Youth MinistryEmily Meyer, *Youth Ministry*

Youth Ministry at Nativity of Our Lord continues to grow in faith and community. Youth Ministry Nights occur every Wednesday night and are open to 7-12 graders. Topics such as how to listen to God's voice, prayer, and how to live out the Catholic faith are discussed each week. We also play an active game and end each night with night prayer in the church. Attendees are enrolled in schools all over the Twin Cities, so attending Youth Ministry Nights gives them an opportunity to see old and new friends whom they don't get to see every day.



This past summer, several teens wanted to continue our weekly meetings, which we did on Wednesday mornings for Breakfast and Book Club. We attended 8:15am daily Mass, then met downstairs for breakfast and a book discussion of *The Great Divorce* by C. S. Lewis. This summer also saw 22 high schoolers attend the Steubenville St. Paul conference on the St. Thomas campus. We also had 30 students attend our annual Grill the Priest event with our new parochial vicar, Fr. John Paul Erickson.

Entering the 2024-25 school year, we welcomed Corey Soper (pictured) to the Discipleship Team. Corey is a teacher and campus minister at Nativity School, but also helped lead events this past summer, and he is the new middle school faith formation catechist on Wednesday nights, preparing our students for Confirmation. He is also co-leading a new program at the School called Middle School Ministry. This group is open to 6-8 graders, meets Tuesdays after school until 3:30pm in his classroom, and explores practical ways to apply the monthly virtue to their lives.



The Nativity Youth Ministry Program appreciates all of your prayers. We are growing at a steady pace and hope to continue being a place where teens can be seen, known, and loved while growing in their Catholic faith within a community of other teens.

Synod Small Groups

Beth Giese and Emily Meyer

The first year of the Archdiocesan Synod Implementation (2023-24) focused on creating small groups. The current year (2024-25) focuses on the Mass, including reverent liturgies, active participation, and a greater overall understanding of the liturgy.



There are now 15 active small groups that meet at various times during the year. All groups follow the Parish Evangelization Cells System (PECS) focused on prayer, faith sharing, and learning about the Mass. Two are couples groups, three are men's groups, seven are women's groups, and the rest are mixed.

Three groups are School moms who meet after student drop off, one is a young adult group (mixed gender), one is for first responders, and another is an extended family group focused on bringing non-practicing family members back to the Church. Both our grief support group and St. Vincent de Paul Society have also adopted the PECS model.

A new group starts in Lent focused on returning Nativity to Perpetual Adoration. Additionally, we are actively looking for more parents to start small groups within the School ahead of year three (2025-26), which will focus on parents as the primary educators of their children.

Liturgy

Nativity of Our Lord has always been home to particularly beautiful liturgies, and our reputation has only been strengthened since Fr. John Paul Erickson (pictured) joined the parish as Parochial Vicar in June of 2024. As the former Director of the Office of Worship for the Archdiocese, he is a perfect fit for supporting Fr. Tollefson in planning beautiful and profound liturgies, and considering important liturgical questions facing our community.



Towards that end, the parish held Liturgical Listening Sessions near the end of 2024 as a candid forum for discussing the past, present, and future direction of liturgical celebrations at Nativity of Our Lord. These meetings, and the other liturgical projects undertaken in the past year, have complemented the Archdiocesan Synod Year 2 program renewing our zeal for the Mass.

School UpdateKate Wollan, *Principal*

Nativity School is Shining Brightly with the Light of Christ!



Each morning the quiet halls of the School quickly fill with the sounds of footsteps, giggling, and excited chatter as we prepare for a new day of learning, praying, and growing! Nativity School remains committed to our three pillars: Faith, Academics, and Character Formation which are the cornerstones of our daily life.

Faith

The Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus have been an incredible gift to Nativity this year. Sr. Angelica leads our preschool children with the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Sr. Teresa Rose supports our students in K-8 as they grow in their faith experience.

Nativity School has adopted a new curriculum on the virtues, designed by the Dominican Sisters of Michigan. Sr. Teresa Rose has been instrumental in bringing that program to life for our students in K-5. Our Middle School House System also helps our students better understand the virtues as they become the person God has called them to be.

After the successful completion of the Catholic School Study and Lumen Accreditation last spring, Nativity now has a clear road map for strengthening our Catholic Identity over the next five years.

Academics

Nativity students continue to excel as they wonder, explore, and discover new things about our world and their place in it. They learn to collaborate, think critically and creatively, and build resiliency and stamina in the classroom and beyond.

We use data to drive instruction and learning goals based on student performance on the NWEA MAP test, which is administered two or three times a year to measure student growth in learning in our second through seventh grades. We measure learning growth in reading for our students in grades K-3 on the AIMSWEB assessment.

Our students continue to shine in larger interdisciplinary learning experiences at each grade level to help them see the interconnectedness of content across all curricular areas.

Congratulations to our 8th graders who advanced to the regional Science Fair and our 7th graders who will advance to the regional competition for their History Day projects. Both of these learning opportunities span several months and provide our students, through extensive research, an in-depth look at a specific topic of their choosing.

**School Enrollment**

Grade	2025-2026 (projected)	2024- 2025	2022- 2023
PreK	44	44	34
K	66	62	76
1	64	66	82
2	66	79	65
3	80	80	82
4	80	64	86
5	65	86	66
6	86	83	69
7	84	72	75
8	72	64	74
Total (K-8)	707	700	675

Character

Leadership and service opportunities help shape character in our students, both younger and older. We continue to foster a heart of joyful service in our students as they embrace the idea that if we all do a little bit to help those in need, great things can happen!

Service and outreach opportunities this year included:

- Family Service Mornings in Advent and Lent
- A Food and Gift Drive for Thanksgiving and Christmas for families at Risen Christ School and Holy Rosary in Minneapolis.
- Backpacks of Love, which provides families experiencing food scarcity at Groveland Park Elementary with food each weekend during the school year.
- Middle School Social Justice Club members serving meals at Little Sisters of the Poor during their annual Holiday boutique.



SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORT 2024

	FY 2025 Budget (ends 6/30/25)	FY 2024 Actual (ended 6/30/24)	FY 2024 Budget (ended 6/30/24)	FY 2024 Actual to Budget Variance	FY 2023 Actual (ended 6/30/23)
Operating Revenue					
Tuition and Fees	\$4,423,119	\$4,319,220	\$4,355,914	\$(36,694)	\$4,090,903
Fundraising	\$32,000	\$31,547	\$41,500	\$(9,953)	\$43,952
County Fair School Investment	\$410,000	\$333,788	\$250,000	\$83,788	-
Parish Investment	\$425,096	\$375,268	\$449,368	\$(74,100)	\$866,066
Hot Lunch ¹	\$300,000	\$328,941	\$200,000	\$128,941	\$285,115
Athletic Income	\$54,000	\$51,055	\$45,000	\$6,055	\$60,400
Gifts and Miscellaneous	\$50,000	\$136,327	\$30,000	\$106,327	\$133,271
Total Operating Revenue	\$5,694,215	\$5,576,145	\$5,371,782	\$204,363	\$5,479,707
Operating Expenses					
Salaries and Benefits	\$4,093,564	\$4,013,383	\$3,991,132	\$22,251	\$3,897,752
Administrative and Supplies	\$357,851	\$457,358	\$229,650	\$227,708	\$331,758
Building Operations	\$700,800	\$643,149	\$721,000	\$(77,851)	\$696,499
Hot Lunch ¹	\$300,000	\$312,495	\$200,000	\$112,495	\$298,190
Debt Repayment	\$120,000	\$1	\$120,000	\$(119,999)	\$138,516
Athletics	\$72,000	\$69,395	\$70,000	\$(605)	\$76,992
Capital Expense	\$50,000	\$80,363	\$40,000	\$40,363	\$40,000
Total Operating Expense	\$5,694,215	\$5,576,145	\$5,371,782	\$204,363	\$5,479,707
Net Change from Operations	-	-	-	-	-

¹ Net Hot Lunch funding to be applied to future capital needs

Scholarship Endowment Fund

Exclusively provides tuition assistance to students attending Nativity of Our Lord School as well as aid for all faith formation programs at Nativity of Our Lord

Beginning Market Value (as of 7/1/23)	\$845,341
Contributions	\$91,348
Distribution to Operations	-
Investment Gain (Loss) Less Fees	\$106,090
Ending Market Value (as of 6/30/24)	\$1,042,780



Faith FormationTaylor Croissant, *Faith Formation*

Faith Formation completed another year of faith development for our children and adults here at Nativity of Our Lord. We celebrated First Eucharist for eight children in May followed by a May Crowning Mass and Ice Cream social for all of the children to celebrate the conclusion of their year of formation. In November, six children received The Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Six more children had their Covenant Mass with the School as they started their formation journey towards Confirmation this coming fall. We also had one adult received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.



For the 2024-25 year, we chose a new curriculum to dive deeper into Sacred Scripture for our youth. We also modified our Confirmation curriculum to be more focused on learning the truths of the faith through the lens of Sacred Scripture, led by Corey Soper. For our adults entering the Church through Adult Initiation (OCIA), we moved to speaker-based sessions each week and opened these sessions to the wider community for those interested in learning more about their Catholic faith.

We also added Family Nights to our formation curriculum, typically designed around forming the family together as a unit and fostering the role of parents as primary educators. We have had several of these nights in the past few months, including a teaching Mass and a family rosary night. All members of the parish are welcome to attend these sessions. The teaching Mass was recorded and can be accessed through the website.

Lastly, in October and November, we offered a new Faith and Science series, including speakers from the University of St. Thomas discussing the intersection of our Catholic faith with controversial topics like evolution and Galileo. We finished the series with a Gold Mass for scientists on the Feast of St. Albert the Great at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Pastoral CareBeth Erickson, *Pastoral Care*

Pastoral Care is about love for one another, and we are grateful for another year to pray together, celebrate, learn from one another, mourn together, and serve each other. Pastoral Care encompasses a multitude of support areas for our parishioners: Homebound and Elderly visits, Respect Life (pictured below), Marriage Enrichment, Grief Group, End of Life/Funerals, and Dorothy Day/Loaves & Fishes at St. Matthew's Parish.



A few highlights of the past year include the launch of a new Marriage Enrichment event called "Wisdom on Wednesday," which was held in the fall and spring. We shared over a dozen handmade Prayer Shawls made by loving parishioners with families. At Christmas time we gave out Gift Baskets for the first time to families in need of extra help during the holidays. The Pastoral Care committee will continue to meet every few months to discuss ongoing activities and ideas on how to improve our reach and care. All members are committed to our community and find it a blessing to serve.

**Volunteering**Allison "Sonny" Tengblad, *Volunteer Coordinator*

During the 2023-24 year, the role of Volunteer Coordinator was established and staffed in a part-time capacity by Allison Tengblad. This role includes scheduling liturgical volunteers such as ushers, lectors, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, as well as supporting the effort to resume Perpetual Adoration, and assisting the Discipleship team with special events such as our lovely Volunteer Appreciation Event in the fall. This dinner, featuring first-time volunteers serving the meal and a wonderful presentation from Pamela Patnode, was important for recognizing those lay people in the parish who have held the community together as we continue to recover from the disruptions of the pandemic.



Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

Teresa Naughton, *CGS Coordinator*

In the 2023-24 school year, CGS offered two parish-wide Level I experiences and partnered with St. Peter's of Mendota Heights to offer a Level II experience for interested families because Nativity does not have a Level II atrium or materials. During the school year, conversations were renewed with both the Parish (NELC) and School preschools for new CGS offerings within their curricular day.



With the program set to expand, an inquiry was made to the Handmaids of the Heart of Jesus to enlist their help. By June, a new relationship with the Handmaids and the parish at large had developed, and the 2024-25 school year began with Handmaid Sr. Angelica working with both preschools two mornings per week.

In addition, two more volunteers received CGS Level I training, and our offerings doubled. We currently serve 33 children, with capacity for 42 in our 6 CGS sessions. We now have a team of six women serving CGS as catechists or assistants: Sr. Angelica, Samantha Carroll, Anne Rumpza, Jean Bannick, Jessica Backman, and Teresa Naughton.



Nativity Early Learning Center

Nicole Clausen, *NELC Director*

elc.nativity-mn.org

Preschool, After School, and Summer Camps

The Nativity Early Learning Center (NELC) provides care and educational services for children aged 33 months to 12 years. The center employs teachers who deliver a curriculum designed to evolve with the children's development. NELC operates with flexible hours and employs experienced, dedicated staff.



The preschool programs aim to enhance the educational and social development of the children. The NELC is focused on supporting each child's growth by acknowledging individual differences and potential. The center emphasizes the significance of early childhood as a critical period in human development and prioritizes creating a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for children.

2023-24

4	Preschool Classrooms
72	Preschool Children
3	After School Classrooms (grades K-5)
74	After School Students
24	Teachers

Summer 2024

82	Preschool Children
37	School Age Children
22	Field Trips





NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH

1900 WELLESLEY AVENUE
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55105



Longtime parishioner and artist Joshua Cunningham painted our historic parish church on the occasion of its 100-year anniversary. The original image now hangs in our Heritage Room along with a description from Joshua.