



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Catholic Community in Saint Paul, Minnesota



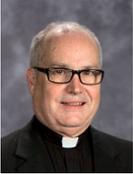
SHARING OUR GIFTS 2015-2016



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CATHOLIC CHURCH

"We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God."

Dear Parishioners and Friends,



Welcome to the "Sharing Our Gifts" information booklet! This booklet provides information about the many outreaches, ministries, and social connections that form the core of our Catholic parish community.

As you will see, Nativity's ministries and outreaches provide many opportunities to *live, give, grow, and serve*. I am pleased that we have developed this resource for Sharing Our Gifts so that we might partner with you in our joined journey of faith.

After you review this booklet, let us know how you would like to get involved. Feel free to complete the blue "Service Interest Sheet" found tucked inside and submit it via the collection plate. Or, to submit the form electronically, choose from another option below. You can always sign up later or change your mind by visiting the Lannan Parish Center. We look forward to connecting you with a ministry or outreach that fits with your special gifts and talents. Please keep this Sharing the Gifts Booklet for future reference.

Come serve with us, as we celebrate the Lord Jesus in Word, Eucharist, and Service!

Christ's Blessings upon you.

Fr. Patrick Hipwell
Pastor

A Servant's Prayer

At my Baptism

I was anointed as one of God's holy and chosen ones

And received the Light of Christ

In the name of the Father,

And of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Abundantly blessed with gifts of

talent, time, and treasure,

I have been called

to be His Light for the world,

a living sign of Jesus Christ

and sharing in

His mission and ministry.

I freely accept this call to serve.

With the help of God

and through the grace of the Holy Spirit,

I will through prayer and service,

generously share my gifts

both within and beyond my parish community

of Nativity of Our Lord.

Lord Jesus, help me to take up my cross with You, to live fully Your Life in the Spirit, through each of the Seven Sacraments. Amen.

There are many ways to sign up:

1. Scan the code to the right to sign up immediately right from your smartphone!
2. Visit <https://www.SurveyMonkey.com/s/ShareOurGifts>
3. Follow the link on our website: <http://parish.nativity-mn.org/>
4. Follow the link on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NativityStPaul>
5. Fill out the blue form and place it in the collection plate (or bring to parish office).
6. Call the parish office: 651-696-5401



Stanford Ave. at Prior Ave. South • St. Paul, MN 55105

(651) 696.5401 • www.nativity-mn.org • info@nativity-mn.org



[Facebook.com/NativityStPaul](https://www.facebook.com/NativityStPaul)



[NativityStPaul](https://www.instagram.com/NativityStPaul)



[@NativityStPaul](https://twitter.com/NativityStPaul)



PARISH LEADERSHIP

Nativity's Clergy

Fr. Patrick Hipwell, Pastor
Fr. Andrew Brinkman, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mr. Russ Kocemba, Permanent Deacon
Rev. Mr. Michael McClellan, Transitional Deacon & Seminarian

Parish Administrative Offices

The parish administrative offices are located in the Lannan Parish Center, 1900 Wellesley Avenue. The Parish Office hours are Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm; Fridays from 8 am until noon. Please call the main parish office at 651.696.5401 for information regarding:

- Parish registration
- Change of address
- Funerals
- Wedding planning
- Baptism
- Or any other questions you might have

Parish Staff Members*

The following parish staff members are available to serve you and the parish:

Laura Barr, Parish Business Administrator
Bill Beltz, Facilities
Steve Boatman, Church Maintenance
Leah Driscoll, Parish Secretary & Assistant to the Pastor
Patrick Henning, Liturgy & Music
Isaac Huss, Communication: Bulletin, Website, & Social Media
Joyce Kotta, Accounting
B.J. Kranz, Development & Communications
Lynn McConnell, Employee Benefits
Randy Mueller, Faith Formation
Nancy Shatek-Suek, Pastoral Care

Nativity of Our Lord Finance Council

Members are appointed by the Pastor for rolling, three-year terms to act in an advisory capacity to support the good governance of the parish, ensure financial accountability and promote good stewardship of parish resources through best practices. Finance Council members are:

Fr. Patrick Hipwell, Pastor
 Gerald Brennan, Trustee
 Mark Gibbs, Chair Mike Goodson
 Tom Margarit Mark Sexton
 Ryan Smith

Nativity Parish Pastoral Council

Members are appointed by the Pastor for rolling, three-year terms to act in an advisory capacity and provide leadership, direction and vision in carrying out the parish mission. Pastoral Council members are:

Fr. Patrick Hipwell, Pastor
 Dan Flanagan, Trustee
 Joe Robinson, Chair Jim Audette
 Mark Bergeron Connie Davis
 Bill Dombrow Molly Goodson
 Tom Kirchner Jennie McQuillan
 Mike Pickett Dan Strojny
 Janet Whaley

Nativity School Advisory Council (SAC)

Members are nominated, current school parents who serve rolling, three-year terms. SAC works with administration to create a learning environment focused on academic excellence in a Catholic, faith-centered environment. SAC members are:

Fr. Patrick Hipwell, Pastor
 Kate Wollan, Principal
 Sandy Kane, Assistant Principal
 Peter Oberst, Chair Matt Anfang
 Bernie Brodum Mary Ek
 Eric Hedman Erin Keefe
 Andrew Latham Therese Steinhoff
 Jack Weix

Cover art: *The Four Evangelists*, Peter Paul Reubens, circa 1614

*This Booklet is intended to highlight leadership, staff and volunteer opportunities at Nativity Church. For information regarding leadership and staff of Nativity Catholic School, Nativity Preschool, and Nativity Early Learning Center (NELC), please visit the parish website at www.nativity-mn.org. For volunteer opportunities, please follow communications sent directly from the School, Preschool and NELC.



FAITH FORMATION

*"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
–Romans 15:13*

Staff Contact: Randy Mueller, Faith Formation Director 651.696.5454 rmueller@nativity-mn.org

Helping parishioners deepen their relationship with Christ through their Catholic faith is a vital part of our ministry here at Nativity of Our Lord Catholic Church. Our parish offers many formal opportunities to explore the Catholic faith, individually and in a group setting. This ongoing faith journey begins in childhood and continues throughout adulthood. As your partner on this journey, we offer these options:

Child Faith Formation (CCD)

The early years of our children's lives are critical to developing their understanding and practice of our Catholic faith. We recognize that parents are the primary faith educators for their children. In order to assist parents in carrying out this important responsibility, we offer religious education opportunities for children grades 1-8. Students in our parish elementary school receive faith formation and sacrament instruction in the classroom during the school day. For students attending a school other than the parish school, preparation for sacraments and general religious instruction through our Faith Formation program is offered on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. For those interested in these programs or in volunteering as a catechist in the classroom, please contact Randy Muller directly (info above). Volunteers able to help with various administrative tasks and hospitality needs are also appreciated.

Young Adult Bible Study

All young adults (ages 18-35) are welcome to participate in Bible study and social activities scheduled throughout the year. Watch the bulletin and website for upcoming programs beginning in September 2015.

Adult Faith Formation

All are welcome to participate in Bible Study and faith formation opportunities. Growing in our Catholic Faith is a life-long process. In our adult faith journey, we often confront challenges to our faith, increased personal responsibilities, and cultural upheavals-- all of which contribute to stressors which make it vitally important that we continue to grow in our personal relationship with Christ and in our understanding and practice of our Catholic Faith. Retreats, seminars, and presentations are scheduled throughout the year. Watch the bulletin and website for upcoming programs, resuming in September 2015.

RCIA Candidates & Sponsors

The Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) offers people from other faith traditions or no faith tradition an avenue to finding out more about the Catholic faith or to possibly joining the Catholic Church. RCIA is a structured opportunity for Candidates to become immersed in the Catholic faith, reflect on their commitment to Catholic teaching and prepare to become full members of our faith. This intense journey requires eight months of prayer and reflection, group and independent study, and sharing with a parish sponsor. The program culminates when the participant is welcomed into the Catholic faith through the reception of the Sacraments during the Easter Vigil liturgy. If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or are considering joining the Catholic Faith, please consider joining Nativity's RCIA group as a candidate. A sponsor supports a candidate through the RCIA process. If you are willing to help bring an RCIA candidate into our faith, please consider joining Nativity's RCIA group as a sponsor or team member. RCIA classes are held on Tuesday evenings, September through the Easter Season.

Rediscover

Nativity parish is committed to supporting and growing disciples for Christ through the New Catholic Evangelization. All parishioners are welcome to join in Rediscover study groups, Rediscover prayer teams and to attend periodic Discipleship Forums. Varying days and hours are available to fit your schedule. Check the bulletin and website for new groups and forums resuming in September 2015.

Marriage Mentoring

For engaged couples being prepared for marriage at Nativity, a Nativity married couple will be mentoring them through the preparation process. At the first meeting with between the engaged and mentor couples, the FOCCUS (Communication Skills Inventory) will be administered and other requirements of the Marriage Preparation Program will be reviewed. Engaged and mentor couples meet 3-5 times before the engaged couple's wedding. For those preparing for marriage or those interested in volunteering to become a marriage-mentoring couple, please contact Leah Driscoll, Assistant to Fr. Patrick Hipwell, at 651.696.5401 or ldriscoll@nativity-mn.org. Training materials for mentoring couples will be provided.

Note: Completion of a VIRTUS session, Code of Conduct, and a background check is mandatory for all volunteers assisting with children or the vulnerable. Some Pastoral Care volunteer positions require an interview.



LITURGY & PRAYER

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. -Psalms 29:2

Staff Contacts:

Patrick Henning Director of Liturgy & Music 651.696.5430 phenning@nativity-mn.org
Leah Driscoll Assistant to Pastor 651.696.5401 ldriscoll@nativity-mn.org

Altar Servers

Nativity of Our Lord is blessed to have an active, committed group of acolytes, more commonly known as altar servers. Today more than 250 youth participate in Nativity's altar server program. Altar serving is open to all interested parish youth who are in 7th grade or older. Training is required and begins in the spring for both boys and girls. Many students choose to continue to serve as acolytes through the end of high school. This is an excellent way for young parishioners to help our Church and serve Christ.

Arts and Environment

Nativity parish's beautiful environment enhances the worship experience for many parishioners, especially during our Easter and Christmas celebrations. The Arts and Environment Committee has primary responsibility for creating that atmosphere throughout the liturgical seasons. This committee welcomes anyone who desires to honor God through the creation of beauty and elegance in our liturgical celebrations.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Nativity parish welcomes all those with a love of the Lord and a willingness to share that love with our youngest parishioners to help with the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). At Nativity, Children's Liturgy of the Word takes place during our 9:30 am Sunday Mass. Volunteers must be confirmed; background check and VIRTUS training is required. Individualized training is also provided.

Church Cleaners*

Our church cleaners are among our parish's many unsung heroes. They clean and maintain our worship spaces in the upper and lower church prior to all liturgies. The NCCW group is responsible for replacing votive candles, refreshing flowers, and straightening the sanctuary, the main body of the church, and the Adoration Chapel. If you have an hour or two to donate to the church and assist with this important effort, please sign up for this ministry.

*A joint ministry in partnership with the NCCW

Note: Completion of a VIRTUS session, Code of Conduct, and a background check is mandatory for all volunteers assisting with children or the vulnerable. Some Pastoral Care volunteer positions require an interview.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Eucharistic Ministers distribute the Body and Blood of Jesus to worshipers. Parishioners who serve in this ministry must meet the following guidelines: be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church; be fully initiated through Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation; be active in the parish and faithful to the Sacraments; and be approved by the pastor. Volunteers are always needed to serve as Eucharistic Ministers at all daily and weekend Masses. High school students are encouraged to become involved in weekend liturgies. Training is provided.

Greeters

This important ministry of hospitality offers worshipers a spirit of warmth and welcome as they enter Nativity Church. Greeters distribute Worship Aids, help take up the collection, select a family to bring up the offertory gifts, distribute bulletins at the end of Mass, and pick up Worship Aids left in the pew after Mass.

Lectors

Nativity parish welcomes new Lectors to proclaim the Word of God to the congregation during Mass. It takes practice and prayer to be an effective lector. Lectors should have public speaking skills, time to practice, and time to pray and reflect on the Word of God before its presentation. Lectors must be confirmed, and training is provided.



LITURGY & PRAYER

MUSIC MINISTRY

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. -Psalms 95:1

Staff Contact:

Patrick Henning, Director of Music & Liturgy
651.696.5430 phenning@nativity-mn.org

The Nativity Choir

Enthusiasm, love of music, pride and commitment make the Nativity Parish Choir one of the most successful in our area. These are the only qualities you need to become a member! You do not need to know how to read music. The choir participates in Nativity's liturgies from the end of September through Pentecost in June. New members are welcome at any time. The choir practices on Wednesday evening, and provides music for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. liturgy, as well as special seasonal liturgies.

Parish Youth Choir/Middle School Choir

The Children's Choir offers young parishioners in grades 2-8 an opportunity to share their gift of music with our parish community. The Children's Choir participates in a number of liturgical celebrations throughout the year.

SPIRITUALITY

Staff Contact:

B.J. Kranz, Development & Communications
651.696.5443 bkranz@nativity-mn.org

Third Order of Carmelites

Lay Carmelites are practicing Catholic men and women, married and single, who want to grow spiritually by following the Carmelite way of life. If you are interested in a closer relationship with our Lord and His beloved Mother and in following in the footsteps of Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Therese of Lisieux, watch the bulletin for informational meetings coming up this fall.

ADORATION & PRAYER LINE

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7

Staff Contact:

B.J. Kranz, Development & Communications
651.696.5443 bkranz@nativity-mn.org

Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration

Teenagers, elderly parents, family illness, struggling marriages, demanding jobs...Too much to handle? Where do you turn when you realize that life's challenges are beyond your ability to control? Join the hundreds of Nativity parishioners who have made a commitment to pray in Nativity's Adoration chapel during a specific hour of each week. Adorers use their time to pray, say the Rosary, read, reflect or simply be in Christ's presence. Adoration hours in *urgent* need of at least one Adorer:

- Sunday 2-3pm
- Monday 3-4pm
- Tuesday noon-1pm
- Thursday 7-8am
- Saturday 2-3am, 4-5am

Other adoration hours are available, and Adoration substitutes are also greatly needed. Adoration substitutes fill-in occasionally—as their schedule allows—for adorers who are absent due to travel or illness. Please refer to the parish bulletin for details of the adoration schedule. To sign up for an Adoration hour or volunteer to become a substitute, contact Jim McQuillan, Adoration Coordinator, at mcquillanj@rjffs.com.

Prayer Line*

Nativity of Our Lord Prayer Line is made up of parishioners who have volunteered to pray for others. One phone call links those in need to a larger prayer community who will join their prayers for special prayer intentions. For those who are physically limited, this ministry is a wonderful opportunity to serve the parish and parishioners-in-need without leaving your home. As a member of the Prayer Line Ministry, you will receive calls asking you to pray for someone in need, and pass the request along to one other person.

*A joint ministry in partnership with the NCCW

Note: Completion of a VIRTUS session, Code of Conduct, and a background check is mandatory for all volunteers assisting with children or the vulnerable. Some Pastoral Care volunteer positions require an interview.



SERVICE & COMMUNITY

Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. -Galatians 6:9

Staff Contact: B.J. Kranz, Development & Communications 651.696.5443 bkranz@nativity-mn.org

Nativity Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)

All women of the parish are members of the Nativity Council of Catholic Women (NCCW). With a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Council supports the parish through volunteer service. NCCW also promotes friendship and unity among the women of Nativity parish through social and educational activities. Since its beginnings in 1922 as the Altar and Rosary Society, NCCW has expanded its mission to include a wide range of services, social activities, and sacramental support. One of these activities is sure to appeal to you:

Spiritual and Sacramental Support: Memorial Mass and Reception * Madonna Dinner * Deanery Meetings * Funeral Luncheons * Special Parish Receptions * Sacramental and Altar Server Gifts * Care of Altar and Altar Linens * Church & Adoration Chapel Cleaning * Vigil Lights * Prayer Line * Support for Altar Flowers and Rosary Making * Masses in Memoriam * Annual Raffle * Prayer Shawl Ministry * Anointing of the Sick Masses * ENDOW document study * Respect Life

Social and Fundraising Opportunities: Turkey Bingo * Winter Event * Special Parish Receptions * Nativity Mom's Club * Bridge Mixers * First Friday Fellowship * Family Service Morning

Community Service: Pro-Life Sunday * Respect Life Month * Bloodmobile * Meals on Wheels * Store to Door Senior Shopping Service * International Projects

For more information, check out the NCCW website at www.nativitywomen.org or watch the weekly bulletin for upcoming events.

Nativity Mom's Club*

Nativity Moms' Club is YOUR place for faith-based fellowship and support. Please join us as we work together to deepen our Catholic faith and strengthen our bonds with our children and each other. Nativity Moms' Club mission is to facilitate opportunities for fellowship and spiritual development among mothers of young children at Nativity, but ALL moms are welcome!

Our events include: regularly scheduled play dates, Moms' Night Out, and presentations with noted Catholic speakers. Something is sure to fit with your schedule, so please join us. For more information, visit the NCCW website (listed above) to review the Moms' Club calendar, contact us at nativity-momsclub@gmail.com, and watch the bulletin for upcoming events.

*A joint ministry in partnership with the NCCW

Nativity Men's Club

All men who are registered parishioners of the Church of Nativity of Our Lord are members of the Nativity Men's Club. The Men's Club strengthens fellowship and camaraderie, promotes and supports youth programs, and financially supports the Church, School, Early Learning Center and parish community through fundraisers, grants, and volunteer work. The Men's Club motto, Pro Liberis, "For the Children" says it best.

Events and Activities: Annual Retreat * Welcome/Farewell Dinners for Priests * Annual President's Party for Wives * Christmas Tree Lot * The Fr. John Kelley Cribbage Open * Donut Sundays * Lenten Fish Fries * The Men's Club Garage Tour - a Grand Old Day Event * Annual Raffle * Sport Shirt Stag * Christmas Wreath Sale

Supporter/Sponsor of: Nativity Scholarship Fund * Scout Programs, and the Scout Pancake Breakfast * School Athletics, and the Summer Sports Program * School Academics/Technology, and Kindercamp * Community Softball and "Hockey" teams

Contact Men's Club by email at info@nativitymen.org, check out the website at www.nativitymen.org, or watch the weekly bulletin for upcoming events.

Grandparent Apostolate of Saints Joachim & Anne*

All Nativity Grandparents (that includes grandfathers, too!) are welcome. This parish organization supports grandparents in passing on the Catholic faith to the younger generation. All grandparents are invited to participate in the weekly prayer and enrichment gatherings that focus on practical tips for grandparents, prayer, and deepening knowledge and love of God. All are invited to join grandparents in praying the weekly rosary before the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesdays after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. The three enrichment gatherings held in the spring, summer and fall include the commemoration of the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne on July 26th when grandparents celebrate their vocation of grandparenthood. For more information, visit the NCCW or Parish websites and watch the bulletin for upcoming events.

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes is a Minnesota non-profit meal program, serving hot meals to those in need in six counties in the metro area. Nativity is one of the many congregation partners that help staff Loaves and Fishes dining centers in St. Paul. All are welcome to join our Nativity volunteers in helping to serve hot meals to those in need.



SERVICE & COMMUNITY

NATIVITY COUNTY FAIR

September 18-20, 2015

Staff Contact: B.J. Kranz, Development & Communications
651.696.5443 bkranz@nativity-mn.org

Nativity Project Home

For one week every summer, Nativity parishioners have the opportunity to put faith into action by volunteering as hosts for "Project Home." This program provides families facing homelessness with a safe, clean, comfortable place to spend the night when the Ramsey County Family Service Center is overflowing. For many years, Nativity parishioners have partnered with St. Mark's by volunteering to cover the evening and overnight Project Home shifts in St. Mark's Carolyn Hall. To help this summer, watch the Nativity bulletin for details.

Keystone Community Food Shelf*

Nativity parish is proud to support Keystone Community Services' food shelf located in Merriam Park. This monthly food shelf provides basic needs to families in our neighborhood community. All are welcome to help collect or contribute food and basic care items to those in need. Volunteer assistance and drivers to deliver food are particularly needed on the first weekend of each month and during the Annual March Food Campaign. Also, watch the bulletin and website for seasonal collections of food, school supplies and Christmas gifts for the Advent Giving Tree.

New Parishioners' Welcome

Nativity parish is a growing, vibrant community, which often registers more than 40 new households per year. If you have time to write a warm note or make a cordial phone call to welcome to a few of these new families, you would be a perfect addition to the New Parishioners Welcome Committee. Also, New Parishioner Welcome Brunch is held twice a year at the rectory, and volunteers to assist with food and hospitality are always appreciated.

Highland Leisure League

We are an ecumenical senior social group in conjunction with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and Highland community. Activities include sewing, crafts, card games, and lunch. Join us Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m. September - May.

Nativity Bridge Groups

All skill levels are welcome. Indicate your interest now if you would like to join a table in September; New groups form in the fall. Join with a partner or join singly and a partner will be assigned to you. Play times vary, but afternoon and evenings times are available. Bridge groups meet in Steiner Hall.

*A joint ministry in partnership with the NCCW

Looking for a way to get to know many parishioners and have a weekend of fun? Volunteer to serve on the committee of your choice! This event takes place over just a single weekend, but with more than 45 committees, 100 chairs and co-chairs, and over 800 volunteers, Nativity County Fair is Nativity's largest parish organization.

Contact: NCF Chairs 2015NCF@gmail.com

8TH Grade Servers Support

Provide support in overseeing the 8th grade student servers for the NCF Saturday night dinner

Creative Activities

Provide support developing and running the children's craft activity area

Finance

Provide support with the overall cash management the weekend of the Fair

Graphics & Design

Provide creative support for NCF communications, including yard signs, billboards, and the NCF Live/Silent Auction Booklet

IT Support

Provide technical assistance with NCF website, social media, and auction software.

Silent Auction

Provide support in soliciting donations and overseeing the auction

Bingo

Provide support operating and staffing the BINGO room

External Communications

Provide communication support to the local community surrounding Nativity

Internal Communications

Provide communication support within the Nativity community

Games of Chance

Provide support for developing and staffing outdoor games

Major Foods

Oversee operation of NCF food, including burgers, pork sandwiches, and hotdogs

SNL

Provide support and coordination of the Saturday Night dinner



PASTORAL CARE

"Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." --Matt. 25:40

Staff Contact: Nancy Shatek-Suek, Pastoral Care Coordinator 651.696.5444 nshatek-suek@nativity-mn.org

Pastoral care of God's people is an integral part of life and ministry at Nativity parish. The priests and staff desire to provide sacramental care, support, and resources to meet the life-long needs of the members of our community, in mind, body and soul. Care of individuals, couples and families is available.

Dementia Friends/Champions

All are welcome to learn how to support those living with dementia in our dementia-friendly faith community. Did you know that one out of three individuals over the age of 80 suffers from some form of dementia? Whether in family, business or social situations, you are likely to meet and interact with someone with dementia. Learn how to properly and kindly interact with those suffering from this disease. "Dementia Friends and Champions" training is available at Nativity parish and in the community. Training is offered several times throughout the year. Watch the bulletin and website for new training times.

Funeral Liturgy and Planning*

The bereaved family and friends of those celebrating their funeral Mass at Nativity receive support in planning their loved one's funeral. Pre-planning is also available upon request. Volunteers to assist in luncheon hospitality and in serving the funeral luncheon are always appreciated.

Homebound and Elderly Visits

Nativity welcomes the opportunity to serve the homebound, ill and elderly by home or in health care center visits. Visits can include communion distribution, prayer, or just a social visit. Nativity relies on the generosity of our parishioners to help care for those who are not able to attend Mass and receive Christ's love and compassion. Unless the volunteer is a direct relative, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister training is required. VIRTUS and vulnerable adult training is required as noted below.

Grief Support Group*

This facilitated group supports parishioners who are grieving the loss of a loved one by sharing the Gospel message of faith, hope and love. This group also welcomes those suffering grief from other life situations such as job loss, major illness, or divorce. One-to-one consultation or other community resources may also be arranged through the pastoral care staff. The grief support group meets the first Thursday of the month, September through June, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. All are welcome to meet in solidarity and healing.

*A joint ministry in partnership with the NCCW

Note: Completion of a VIRTUS session, Code of Conduct, and a background check is mandatory for all volunteers assisting with children or the vulnerable. Some Pastoral Care volunteer positions require an interview.

Pastoral Care Assistance

Assist the pastoral care staff throughout the year in hospitality, assistance with single events or projects, organizing materials, maintaining ministry materials and pamphlets in the church vestibule, card ministry, and other pastoral care tasks.

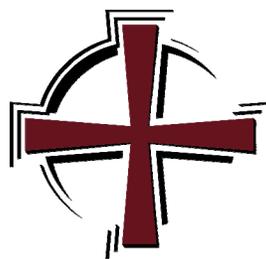
Prayer Shawl Ministry*

All are welcome to join this ministry. Instruction is available and materials are provided through the generosity of the NCCW. In this ministry, the shawl creator begins each shawl with prayers and continues to pray for its recipient while knitting or crocheting until the shawl is completed. Upon completion, the shawls are blessed by a priest and distributed to those in a variety of life's circumstances. The shawls are a visible sign of our love and prayers and the Lord's continued blessing of courage, strength and peace of their body, mind, and spirit. Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the third Thursday of the month, September through May, from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. in Steiner Hall.

Special Masses

Communal Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and Blessing for Families with Special Needs*

Nativity Parish celebrates a communal Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick twice yearly – usually in the spring and fall. Members of our community who are mobile and in need of receiving this sacrament are encouraged to attend this special Mass of Anointing. For the homebound and care center residents, the Sacrament of Anointing is available by appointment. Nativity parish also hopes to celebrate an annual Blessing for Families with Special Needs, with a Mass followed by a luncheon. Watch the bulletin and website for details.



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Stanford Ave. at Prior Ave. South • St. Paul, MN 55105 • (651) 696.5401 • www.nativity-mn.org • info@nativity-mn.org

 [Facebook.com/NativityStPaul](https://www.facebook.com/NativityStPaul)  [NativityStPaul](https://www.instagram.com/NativityStPaul)  [@NativityStPaul](https://twitter.com/NativityStPaul)