

St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Mini-Catalog 2025

Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation
Baptismal Preparation
Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA)
Children's Liturgy of the Word
SPRED

Faith Formation Program: Contact RE (847) 272-7090
JoEllen Cattapan JoEllen@northbrookcatholic.church

Page 2

St. Norbert Parish School: Contact Jack Shepherd
HShepherd@stnorbertschool.org, (847) 272-0051

Faith Sharing

Men Encountering Christ

Page 3

Liturgy

Altar Servers
Art & Environment (decorating)
Eucharistic Adoration
Eucharistic Ministers
Hospitality (formerly Greeters & Ushers)
Lectors

Ministry of Bereavement
Ministry of Care
Music Ministry
St. Clare Stitchers/Baptism Rosary Team

Page 3—4

Mission, Service and Outreach

Parish Pastoral Council
BASH
Block Party
Bread Brigade
Catholic Charities parish outreach
Finance Council
Fr. Valker Coat & Sweater Drive
Christmas Sharing
Friendship Club (formerly Senior Club)
Hilda's Place
Jamaica Collection

Knights of Columbus
Men's Club
Respect Life Committee
Sharing Ministry
Silent No More—Domestic Violence Outreach
Turkeys for the Holidays
Women's Club of the Catholic Community of NB
Youth Ministry

Page 5—8

Wherever you are on your own spiritual journey, we invite you to join us. We commit to building a welcoming, faith-filled community with a strong focus on fellowship and family. We will develop a relationship with Christ, celebrate God's presence, foster compassion for all, and share our God-given gifts by serving one another and taking the Good News into the world.

How do we do that? Where do we go? How do we connect with others?

This directory was developed as a mission implementation initiative by our Parish Pastoral Council as they strived to catalog all the beautiful ministry work ongoing in our Catholic Community of Northbrook. It is a resource to help connect with the ministry leaders or staff members who would enthusiastically welcome your time and talents. It provides both existing and new parishioners a glimpse of the variety of ministries, both within the church and outreach. We have aligned the profiles in the categories of

Faith Formation, Faith Sharing, Liturgy, and Mission, Service & Outreach

Please consider re-energizing your faith journey with new or expanded roles in these ministries. I assure you that you will get far more back than you will give! If you have new ideas for endeavors or need some additional guidance connecting with people, please feel free to email the Parish Council. This document is available at northbrookcatholic.church.

Fr. Chris Gustafson, Pastor

FAITH FORMATION

Ministry	Adult Faith Formation /Scripture Study
Key Contacts	Dev Kennedy (Dev@northbrookcatholic.church) (847) 272-7090
Description/History	Periodic small group scripture study meets throughout the year. Call for details.
Ministry	ALPHA
Key Contacts	Susan Magill, connectwsusan@gmail.com
Description/History	Create a space for honest conversations about life, faith, and meaning with Alpha. Help others discover and form a relationship with Jesus.
Ministry	Baptismal Preparation
Key Contacts	Dev Kennedy (Dev@northbrookcatholic.church) (847) 272-7090
Description/History	Baptismal Preparation for first time Parents/Godparents who have not experienced this Rite as an adult. Classes meet individually.
Ministry	Order of Christian Initiation OCIA
Key Contacts	Dev Kennedy (Dev@northbrookcatholic.church) (847) 272-7090
Description/History	To bring people to full initiation into the Catholic Faith
Meetings	As arranged.
Ministry	Children's Liturgy of the Word
Key Contacts	Jeff Ptacek (jeff@northbrookcatholic.church)
Requirements, Skills, restrictions?	Some prior experience in working with children. All catechists have to be certified by Protecting God's Children, with background check and VIRTUS training.
Ministry	SPRED (Special Religious Development) An Archdiocesan Program for all age groups)
Key Contacts	Donna Birren (847) 431-5340 Suzanne Noonan: (847) 509-0629 (Age 22+ Catechist) Ron Hartzler: (847) 564-5493 (Age 22+ Activity chair)
Goals/ Objectives	A small faith community that works to bring God's word, love and understanding to those with developmental disabilities. Catechists form unique friendships with their friends to help build their faith and grow their spirit.
Training?	Training required. Required background check, Protecting God's Children program/VIRTUS training

FAITH SHARING

Ministry	Men Encountering Christ
Key Contacts	Dev Kennedy (dev@northbrookcatholic.church), Tony Broccolo (tonyb2613@comcast.net), Jerry Zinkula (jerzink5@gmail.com), Dan O'Keefe (daniel.s.okeefe@gmail.com)
Description/History	The MEC ministry is a community of Catholic men united with God and striving to be more spiritually and actively engaged in today's challenging world. Past programs have had a Speaker series featuring excellent presentations on many topics.

LITURGY

Ministry	Altar Servers
Key Contacts	Michael Ward: (847) 272-7090; (Mike@northbrookcatholic.church)
Ministry Name	Arts and Environment/ Church Decorating
Key Contacts	Jill Ernst (Jill@northbrookcatholic.church)
Description/History	The Art & Environment committee provides a meaningful and unique atmosphere in keeping with the Liturgical Calendar.
Ministry Name	Eucharist Adoration
Description	Offered on the First Friday of each month from noon to 1:00 pm.
Ministry	Eucharistic Ministers
Key Contacts	Michael Ward: (847) 272-7090; (Mike@northbrookcatholic.church)
Ministry	Hospitality Ministry (formerly Greeters & Ushers)
Key Contacts	Michael Ward: (847) 272-7090; (Mike@northbrookcatholic.church),
Ministry	Lectors
Key Contacts	Michael Ward: (847) 272-7090; (Mike@northbrookcatholic.church)

LITURGY

Ministry	Ministry of Bereavement
Key Contacts	Michael Ward, (Mike@northbrookcatholic.church), (847) 272-7090
Goals/ Objectives	Ministers of Bereavement offer caring support to parishioners and others who have suffered the loss of a loved one through death. They greet the family and guests arriving for Mass, assist with set up and clean up, and are present during the Mass for any needs that arise.
Ministry	Ministry of Care
Key Contacts	Mona Lukas (847) 272-7090, (mona@northbrookcatholic.church)
Description/History	The Ministry of Care, begun in 1983, is composed of parishioners who bring their presence, prayers and Christ in Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass.
Training needed?	At the present time, a 12 hour training is required. There are five 2 hour sessions (for CCN ministers) at St. Benedict in Nilus, and one session held at St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook where the presentation on the protocol of our parishes is taught by the Director of the Ministry of Care.
Ministry	Music Ministry
Key Contacts	Michael Ward: (847) 272-7090; (Mike@northbrookcatholic.church)
Ministry	St. Clare Stitchers/Baptism Rosaries
Key Contacts	Maureen Garrity (MoeGarrity@gmail.com)
Description/History	We embroider Baptism Bibs for the newest members of our Faith. We also make rosaries for each baptized child. Volunteers welcome.
MISSION, SERVICE and OUTREACH	
Ministry	Parish Pastoral Council
Key Contacts	Fr. Chris Gustafson, (847) 272-7090, (FrChris@northbrookcatholic.church) James Shults (Chair), Jennifer Reese, Rosetta Murphy, William Holohan, George Ernst
Description/History	The St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) is made of up 9 <i>at large</i> parishioners who serve 3 year rotations, and our Pastor Fr Chris

Ministry	BASH
Key Contacts	New chair every year. Call the parish office for more.
Description/History	The BASH is a wonderful event. The evening includes music, food, drink, auction and more. It helps raise funds for all purposes.
Ministry	Block Party
Key Contacts	Michael Daly (MTD1730@sbcglobal.net)
Description/History	The Block Party is held in early June and includes inflatables, food and beverages and live music. The party attracts approximately 2,000 guests each year.
Ministry	Bread Brigade (OLB)
Key Contacts	Susan Eimerman, (847) 867-0322, (susan.eimerman@att.net)
Description	Pick up, pack and deliver food donations weekly to distribute to the needy.
Ministry	Catholic Charities Parish Outreach
Key Contacts	Amy Zahorik, (847) 533-1428, (amyzahorik5@comcast.net), Karen Rechteris, (knrechteris@gmail.com)
Description/History	Key Contacts attend quarterly Parish Outreach meetings for Catholic Charities. They share what our parish is doing as far as Catholic Charities ministry work and bring information about Catholic Charities programs back to the parish.
Ministry	Finance Council
Key Contacts	Fr. Chris Gustafson, Colin Gubbins, Parish Finance Director, Jim Kritek, Anne Martin, Jeff Stuart, Mary Vollkommer
Description/History	Key Contacts attend Finance Council Meeting, offering advice and counsel to parish leadership
Ministry	Fr. Valke Coat and Sweater Drive
Key Contacts	Karen Nelson, (847) 303-6926, (nellie93448@sbcglobal.net)
Goals/ Objectives	To provide coats and sweaters to the needy in the fall and at Epiphany

Ministry	Christmas Sharing
Key Contacts	Ron & Ginny Hartzler, (847) 564-5493, vmhartz@aol.com
Goals/ Objectives	We provide new gifts of women and children's clothing, toys, linens, household goods, personal items at Christmas time to WINGS, a shelter for women and children.
Ministry	Hilda's Place
Key Contacts	Maggie Bruce
Description/History	Every month the group provides a meal for the residents at Hilda's Place, a homeless shelter.
Ministry Name	Jamaica School Project/Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters
Key Contacts	Connie Zinkula, (conzinkula@gmail.com)
Description/History	In 2014 Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters reached out to St. Norbert for assistance in collecting items needed for a school in Jamaica. The school continues to grow and another shipments were sent in July 2018 and fall of 2023. We continue to support the Sisters and their Mission at the school on an as needed basis.
Ministry	Knights of Columbus, Council 7331
Key Contacts	Marc Elberts, (847) 989-0303 (marc.elberts@gmail.com)
Description/History	The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic fraternal organization dedicated to serving our parish, supporting our clergy, and putting faith into action. Guided by the principles of Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism, the Knights assist with parish events, support families in need and strengthen our parish community through prayer and service. Open to Catholic men, the Knights offer opportunities to grow in faith, serve others, and build lasting friendships while making a meaningful impact in our parish and beyond.
Ministry	Men's Club
Key Contacts	Michael Daly, (MTD1730@sbcglobal.net) James Shults
Description/History	The mission of the Men's Club is to provide men of the parish an opportunity to meet in faith and friendship, building community, and providing support to the parish and its ministries.

Ministry	Respect Life Committee
Key Contacts	JoEllen Cattapan, Maureen Garrity, Adele Stocco
Description/History	Their Mission is to acknowledge and support the worth of a human person from conception to natural death.
Ministry	Friendship Club of the Catholic Community of Northbrook (formerly Senior Club)
Key Contacts	Mona Lukas, (847) 272-7090, (mona@northbrookcatholic.church) Co-Chairs: TBA
Goals/ Objectives	The ministry is to gather seniors of the parish regularly for social activities, prayer, education and socialization.
Ministry	Sharing Ministry
Key Contacts	Connie Zinkula, (conzinkula@gmail.com)
Description	The purpose of the ministry is to collect food, school supplies, clothing, gift cards and more throughout the year for our two sister parishes, St. Simon of Cyrene and Sts. Martha and Mary & Lazarus, and to Catholic Charities as well.
Ministry	Silent No More - Domestic Violence Outreach
Key Contacts	Peery Duderstadt, (708) 494-9254, Ginny Hartzler, (847) 650-5493, (vmhartz@aol.com)
Goals/ Objectives	"Silent No More" is the Domestic Violence Ministry of St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook parish. Our mission is to serve as a resource to promote and provide awareness, education, referral, and community outreach to those affected by domestic violence.
Ministry	Turkeys for the Holidays
Key Contacts	Bryan Schueler, (847) 975-4821, (beshoe95@gmail.com)
Goals/ Objectives	Deliver turkeys and grocery certificates to approximately 28 soup kitchens and shelters in the Chicagoland area. The ministry raises money and coordinates the purchase and commercial delivery every year at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This ministry has been serving those in need for over 40 years.

Ministry	Turkey Trot
Key Contacts	Mike Daly (MTD1730@sbcglobal.net)
Goals/ Objectives	This is a family “fun” 5K, held on Thanksgiving morning. Come burn off calories before the Big Meal. Kids are welcome, dogs are welcome, it’s fun for all!

MISSION MINISTRY AND LEADERSHIP

Ministry	Women's Club of the Catholic Community of Northbrook
Goals/ Objectives	Its purpose is to encourage the spiritual growth of its members through participation in Parish Activities, to become involved in service opportunities, to create opportunities to grow in friendship, to re-energize their spirituality and to provide financial assistance to the Parish. Membership in any one of a dozen guilds, with average size 20, ensures a feeling a belonging and fellowship.
Ministry	The Vine Youth Ministry (TVYM)
Key Contacts	Maggie Bruce, (847) 687-7696, (mbruce@northbrookcatholic.church)
Description	Teens enjoy the multitude of opportunities we offer them through our High School Youth Ministry. www.northbrookcatholic.church/youth-ministry
Training needed?	There is no training required for our teens, but Virtus Training and Protecting God's Children requirements must all be completed to volunteer as an Adult.



St. Norbert & Our Lady of the Brook

St. Norbert and Our Lady of the Brook Parish
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