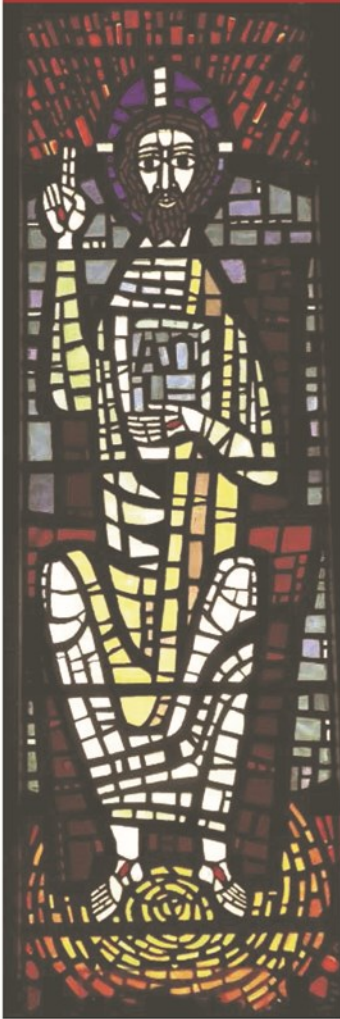


St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



1572 East Barstow Avenue
Fresno, Ca 93710
Office 559.436.3434
csufnewman.com

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

YEAR A | MARCH 19, 2023

I wonder if some of my issues with God have to do with the reality that he does, in fact, play favorites. I am tempted to read the idea of God's favor in the sense of my Western, specifically North American understanding of fairness. The elder sons of Jesse probably felt that they had demonstrated the necessary leadership skills and charisma to avoid the harsh words spoken to the prophet Samuel: "...I have rejected him." As an elder son myself, I cringe at the thought of God's rejection. Why would a shepherd boy, a position that was so marginal in ancient society that they were literally homeless, be the one to deserve anointing? And then we hear the profound biblical image passed down from God's People Israel: The Lord IS a shepherd. God positions his strength in hands that normally care for sheep, in a body which normally spends terrifying nights fighting wolves, and in a heart that, as we know from the familiar tragedy of David's reign, is subject to the deep temptations that power brings to all rulers. If God is a shepherd, that means I am a sheep, and I'm not quite as clever or deserving as I thought I was. Then again, do I even want the burden of kingship? It is an image of care and profound meaning wrapped up in a political reality that doesn't even come close to what I would consider "fair."

In fulfilling the unresolved promise of God's favor on his people, Jesus points also to the thorny question of the deserving and undeserving. He does not treat the situation at the Pool of Siloam like the modern philosophers who tease out puzzles of deserving. Although Kant and Leibnitz would probably agree with the common sense of the people in this scene (that bad things happen to people who deviate from an overarching moral law), Jesus directs the scene of tragedy to himself. Look at me, he demands. The horrors of this world cannot be understood by formulas of individual sin or virtue. When you look at me, you see the light that breaks this darkness. And then, as miracle shatters despair, the literal darkness of the man born blind yields in the hands of a love that does not ask the question of deserving. It is the same love that calls the sinners and outcasts of Galilee into fellowship; the love that deeply disturbs the various factions of Jesus' time. It is a love which should also disturb our sense of fairness and deserving.

*"...as miracle
shatters despair,
the literal darkness
of the man born
blind yields in the
hands of a love
that does not ask
the question of
deserving."*

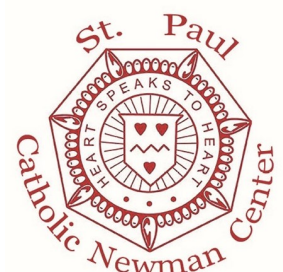
Speaking of Jesus' time, we are careful to remember that the Greek of John's Gospel did not allow us to read the particularities and nuances of these factions. We only read "the Pharisees" and "the Jews," when we should understand that both of these terms covered categories that would include Jesus and his followers. To relieve the potential antisemitism that lurks in my use of the words "Pharisee" and "Pharisaical," I am grateful to a few Jewish friends who point out that the dialogue in the long second part of this Gospel reading is a good depiction of respectful and culturally normative discourse around Jewish law among teachers. This is important to remember because we can be tempted to read our own projections of fairness or deserving into such interactions.

It was after all the disciples of Jesus that made the assumption that someone sinned to merit the blindness of the man by the Pool. As his disciples today, may we offer our questions and concerns to God in the humility that our own prejudices and assumptions may be revealed, and then broken. On this Lenten journey, may we yield to God's grace in a new way.

Karl A. Gurney, M.A. | Director of Liturgy

Mission Statement

Gifted by God, called by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is a parish committed to serving the academic community and all those who choose to be part of our parish family. We dedicate ourselves to bringing the transformative power of Christ to the world through word and action.



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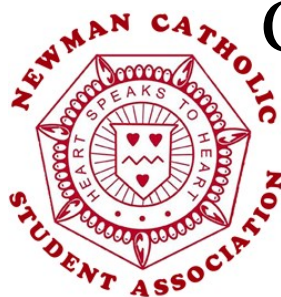
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CAMPUS MINISTRY

News!

WEEK OF MARCH 19 TO MARCH 26

STUDENT SPRING RETREAT

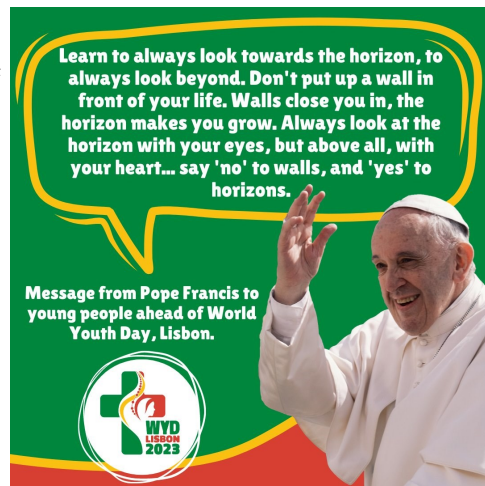
Please pray for the college students attending our Spring retreat this weekend. May God grant that they return with comfort, encouragement and joy to continue in their studies and work.

STUDY NIGHT

Come join the college group for a night of productive studying or homework! Study night provides a quiet, peaceful environment surrounded by peers for students to concentrate on school work. There will be coffee and snacks provided. Please Join us on March 23 at 6:00pm in St. John XXIII Student Lounge!

WORLD YOUTH DAY: A WORD FROM A PILGRIM

Hello, I am Luis Miguel Barrios. My current career is caregiving in a facility here in Fresno. I got started in this field of work at the age of 18. What I love about this career is that I get to assist people reach independence. I first heard about World Youth Day back when I was a part of a youth group in 2016. I heard from my friend that went to Poland and actually lived the experience. She described it as a once in a lifetime opportunity for young Catholics. Ever since then I have had the desire to go. When the Newman Center announced the plan to attend, I jumped at the opportunity. I am very eager to attend the 2023 World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal with the Newman group.



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our session this Monday, March 20 at 6:00pm in the Student Lounge. We will continue looking at Luke discussing this week's session - Breaking Dawn illuminating the Darkness!

WEDNESDAY STUDENT NIGHTS

All students are invited to our College Night this Wednesday, March 22. We will start dinner at 6:00pm, and after we will celebrate Mass!

CAMPUS MINISTRY CONTACTS

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Fr. Byron Macias, Chaplain: frbyron@csufnewman.com

Karina Tellez, Administrative Assistant: catholicclub@csufnewman.com

YOUTH CHOIR

Ages 7 to 17

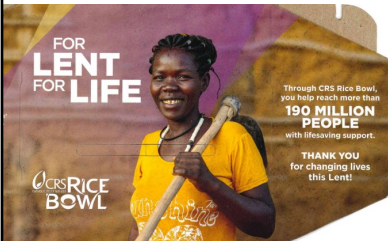
Palm Sunday Easter Sunday

Participate on either Sunday or both.

Rehearsals at 5:00pm

March 28 / April 4

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES



Rice Bowl Lenten Donations

Please return your Lenten Rice Bowl Collection Box by Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16 (One Week after Easter)



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

John Cardinal

Newman Council 9445

Knights of Columbus John Cardinal Newman Council 9445 presented a \$500.00 check to Breaking the Chains

This organization works with local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies to provide rescue, relocation, restorative, and residential services to victims of We work with local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies to provide rescue, relocation, restorative, and residential services to victims of human trafficking. With the great support of the parishioners of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center we were able to sell 124 burritos to support this great organization. We also presented a \$700.00 check and supplies to the Pregnancy Care Center of Fresno. The Pregnancy Center offers compassionate help to women and men through free pregnancy medical and support services; educates our community on healthy relationships; and provides resources for healing to those who have experienced reproductive loss. It also helps Women and Men after pregnancy.

If you would like more information on the Knights of Columbus kc9445.org or go to kofc.org/join.



Join us for our annual **EDUCATIONAL DESSERT** featuring speaker: **GIANNA JESSEN**

*Abortion survivor • Testified 4 times before Congress
Watched as President George W. Bush signed the
Born Alive Infants Protection Act*

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2023 | 6:30PM

ST. PAUL NEWMAN CENTER
1572 E BARSTOW AVE, FRESNO, CA 93710

Seating is limited! To reserve a spot, scan the QR code, call the office (559.229.2229) or register online at righttolifeca.org/events

FREE EVENT



SAVE THE DATES...

Here are some dates to mark on your calendar as we lead up the most important day of our Church year...

Easter Sunday

We will be offering more information and details in each week's bulletin and on our website:

Palm Sunday "the Lord's Passion"

April 1-2 - Blessing of the Palms
Gathering in Cardinal Newman Hall
with a Procession to the Chapel
(Start of Holy Week)

Triduum "The Three Days"

A culmination of the entire liturgical year commemorating the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

April 6 - Holy Thursday "Mass of the Lord's Supper"
"Washing of the Feet"

April 7 - Good Friday "Celebration of the Lord's Passion"
Reading of the Passion | Veneration of the Cross
Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 8 - Holy Saturday
Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter



Easter Altar Flowers

Each Easter season, we fill our sanctuary with lilies and other seasonal plants and flowers provided by parishioners' generous donations. Please consider participating in this longtime Newman Center tradition by donating in the name of a departed loved one. Their names will appear in the Easter Weekend bulletin. Signups will be after Masses the weekend of March 25-26.

Parish Mission Thanks

Fr. George Krab, O.M.I. who preached our Lenten Mission sent these words:

"On behalf of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and on my own behalf I thank the parishioners and students of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center for their contributions to the mission collection. Supplemented by a parish donation, it totaled \$3031. Through this generosity the preaching of the gospel in Fresno promotes the spread of the gospel among the very poor." The proceeds benefit **Vocations Fund-Zambia**, which supports the recruitment and formation of Zambian seminarians for Oblate missionary work in south central Africa. For more information about the Oblates and the ministry in Zambia you may contact their web site: www.omiusa.org

SPCNC Thanks You for your Support and Participation at our Parish Mission:

We want to thank all the parishioners who participated and participated in our Parish Mission. Our first evening we had approximately 100 in attendance with five priest available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We would like thank all of the Priests, Musicians, Lectors, Altar Servers, Staff and Support Staff in helping in so many different capacities.

Thank you and many blessings!

POLICY FOR ALL PARISH COMMUNICATION

The Newman Center's Communication's Team is in the process of reviewing policy and procedure for all communications (i.e. print, web, social media, etc.) within the Newman Center community. In order to ensure continuity of our mission, Catholic identity, Newman Center brand, grammar, content, standard of quality, etc. it is important to establish guidelines and best practices. Therefore, all information associated with St. Paul Catholic Newman Center must be reviewed by a member of the Communications Team prior to being printed, posted, or distributed. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

All bulletin information must be submitted by 10:00am Wednesday to guarantee insertion in Sunday's bulletin. Email to Communications@csufnewman.com.

SECOND COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND

International Needs Catholic Relief Services

(Formerly: America Bishops Overseas Appeal)

This collection provides funding for Catholic Relief Services, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Offices of International Justice and Peace, Migration and Refugee Services, and Pastoral Care for Migrants and Refugees, relief work of the Holy Father, and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

MARCH CONTRIBUTIONS

2022		2023	
March 6 ACH	\$28,016.65	March 5	\$22,879.49
March 13	\$17,822.11	March 12	\$22,648.38
March 20 ACH	\$16,619.10	March 19	
March 27	\$12,292.66	March 26	
MARCH 2022 TOTAL	\$74,750.52	MARCH 2023 TOTAL	\$45,627.38

Rachel's Vineyard

Finding Hope, Healing and Peace

If you or someone you know is hurting from an abortion, please call our Fresno area contact. We have peer counselors with 20 years experience and a licensed clinical social worker available to help. All calls and information shared are strictly confidential and our counselors are off-site.

2023 Weekend Retreats

March 31 - April 2

October 6-8

To Register, please call:

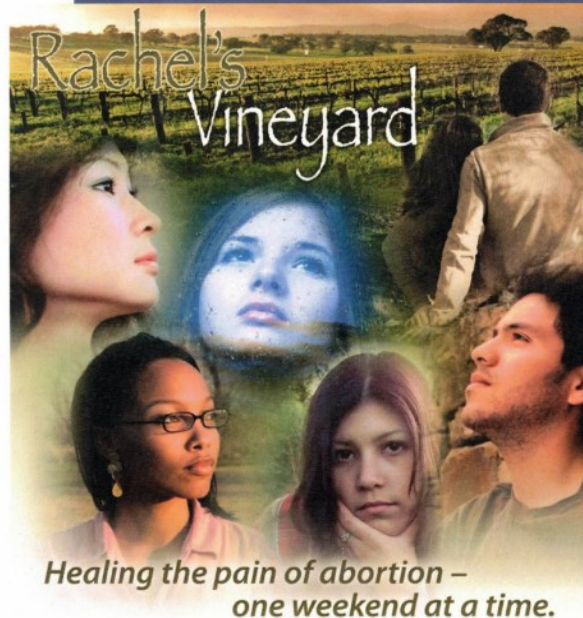
1-833-776-0023

1-888-686-8537 (Espanol)



What is Rachel's Vineyard?

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild, and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Our weekend retreats offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express, release, and reconcile painful post-abortion emotions to begin the process of restoration and healing.



PARISH REGISTRATION

There are times you may need to provide verification as a member/parishioner of the Newman Center, especially in regards to the reception of any Sacraments strict record-keeping is required by Church law. For this reason, we ask you to please register as a member of the parish.

For any verification the following is required:

In order to receive any official documentation stating you are a member/parishioner of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center you must have on file your personal registration, demonstrate active involvement and participation in worship and other activities.

If you are seeking to become a Catholic sponsor/godparent, this documentation is required as well as proof of the reception of your Sacraments.

You can register at the front desk, or through our website.

We also ask that you check in with the Parish Office to periodically verify your contact information.

PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE UPDATE

For the week of March 19 through March 25, 2023

- **Pope Francis on World Day of the Sick:**
<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20230110-giornata-malato.html>
- **Lenten Resources:**
<https://www.ignatianspirituality.com/lent/>
Pope Francis' Message on Lenten Penance and the Synodal Journey: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/lent/documents/20230125-messaggio-quaresima.html>
- **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2023 For Victims of Abuse:**
"We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering." <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14VHtwuhPWc>
- **Sunday, March 19**
4th Sunday of Lent, Year A - John 9: 1-41: Jesus: "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see', your guilt remains." Question: What is it that when we say "we see" leaves us guilty? Do we still have a "log" in our eye (Matthew 7:5) that needs removal?
2016: Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) Published by Pope Francis
Feast of St. Joseph: (*Enshrined to March 19 on the calendar of the universal Church during the 16th century*)
- **Monday, March 20**
Feast of St. Joseph: (*Celebrated on Monday following March 19 in Europe and in countries that recognize as a an official holiday*)
- **Tuesday, March 21**
International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
1965: 4,000 start marching from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama
Faith Family & Friends: Constitution on Divine Liturgy, Part 2 or Church in the Modern World, Part 1
- **Wednesday, March 22**
Ramadan Begins at Sundown: <https://www.ncronline.org/spirituality/vatican-message-ramadan-christians-muslims-must-spread-hope>
World Water Day:
11:00am-1:00pm Cesar Chavez Commemoration at Fresno State Peace Garden <https://chavezfoundation.org/about-cesar-chavez/>
- **Friday, March 24**
1980: St. Oscar Romero assassinated while celebrating Mass: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-oscar-arnulfo-romero/>
5:00pm-8:00pm Fish Fry for World Youth Day
Cardinal Newman Hall
5:30pm-6:30pm in Newman Cafeteria-Join us for our Dinner for the Needy this week!
6:30pm Stations of the Cross
- **Saturday, March 25**
1965: The Freedom Marchers arrive in Montgomery, and Rev. Dr. MLK, Jr declares "Segregation is on its death bed in Alabama"
Catholic Charities Truck at Newman Center

For so much more,
visit the SPCNC website: CSUFnewman.com/ministries
and scroll down to "Peace and Social Justice"

Jim Grant, Volunteer, Social Justice Advocate
jim@csufnewman.com

Current... MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Lenten Lectio Divina

We will not meet on the next two Wednesday mornings, March 22 and 29. Group will resume on Wednesday, April 5 from 8:45am to 9:45am after morning Mass in the Community Room facilitated by Lynn Baker.

Faith, Family & Friends

Faith, Family & Friends is the Newman Center's Religious Education and faith formation program for EVERYONE of all ages - Children, High School Youth and Adults. Faith, Family, and Friends meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

All Children's classes meet in Cardinal Newman Hall, Claretian High School Youth Group meets in St. John XXIII, and the Adult Group Sessions meet in the Main Building. Please arrive in time to have all participants in their classes by 6:00pm, Children and Adults.

Adult Sessions: Family Life Topic: Couple Communication Skills with Dave and Cheryl Belden; Scripture Topic: Read, Reflect and Discuss the Up-Coming Sunday Scripture Readings with Tina and Matt teNyenhuis; Catholic Faith Topic: The Story and Promise of Vatican II with Deacon John Supino and Jim Grant.

Men's Ministry

Men's Weekly Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group: This ministry meets on Monday mornings at 8:30am in the Library after our 8:00am morning Mass.

The Power of Prayer

The St. Paul Catholic Newman Center
Women's Guild is proud to offer a...

Half Day Retreat on
"THE POWER OF PRAYER"
March 25, 2023
8:30am to 1:00pm.

Please join us for a thoughtful, reflective day of presentation and participation on how prayer can affect your life. The journey and development of our prayer life, from rote prayers to a personal conversation with God.

Tickets are \$25.00 and includes brunch.
You may purchase tickets after Sunday Masses leading up to the March 25 or at the front desk.

PRAYERS:

† For those who died this week: Shirley Jesse

♥ Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:

Monica Baker (Lucido)	Sandy Keith
Shashini Chameli Kumari	Sawyer Nelson
Dehideniya	Mary Peterson
Shirley Elliot	Sarah Peterson-Camacho
Monsignor John	Deacon Robert Sesma
Harguindegy	

To better serve our Faith Community we try to update our list of prayers regularly. Therefore, we have the following policy: Names for the sick / special intentions will be published in the bulletin for four weeks, then removed unless otherwise notified or requested.

If deceased, names are only published the week they died.
If you have someone who is in need of prayers please contact the office at 559-436-3434 or go on our website and fill out the form under the "[Prayer Requests](#)" tab.

Pope Francis calls us to spread the Word of God wherever possible.

The web streaming team is looking for volunteers to assist. If interested please contact Larry Renner at rennla57@gmail.com or call the Parish Office to leave a message.

Parish Information

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am | 9:30am | 11:30am | 7:00pm



WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday / Wednesday | 8:00am
First Friday (of the month) | 8:00am
Thursday | 6:00pm

COMMUNION SERVICES:

Tuesday / Thursday | 8:00am
Friday (Except First Friday) | 8:00am

RECONCILIATION:

Thursday | 4:00pm to 5:45pm
Saturday | 3:30pm to 4:30pm
or call for an appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday | 9:00am to 3:00pm
Friday | 9:00am to 12:00 noon

PARISH TELEPHONE:

559.436.3434

FOR ANY MEETINGS OR APPOINTMENTS,
PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE.

For any after hour emergency, please listen for telephone prompts to leave a message.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

Anointing of the Sick (after all Masses)
Second Collection: CRS International Needs
1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ephesian 5:8-14/
John 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

7:30am	Mass for Salvator Pranzo	Chapel
9:30am	Mass for John Cook	Chapel
	RCIA 2nd Scrutiny	Community Room
	Confirmation Prep Year One	Cardinal Newman Hall
11:30am	Mass for Angela Pranzo	Chapel
	RCIA Dismissal	Community Room
	Confirmation Prep Year Two	Cardinal Newman Hall
7:00pm	Mass for Needs and Intentions of the Parishioners	Chapel

MONDAY, MARCH 20

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22/
Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Luke 2:41-51a

8:00am	Mass for Allan	Chapel
8:30am	Men's Morning Scripture Study	Library
5:30pm	Grief Support	Community Room
6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study	St. John XXIII
6:30pm	RCIA - Catechumen	Cafeteria

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16

8:00am	Communion Service	Chapel
6:00pm	Faith, Family & Friends	Cardinal Newman Hall

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Isaiah 49:8-15/John 5:17-30

8:00am	Mass Intention of Lucia Nicholson	Chapel
9:30am	Marion Movement of Priests	Cardinal Newman Hall 104
4:00pm	Prayer and Life Workshops	Library
6:00pm	College Night	Cardinal Newman Hall 101
	Adult Choir Rehearsal	Chapel
7:00pm	RCIA Inquiry	Community Room

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

Exodus 32:7-14/John 5:31-47

8:00am	Communion Service	Chapel
12:00pm	The Passion and The Cross Book Study	Cafeteria
4:00pm	Confessions	Chapel
6:00pm	Mass for Sharon Ezaki	Chapel

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22/John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

8:00am	Community Service	Chapel
5:00pm	Fish Fry - CSA	Cardinal Newman Hall 101
5:30pm	Food Recovery Network	Cafeteria
6:30pm	Stations of the Cross	Chapel

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10/Hebrews 10:4-10/Luke 1:26-38 (Weekday)

Ezekiel 37:12-14/Romans 8:8-11/
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45 (Sunday Vigil)

9:00am	Women's Guild Retreat	Cardinal Newman Hall 101-102
3:30pm	Confessions	Chapel
5:00pm	Mass for Marsha Falk	

Altar Flowers Donations (After all Masses)
Catholic Charities Truck

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

Ezekiel 37:12-14/Romans 8:8-11/
John 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

7:30am	Mass for Catalina Chamalbide	Chapel
9:30am	Mass for Hortencia Ram	Chapel
11:30am	Mass for Matilda Pignone	Chapel
	RCIA - 3rd Scrutiny	Community Room
3:00pm	Igbo Mass	Chapel
7:00pm	Mass for Needs and Intentions of the Parishioners	Chapel

Altar Flowers Donations (After all Masses)
Catholic Charities Truck

Knights Burrito Breakfast (After Morning Masses)

Whitehurst
Sullivan, Burns & Blair Funeral Home
Catholic Funeral Directors



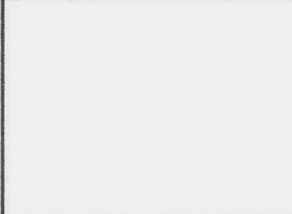
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Steven R. Smith Funeral Director, FDR2176
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