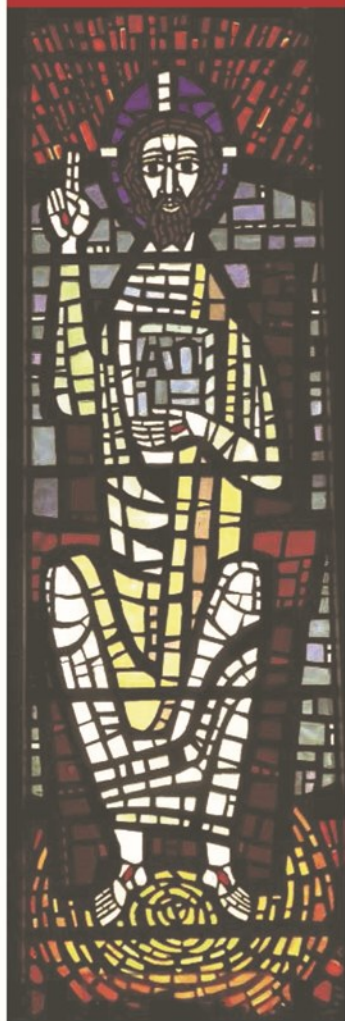


St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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Fresno, Ca 93710
Office 559.436.3434
csufnewman.com

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR B | DECEMBER 10, 2023

Dear Friends,

My name is Robert Pyrka, I am a Claretian missionary from Poland. I am 40 years old and have lived exactly half of my life in our Congregation. When I was searching for my place in the Church and the desire for missions matured in me more and more, I did not think for a moment that the place would be where I am today. The word mission caused me to think more about South America or other parts of the world in my mind, because I speak Spanish. But our Superior General had other plans for my mission. I am very grateful today to be part of the US - Canada Province.



It is amazing how all the time the Lord God surprises us and shows us that His plans are really different and much more beautiful than we think. I've only been in the U.S. for five weeks, but I've already managed to notice how much good has happened in my life during this time, from my community that welcomed me to the parishes I've had the opportunity to visit. Ever since I can remember I have always been attracted to missionary work in the church, I have been fascinated by Father Claret, who was all his life on the road, on the move, constantly seeking what was good and necessary in the work of saving people. When I think of our Founder, I like to have close to me my favorite image of him--the image where he is depicted as a pilgrim, from whose heart comes fire. I imagine that often the Lord God invites me to go out on such a journey and when I respond to His invitation positively He ignites me with beautiful things.

When I was discerning my vocation and looking for a congregation to join, a friend of mine invited me to a Claretian house. Interestingly, at that time I didn't experience anything spectacular, I didn't hear any voice that could tell me that this was the right address, but seeing the relationships between the brothers I met then, I thought this was it. Since then I have seen this very strongly, that God invites us precisely to relationships, first precisely with Him and then between us. And I think it is relationships that are the driving force in our life and vocation.

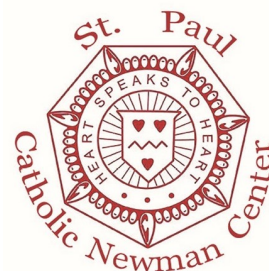
I remember how happy I was when I saw the message from Father Paul, my new Provincial and the information that my first place of service in the US would be Fresno. Admittedly, I don't know much about the city itself, nor of the state of California, (I only associate it with sunshine and good wine) but I believe that there will be a beautiful chapter in my life and service to wonderful people. Although writing these words I am still in Chicago, I remember those I will soon reach in prayer and ask you very much for it. I send my warmest greetings to you and see you in Fresno.

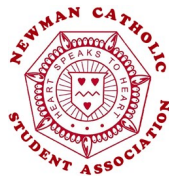
Your new brother,

Fr. Robert Pyrka, CMF

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.





CAMPUS MINISTRY

Wednesday Student Dinner

Join us for our last student dinner December 13th. We will be gathering at 6pm in the Cardinal Newman Hall. Bring any box of cereal for our White Elephant Exchange. Thank you for a great semester!

NEWMAN CENTER YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Bible Study

Join our Bible Study gathering Monday, December 11th at 6:00pm in the Student Lounge. We will continue to look at the Gospel of Luke. Come and learn alongside other young adults about how scripture is alive in our daily lives.

Prayer Request for Students

Please pray for our students as they prepare for final exams, so that they find the energy and encouragement to finish strong. May they rest and return refreshed for the Spring semester.



Edgars Report on Rome and the message of Pope Francis

IS GOD CALLING YOU IN A NEW WAY?

If you are wanting to find a new way to be a part of our Newman community please consider helping us in these areas:

Liturgy Assistant Audio/Video Team Church Directory Project

If you are willing to learn, or have past experience in any of these areas please reach out to Dan Nickerson at plc@csufnewman.com.

PARISH DIRECTORY

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FR. BYRON MACIAS, C.M.F.

Priest in Residence;
Campus Ministry Chaplain
x105 | frbyron@csufnewman.com

FINANCE COUNCIL

financecouncil@csufnewman.com

DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

2022		2023	
December 4	\$32,925.03	December 3	\$18,781.12
December 11	\$8,571.19	December 10	
December 18	\$13,492.37	December 17	
December 25	\$25,569.42	December 24	
DECEMBER 2022 TOTAL	\$80,558.01	DECEMBER 2023 TOTAL	\$18,781.12

This Week's Special Collection is for

Diocese of Fresno:

Retired Religious

Thank you for your generosity

COMMUNITY

ANOINTING OF THE SICK



We will celebrate a communal Anointing of the Sick AFTER all the Masses on Gaudete Saturday and Sunday: December 16 and 17. Gaudete means: "Rejoice in the Lord always." The theme of the day expresses the joy of Christmas anticipation; and receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick (which is NOT Last Rites) is a

wonderful way to strengthen our bodies, hearts and souls!

CHRISTMAS ALTAR FLOWERS

Sign-ups to purchase Christmas flowers will be in the foyer before and after Masses this weekend.

Please consider taking part in our longstanding tradition of donating in memory of our loved ones to decorate our chapel sanctuary for the Christmas season.



GIVING TREE

The deadline for returning your angel(s) along with your gift card is this weekend, December 10th. But even if you forgot, we will always accept your donation even if it's late. God Bless you!

PARISH ADVENT DISCERNMENT



Each week during Advent, our parish will pray, discern, and discuss "What God Wants From Us". We invite your active participation as individuals, families, and small groups! Email Dan Nickerson at plc@csufnewman.com for questions.

All resources are on our website!

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Mark your calendars: our Advent Penitential Service will be held on Thursday, December 14th beginning at 6 pm. There will be a scripture reading, short reflection and a communal examination of conscience followed by individual confessions that will go on for as long you need. With many priests available this is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament

CALLING ALL ANGELS

If you are storing a Donna Locati Christmas Angel in your home, please bring it to the Newman Center by Thursday, December 21.

Parish Information

WEEKEND MASSES:

Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

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



WEEKDAY MASSES:

Monday (except First Monday) / Wednesday | 8:00am

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

COMMUNION SERVICES:

First Monday / 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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Thursday | 9:00am to 3:00pm

MAIN PHONE LINE:

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.**

PRAYERS:

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

Tom Castellazo	Susan Olson
Luke Germino	Rev. Msgr. Tony Janelli
Kathy Robinson	Dan Dungy
Sally Caglia	Elizabeth Dungy

♥ And we pray for those who have died recently.

If you would like to include the name of someone on this list, please contact the office or visit our website and fill out the form under the "[Prayer Requests](#)" tab.

Names of the sick / for special intentions will be published in the bulletin for four weeks, and then removed unless otherwise requested. Names of the deceased are published the week after death.

FROM FATHER BYRON:

Please join me in welcoming Fr. Robert Pyrka, CMF, a Claretian Missionary priest from Poland who has been assigned to be In-Residence here at the Newman Center, effective December 1st, 2023 (although he will actually be arriving Dec 8).

Father Robert comes from Poland and will be studying English at Fresno State. He will also be serving our community through the celebration of the Sacraments and accompaniment in our various ministries.

Father Robert is a young 40 year-old who has vast experience in youth ministry, communications and Provincial Government in Poland. I am sure his gifts will continue to nurture our amazing faith community.

Father Robert will be introducing himself during the December 9th and 10th weekend Masses.

Also, we are looking for volunteers to help coach him in his pronunciation for celebrating Mass for an hour during the weekdays this December. It would also be nice if you invite him for dinner now and then to help him understand the stories and reality of the Church in the US. Fr Robert is fluent in Polish and Spanish, and will be in English too with your help!

Please contact Mary Renner, Clergy Assistant at clergyassistant@csufnewman.com if you would like to help. Thanks and peace!

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 10—DECEMBER 17

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 2ND SUNDAY ADVENT (B)

7:30am	Mass for David Hooker	Chapel
9:30am	Mass for Lai Pham	Chapel
9:30am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Community Room
9:30am	Baptism	Chapel
11:30am	Mass for Needs & Int. Parishioners	Chapel
3:00pm	Igbo Mass	Chapel
6:00pm	Novena	Chapel
7:00pm	Mass for Joseph Vasquez & Family	Chapel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00am	Mass for Angela Pranzo	Chapel
8:30am	Men's Morning Scripture Study	Library
6:00pm	Young Adult Bible Study	Student Lounge
6:30pm	Novena	Chapel
6:30pm	Adult Confirmation	Chapel

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12 OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:00am	Communion Service	Chapel
10:00am	Advent Discernment Web Stream	Chapel/Website
6:00pm	Faith, Family & Friends	CNH
7:00pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Conclusion	Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13 ST. LUCY

8:00am	Mass for Marcel Gagnon	Chapel
10:00am	Marian Movement of Priests	CNH 103-104
6:00pm	College Night	CNH 101
6:00pm	Choir Rehearsal	Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14 ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

NO CONFESSIONS TODAY: PENANCE SERVICE

8:00am	Mass for Gene Petruske	Chapel
6:00pm	Advent Penance Service	Chapel

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:00am	Communion Service	Chapel
4:00pm	Bilingual Catechism Class	Community Room
5:30pm	Food Recovery Network	Cafeteria

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

Catholic Charities Truck

8:30am	Adult Confirmation Retreat	Student Lounge
3:30pm	Confessions	Chapel
5:00pm	Mass for Needs & Int. Parishioners	Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17 3RD SUNDAY ADVENT (B)

Catholic Charities Truck

7:30am	Mass for Ron Barrows	Chapel
9:30am	Mass for August Short	Chapel
9:30am	Children's Liturgy of the Word	Community Room
9:30am	RCIA Catechumenate	Library
11:00am	First Year Confirmation	CNH
11:30am	Mass for Bernie Darman	Chapel
12:30pm	Second Year Confirmation	CNH
1:00pm	Group Baptism	Chapel
7:00pm	Mass for Natalie Davison	Chapel

PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE

For the week of December 10 to December 16, 2023:

- **Prayer intention for December:**
For persons with disabilities.
- **Sunday, December 10**
In perfect sync with our parish discernment process, Sarah Hansman asks “How are we “preparing the way?” During this already-not yet time of our lives: <https://www.catholicwomenpreach.org/preaching/12102023>
- **Tuesday, December 12**
Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of the Americas and of the Right to Life movement.
- **Friday, December 15**
Food Recovery Program in the Cafeteria
Join us this week to see the good food we share with those who break bread with us each week (see Matthew 25: 31-46).

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.

Bulletin and Parish Media

TO SUBMIT ANNOUNCEMENTS, ARTICLES, OR FLIERS FOR THE BULLETIN, WEBSITE, OR SOCIAL MEDIA:

Email the Newman Communications Team at communications@csufnewman.com

Submissions should be unformatted text, with pictures uploaded separately. They may be subject to editing and are not guaranteed for publication, so consider if the website or social media would be suitable alternatives for us to publish instead of the bulletin proper. **Submissions are accepted no later than 12:00pm on Wednesday of the week prior to publishing.** Thank you for your cooperation.

Current... MINISTRY PROGRAMS

Email John Prandini for information on these ministries and more: prandinij@csufnewman.com

Join Us!

Faith, Family & Friends'

Year End Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, Dec. 12th 5:45 – 7:30 pm

Featuring:

A Retelling of the Nativity Story

By Deacon John

&

A visit from St. Nicholas

Pizza & Desserts provided!

Photo-op with St. Nicholas!

Men's Ministry

Men's Weekly Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group: meets on Monday mornings, 8:30-9:15am after morning Mass in the Library.

Prayer Ministry

Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in Cardinal Newman Hall, room 104. Please join us.

Family Ministry

Rooting Your Teen in the Faith-- Moms Book Club. Some of the Joy of Love families have teens going through the Confirmation program and are looking for ways to connect their teens to other participants as well as come together for support in raising faith-filled teens through the high school years. Those interested are invited to join the book club as they read through *Rooting Your Teen in the Faith, A Field Guide for Catholic Parents* by Kim Cameron-Smith. If you are interested in this or future meetings, please email joyoflovemoms@gmail.com

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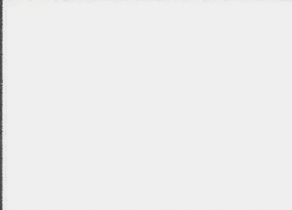
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FROM FR. BYRON

Birthday Update:

Instead of 45 stuffed animals, we have received 450! (that is 10 per year of life). What a birthday detail! Please know of my gratitude and prayers!

Happy Birthday Pope Francis!

Thank you to all of our parishioners, young and old alike for making or dropping off birthday cards to be sent to Pope Francis. We mailed over 100 birthday cards to the Vatican City. Please keep our Pope in prayer on December 17th when he turns 87. We also pray for him as he faces health issues. Your drawings, greetings and other messages should go a long way in providing him birthday cheer! Blessings to you all for your kindness.



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Gaudete Goodies Fundraiser: Our Newman Young Adult Pilgrim Group invites all parishioners to our first fundraiser of the year. Join us next weekend (December 16 & 17) as we sell novelty ornaments, tamales (authentically made from scratch!), and baked goods to celebrate Gaudete Sunday. Contact eucharistic.revival@csufnewman.com if you are unable to attend mass but would like to make an order. We thank you so much for your generosity this Advent season.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The St. Paul Catholic Newman Center Women's Guild will be going to the Nazareth House, Sunday December 9th at 4:30pm for Christmas Caroling and delivering Christmas cards to the residents to wish them a Merry Christmas! On Thursday December 14th at 6:00pm, we will meet in Cardinal Newman Hall for our December meeting. A brief meeting followed by a potluck and some good humor with a White Elephant gift exchange. December donations for the Poverello House can be brought to the meeting and will be delivered to the Poverello House. The Women's Guild will host the annual St. Paul Catholic Newman Center Women's Spiritual Retreat, Saturday January 27th, 2024, from 8:30am to 1:00pm in Cardinal Newman Hall. A flyer with event and ticket information will be available soon.

Please Join Us For
CHRISTMAS MASSES

Sunday, December 24	4:00PM CHILDREN'S/YOUTH CHOIR 6:00PM ADULT CHOIR 9:00PM NIGHT MASS
Monday, December 25	10:00AM & 12:00PM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR!

We invite all children and youth who would like to sing with our Christmas Choir on Christmas Eve to rehearse on Tuesday, December 19 at 5:00pm in the chapel. All experience levels are welcome to participate.

Additionally, if you have a youth who would like to play on the music team, please let us know so that we can get you the music and rehearsal schedule.

Please contact Karl Gurney at karl@csufnewman.com for questions and any further details.

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center

CHRISTMAS

Office Hours 2023-2024

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26	OFFICE CLOSED
WEDS-THURS 12/27-12/28	OPEN 9AM-3PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 1	OFFICE CLOSED*
TUES-THURS 1/2-1/4	OPEN 9AM-3PM

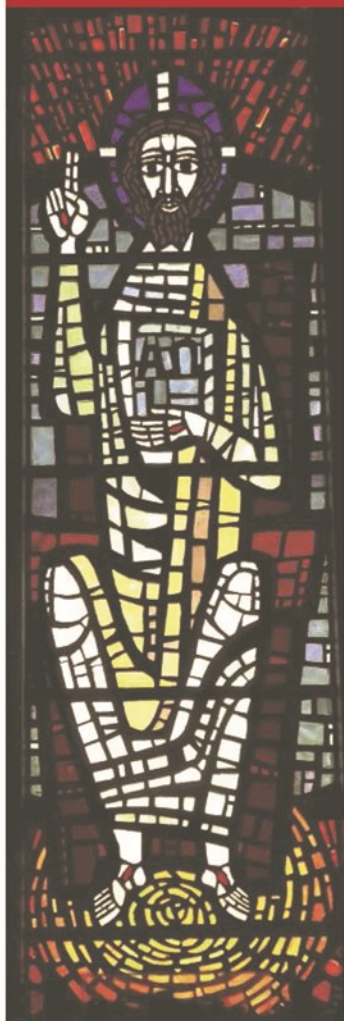
*There will be no Daily Mass on January 1.



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Confessions will be heard as scheduled on Thursdays from 4pm to 5:45pm and Saturday from 3:30pm-4:45pm.

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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.

