

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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

Third Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 12, 2021

Readings: Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

The Deacon's Speakin'

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Virgin of Guadalupe, like the shroud of Turin, appears on a piece of fabric. Both are sacred objects, hundreds of years old, and both depict an image said to be miraculous. The Virgin of Guadalupe was declared Queen of Mexico and is Patron of the Americas.

Our Lady of Guadalupe first introduced herself as the Mother of God and the mother of all humanity when she appeared on the hill of Tepeyac in Mexico in 1531. An indigenous peasant, Juan Diego, saw a glowing figure on the hill. After she identified herself to him, Our Lady asked that Juan build her a shrine in that same spot, in order for her to show and share her love and compassion with all those who believe.

Afterwards, Juan Diego visited Juan de Zumarraga, who was the Archbishop of what is now Mexico City. Zumarraga dismissed him in disbelief and asked that he provide proof of his story and proof of the Lady's identity. Juan Diego returned to the hill and encountered Our Lady again. The Virgin told him to climb to the top of the hill and pick some flowers to present to the Archbishop.

Although it was winter and nothing should have been in bloom, Juan Diego found an abundance of flowers of a type he had never seen before. The Virgin bundled the flowers into Juan's cloak, known as a tilma. When Juan Diego presented the tilma of exotic flowers to Zumarraga, the flowers fell out and he recognized them as Castilian roses, which are not found in Mexico.

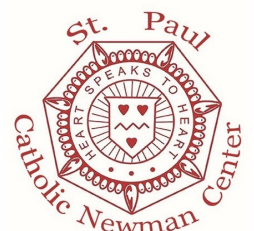
What was even more significant, however, was that the tilma had been miraculously imprinted with a colorful image of the Virgin herself. This actual tilma, preserved since that date and showing the familiar image of the Virgin Mary with her head bowed and hands together in prayer, represents the Virgin of Guadalupe. It remains perhaps the most sacred object in all of Mexico.

The story is best known from a manuscript written in the Aztec's native language Nahuatl by the scholar Antonio Valeriano. It was written sometime after 1556. Over 20 million people visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe each year, now situated on the very same hill on which she appeared.

In 1990, Pope Saint John Paul II visited Mexico and beatified Juan Diego. Ten years later, in the year 2000, he was declared a saint.

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 News!

Week of December 12-19

Wrapping Up Fall Semester

With the fall semester almost coming to an end, we ask for your kind prayers for our faculty, staff, and students as they approach this last week of finals and responsibilities. May the Lord provide them strength to finish this school year with great fulfillment.

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose,
make intercession for the Holy Church,
protect the Sovereign Pontiff,
help all those who invoke thee in their necessities,
and since thou art the ever Virgin Mary,
and Mother of the True God,
obtain for us from thy most holy Son the grace of keeping our faith,
of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life,
of burning charity, and the precious gift of final perseverance.
Amen.



Young Adults' Bible Study

On Monday, December 13 at 6:00pm, join other young adults for a bible study session to discover the word of God and grow in your faith together.

Wednesday Student Night

Looking for a space to de-stress during finals week? Why not attend our last dinner of the semester! Dinner will be provided and the lounge will be available for students to study. Join us on December 15 at 6:00pm in Cardinal Newman Hall.

Campus Ministry Contacts

Edgar Guzman, Director: edgar@csufnewman.com
Fr. Byron Macias, Chaplain: frbyron@csufnewman.com
Stephanie Beas, Administrative Assistant: catholicclub@csufnewman.com

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 12 Zep 3:14-18a; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18

Second Collection - Retired Religious / Christmas Altar Flower Tabling

6:30am Las Mananitas
 7:30am Mass for Nunzio and Alma Tarantino Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Harriett Andris Chapel
 11:30am Mass for Linda Ross Chapel
 7:00pm Young Adult Mass Chapel

Monday, December 13 Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27

8:00am Mass for Linda Ross Chapel
 8:30am Men's Morning Scripture Study Library
 6:00pm Adult Confirmation Chapel
 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study CNH

Tuesday, December 14 Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 12:00pm Christian Meditation Community Room
 6:00pm Faith, Family & Friends CNH and Chapel

Wednesday, December 15 Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25; Lk 7:18b-23

8:00am Mass for Cristina Murao Chapel
 6:00pm Scriptural Rosary Community Room
 6:00pm College Night CNH 101
 6:30pm PAIN Cafeteria
 7:00pm Storytime with Papa Deak (via Zoom)

Thursday, December 16 Is 54:1-10; Lk 7:24-30

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 4:00pm Confessions Chapel
 6:00pm Mass Chapel
 6:30pm Music Rehearsal Chapel

Friday, December 17 Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17

8:00am Mass for Louis Grieco Chapel

Saturday, December 18 Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25

Catholic Charities Truck
 5:00pm Mass for John Murao Jr. and Frances Hernandez Chapel

Sunday, December 19 Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

Catholic Charities Truck
 7:30am Mass for John Barretto Chapel
 9:30am Mass for MariaLara Alessandri-Cook and Baptisms Chapel
 11:30am Mass for Cara Zamanianpour Chapel
 2:00pm Baptism Prep Class (via Zoom)
 5:00pm Bilingual Mass (Mass for Maria Franco) Chapel
 6:30pm Prayer Activity Chapel
 7:00pm Young Adult Mass Chapel

December Contributions


2020		2021	
Dec. 6 ACH	\$17,435.05	Dec. 5 ACH	\$43,245.07
Dec. 13	\$16,236.00	Dec. 12	
Dec. 20	\$15,701.50	Dec. 19 ACH	
Dec. 27	\$9,334.00	Dec. 26	
Dec. Total	\$58,706.55	Dec. Total	


*This amount includes one time gifts for the *Heart Speaks to Heart* program. Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

Prayers:


- ◆ **Those who have died this week:** Gary Peters, Jim Starr
- ◆ **Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:**
 Joan Renner, Margery Toll, Frances Garcia, Serafin Munoz, Joe Calandri, Ray Navarro, Glen Nelson, Doreen M. Kawaguchi, Suzanne Swanson, Fr. Joe Baca, Kristal Lowe Limon, John Robles, Jessica H., Olivia King, Anthony DeBenedetto, Eric Amador, Deacon Alan Shearer and family, Abigail Love, Olivia Arriaga, Ron Dodds, Donna Lang, Mark Lang, Deacon Ed Valdez and Family, Gary Payne, Willie Jacques, Linda Alvarez, Marianne Coons, Julissa Mojarras, Estefania Medina, Laura Willers, Fr. David Enriquez, Mary Garr, Kathy Papagni, Michael Vienna, John and Kathy Brechmann, JoAnn Myers, Issac Orozco, Diana Mock, Fr. Kevin Bray, Msgr. Anthony Janelli, Sandra Barrie, Deacon Joe Parugrug, Tom Lucas, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Meghan Vasquez, Jacob Blake, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Rose Derby, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Nancy Martin, Sr. Rosa Maria Branco FHIC, Dick and Jan White


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A Unique Opportunity to be Church and Make the Church Be

The Church is having a Synod of Synodality next year, and it wants YOU to be part of it.

(Before we move on, some vocabulary:

Synod: A gathering of all bishops around the world

Synodality: The involvement and participation of the whole People of God in the life and mission of the Church

Discernment: To find the will of God and will of people with regards an issue)

Pope Francis invites the entire Church to reflect on a theme that is decisive for its life and mission: synodality.

The purpose of this synod is not to produce more documents. Rather, it is intended to inspire people to dream about the church we are called to be, to make people's hopes flourish, to stimulate trust, to bind up wounds, to weave new and deeper relationships, to learn from one another, to build bridges, to enlighten minds, warm hearts, and restore strength to our hands for our common mission.

Synodal listening is oriented toward discernment, in which people listen to each other, to their faith tradition and to the signs of the times in order to discern what God is saying to all of us.

Here at The Newman Center, we will also be part of this historical moment. Through a process delineated by our Diocese, we will make sure that all parishioners are able to express what they hope the church to be.

This is our local plan:

January 12: Facilitators training

February-June: Listening Sessions (notes taken to be sent to Rome)

June 1: Submitting notes to the Diocese (to be sent to Rome)

Please be part of this amazing moment in the Church, which is open to all. All ages, state in life, status, cultures, etc. are welcome. This is actually about YOU expressing your voice about how to inspire the Church to be a better steward of God's blessings and graces for you.

For more information, please contact Jim Grant, Deacon John, or Fr. Byron.

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.

Synod Message from Bishop Brennan

The People of God of the Diocese of Fresno are invited by our Holy Father, Pope Francis and our Bishop Joseph Brennan to join in the Universal Church on a journey of Synodality. As we walk together as brothers and sisters let us open our hearts and minds to listen to the needs of all the baptized, especially those who are marginalized or isolated. Let us bravely step forward and speak so our own voice can be heard. May the Holy Spirit grant us the gifts of wisdom and understanding as we walk together to create a Church of communion, participation, and mission.



The Giving Tree

If you haven't already taken a tag from the Giving Tree, please do so today so you can help people in need have a Christmas meal or just simply have a meal. Tags should be returned with gift cards no later than **12:00pm on December 12.**

Creation Care Tips

"And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.'" — Luke 3:10-11 Are you ever at a loss for what gift to buy a person who has everything? This Christmas season, why not use the money you would spend on them to donate to a charity in their name? Pick a charity or a cause that is important to them and then let them know what you have done. Such a gift will have no negative environmental impact, and it can be your version of sharing a coat or food with someone who has none, rather than giving more to someone who already has plenty. Besides, not buying something is the first step in the "refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle" continuum.

Calling All Angels

If you are storing a Donna Locati Christmas Angel in your home, please bring it to the Newman Center by Sunday, December 19.

Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24
4:00pm (Children's Mass)
6:00pm
10:00pm

December 25
10:00am



Weekday Mass and Communion Service Schedule Update

Our weekday Mass schedule is as follows:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00am

First Tuesday at 6:00pm

Thursdays at 6:00pm

Communion Services all remaining Tuesdays at 8:00am
and every Thursday morning at 8:00am

Storytime with Papa Deak

Deacon John (aka Papa Deak) will be sharing a storytime with us for all of Advent and Christmas. He will read one Tomie de Paola book a week. We will meet with Papa Deak via Zoom from 7:00pm to 7:30pm on the following nights (Christmas pajamas optional!):

Wednesday December 15

Tuesday December 21

Tuesday December 28

Wednesday January 5

Please email joyoflovetomoms@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Catholic Charities Truck Next Weekend

The Catholic Charities Donation Truck will be at the Newman Center next weekend (December 18-19) to collect donation items after all Sunday morning Masses. Donations brought to the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses can be left in the white bin in the Chapel Courtyard. Thank you for your support.

Also, we are in need of volunteers for our Catholic Charities Truck at all Masses. The truck comes once a month on the third weekend of the month. It will take about an hour of your time before or after Mass. If you are available to help, please contact Brian Hall at brianh@technicon.net.

Weekly Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: December 15 is our national celebration of the Bill of Rights. December 18 is the Islamic New Year. The Bill of Rights protects some of our most sacred freedoms, among them freedom of religion. Our Catholic faith calls us to practice our faith and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others while showing respect for the faith of others. This week's challenge is to advocate for someone who is denied freedom of religion. This can be done through political action, prayer, or supporting the right of Muslims to worship God in their particular way.

Faith, Family and Friends

Faith, Family and Friends meets this Tuesday, December 14 for our annual Nativity Play provided by our children! There will also be an Advent Reflection led by our children and Deacon John will read a story of an Advent tradition of placing a straw in the manger for each act of kindness shown during Advent. Please join us in the Chapel at 6:00pm. **Please note that masks are required.** If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Family Life Ministries

Men's Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group now meets every Monday after morning Mass from 8:30am to 9:15am in the Library.

Prayer Ministries

Christian Meditation meets weekly on Tuesdays at noon in the Community Room for 20 minutes of silent meditation followed by a brief lesson about this ancient Christian prayer tradition and discussion. Christian meditation utilizes the mantra, "Maranatha" (a word in Jesus' own Aramaic language meaning, "Come, Lord Jesus") in order to quiet the mind and come to silence, meeting Jesus in the depth of our own being, beyond words or images. The group is a member of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Meetings are facilitated by Benita Lankford. For information email contact John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Second Collection This Weekend

Support the Retirement Fund for Religious. A donor writes, "Your flyer touched my heart—seeing the retired religious, such memories surfaced." Do you remember the sisters, brothers, or religious order priests who made a positive difference in your life? Today many are elderly and need assistance. Their religious communities struggle to meet retirement needs while continuing to serve the People of God. Please give to this week's second collection.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses are always such beautiful occasions of prayer. We have a church filled with joy and with people.

In a true spirit of Christian discipleship, as an evangelizing parish, we ask that everyone do their best to welcome visitors and assist those who might not be familiar with our parish.

Along those lines we want to remind everyone to expect more visitors around Christmas, and in order to welcome everyone we don't have "reserved" or "saved" seats prior to any Christmas Masses.

For those who have any mobility issues, please call the office ahead of time and let us know what Mass you will be attending so we can make seating arrangements.

From Father Byron

Gaudette Sisters and Brothers!!!

In the Gospel this Sunday we hear John the Baptist announcing that Jesus is coming; and “His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor” (Luke 3:10-18). Do you know what a “winnowing fan” is? The word used in Greek (the original language of the New Testament) is *Ptyon*, the word translated as winnowing fork in the World English Bible. It is a tool similar to a pitchfork that would be used to lift harvested wheat up into the air into the wind.

And it is precisely what Jesus wants to do with our lives. There is so much junk in our hearts that sometimes settles in and it seems like it is part of our lives. There is uncertainty, fear, anger, lukewarm faith that can be chameleonic and stay there, taking up the space that belongs to what is fundamental in our lives: hope, trust, forgiveness and comprehensive faith. Certainly this is not our fault; things happen in life that hurt us and impact us on a negative way. And God knows this. This is why God longs to jump into our lives (if we let Him) to help us sort the good from the bad. That is why God sent us all He had: His very Son (carrying a divine winnowing fan) to remind us that we are meant for more.

The thing about this winnowing fan is that it purifies us; it helps us see who we are meant to be; and it helps have fortitude when rainy days come. And all it takes is to let Jesus do his thing and us emulating his lifestyle. Therefore, chin up and rejoice (gaudette!) because as the saying goes: “the devil knows your name but calls you by your sin; God knows your sin, but God calls you by your name!”

Claretian Youth

Attention High Schoolers! We will gather this Tuesday, December 14 at 6:00pm in the St. John XXIII Student Lounge. We will have our Advent / Christmas extravaganza (Matthew 1: 1-17). Be there, youth! Talk to Fr. Byron for more info: frbyron@csufnewman.com.

Stuffed Animals

Thank you so much for your generosity! We raised close to 80 stuffed animals, which will be on their way to Ecuador next week. Thanks to you, we also raised close to \$100 for shipping. May God reward you for your kindness. It has been a memorable birthday gift to this old priest J. (say a prayer for me tomorrow as I turn 43, please). Know of my prayers and gratitude.

Office Closed

Our office will be closed on December 27 for Christmas Observance. **We will have no daily Mass on that morning.**

Adult Confirmation

Pray for our over 30 young adults preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. We will gather this Monday at 6:00pm for a presentation on “The Other Sacraments and Sacramentals” with yours truly.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Thanks to all the beautiful people who attended the Guadalupe Novena and made of our celebration a real agape. On behalf of Edgar and me, we thank you for your love and devotion to our Blessed Mother and for spending some good quality time with her. May your intentions and longings, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, be reached from our Almighty God.

Communion Services

We have Liturgy of the Word with Communion on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00am. This happens for a reason. On Tuesdays, Fr. Paul and I are celebrating Masses at the different colleges in the city (you are most welcome to join us; just contact Edgar), which limits our possibility to celebrate Mass here. On Thursdays, we celebrate Mass at 6:00pm right after Confessions. I encourage you to be part of the Morning Services – if you have the time; this is a tradition as ancient as the Church itself and it is very common, valid and licit in places where there is no priest. Plus, you get to hear a different voice and preaching (in good English!). I thank you for your understanding and patience.

Crime Survivors Ministry

Our very own parishioner, Maciel Godburn, is the director of the Crime Survivors Ministry, which pastorally accompanies the families, victims, or survivors of Crime. This is a ministry all around the Diocese and it really paints a beautiful illustration of the Church accompanying the suffering. I am both humbled and honored to be part of it. Please pray for this ministry. If you would like to know more, please email Maciel at rjmaciel2019@gmail.com.

Saintly Quote

“Anxiety is the greatest evil that can befall a soul except sin. God commands you to pray, but He forbids you to worry.” St. Francis de Sales

Have a Laugh

Two non-Catholic guys are walking when one notices a sign on a Catholic church that says “Convert to Christianity, and we’ll give you \$100.”

The one says to the other, “Should we do it?”

The other says “NO!! Are you crazy?”

The first guy replies “Hey, a hundred dollars is a hundred dollars... I’m gonna do it.”

So he walks in to the church, and little while later, he walks back out.

The friend asks, “Well, did you get the money?”

He replies, “Oh, that’s all you people think about, isn’t it!?”



Retirement Fund for Religious

Please give to those who have given a lifetime.



From Catholic schools and hospitals—to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy—elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Now, without enough retirement savings, many religious communities are struggling to care for aging members. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide nursing care, medicine, and other necessities. Please be generous.

retiredreligious.org

Top row, from left: Sr. Ursula Marie George, OSU, 95; Fr. Edmund Smith, OSB, 83; Sr. Emilia Irene Lara, MGSps, 89; Sr. Theresa Hathaway, SSMO, 88; Sr. Elizabeth Sohler, SSMO, 89.
Bottom row, from left: Br. James Bartos, OSB, 79; Sr. Mary Hope Doudard, SSCJ, 87; Abbot Gregory Duerr, OSB, 84; Sr. Catarina Santa Cruz, SSCJ, 88; Sr. Mary Guadalupe Jumarang, OSF, 75.

To give at your parish: Make your check payable to your parish. (Write RFR on the memo line.)
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John Was Serious!

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Zephaniah 3:14-18a - Promise of a savior
- ▶ Philippians 4:4-7 - Joy and peace
- ▶ Luke 3:10-18 - John calls the people to justice

This week we hear John the Baptist give concrete examples of what it means to “prepare the way of the Lord.” He tells the crowds, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” Three hundred years later, St. Basil took John the Baptist (and Jesus) so seriously that he wrote, “When someone steals another’s clothes, we call them a thief. Should we not give the same name to one who could clothe the naked and does not? The bread in your cupboard belongs to the hungry; the coat unused in your closet belongs to the one who needs it; the shoes rotting in your closet belong to the one who has no shoes; the money which you hoard up belongs to the poor.” Do we take these words so seriously? If not, why not?

John the Baptist directed his next two examples of preparing the way for Jesus to particular groups of “middle-men” in his society: the tax collectors and Roman soldiers. Tax collectors notoriously padded their wallets by collecting more than the Jewish peasants legally owed to their Roman rulers. Theirs was like white collar crime today—maybe not violent or vicious, but unjust and hurtful, especially to people poorer than them. John the Baptist also challenged the Roman soldiers to stop using their strength and position to extort money out of fear. The Jews had more than enough trials in life without being threatened and falsely accused by the police force of their time. Some parallels might be the racism experienced by people of color in America today (particularly at the hands of the police and criminal justice system), and the power that



“With thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”

Sheepish Question:
Here in Advent, how can my attitude in prayer quell my anxieties and open me to God’s peace?

employers have over undocumented workers and those who don’t speak fluent English.

For John, preparing the way for Jesus was about much more than going through a baptismal ritual. It required concrete changes in how people lived their day-to-day lives. Perhaps we need to be reminded of that when we approach any of the sacraments ourselves. Are we committing to live out what we say we believe?

Questions of the Week

- 1 What is your reaction to St. Basil’s quote? Does it contain a challenge to you? What is it?
- 2 What are some forms of “socially acceptable” crime today that could be considered similar to the tax collectors and Roman soldiers of John’s day? Do you see evidence of them in your work or profession?

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