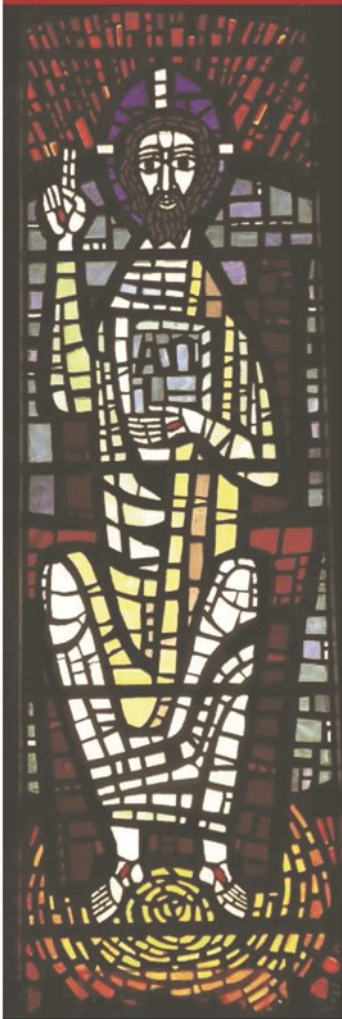


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csufnewman.com

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 19, 2021

Readings: Mi 5:1-4a; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45

The Deacon's Speakin'

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

This weekend will mark the return of a mask mandate for all indoor activities. The Diocese of Fresno, under the Bishop's leadership, and the staff at Newman Center have worked hard to protect everyone and keep everyone who enters our buildings safe. I'm aware that for many of you this is very distasteful. I can't say that I enjoy wearing a mask either. However, because of the unpredictability of the various strains of the virus and its highly contagious nature, it is important that we take any and all precautions to prevent further spreading.

That being said, I'm asking that you please follow the directives given us so that we don't regress to the more restrictive measures we experienced last year. I was reminded the other day that every miracle, parable, action, and teachings of Jesus is for the "Common Good". Mary's life was changed for the Common Good – to bear a Son who would save humanity – she said "YES" to God's plan – Joseph accepted his role as a father to a child who was not his and said "YES" to God's plan – all for the Common Good. Jesus made the greatest sacrifice for the Common Good with His "YES" for all of humanity.

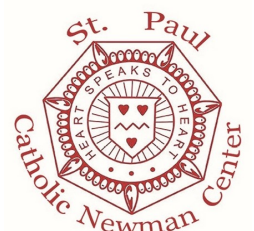
Help us to protect others – say "YES"!

Peace and love,

Deacon John

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 19 - 26

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.

Young Adults' Bible Study

On Monday, December 20 at 6:00pm join other young adults for a bible study session to discover the word of God and grow in your faith together.

Seeking Wednesday Student Night volunteers:

This past Wednesday was our last Student Dinner for the year. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this resource for our students! On that note, we are in need of new volunteers for this upcoming Spring Semester (January - May). If you are interested in supporting us, please reach out to Stephanie Beas, our Campus Ministry Administrative Assistant, via email: catholicclub@csufnewman.com. Any questions or concerns on the responsibilities, we'd be more than happy to answer them. Thank you!

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 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 Mass Chapel

Monday, December 20 **Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38**

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

Tuesday, December 21 **Sg 2:8-14; Lk 1:39-45**

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 7:00pm Storytime with Papa Deak (via Zoom)

Wednesday, December 22 **1 Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56**

8:00am Mass for Tim England Chapel
 8:30am Crime Survivors Meeting Library
 6:00pm Scriptural Rosary Community Room
 6:30pm PAIN Cafeteria

Thursday, December 23 **Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66**

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 9:00am Christmas Decorating Chapel
 4:00pm Confessions Chapel
 6:00pm Mass Int. of Judy Simone and Family Chapel

Friday, December 24 **2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Lk 1:67-79**

Christmas Eve

4:00pm Mass (Children's Mass) Chapel
 6:00pm Mass for Jim Starr Chapel
 10:00pm Mass for Living and Deceased Members of the Lopez Family Chapel

Saturday, December 25 **Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18**

Christmas Day

10:00am Mass for Vic and Mary Musso Chapel

Sunday, December 26 **Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52**

7:30am Mass for Elvira Sanchez Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Rizal D. Abrina and Gloria G. Abrina Chapel
 11:30am Mass for Robert Recendez Chapel
 12:45pm Baptisms Chapel
 3:00pm Igbo Mass 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 | \$13,586.45 |
| Dec. 20 | \$15,701.50 | Dec. 19 ACH | |
| Dec. 27 | \$9,334.00 | Dec. 26 | |
| Dec. Total | \$58,706.55 | Dec. Total | \$56,831.52 |


*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:** Lewis Glen Nelson
- ◆ **Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:**
 Sr. Ana Rosa Guzman, 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, Randy Trejold, Jose Murillo


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College Pages

 Newman Catholic Student Association (Fresno)

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Christmas Mass Schedule

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

December 25
10:00am



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.

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 Paula book a week. We will meet with Papa Deak via Zoom from 7:00pm to 7:30pm on the following nights (Christmas pajamas optional!):

Tuesday December 21
Tuesday December 28
Wednesday January 5

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

The Hero Within

This unique seminar and support group uses psychological archetypes for spiritual direction and greater self-awareness on your unique life journey. The seminar meets for 10 sessions facilitated by John Prandini on Thursday evenings, January 13 - March 17, 2022 from 5:30pm to 7:00pm in CNH 101. This seminar is recommended for everyone, but especially those who have experienced any significant loss or life-altering event. It is an opportunity to discover more deeply who you are and the hero that lies within you. There is no class fee, but participants are required to purchase the book, *The Hero Within*, by Carol Pearson in advance of the class. **Advance registration is required.** To register: Email John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Catholic Charities Truck

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.

Second Collection Last Weekend

Religious give thanks. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. We raised \$4,213.41 to support our retired religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

Faith, Family & Friends

Faith, Family & Friends wishes everyone a *Happy & Holy Christmas* filled with the peace, joy and love of Christ! Faith Family & Friends will resume again on Tuesday, January 4 at 6:00pm with our monthly Children's Mass.

Family Life Ministry

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

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. **Christian Meditation Group will NOT meet on Tuesday, December 21 or 28, but will resume on Tuesday, January 4.**

SoulCore will meet next on January 1 immediately after the 10:00am New Year's Day Mass.

For information email contact John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Weekly Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: Christmas falls on Saturday of this week. Sometimes in the midst of gifts and parties we forget the real purpose of this celebration—the Second Person of the Trinity incarnating and becoming one of us. Jesus came as a poor person to stand in total solidarity with those who have little. This week's challenge is to reflect on all the things you have, including the gifts you will be receiving this week, and what you will do with them in light of so many of your brothers and sisters across the world having so little. What are you willing to share?



Synod

Under the guidance of our longtime parishioner Jim Grant, we are currently putting together our Synod Committee. Please keep us in your prayer as we begin this important process for our Church. More information can be found on our website: <https://csufnewman.com/synod-synodal-church>

Year End Giving

Have you included St. Paul Catholic Newman Center in your estate plans? You can add the parish in your will / trust or even leave the Newman Center as a beneficiary of a retire or bank account and even your life insurance policy. Please contact Deacon John for more information.

San Joaquin Memorial

San Joaquin Memorial High School 2022-2023 Enrollment Applications and Financial Aid and Scholarship applications are now open on www.sjmhs.org. Scholarship applications close January 15. For more information and to schedule a Shadow Visit Day and / or a tour contact Bianca Blanchette, Director of Admissions, at (559) 268-9251 ext 139 or bblanchette@sjmhs.org.

Office Closed

Our office will be closed on Monday, December 27. There will be no morning Mass.

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

Creation Care Tips

“And this shall be a sign for you; you shall find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.” —Luke 2:12 Our sacred scripture story tells us that the newborn Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes (the only thing Mary and Joseph had on hand), not a perfect blanket sewn with love. One of our Christmas traditions is to offer beautifully wrapped presents to friends and family. Unfortunately, this tradition involves cutting down tens of thousands of trees to make wrapping paper, most of which can't be recycled and gets discarded soon afterwards. This year, why not find alternatives for wrapping our presents, such as newspaper, old posters, or other reused paper? Some people use cloth napkins, which can be reused; others prefer using gift bags which can also be conveniently reused later on. When wrapping your gifts this year, be creative to prevent depleting our forests.




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<https://dioceseoffresno.org/office-of-human-resources/>

From Father Byron

Thanks for reading this! It is really mind-blowing that you are reading this and I am writing this because of that one single event: the birth of the Lord in a stable in Bethlehem. There is something about Christmas that covers the planet with an inexplicable whisper: "all is well". On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, it seems as if the world hits the "pause" button from all things that surround us to think about weird things such as: generosity, giving second chances, kindness and hope. It is really inexplicable... but not impossible.

And that is what it all comes down to. The genius of Christmas comes down to the indelible double-sided truth that nothing is impossible for God, and God finds us worth it of his love. I believe this truth is so powerful that has that uncanny capacity to hit the "pause" button so that we can hear that beautiful whisper: "all is well".

We hear in the Gospel this Sunday that Mary ran to visit her cousin Elizabeth, and Elizabeth says, "And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" Well, the answer is, "Nothing is impossible to God, and God finds us worth it of his love!"

Merry Christmas! I will be certainly be praying for you this weekend; please do the same for me!

Thank you so much!

I cannot thank you enough for your generous response to help me collect small stuffed animals. We collected 90! They are on their way via UPS. Pray that they make it to Ecuador soon. Thanks for bringing the stuffed animals to the parish and thank you also for your monetary donations to cover the shipment expenses (\$258.60). May God reward you for your generosity:

All the stuffed animals ready to go.



At the Postal Annex



Saintly Quote

"Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness. No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no people free from sin, came to free us all."
-St. Leo the Great (c.400-461)

Have a Laugh

Grandma's Christmas Strategy

One Christmas, a mother decided she was no longer going to remind her kids to send thank you notes. Consequently, the kids' grandmother never received any thanks for the Christmas checks she sent to the kids.

The very next Christmas, all the kids stopped by in person to thank their grandmother for their checks.

When asked by a friend what caused this change in behavior, the grandmother replied, "Simple. This year I didn't sign the checks."

Running to Tell Someone

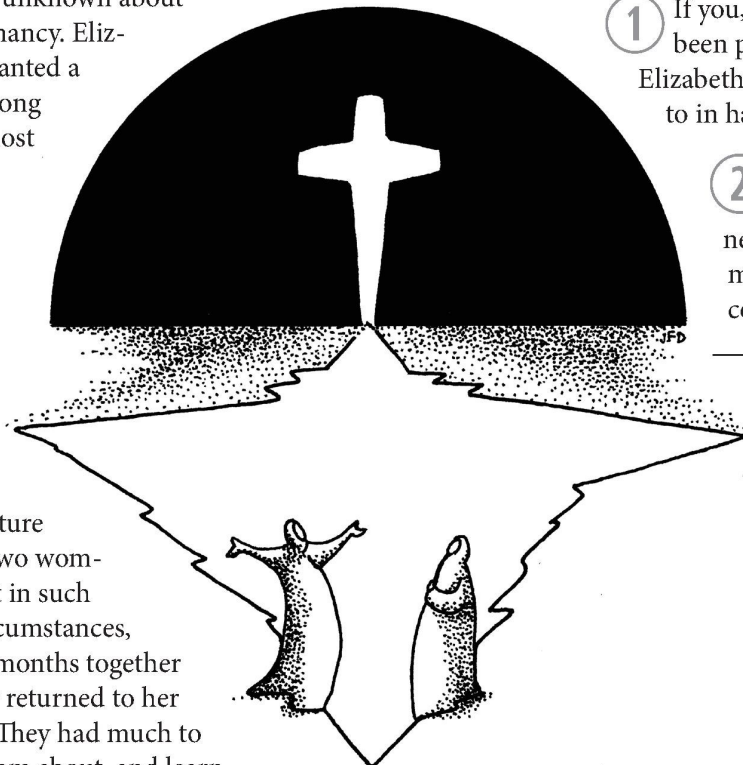
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Micah 5:2-5a - Restoration through the messiah
- ▶ Hebrews 10:5-10 - The second covenant
- ▶ Luke 1:39-45 - The visit to Elizabeth

This scene takes place immediately after the angel Gabriel comes to Mary to ask her to be the mother of God, and she gave her famous “Yes.” As soon as the angel leaves Mary, we are told she “set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country” to visit her pregnant relative Elizabeth.

Women who have been pregnant will recognize Mary’s urge to run out and tell another woman that she is pregnant. The angel doesn’t hang around and wait on Mary hand and foot. He departs, so Mary needs someone to share her excitement and fears, to commiserate with about morning sickness, and to understand just how exhausting it is to grow a baby while still working, preparing the meals, doing the laundry, and cleaning the house.

Plus, there was so much mystery and wonder and unknown about Mary’s pregnancy. Elizabeth had wanted a baby for so long and had almost given up hope when she became pregnant, but Mary certainly didn’t imagine or plan on this pregnancy. Scripture tells us the two women, pregnant in such different circumstances, spent three months together before Mary returned to her hometown. They had much to talk and dream about, and learn



... YOUR WILL BE DONE...

— HOPEFULLY MY WAY...

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“Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

Sheepish Question:
As I await Christ’s coming, when do I recall God blessing me beyond what I wanted?

A two-panel comic strip. In the first panel, a sheep is standing in a field with trees and a sky with clouds. A speech bubble above the sheep says "... YOUR WILL BE DONE...". In the second panel, the same sheep is in the same field, but the speech bubble says "— HOPEFULLY MY WAY...". The artist's signature "DENTON" is in the bottom right corner of the second panel.

about together. Thank goodness God gave them the gift of each other in that time!

Questions of the Week

- 1 If you, your partner, or a loved one has been pregnant, who played the part of Elizabeth for you, the friend you could run to in haste?
- 2 When have you been an Elizabeth to someone else who needed to visit and talk? For whom might you be able to do that this coming week?

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