

St. Paul
Catholic
Newman
Center



1572 East Barstow Avenue
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Office 559.436.3434
csufnewman.com

Second Sunday of Advent, Year C

December 5, 2021

Readings: Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

The Deacon's Speakin'

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Recently we published a letter sent to us by Bishop Brennan. I have included an excerpt in my letter to explain, in part, the process that we, as a parish, will be undertaking.

“Pope Francis has encouraged the whole Church to participate in a *Listening and Discernment* process in preparation for the Synod of Bishops to take place in Rome in October of 2023. This preparation is an essential and integral element for the upcoming Synod entitled, *Communion, Participation, and Mission*. Think of it as a world-wide *Listening Session* which, in fact, it is intended to be. Literally every diocese in the world and every parish in every diocese will be invited to take part and give some input. This diocesan phase will conclude in April of 2022 at which time every diocese in the world will forward to Rome a very concise summary of its findings which will determine the content and direction of the Synod. In fact, the aim of all is to help the Church and everyone in it to live, evangelize, and operate in a synodal way. We will all be learning more about what that means in the weeks to come.”

A Synod is not about changing Church teaching, but about listening to what the Holy Spirit is speaking into the hearts of the faithful – us! The word “synod: is about cooperation. A Synodal Church is a Church which listens. Over the next six months we will be called to take up this mission. By journeying together as a Church we can better fulfill the missionary call of Christ.

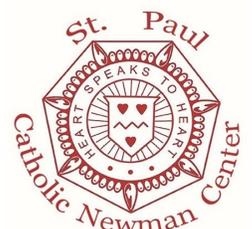
“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” (Mt. 28:19-20)

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 5 - 12

Novena for Our Lady of Guadalupe

The 9-day novena begins on December 3 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm. Meet us inside the Chapel to pray a bilingual rosary. Our last day is on Saturday, December 11.

Clovis Community College Mass

On Tuesday, December 7 at noon, we will celebrate Mass on campus in AC2-178. This Mass is open to students, staff, and faculty. Please join us.

Wednesday Student Nights

Looking for a space to destress during finals week? We highly encourage you to attend our last two dinners of the semester! Dinner will be provided and the lounge will be available for students to study on December 8 and 15 at 6:00pm inside the hall.

Hikes with Mary

Come, pray, learn, and walk with our Blessed Virgin Mary. Taking place on Saturday, December 11 from 8:00am to 1:00pm. Join other young adults as we go to Sky Harbor trail for a time of reflection with the saints on Mary. For more information, contact Fr. Byron.

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sunday, December 12 we will have mananitas and a Bilingual Mass at 6:30am. Come honor Our Lady of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas. Live music and performances. Open to the entire community.

YOUNG ADULT MASS CALENDAR

December 5	6:00pm - Rosary for Our Lady	7pm - Young Adult Mass
December 12	6:30am - Mañanitas, Bilingual	7pm - Young Adult Mass

Campus Ministry Contacts

Edgar Guzman, Director: edgar@csufnewman.com

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

Stephanie Beas, Administrative Assistant: catholicclub@csufnewman.com

Immaculate Conception

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is Wednesday, December 8. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have a Mass at 8:00am and 6:00pm.

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 8

Wednesday December 15

Tuesday December 21

Tuesday December 28

Wednesday January 5

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

Catholic Charities Truck Help

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: This week we celebrate two important feasts of Mary—the Immaculate Conception on December 8 and Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12. Even though she was conceived without sin and became the Mother of God, Mary never ceased to be an advocate for the poor. In her Magnificat, she praised God for lifting up the meek and the lowly. And she told Juan Diego, a poor indigenous Mexican man, that he had dignity and that she loved him. This week's challenge is to pray in solidarity with those of Mexican descent who have a special devotion to Our Lady. If your parish doesn't have a special celebration the morning of December 12, find one that does and join in serenading this special woman.

Faith, Family and Friends

Faith, Family and Friends meets this Tuesday, December 7 for our monthly Children's Mass! 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 Saturday Coffee Group will meet Saturday morning, December 11 from 7:30am to 9:00am in the Cafeteria for coffee, and to share our collective spiritual wisdom as we form friendship bonds with other men on our individual spiritual journeys. We will reflect on how we can do all things through Christ, if we turn our lives and wills over to the care of God.

Men's Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group will meet this coming Monday after morning Mass from 8:30am to 9:15am in the Library.

Second Collection Next 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 next week's second collection.



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cristina@csufnewman.com*

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:

December 4-5: Invitation to all parishioners to be part of this event
December 6: Set Up a local committee to work with Jim Grant
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 and next 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.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Schedule

Date	Time	Location
Saturday, 12-4	6:00pm	Chapel
Sunday, 12-5	6:00pm	Chapel
Monday, 12-6	6:00pm	Chapel
Tuesday, 12-7	6:50pm	Chapel
Wednesday, 12-8	6:50pm	Chapel
Thursday, 12-9	6:00pm	Chapel
Friday, 12-10	6:00pm	Chapel
Saturday, 12-11	6:00pm	Chapel



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

"The tree was beautiful in its greatness, in the length of its branches." —Ezekiel 31:7 What kind of Christmas tree should you buy: artificial or natural? If you plan to keep the same artificial tree for at least 15 years, then having a reusable one can be a good idea. Otherwise, a cultivated natural tree offers the benefit of having absorbed CO2 during its lifetime and has not been removed from a forest, disturbing its ecological niche. Many cities will pick up these trees in early January and turn them into mulch. An even more environmentally-friendly solution is to buy a small potted evergreen, dig up a volunteer tree in your yard that's in the "wrong" space, or trim a branch from a tree on your property instead. All can provide some greenery inside during the winter and potted evergreens can be transplanted outside in the spring for reforestation.

Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Amazon will give .5% of your purchase to the Newman Center through Amazon Smile. Just add "St Paul Newman Center" (no period after St) as your charitable organization on your new or existing account and shop! When you shop be sure to be on smile.amazon.com so that part of your eligible purchase can go to the church. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up. **We earned \$200.71 this past quarter.** It is an easy way to give back to the church. To sign up click on the link to Amazon Smile on our website.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 5

Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6

Christmas Altar Flower Tabling

7:30am Mass for Bob Palacios Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Dan Chambers Chapel
 10:00am HS Confirmation Class CNH 101-103
 11:30am Mass for Lai Pham Chapel
 5:00pm Bilingual Mass Chapel
 6:00pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Chapel
 7:00pm Young Adult Mass Chapel

Monday, December 6

Is 35:1-10; Lk 5:17-26

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

Tuesday, December 7

Is 40:1-11; Mt 18:12-14

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 12:00pm Christian Meditation Community Room
 5:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal Chapel
 6:00pm Children's Mass Chapel
 6:50pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Chapel

Wednesday, December 8

Gn 3:9-15, 20; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-38

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8:00am Mass Int. of Abigail Love Chapel
 5:00pm Scriptural Rosary Community Room
 6:00pm Mass Chapel
 6:00pm College Night CNH 101
 6:30pm PAIN CNH 103
 6:50pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Chapel
 7:00pm Storytime with Papa Deak (via Zoom)

Thursday, December 9

Is 41:13-20; Mt 11:11-15

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 4:00pm Confessions Chapel
 5:30pm Ignation Spirituality CNH 101
 6:00pm Mass for All Souls in Purgatory / Deceased Members of FOSS Chapel
 6:30pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Chapel
 6:30pm Music Rehearsal CNH 103jk
 7:00pm Knights of Columbus Community Room

Friday, December 10

Is 48:17-19; Mt 11:16-19

8:00am Mass for Naomi Patrick Chapel
 3:00pm Ybarra - Aguilar Wedding Chapel
 6:00pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Chapel
 6:30pm Adoremus Chapel

Saturday, December 11

Sir 48:1-4, 9-11; Mt 17:9a, 10-13

Second Collection - Retired Religious / Christmas Altar Flower Tabling

7:30am Men's Saturday Coffee Group Cafeteria
 5:00pm Mass for Joe Ramirez Chapel
 6:00pm Our Lady of Guadalupe Novena Chapel

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

November Contributions

2020		2021	
Nov. 1	\$9,172.25	Nov. 7 ACH	\$33,066.51
Nov. 8 ACH	\$17,569.00	Nov. 14	\$19,381.96
Nov. 15	\$9,396.25	Nov. 21 ACH	\$17,069.36
Nov. 22 ACH	\$9,652.15	Nov. 28	\$10,815.29
Nov. 29	\$10,096.24		
Nov. Total	\$55,885.89	Nov. Total	\$80,333.12

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

Prayers:

◆ **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

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College Pages

 Newman Catholic Student Association (Fresno)

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From Father Byron

Synodality

You may be hearing about “synod” or “synodality” these days. Well, this is an amazing time for the Church because the Church is inviting YOU to say what you think and expect the Church to do for you. In Church lexicon, “synodality” “refers to the involvement and participation of the whole People of God in the life and mission of the Church” (<http://secretariat.synod.va/>).

This is the first time since the Second Vatican Council in which people’s voice will actually be heard by the Church. Therefore, think deeply about what the Catholic Church means to you: how it has helped you and how it has failed you. And I encourage you to go beyond politics or single issues. The Church is bigger than that and is not defined by it. The Church is Jesus’ dream for you so that you can have a meaningful relation with God and a life with purpose and meaning.

Also, this is not about changing doctrine or catechesis; that has never changed. It is about its ministerial application and attitude towards people and the world.

Kindly I ask you to reflect about what you would like to say so you can help the Church to truly minister to its people. Then, become proactive about it and become part of a structured conversation process that is kicking off in the Church all around the world as we speak. Here at the parish, we are looking for volunteers to be part of a “Synodality Committee” who will walk us through this process, facilitate the conversation and take notes from them. Those notes would eventually be sent to the Vatican (via the Diocese) so that the Bishops can read and reflect upon what you have to say.

Be part of history; jump into this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be heard by the Church!!! If you have questions, please contact Jim Grant, Deacon John or me.

Claretian Youth

Our youth are invited to Mass on Saturday, December 7 at 6:00pm. We will gather again on Tuesday, December 14 at 6:00pm in John XXIII Student Lounge. This will be the last meeting of 2021. Parents, we have sent an email regarding the rest of the year, parents’ meetings, World Youth Day, etc.

Children’s Mass

All are welcome for a special Children’s Mass this Tuesday, December 7 (and every 1st Tuesday of the month) at 6:00pm.

Adoremus

Come and spend some time in front of the Blessed Sacrament this Friday, December 10 at 6:30pm. There will be praise and worship, prayer and confessions. Contact Edgar for more information.

Hike with Mary December 11

We will get together at the church parking lot this Saturday, December 11 at 8:00am. Hopefully the weather will cooperate with us. Please sign up by emailing your name to Fr. Byron: frbyron@csufnewman.com.

Guadalupe Mass

Join us for mananitas and special Mass to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 12, 2021. Procession starts at 6:30am, followed by 7:30am Mass. Come and be part of this amazing Marian Devotion.

Spiritual Direction

People ask me about spiritual direction. I am certainly happy to sit and listen to people; I can also recommend some good spiritual directors in the area. If you would like to explore what that is all about, feel free to contact me.

Miles

Miles, Father Paul’s dog, died last Saturday. He was such a kind and gentle giant. Father Paul adopted him about three years ago. Miles will be missed. Keep Fr. Paul in your thoughts and prayers.

Christmas Mass Times

Save the dates as you make your Christmas celebrations and activities:

December 24 Masses: 4:00pm; 6:00pm; 10:00pm

December 25 Mass: 10:00am. (That’s the only Mass).

Knights of Columbus

It is an honor to be appointed chaplain to our Local Knights of Columbus. They get together every second Thursday of the month at 7:00pm. If you are interested in learning about them or joining them, contact Bruce Meyers at brucemeyers@gmail.com or me.

Stuffed Animal Drive for Children in Ecuador

Again, as my birthday approaches this December 13, I would like 43 small (I mean small) stuffed animals to be sent to the poor children in Ecuador. One per each year of life – I wish I was 80!

I intend to mail them out to San Antonio de Padua Parish in Riobamba, Ecuador by December 13.

If you have any used stuffed teddy bears, animals, etc., you can make a child’s Christmas by sharing them. It is important that the stuffed animals are light (some are heavy such as some beanie babies) because that makes a difference when paying for international shipping. Also, small stuffed animals are preferred. Last year I got some big ones and that was very hard to handle.

I could also use some help in covering the shipping expenses. It runs for about 150 dollars.

May God reward you for your generosity. Deadline for it will be December 12. You can drop them by the office, the priests’ apartment or ask me to pick them up from your house! Thank you so much. This means a lot to me and you will be doing a work of mercy.

Saintly Quote

“A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sows courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love”. - Saint Basil

Have a Laugh

A husband and wife are in church. Fr. Byron notices that the husband has fallen asleep and says to the wife, “Wake your husband up!” The wife answers, “You’re the one who made him fall asleep, you wake him up!”

Straighten It Out

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Baruch 5:1-9 - Jerusalem consoled
- ▶ Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 - Gratitude and hope
- ▶ Luke 3:1-6 - John the Baptist

On the first Sunday of Advent, we always hear Jesus' instruction to stay awake and watchful for his second coming. On the second Sunday we always hear how John the Baptist appeared on the scene in the desert outside of Jerusalem calling for people to repent and "prepare the way of the Lord." The Jews and early Christians of the first century would have recognized John as a prophet like those in the Old Testament. Like John, the Old Testament prophets were usually fiery, passionate characters who unsettled the rich and powerful while offering hope and consolation to the poor and outcasts.

In this passage, we hear John the Baptist urge everyone to get their act together because the Lord is coming soon. It's as if children who were messing around suddenly realize their parents will be home soon. "They are on their way! We better clean up this mess and start behaving!" God isn't a parent who wants us to behave out of fear of punishment, but God knows our habit of getting off track. That's why Advent is the perfect time to be reminded by the prophet John that we need to repent, ask forgiveness, and get back to doing God's work. As we light the second candle on the Advent wreath this week, we are invited to reflect on what we still need to straighten out in our lives so that we can better receive Christ when he comes to us.

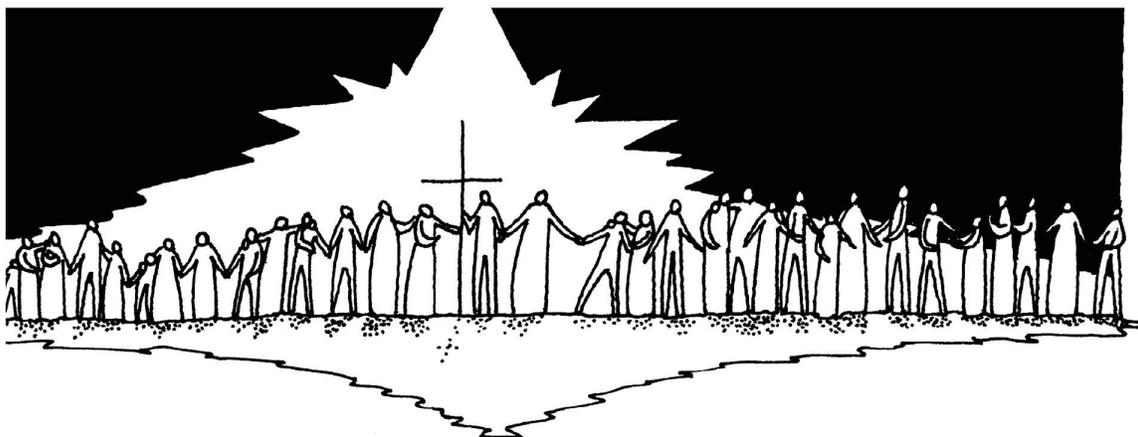
"Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing."

Sheepish Question:
How can I bring real hope to someone suffering in a difficult time?

Questions of the Week

- 1 Who do you think of as modern-day prophets who call others to turn away from their sins and toward justice and truth? They might be someone you know personally or be a famous figure. They may be Christian, but don't have to be.
- 2 What can you do this coming week to "prepare the way of the Lord"?

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