St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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

Second Sunday of Lent, Year B February 28, 2021

Readings: GN 22:1-2,9A,10-13,15-18; ROM 8:31B-34; MK 9: 2-10

The Deacon's Speakin'

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In this weekend's gospel we read of the disciples' mountain top experience – a drastic conversion. God is revealed to them. They saw Jesus in all His Glory. Unfortunately, it would be all downhill after that.

Those of us who don't have a mountain top experience tend to want to settle down too. If you're over 65, as I am, you might well expect that there aren't many more journeys to take or conversions to make. What was going to happen has pretty much happened – Right? – Wrong! Abraham was 75. By 75 you've pretty much seen it all! Not much more is to be expected, but for Abraham it was just the beginning. At 75 he was told, "Go forth from the land of your kinfolk . . . to a land I will show you. I will make a great nation and I will bless you." Well, to make a long story short, it would take another 25 years for the promise to take shape. He would be 100 and his wife Sarah, would give birth to Isaac. In fact, he would live to the ripe old age of 175. It's a good thing he didn't settle down permanently in his seventies.

When I was 55 I foolishly imagined I had seen it all. How wrong I was! By the time I was 65 I realized I hadn't dreamed ten years earlier of the pain that humans could suffer, the happiness we might enjoy, the sheer joy of life that awaits us. I would never have imagined what I've seen and done since my ordination, 18 short years ago. And there's always more. There's always another call as we journey on earth. As I've told you before, never would I have imagined that I'd be called to shepherd this community at age 68.

A woman, who thinks she's had enough of her professional work, discovers a marvelous new way to love and heal her fellow humans. A widower, who at age 70, decides to go to the seminary and is ordained a priest. A couple married fifty years attends a marriage encounter to help them understand each other more fully. So, it is true, the call never ends. The work is never done. We don't need to build a tent just yet. Regardless of the difficulties that come with discipleship, St. Paul reminds us to "Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God." How can we understand and appreciate Easter Sunday unless we experience Good Friday?

Peace and love,

Lacon John

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!



College Night

Join us this Wednesday for our Student Night. Visit our webpage or social media bio for the link!

Young Adult Mass

Every Sunday, we host a Young Adult Mass at 7:00pm. This is an opportunity for students, young adults, and young professionals to come together and be among others our age giving thanks to God.

Join us before Mass at 6:00pm for confessions or adoration followed by Mass at 7:00pm.

YOUNG ADULT MASS CALENDAR

February 28	6:00pm— Confessions	7:00pm— Young Adult Mass
March 7	6:00pm—Adoration	7:00pm—Young Adult Mass

Donations

Thank you to all who have continued to donate snacks, school supplies, and household items. We make all of these items available to students every Sunday evening at our Young Adult Mass. The need is still there to help students save a little money by offering these items for free. If you could donate any of these resources please reach out.

Campus Ministry Contacts

Edgar Guzman, Director: edgar@csufnewman.com

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

Faith, Family & Friends

Faith, Family & Friends is our parish religious education and faith formation program for EVERYONE - Single adults, couples, and families!



During this time when we are unable to meet together in large groups, we invite those of you who wish to receive Religious Education & Faith Formation

resources for adults and / or children to register.

Adults: Register for our FF&F Adult Religious Education series by emailing John Prandini, Director of Ministries, at prandinij@csufnewman.com with your name, primary email address, and cell phone number. You will then be placed on the list to receive these free resources.

Recommendation: All families with children join the Joy of Love Moms - Family Ministry led by Jakki Pucheu. Joy of Love Moms is sending out weekly emails that provide great ideas and information on fun faith formation activities for children and parenting suggestions to help you reduce stress and improve family communication. You can sign up by sending an email to joyoflovemoms@gmail.com requesting to be put on their email mail list.

For additional information contact

Adults: John Prandini, MA at prandinij@csufnewman.com Children: Sr. Kathleen Drilling at skd@csufnewman.com

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

As we live out our Lent this year, we will hold a special Reconciliation Service this year. Frs. Paul and Byron will hold Confessions on March 23, 24 and 25 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at our regular Confession site (outside the Cafeteria on the patio).

To help you prepare an examination of conscience, we will post a video reflection/examination on our parish website and social media. You do not need to make reservations.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to do a good spring cleaning of the heart! Also, please help us spread the word. Please contact Fr. Byron for more information by emailing frbyron@csufnewman.com.

Claretian High School Youth

Hey High Schoolers! We have a youth group for you here at the Newman Center kicking off on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:00pm!

Youth ages 14-18 are welcome! We want to grow together in Catholic spirituality, Scripture and Missionary zeal.

Contact Fr. Byron for more information by emailing frbyron@csufnewman.com.

Family Life Ministry

FF&F Adult Religious Education and Faith Formation Ministry will send adult religious education and faith formation videos and resources to adults wishing to receive them. If you wish to be on the list of recipients, register for our FF&F Adult Religious Education Series by emailing John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com with your primary email address and cell phone contact number. You will be placed on the list to receive these free resources. You can also register by texting the message: SPCNC to 84576 and following the prompts you receive.

The Ignatian Spirituality Group has begun a weekly online Ignatian Spirituality Retreat for Everyday Life. Weekly Zoom meetings are held for those wishing to be included. Email John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com for details on how to enroll and participate.

The Joy of Love Moms' Group is a family ministry led by moms. To join Joy of Love Moms email Jakki at joyoflovemoms@gmail.com.

Men's Scripture Study Group

If you'd like to receive weekly emails please send an email to John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com to enroll.

Meditation Opportunities

Christian Meditation If you'd like to receive weekly emails from our Newman Center's Christian Meditation Group, member of the World Community of Christian Meditation, email christianmeditation@csufnewman.com. The group is facilitated by Benita Lankford.



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 28

GN 22:1-2,9A,10-13,15-18; ROM 8:31B-34; MK 9: 2-10 **Chapel Courtyard**

9:30am Mass for Lai Pham 10:00am HS Confirmation Class 11:30am Mass for Eleuterio Quintana

Monday, March 1

8:00am Mass for Ferdinand Erese 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, March 2 6:00pm Children's Mass

Wednesday, March 3 8:00am Mass 6:00pm College Night

Thursday, March 4 5:00pm Confessions 6:00pm Mass

8:00am Mass for Teresa Aiello 3:30pm Food Distribution 6:00pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 6 5:00pm Mass for Maria Tablizo

Chapel

Sunday, March 7

9:30am Mass for Reynaldo Benitez 10:00am HS Confirmation Class 11:30am Mass for Allan Kennedy

Prayers:

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

Anna Trevino, Sandra Barrie, Deacon Joe Parugrug, Mark Lang, Nancy VanGalder, Deacon Mike Avila, Tom Lucas, Frank Esquivel, Kristal Lowe Limon, Fr. Joaquin Arriaga, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Meghan Vasquez, Msgr. Scott Daugherty, Deacon Trinidad Guadarrama, Jacob Blake, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Rose Derby, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Nancy Martin, Sr. Rosa Maria Branco FHIC

Prayer Requests: Please note that names for the sick / special intentions will remain in the bulletin for one month. 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 436-3434 or go on our website and fill out the form under the "Prayer Request" tab.

February Contributions

2020		2021		
Feb. 2 ACH	\$21,504.01	Feb. 7 A	СН	\$20,593.06
Feb. 9	\$20,136.18	Feb. 14		\$9,225.50
Feb. 16 ACH	\$18,198.51	Feb. 21 A	СН	\$11,165.27
Feb. 23	\$11,615.65	Feb. 28		
Feb. Total	\$71,454.35	Feb. Total		\$40,983.83

Weekend Masses

Saturday Mass is celebrated indoors at 5:00pm in our Chapel. Sunday Masses are celebrated at 9:30am and 11:30am in the Chapel Courtyard. Reservations are required to attend Mass. Reservations can be made online by visiting our website.

Live Streaming

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 9:30am. Daily Masses are live streamed at 8:00am on Mondays and at 6:00pm on Tuesdays. All Masses are streamed on Facebook Live. Look for us under "St. Paul Catholic Newman Center".

Office Closure

Our office is closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Staff members are working remotely and checking emails and phone messages. If you need to drop anything off at the office, we now have a mailbox by the front door at the main building. We can be reached on our main line at 436-3434 or by email at ncoffice@csufnewman.com.



Jer 18:18-20; Mt 20:17-28 Chapel Zoom

Zoom

Chapel Courtyard

Dn 9:4b-10; Lk 6:36-38

Chapel / Facebook

Chapel / Facebook

Google Meet

Is 1:10, 16-20; Mt 23:1-12

Jer 17:5-10; Lk 16:19-31 East Patio Chapel

Friday, March 5 Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Chapel East Parking Lot Chapel

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Ex 17:3-7; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42

Chapel Courtyard Zoom **Chapel Courtyard**



A Promise of Hope and Healing

Although our campaign has ended, thank you to the generosity of our parishioners; we are still receiving new and additional pledges. We have received \$215,382.70 in pledges and have received 97% of that amount.

Electronic giving is the preferred, easy, safe and secure way to give to our parish. To schedule a recurring electronic gift directly from your bank account or credit card, please contact Carol at carol@csufnewman.com.

Please remember to make your payments accordingly. Thank you again for your generous support of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center!

Weekly Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: Sometimes we think about making big plans for Lenten sacrificing, only to fall behind with work, family, and other responsibilities. We find ourselves in the second week of Lent with no commitment to better prayer lives, doing good deeds, or practicing acts of self denial. But it is never too late. Catholic Relief Services offers a great resource to parishes and families for praying, fasting, and charitable giving-all in one simple project. What is so great about this project, known as Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), is that it makes all the right connections. When you put the money you would have spent on a new app or that mocha latte you crave into your Rice Bowl box, you participate in a small yet significant way in Jesus' sacrifice. CRS provides prayers to accompany your giving, and it uses the money you would have spent on yourself to help people in need. Participating in ORB is an act of solidarity-standing with your brothers and sisters as one human family. Your challenge this week is to adopt Operation Rice Bowl (or your own version of it if your parish doesn't do it). Give up the extra energy drink, candy bar, movie, or trip to the mall. Put the money in your Rice Bowl, knowing it will be sent to CRS. You will be walking with Jesus while making a difference in the lives of others.

Lenten Children's Reconciliation Service

Our Lenten Children's Mass and Reconciliation Service will take place this Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00pm.

During Mass, children and families will be consecrated to Saint Joseph in anticipation of his Feast and to celebrate the Church's Saint Joseph worldwide. Please make your reservation on our website.

Please contact the Joy of Moms Group at joyoflovemoms@gmail.com or Fr. Byron at frbyron@csufnewman.com for more information.

Donations

You can make your donations to our parish through several portals. Sign up to make your donation to the Newman Center via electronic funds transfer (ACH), credit card, PayPal, or your banks online banking system. You can designate your donation to Sunday Contributions and / or special gifts automatically made weekly or monthly. One can also schedule reoccurring online donations. For more information send an email to Carol at

carol@csufnewman.com. We appreciate your support!

RCIA

Interested in becoming Catholic?

If you have never been baptized or if you are baptized in another denomination but would like to become Catholic, please contact ncoffice@csufnewman.com.



The RCIA process at the Newman Center is designed to be a safe and welcoming place to personally experience Christ and develop your personal relationship with Jesus in a supportive community. We don't throw a bunch of doctrines and rules at you. Instead we provide a place for you to explore and develop your faith journey with Jesus as a Catholic Christian.

If you are a baptized Catholic, spread the word and consider becoming a sponsor of those seeking Christ.

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 will go to the church. We earned \$288.36 this last quarter. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up. It is an easy way to give back to the church. To sign up click on the link to Amazon Smile on our website

February 28, 2021 • 2nd Sunday of Lent • Year B

Who Exactly Is He?

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18 The testing of Abraham
- ► Romans 8:31b-34 God's love for humanity
- Mark 9:2-10 Jesus transfigured

It's difficult to imagine this gospel scene when Jesus took Peter, James, and John up a mountain and was transfigured in front of them. There's nothing in our experience of seeing someone glow in dazzling white clothes brighter than any white we can imagine. Nor have we had visions of two people who lived long ago appearing in front of us like Moses and Elijah did with Jesus. Probably we would be terrified as the three apostles were—and maybe even wonder if we were losing our minds.

It gets even stranger when the three apostles hear a voice from a cloud telling them to listen to "my beloved Son." At that point, they find themselves left alone with the same Jesus they have always known.





Obviously, the experience is something the apostles couldn't have understood with their minds, at least not before his resurrection from the dead. Before this scene, the apostles—as well as pretty much everyone else Jesus was meeting—were trying to figure out just who he was. He appeared human to them in every other way except for the incredible miracles he was performing. How could a human do those things? The Transfiguration probably left the impression that although Jesus was more than just an incredible human being, the apostles still didn't fully understand who he was.

Questions of the Week

When you think of Jesus, do you think of him more as a human or as divine? How so?

If you were one of the apostles at the Transfiguration, what do you think you would have been thinking or feeling? How would it change how you thought of Jesus?

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Interfaith Scholar Weekend 2021 Webinar Series "Bearing Witness from Fresno's Mason-Dixon Line"



Dr. Andrew Fiala

Dr. Malik Simba

Dr. Nathan K. Hensley

Uziel Jimenez

Join us for six interfaith conversations every Monday beginning February 15, as we consider what it means to "Bear Witness" to Fresno's history of racism and redlining.

PART I: Opening Panel: February 15, 4-5:30 pm

Three guest scholars will share their important contributions to the study of racism and redlining in Fresno.

- Moderated by Dr. Andrew Fiala
- Guest Scholars
 - Dr. Malik Simba, Fresno State University
 - Dr. Nathan K. Hensley, Georgetown University
 - **Uziel Jimenez**, Antiracist Educator, Co-founder Fresno Ethnic Studies Coalition

PART II: Book Study: 60-minute sessions Four interfaith speakers and their respondents will dive into Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s best-book. Find out more on the next page.

PART III: Closing Roundtable: March 22, 4–5:30 pm Three guest scholars and four interfaith speakers return for a powerful discussion on lessons learned and the urgent questions to call forth a new America in our communities.

• Moderated by Jim Grant, MA, Chair for ISW

To RSVP and for more information, learn more at

bit.ly/ISW_rsvp21



PART II: Book Study

" Bearing Witness with James Baldwin"

Representatives from four faith traditions and respondents take a deep dive into Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s best-selling book, *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*. <u>Make sure to RSVP today at bit.ly/ISW_rsvp</u>. *All plenary sessions are FREE and will be recorded. You do not need to be present to participate.

Week 1: February 22, 4-5 pm

"Introduction," Chapter 1: "The Lie," and "Conclusion"



Christian Faith Rev. Dr. Paul Binion Pastor of Westside Church of God, Fresno

Moderated by Ashlie M. Kosinski, Co-founder The Wildflower Collective, Information Coordinator, ISW

Respondents

- Rev. Anna Lopez, New Thought Community, Fresno, indigenous cosmology and modern spirituality perspective
- Daniel O'Connell, PhD, Executive Director, Central Valley Partnership, Quaker-Buddhist perspective

Week 3: March 8, 4-5 pm

Chapter 4: "The Reckoning" and Chapter 5: "Elsewhere"



Muslim Faith Hajj Reza Nekumanesh Executive Director, Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno

Moderated by Mariah Cushing, M.A., Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary

<u>Respondents</u>

- Rabbi Rick Winer, Temple Beth Israel, Fresno, Reform Jewish perspective
- Sister Kathleen Drilling, SSND, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center, Director of Religious Education, Roman Catholic perspective

Week 2: March 1, 4-5 pm

Chapter 2: "Witness" and Chapter 3: "The Dangerous Road



Reform Jewish Faith Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion

Moderated by Gaonoucci Belle Vang

Respondents

- Sukaina Hussain, Deputy Executive Director for CAIR Sacramento/Central Valley, Islamic perspective
- Lady Jessica Criner, St. Rest Baptist Church, Fresno, Christian perspective

Week 4: March 15, 4-5 pm

Chapter 6: "Ruins" and Chapter 7 "Begin Again"



Hindu Faith Dr. Veena Howard Professor of Asian Religions, Coordinator, Peace and

Conflict Studies Fresno State University

Moderated by **Zena Chafi**, Community Organizer for CAIR Fresno/Merced

<u>Respondents</u>

- Darren Duerksen, PhD, Associate Professor of Intercultural and Religious Studies, Fresno Pacific University, Evangelical-Anabaptist Christian perspective
- Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner, Senior Pastor United Japanese Christian Church, Clovis, United Methodist Christian perspective

Co-sponsored by: American Friends Service Committee; Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization; Bodhi Oak Zen Sangha; Central Valley Partnership; Fresno State University Foundation; Fresno State University The Ethics Center; Community United Church of Christ; Council on American-Islamic Relations; First Congregational Church; Fresno City College; Fresno Pacific University; Fresno Pacific University Biblical Seminary; Fresno Pacific University, Department of Biblical and Religious Studies; Fresno Pacific University, Intercultural and Religious Studies; Human Rights Coalition; Interfaith Alliance of Central California; Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno; Memorial United Methodist Church; New Thought Community; Roman Catholic Diocese of Fresno; Second Church of Christ, Scientist; Sikh Council of Central CA; Sophia's House; St. James Episcopal Cathedral; St. Paul Catholic Newman Center; St. Rest Baptist Church; Temple Beth Israel; Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno; United Japanese Christian Church; Wesley United Methodist Church; Westside Church of God, Fresno

