

# NEWMAN NEWS

## ST. PAUL'S NEWMAN CENTER UNIVERSITY CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SPRING 2026

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Palm Sunday**  
March 28-29
- Communal Penance**  
March 29
- Triduum**  
April 2-4
- Easter Sunday**  
April 5
- Bingo with Ark Residents**  
April 18
- UW Graduation**  
May 16
- Oklahoma City Habitat for Humanity Trip**  
May 18-24



### STUDENT SERVANTS: GATHERED AND SENT

By Emily Mahood

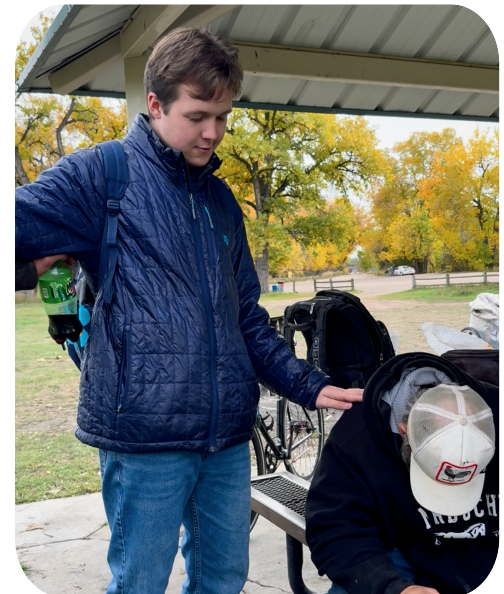
One of the central tenets of the Newman Center is that we gather in order to be sent. The former is in service of the latter—the heart of the Christian life, the reason for our being. The Newman Center offers many “gatherings” for personal and spiritual formation for college

students: Mass, Bible study, spiritual direction, Night Prayer, and Cowboy Catholic—a weekly gathering for prayer, community, and learning about our faith. But it is when the students exit the doors of the church that Campus Ministry truly begins!

Such “sending” happens every Monday and Tuesday in Laramie as students venture throughout town spreading “Love in Action.” Accompanied by staff members Sandy Rupp and Emily Mahood, students visit the homebound and local nursing homes. These encounters are simultaneously mundane and profound, sharing simple conversations about one’s day, as well as prayer and Holy Communion. With time, as true relationships develop, it is unclear who is serving whom. The best “sending” happens when students take it upon themselves to visit the nursing home or homebound on their own schedules, often with a friend tagging along to experience this unique joy.

As Christ would have it, our “sending” extends beyond Laramie. This past semester in October, nine students took advantage of a rare day off school to travel to Fort Collins to visit individuals experiencing poverty and homelessness. In small groups, students walked the streets, stopping to chat with those open to a conversation.

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# MEET OUR NEW STAFF

By **Hanna Hoes**

In the past year, St. Paul's Newman Center saw several beloved staff members leave their positions and begin the next phases of their lives. Although saddened by their leaving, we had the opportunity to add three eager new faces to our staff. You have likely encountered them if you spend much time around the Newman Center, but have you been formally introduced?

In January of 2025, the position of Facilities Manager was filled by Jay Johnson. Jay has lived in Laramie nearly his entire life and has been a treasured member of the Newman Center community for years. When the Facilities Manager position opened, Jay was the obvious choice to fill the role with his love of the outdoors and jack-of-all-trades array of talents. You can usually find him outside soaking in the sun while caring for our grounds or saving the day with his handyman skills. No problem is too complex for Jay to solve, and he always has the right tool for the job. When asked about his favorite part of being the Facilities Manager, he replied, "The whole thing!" His enthusiasm for his work shows in everything he does. His acute attention to detail demonstrates that we can find beauty—and God's love—everywhere.



Also in January 2025, we welcomed Carrie Gomez as our new Business Manager. A Rawlins native, Carrie lived in Casper for 30 years before moving to Laramie in 2023. At the time she

applied for the Business Manager position, Carrie was working for the University of Wyoming, but the positivity of the Newman Center community compelled her to apply here. Our parish office is now blessed with her 20 years of experience in the business management field, her effervescent personality, and her commitment to serving God's people. Carrie is our financial whiz, but her true passion for the job lies in the people that she serves, in both our parish and the wider Laramie community. She takes the Christian calling to heart, reminding us that there is always an opportunity to share the love of Christ with others.

Hanna Hoes joined the staff in March 2025 as our Communications Specialist. Hanna moved to Laramie in 2017 to attend UW, where she studied English literature and creative writing. During her senior year, she met her now husband, Henry, which lead her to stay in Laramie after graduating. The two were married three years later and welcomed their first child Aurelian in November 2024. Hanna heard about the communications job opportunity shortly after having the baby, and she knew that God was opening a door for her. She has always loved to write, and she continually looks for opportunities to stretch her creative muscles. Being able to indulge in her passions at work invigorates her mind and spirit, which allows her to be an attentive mother at home. Hanna is eternally grateful for the opportunity to serve the Newman Center community while also pursuing what she loves most—faith, family, and creativity.



Our parish is entering a new season with new voices contributing to our staff. We look to the future with excitement as we think of the different ways we can apply our staff members' talents and serve the Body of Christ. If you ever find yourself here during the week, stop by the office and say hello. We would love to see you! After all, it is the people—staff and parishioners—that make St. Paul's Newman Center such a special place.

# ENCOUNTERS WITH CHRIST IN MEXICO

By Brenna Fankell

Last August, seven high school students from St. Paul's Newman Center embarked on the diocese-wide high school pilgrimage to Mexico. This trip involved experiencing new cultures, exploring Aztec and Mayan ruins, witnessing beautiful Catholic churches, visiting an Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine, and opportunities for service, which included volunteering at a long-term care facility and delivering meals to the *abuelitos*, or grandparents, of a rural community outside Merida, Mexico.

This trip had a profound impact on our students, especially the service excursions. One of the most impactful days was teaming up with a local Church community in the rural village Nunkini to cook meals, package them, and deliver them to the *abuelitos* of the community, many of whom were homebound. Spirits were high as students slung steamed vegetables into containers of hot broth while music blared in the background. As some students packaged meals, others—despite the language barrier—spent time playing, laughing, and joking with children. When the soup and tortillas were ready, we headed out with local Church members on motorcycles. We rode around town delivering meals to families in one- or two-room houses. Many of these houses had dirt floors. Several students commented on

seeing Christ in these encounters through interacting with families and seeing the joy they felt, even with such humble living arrangements. Student Caylee Alburn was particularly struck by the generosity of a family she visited: “My favorite part of the Mexico trip was handing food out to people. I saw God in those people because they were so caring and giving even though they had so little, like the lady who generously offered us her own homemade tortillas. We were there to give her food, but instead she gave to us.”

Service opportunities and the exposure to a new culture brought students to the realization that “humans are humans, and we are all the same,” as Jonathan Vaske remarked. The Mexico pilgrimage exemplified some of the Newman Center’s most treasured values: being Christ for one another, and allowing those interactions to change us in the process.



## STUDENT SERVANTS *Continued from Page 1*

One such chat lasted well over an hour, full of laughter, prayer, and even communal singing. The group also toured a women’s health center and day shelter in Fort Collins, concluding with a visit to a corn maze and pumpkin patch for some fall fun.

During spring break, students will travel to André House, a house of hospitality in Phoenix, Arizona that feeds, clothes, and comforts the most vulnerable. SPNC’s annual Habitat for Humanity service trip to Oklahoma City will take place after graduation in May, with Fr. Rob leading the way with hammer in hand.

Jesus said that his followers would be known “by their fruits” (Matthew 17:20). It’s a fruity bunch of students around here, who gather to pray so that they can be sent out in love, to build Christ’s Kingdom in Laramie and abroad.



# OUR 2026 LENTEN PROJECT: ARK REGIONAL SERVICES



Every year during Lent, St. Paul's Newman Center chooses a charitable cause to support for our Lenten Project. This year, we are supporting Ark Regional Services, a Laramie nonprofit who helps individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain injuries increase their independence and actively participate in their communities. Ark envisions "a world that is equitable, respectful, and values the diverse perspectives of all people." They allow their participants to live enriched lives by offering residential support services, employment opportunities and support, equestrian services, and educational classes. Class subjects include—but are not limited to—STEM disciplines, health and wellness, fine and performing arts, and language arts.

Along with direct donations, 10% of each weekend Mass collection during Lent will go toward the Lenten Project. In addition to monetary support, we will invite the Ark community to join us next month for an afternoon of fellowship and bingo. We will gather in Bishop Newell Hall on Saturday, April 18 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we encourage all parishioners to take advantage of this chance to make meaningful connections with someone new.



If you would like to donate to the Lenten Project, please make checks payable to St. Paul's Newman Center and include "Lenten Project" in the memo. Online donations may be made by scanning the QR code.



## TRIDUUM LITURGY SCHEDULE

### HOLY THURSDAY—THURSDAY, APRIL 2

- Simple Meal
- Eucharist of our Lord's Supper  
(Incense will be used)

**5:30 pm**

**6:30 pm**

*Adoration following liturgy until 12:00 midnight*

### GOOD FRIDAY—FRIDAY, APRIL 3

- Morning Prayer
- Liturgy of our Lord's Passion and Death

**9:00 am**

**3:30 pm**

### HOLY SATURDAY—SATURDAY, APRIL 4

- Morning Prayer and Blessing  
of Easter Food Baskets

**9:00 am**

### CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION—SATURDAY, APRIL 4

- Easter Vigil Eucharist  
(Incense will be used)

**8:00 pm**

*Reception following to welcome the newly baptized*

### EASTER SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION—SUNDAY, APRIL 5

- Liturgy of the Eucharist

**7:00, 9:00, & 11:00 am**

*There will be no 8:30 am or 5:00 pm Liturgies on Easter Sunday.*

