

# Newman News



University Catholic Community  
St. Paul's Newman Center  
Fall 2012

To connect and inform our Faith Community



## An Invitation to Slow Down!

Reflection by Fr. Rob Spaulding

I have always said that Advent was my favorite season of the liturgical year. The colors and music change as the great feelings of expectation and hope resound from the scriptures proclaimed during the Sunday liturgies. As the days grow shorter and colder, nature responds by slowing down. The invitation of our Church is the same: to use this great season to slow down.

If ever there was a time of the year when we need to be reminded to slow down, it is the month of December. If we are not intentional about making time for prayer and presence, we will soon have surrendered one of our most precious gifts...our time. In the midst of office parties, Christmas programs, piano recitals, choir concerts and holiday festivals, we are called to the much greater task of preparing the way for the Lord.

Without Advent preparation, Christmas morning becomes nothing more than a festival of wrapping paper and glimmering presents. Just as there is no Easter without Lent, there is no Christmas without Advent. As you read these words you might find your pulse quickening as the impending countdown to Christmas is well underway. Don't fret, there is still time. This year, I plan to take the invitation of Advent seriously. I plan to commit more time each day in quiet to be in the presence of our God. I plan to reflect each day on the way Jesus has been birthed into my life each year. I plan to dream about Jesus being born anew this Christmas.

Please don't underestimate the power of silence. The gift you offer to yourself and to others of taking time this Advent will be a blessing to all. The rhythms of nature have so much to teach us. As we prepare for that great Christmas morn, let us spend time pondering this great mystery of faith: a God who came to live among us for no other reason than to love us completely.

### Upcoming Events

christmas liturgies	december 24 december 25
faculty & staff liturgy & lunch	january 16
busy student retreat	february 4 - 8
ash wednesday	february 13
student search	march 1-3
spring break	march 18-22
triduum begins	march 28
easter sunday	march 31

### This Issue

advent reflection	cover
fr. rob spaulding intro	pg. 2
hello amanda castonguay	pg. 2 - 3
new look to faith formation	pg. 3
improvements	pg. 3
christmas schedule	pg. 4

## Salvation Happens in Community



I remember so clearly the feeling of excitement and anxiety as I drove north from Laramie on Hwy 30 just four days after being ordained for our Diocese. I was heading to my first assignment in at Holy Name Catholic Community in Sheridan, Wyoming. As I traveled, my heart was filled with the hope that someday I would

be able to return to St. Paul's Newman Center. I never imagined that dream would be realized so quickly. Returning to this community has been such a gift to me. Coming back to the place where so many of you helped me discern God's voice and the best way to use my gifts has given me new energy and excitement.

While I was a student at the University of Wyoming, I studied Business Administration and Music. In the fall of 2002, I moved to a seminary in Chicago to continue the process of discernment. At the seminary, I focused my education on Ritual Studies and Cross Cultural Communication. I am very grateful for my time in Chicago, but I was so happy in May of 2009 to be able to return to Wyoming; trading skyscrapers and concrete for mountain tops and trout streams.

One of the great comforts in coming to the Newman Center was the realization that I would never encounter a challenge that, we as a community of faith, could not face. This community continues to understand that each of us is called to ministry through our baptism. You continue to call out the gifts of one another in service of the kingdom of God. I hope to encourage and enable this model of church.

Returning to Laramie has also brought me closer to some of my favorite activities. I have a passion for the quiet peace of casting a fly on a river or floating across a lake in a boat. Camping and hiking in the Snowies helps to recharge my batteries and refocus my mind. When there is time at the end of the day, I enjoy having people over to share a meal. So, I hope you will stop in to visit...often!



I feel confident that God's Spirit has directed my coming to St. Paul's and I am eager to be a part of the next years of life in our community.

As you have no doubt heard in the past, "salvation happens in the context of community." Know of my prayers for you and I ask that you pray for me as we continue to journey together to the Kingdom of God.

## Hello!!

I am from little town Jay, Maine, where most of my family resides within a forty minute drive of each other. I received a Bachelors degree in Theology and Sociology from St. Joseph's College of Maine. After completing a summer of service in Arizona, working for a house of hospitality for pregnant women, I started a Masters in Social Work, but that summer had changed my life and I thought it was about time to listen to God's calling me to ministry.



I moved out to Minnesota and completed a Masters in Divinity at St. John's University. In February of this year I read an amazing job description for the position of Director of Campus Ministry for St. Paul's Newman Center. The position would allow me to continue working with college students; helping to plan retreats, engaging students in learning about Catholic Social Teaching, and being involved with an amazing student leadership team. I was thrilled when the job was offered to me, and I am excited to be here in Laramie.

The first four months as Director of Campus Ministry for St. Paul's have been filled with adventure. The slow months of summer led to a fast paced beginning of the semester. My biggest worry was learning the names of all of the students and residents I was

meeting in those early weeks. I am happy to say I am remembering names on the first try more often now.

To start off the school year we had a BBQ that was attended by 120 students. I enjoyed having the students return as they brought life and joy to my everyday work. Shortly following the beginning of the semester



Amanda at a recent blood drive

was the Welcome Pig Roast, also a fantastic turn out, and an opportunity to continue meeting new people. Through these events I felt the warm welcome

of the community both to myself and to new students.

Weekly events such as Revive Tuesdays on campus, Pilgrims of Emmaus on Wednesdays, and Bible Study on Sundays have all been student-led successes. I look forward to my continued interactions with the team of seventeen student leaders. Each team member brings unique gifts and talents to our collaborative work serving the student population.

In the coming months, I look forward to growing our sense of evangelization and invitational ministry, as I and the student leader team work to build skills in this area. Every activity is exciting and as we grow as team I hope we continue to bring new ideas to our community, and work at building fun, faith filled events for students to engage in. I am thankful for the continued blessings of this ministry and I look forward to what the next months will bring.

## ***Faith Formation for All Ages***

“The new format for faith formation has been more successful than I ever could have imagined”, reports Fr. Rob at our last leadership meeting. Information from the Diocesan September Institute presented ideas on how to involve the entire community and families in our formation process. Kelly and Justin Attebery have led the efforts in planning activities for *Holy Fun Club*, formation for children, and whole community *Faith Festivals*, formation for all ages.

As all come together for *Faith Festivals*, adults receive insights from Fr. Rob or another adult parishioner, who research and present a topic. For the children Kelly has these goals for in addition to learning and building community; have fun, and feel welcome. The children then rejoin the adults and present what they have learned in their group.

So the children also have a teaching role.

Families spontaneously take these experiences back to their homes where enthusiasm and new knowledge

germinate further questions and discussion. The community has positively responded to these new engaging and “hands on” changes.



Kelly Attebery with Holy Fun Club

## ***“Home” Improvements! --Can you Hear Me Now?***

Did you know that the Newman Center has been using sound equipment in our Worship Space that is over 30 years old? No wonder we have been having some difficulties with clear, quality sound during our Eucharistic celebrations. After many years of saving and much research we have taken the steps to enhance liturgy with this important and needed improvement! The new equipment also includes headsets for the hearing impaired, and the ability to have sound amplification outdoors and in Bishop Newell Hall. To improve resonance and sound quality for meetings and large gatherings in Bishop Newell Hall, we have added sound panels, as well.

## *Liturgical Celebrations for the Christmas Season*

### **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Saturday,	December 22	4:00 pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation
		5:00 pm	Liturgy of the Eucharist
Sunday,	December 23	8:30, 11:00 am	Liturgy of the Eucharist

### **Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord**

Monday,	December 24	4:00, 6:30 pm	Christmas Liturgy of the Eucharist
Tuesday,	December 25	Midnight 10:00 am	Christmas Liturgy of the Eucharist

### **The Octave Day of Christmas—Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God**

Monday,	December 31	5:00 pm	Liturgy of the Eucharist
Tuesday,	January 1	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Eucharist

### **Solemnity of the Epiphany of Jesus Our Lord**

Saturday,	January 5	5:00 pm	Liturgy of the Eucharist
Sunday,	January 6	8:30, 11:00 am	Liturgy of the Eucharist

### **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord**

Saturday,	January 12	5:00 pm	Liturgy of the Eucharist
Sunday,	January 13	8:30, 11:00 am	Liturgy of the Eucharist
		5:00 pm	

\*\*\*No 5:00 pm Liturgy on December 23 & 25, and January 1 & 6, 2013 \*\*\*

