

Newman News



St. Paul's Newman Center
University Catholic Community
Spring 2021

To connect and inform our Faith Community

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Upcoming Events

Triduum
April 1-3

Easter Sunday
April 4

Youth Confirmation
April 23

UW Graduation
May 14

Oklahoma Habitat Mission Trip
May 15-21

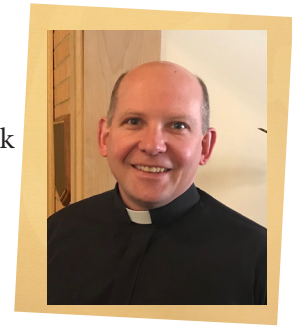
A Spirit of Welcome and Hospitality

It's hard for me to believe I am writing this on the one-year anniversary of the day we suspended liturgies and gatherings in the Diocese of Cheyenne. As I reflect on the year gone by, the emotion that emerges most strongly is gratitude...gratitude for each of you. As I have listened to experiences in other parishes over the past year I can't thank you enough for the way you have made this journey in faith and trust.

There has been a long experience of an extended Lent and I am ready to celebrate Easter Resurrection. I want to thank you for your patience, your flexibility, your faithfulness, your unwavering support, and most of all your care for one another during this time. I realize not everyone has agreed with the decisions made by our Diocese and the staff of St. Paul's. Thank you for doing your best to observe them as we strive to care for the most vulnerable in our community.

One concrete example of resurrection is an increased attention to the charism of hospitality and welcome in our community. Immediately, our Ministers of Hospitality rose

to the occasion being willing to ask names as we arrived and making sure everyone who arrived had a place. This time has also revealed the poor job we do as Catholics in staying in touch with each other. If you haven't felt comfortable coming back to liturgies, you might be wondering...do they even miss me? The answer is yes...and we need to do a better job of staying connected. No one should ever feel forgotten at St. Paul's. We are a family, and we belong to each other.



We are devoting this Easter season to reconnecting and strengthening our care for each other. As you might guess, this isn't something that I or the staff can do. You are needed for this to work. So, don't be surprised if you feel a tap on your shoulder in the coming weeks. We've got important ministry to do together. Resurrection is not just an idea, it's a way of living. Let's celebrate this year as we live Resurrection together.

Fr. Rob

An Inspirational Influence



Lee Noel is in his second year of formation. He recalls how St. Paul's Newman Center led him down the path toward seminary.

It has been a significant grace to spend time praying and studying at Mundelein Seminary while discerning a vocation to the priesthood. As a seminarian for the Diocese of Cheyenne, I have experienced a love from St. Paul's Newman Center that is hard to describe. The beauty of feeling your support is that I can vividly recall when it all began and how God's work through the community of St. Paul's Newman Center changed my life.

After returning from my first ever Search retreat in the Fall of 2014, I now saw life with the new lenses of Christ, service, and community, and the Newman Center provided all of those. Student Mass and Sunday Night Suppers became magnetizing to me; like a catching force drawing me into deeper experiences of community life. The shared meals in Bishop Newell Hall were like a gold mine for witnessing the Gospel in the form of joyful families with

servants' hearts. Daily Mass brought me closer to Christ and our community as well. Suddenly, the joy of SPNC became the focal point of my days.

Just as the Holy Spirit drew me to St. Paul's, he also used the Church as the vehicle to give me a glimpse of the priesthood when I was invited to join a group of students who brought the Body of Christ to parishioners at Laramie Care Center. Seeing the residents light up when we offered communion to them was life-changing. Over the course of future visits, we were able to develop friendships with the residents and feel loved by them, which brought a peace to my heart that is unmatched to this day.

This type of service through the Eucharist and our Catholic Faith which transformed me, and learning more about the priesthood from conversations with Fr. Rob and Fr. Steve Titus confirmed that I needed to check out this feeling on my heart. Using quiet, contemplative prayer time at seminary to reflect on my Newman Center experiences continues to sustain me in my studies here, and I am humbled by your support of my classmates and me. Thank you for being a transformative, tangible witness of our Catholic Faith.



Recorded Liturgies: Behind the Scene

We are most fortunate to have Director of Pastoral Music & Liturgy, Tom Quinlivan, work his techno magic to produce video recordings of Christmas and Ash Wednesday. These recordings are a way to keep the community virtually connected. It is not as easy as he may want you to think. Here is a glimpse of the process to bring a YouTube Mass to your home.



As with anything, the process starts with careful planning. Fr. Rob and I will sit down and discuss our vision for the project, what our technical needs are, what music we will use, and who needs to be involved. I will spend some time in the Worship Space exploring different camera angles, microphone placements, and envisioning what singers might best fit each song.

Next comes the logistical work of contacting and scheduling time with each group of musicians. Sometimes a single session will be enough to both rehearse and record a segment of video, but often the final cut is the result of at

least one rehearsal and two or three recording takes – and that’s if everything goes smoothly! During the recording of the Christmas video, I made a technical error which meant we lost a whole evening’s worth of recordings and had to start all over again the following week! After the music recordings are finished, it’s time to record the liturgy. This process definitely looks nothing like any liturgy you’ve attended before. Fr. Rob will restart the homily if he isn’t satisfied with the direction it’s going, and we may record the readings from Scripture before the opening prayer. The strangest part is that it is often just the two of us in the Worship Space, which means I’m the only one there to provide the responses – no pressure!

In the days following a recording session I work to edit the audio and video together into a video segment that is ready to be slotted into the final product. When all the pieces are ready, it’s time to put them together in the right order. This includes making sure transitions are smooth between one part and the next, listening for and correcting any audio that is too loud or too soft, and watching the final video in its entirety several times to make sure that it flows well. Then the video is saved and uploaded to the YouTube channel. In all, it takes many hours of planning, scheduling, rehearsing, recording, and editing to produce our virtual liturgies.

COVID and Campus Life

Recently I had the chance to visit Camryn Lancot, a Junior studying Electrical Engineering. I was curious to hear about how she was navigating academia during this year of pandemic.



What are your biggest challenges this year? I imagine like many of us, you are going between Zoom and in-person classes?

This year I have had a mix of in-person and zoom classes. I find it very hard to stay motivated and keep up with online classes especially the ones that are asynchronous. Another challenge I have faced this year is cabin fever. I have never been a home body and I feel I am in much better spirits if I spend time out and about. This pandemic has resulted in many of us spending more time in our homes. I have found this particularly challenging especially last spring when everything shut down.

A significant component of college life is the relationships forged during your time at the university. How has this affected you this year?

This pandemic has made it much harder to meet new people. I used to meet new people all of the time, but that is not always the case now. It is also harder to keep in touch with some of your friends because you cannot hangout with them as easily, nor do you run into them on campus. On the other hand, this pandemic has allowed me to grow

much closer with the friends I do get to see regularly. It has allowed me to learn about their faith journeys and to share mine with them. I have also gained a better appreciation for every time I meet someone new and for the time I get to spend with others.

There are times when I find myself in an emotional slump. Daily prayer time has kept me afloat through difficult times. Can you relate to this? What means have you found to keep centered during this time?

Last spring when everything shut down, my close friend and I spent a lot of time together. We pray at our apartments or at St. Paul’s. It gave us hope and brought us joy. Having Paul’s open for Mass and other activities has helped. It is such a blessing to get to spend time with one another even if you are wearing masks.

Without the love and support of family and co-workers, the trials of getting through this year could have been worse. What was your lifeline during the pandemic?

Last spring, there were a few people with whom I interacted regularly. We supported each other. We tried to make the shutdown fun by doing all kinds of activities. This included hiking, biking, playing lots of catch, and goofing off. Now that more things are open, I still have the same support I did before but with more people. St. Paul’s has really been a blessing as well. It has given me the chance to grow closer with others and to God during this time.



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The Newman Center is excited to announce that Triduum liturgies will be celebrated this year. However, there are still guidelines to be followed. Here is some changes to expect...

- Liturgies will be somewhat abbreviated as to reduce the time we are gathered in the Worship Space.
- The rite of washing the feet will be limited to 2-3 people and adoration of the cross will be observed with a bow or genuflect.
- Sign-ups are required for all liturgies via our website or by calling the parish office.
- A livestream of all Triduum liturgies is an option to pray at home with family.
- For those attending in person, masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

2021 Easter Triduum

Eucharist of Our Lord's Supper

Thursday, April 1

6:00 p.m.—Evening Eucharist of our Lord's Supper
(incense will be used)

Adoration following Liturgy until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday of Our Lord's Passion & Death

Friday, April 2

9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer
3:30 p.m.—Liturgy of our Lord's Passion and Death

Holy Saturday of Our Lord's Rest

Saturday, April 3

9:00 a.m.—Morning Prayer and Blessing of
Easter Food Baskets

Easter Sunday of Our Lord's Resurrection

Saturday, April 3

8:00 p.m.—The Easter Vigil Eucharist
(incense will be used)

Sunday, April 4

7:00 a.m.—Liturgy of the Eucharist
9:00 a.m.—Liturgy of the Eucharist
11:00 a.m.—Liturgy of the Eucharist
(incense will be used)

No 8:30 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. Liturgy Easter Sunday