

Christmas

Greetings

From the Chaplains
and Staff of the
Newman Center
May 2012 be filled
with God's Blessings



Dear Friends,

Because Christmas comes at the end of the calendar year, we often hear news items reflecting on the year or featuring "best of" and "worst of" lists during the season. I like the best of lists - best movies, best books, best music, etc. because they can serve as a reminder of the gratitude appropriate to this season. Most of you know that I love movies. I am grateful for the creativity and craftsmanship that goes into making a good movie and reflecting on the best of the year is delightful (I tend to generally agree with lists made up by critics and film experts) and I remember to be grateful that I enjoyed the fruits of their labors throughout the year.

The gatherings of family and friends during the holidays should afford us the same opportunities, especially when we are separated by time and distance. We should use the holiday season as a time to catch up with people and celebrate with each other the "best of" the year and to mourn together the "worst of." There are times that in the business of the season, I forget to call or visit with friends and family. The business gets in the way of what the season should be about: relationships. Every time I neglect one of those relationships, even the more difficult relationships among my friends and family, I deprive myself and the other an opportunity for grace. My relationships should provide me with opportunities to encounter the virtue of gratitude.

The Christmas story: the unexpected pregnancy, the long journey, the humble birth, shepherds, angels, and kings, should provide us with the same opportunity to encounter grace. It is, above all, a story of relationships: Mary to Joseph, Mary to Elizabeth, the priest (Zechariah) to his work and people, John to Jesus, Mary to Jesus, Joseph to Jesus, Jesus to the humble shepherds, Jesus to the angelic messengers, Jesus to the exalted magi, all of them to God, and, finally, all of them to US. It would make no sense for us to celebrate this 2000+ year birthday except that it is about US. The Church calls Mary "the first Christian." She was the first to believe that God was accomplishing the prophesied salvation through her son. But in the Christmas story, Mary, above all the other characters, stands in the place of all humanity - trusting in the faithfulness of God (even with imperfect understanding), putting herself at the service of God's plan, reflecting and pondering in her heart all the events of Christmas, and growing in a deeper and deeper relationship with this unusual child of hers. Beyond Mary, we might locate ourselves in any of the rest of the cast of characters who populate our crèches; but as we do, it is important to look beyond the sterilized statuary to the flesh and blood reality of the human condition: Do we feel the confusion of a young fiancé whose beloved is pregnant by someone else? Do we feel the alienation of a people displaced by foreign bureaucracy and power? Do we feel the rejection and dejection of someone who cannot find a place to rest? Do we feel the fear (awe) of those who encounter the revelation of God? Are we dumbstruck at our own lack of faith? Do we rejoice at the presence of the Holy Spirit? In all of this, can we come to the deep faith that God is doing in our lives what he has promised?

Our religious observance of Christmas provides us the opportunity to look back over the last year. What has been my "best of?" What has been my "worst of?" This should give us much to be thankful for and some things to work on next year. I suppose the story of Christmas can be just a "nice story" about some "nice people" in "unusual circumstances." But it should be so much more, it should be about Emmanuel - God with us; and not just God with Mary and Joseph, and shepherds and magi. God with US - you and me. As the story of the coming of the Christ continues to unfold in your hearts and lives, may the reality of His grace create anew in you a spirit of hope and a spirit of gratitude.

On behalf of the staff of the Newman Center and the Dominican Community, I wish you a wonderful Christmas and all the best in 2012.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Bart op.

SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE U•A SINCE 1926

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WINTER BREAK MASS SCHEDULE

The Newman Center Will Be Closed
December 26 — January 2

THERE WILL BE NO 5:15 PM MASS ON:

Monday, Dec. 26

Tuesday, Dec. 27

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Thursday, Dec. 29

Friday, Dec. 30

Monday, January 2

Saturday, December 31

5:15 PM

Sunday, January 1

8:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Monday, January 2

No 5:15 PM Mass

Saturday, January 7

5:15 PM

Sunday, January 8

8:30 AM, 10:30 AM and 5:00 PM

Our regular worship schedule resumes
the weekend of January 14/15

Reconciliation

Sat. 4:00-5:00 PM — Sun. 4:00-4:45 PM
(or by appointment with a priest)

Sacramental Formation @ Newman

Adult Initiations: If you are interested in becoming Catholic, please speak to one of the Pastoral staff about participating in the RCIA program.

Confirmation: Eight-week classes and the Sacrament of Confirmation are offered twice each year. Please contact the office for more information.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday & Sunday, 4:00 PM (or by appointment)

Marriage: Couples who would like to celebrate this Sacrament should contact one of the priests at least six months prior to the proposed wedding date.

Infant Baptisms: Infant Baptisms are celebrated at Sunday Masses. Please call the office to schedule baptisms and preparation classes.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact one of the priests if you would like to be anointed because of sickness, injury, or surgery

The Newman Mission:

To be the Presence of Jesus Christ on the Campus of the University of Arizona

The Newman Promise:

The entire Newman Community will work together to create an environment where university students are formed to live their Faith more intentionally and future leaders are formed for the Church and the world.



IF THE LORD DOES NOT BUILD THE HOUSE, IN VAIN DO THE BUILDERS LABOR... Psalm 127

85 FOR 85 THOUSAND YEARS

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S HOUSE

The projects to be accomplished by the "85 for 85" Campaign will enhance the beauty of the facility but are not being undertaken for that purpose. They are largely related to safety and security on our property and around our buildings. Much of the needed work is the result of deferred maintenance and the age of the building. Those who call the Newman Center their "church home" and friends of our community are invited to help us raise these funds and make these much needed repairs to our community's house.

PARTIAL LIST OF PROJETS TO BE FUNDED: Replace exterior doors and panic bar hardware, replace evap coolers in lobby, library, and Blessed Sacrament Chapel, re-pad, reupholster, and repair kneelers, replace AC unit in Dominican residence, lawn/sprinkler and landscape work, repairs to roof on south side of building, re-carpet lobby and halls in Newman Center, furniture for lobby and library, replace sign in front of Center/new signage, repair weather damage to ramada, repair weather and termite damage to Dominican residence.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES SPRING 2012

Spring Confirmation classes will begin on Monday February 6 at 7:00 PM. Those interested in participating in the spring session must complete and submit an application and be interviewed by Sr. Elizabeth. Applications may be picked up at the receptionist's desk.

SIGN-UP FOR 2nd SEMESTER CAMPUS RENEW

A weekly gathering with other students to reflect on the Sunday Gospel reading, to consider how God is present and active in your life, and to share faith with other students in a small group. Meets once a week for about an hour. Sign-up at the table outside after mass, at the reception desk, or online.

FILM RECOMMENDATION FROM FR. BART

There's an excellent film called "The Way" showing at the Loft Cinema. It was produced by Emilio Estevez and stars his father Martin Sheen. The "way" of the title is the pilgrimage route of Santiago de Compostela in France and Spain. It serves as a metaphor for life in this "non-preachy" film about life and relationships. It is packed with beautiful imagery and a wonderful story. I highly recommend it as an excellent holiday film.

RCIA LUNCH HOSTS NEEDED

RCIA lunch hosts are needed for the spring semester. Please see the sign-up sheets on the back wall in the church.



CO-WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD Diocesan Conference March 15-17, 2012 Tucson Convention Center

Come together as a diocese for this gathering of over 3000 people from across Southern Arizona to be inspired, encouraged, and connected to one another and with God. There will be keynote speakers, workshops, liturgies, a resource exhibition hall, and opportunities for networking. Registration begins at 4 PM on March 15, doors open at 7 PM.

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VALUE!

Catholic education combines a quality curriculum that nurtures faith development, provides strong academics, high expectations, and promotes respect for one another. Take advantage of the tax credit and receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit. Send your contribution of up to \$1,000 if filing jointly or \$500 if filing singly, to the Catholic Tuition Support Organization (CTSO) before December 31st and Get the Credit.

CTSO, P.O. Box 14467

Tucson, Arizona 85732-4467

Visit www.ctso-tucson.org for online giving

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS

December 25: The Nativity of the Lord

Midnight: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

During the Day: Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

8:30 AM Mary Mossay +

10:30 AM Pro Populo

December 26: St. Stephen, first martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22

December 27: St. John, Apostle & evangelist

1 Jn 1:1-4; Jn 20:1a, 2-8

December 28: The Holy Innocents, martyrs

1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Mt 2:13-18

December 29: St. Thomas Becket, bishop & martyr

1 Jn 2:3-11; Lk 2:22-35

December 30: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40

or Lk 2:22, 39-40

December 31

1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18

5:15 PM Irene Fimbres

January 1: Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

8:30 AM Pro Populo

10:30 AM Lori Rivera

5:00 PM Robert Rivera

January 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Masses: 8:30, 10:30, 5:00 New Year's Day	2 Center Closed	3	4	5 7:00 PM Lector Scripture Study	6	7
8 12:30 PM Baptism Class	9	10 Leadership Retreat Day (9-5) 7:00 PM OPL Council Winter Session Ends	11 7:00 PM Emmaus 8:00 PM Candlelight Mass Classes Begin	12 7:00 PM Lector Scripture Study 7:00 PM Social Justice Jaywalking Info Mtg	13	14
15 1:00 PM OPL	16 Martin Luther King Jr Day Center Closed	17 7:00 PM Core Team Mtg 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry	18 7:00 PM Emmaus 8:00 PM Candlelight Mass	19 12:00 PM Undergrad Group (Fr Jacek) 7:00 PM Lector Scripture Study 7:00 PM Social Justice Speaker	20	21
22 9:00 AM Religious Ed 11:00 AM RCIA Lunch 1:00 PM RCIA 2:00 PM CMLT	23 7:00 PM Intro To Christianity (Fr Jacek) 7:00 PM Women's Faith Sharing	24 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry	25 7:00 PM Emmaus 8:00 PM Candlelight Mass	26 7:00 PM Faith Formation (Fr Bart) 7:00 PM Lector Scripture Study	27	28 RCIA Retreat @ Monastery
29 9:00 AM Religious Ed 11:00 AM RCIA Lunch 1:00 PM RCIA 6:00 PM Sustaining Brd Dinner	30 7:00 PM Women's Faith Sharing	31 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry 7:00 PM XLT				