

# Christmas

# Greetings

From the Chaplains  
and Staff of  
the Newman Center  
May 2014 be filled  
with God's Blessings



Dear Friends,

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" we are told by the holiday ditty that goes on to tell us that is true because of caroling and "fun in the snow." Not likely in Tucson. But that does not change the sentiment. There are many things that make this the most wonderful time of the year. Outside of the religious significance, I can think of lots of culinary and commercial things that make this the most wonderful time of the year. As a long-time movie buff, I think it is wonderful because this tends to be when the best movies of the year are released. The weather in Tucson tends to be pretty good this time of year. And of course there are the many parties and gatherings with family and friends. These are all wonderful. But none of them are necessarily about Christmas. In reality, there are 2 Christmases in the world: One is all about the things I mentioned above: food, commerce, friends and family (and a little bit of "Peace on Earth" thrown in too). And don't get me wrong; I do not begrudge non-religious people their Christmas devoid of religious meaning; I just can't imagine it.

For faithful people - the ones who find ourselves mumbling "Let's keep the "Christ" in "Christmas" - we don't have an "added dimension" of religion to our Christmas. It's the other Christmas that has a missing dimension. The very name of this Holy Day betrays the reality that there can be no Christmas with the Messiah. We who celebrate the birth of the Messiah today and in this season need, each year, to reflect on what it is that is born into the world: Not just family, friends and peace on earth. What is born at Christmas is GOD WITH US. The incarnation and birth of the Word of God in the world is the final punctuation on the sentence "God is with us." The incarnation and birth God's final statement: I want to be close to you and I want you to be close to me. The grace that God gives in His Incarnation makes it possible for us to return to the Father. We need to remember that before the birth of that Child 2000+ years ago, humanity was absolutely hopeless of unity with the God who created us. We were dead, St. Paul says, in our sins and transgressions. The possibility for or hope of peace on earth did not even exist. Peace on earth is not a reality even now, but we can, because of Jesus of Nazareth, HOPE in that peace now! The little child whose birth we celebrate in this season, is the SALVATION OF THE WORLD. Family? Friends? Good Bargains at Target? Sure that's worthy of a little hoopla; but the salvation and restoration of all God's creation to its state of Grace. That is worthy of an "Alleluia!" and a "Glory to God in the Highest!"

The challenge to us as believers is to live in such a way that others can clearly see that we celebrate the birth of Salvation. For us to become, by our lives, a preaching of the Word-made-flesh, so that others can come to believe that the real Christmas - the MESSIAH MASS - is worthy of our attention each year in December. May this Christmas be a time in which the Word of God is born anew in you and that you become more and more convinced in Faith that "Peace on Earth" and "Good will towards all" are possible in your life and in the world.

Christmas Blessings,

*Fr. Bart sp.*

# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO THE U•A SINCE 1926

1615 East 2nd Street Tucson, AZ 85719  
Phone: 520.327.4665 Fax: 520.327.6559  
Email: Newman@UACatholic.org Web: www.UACatholic.org

## NEWMAN CENTER STAFF

*This Community is served by the Friars of the Western Dominican Province and the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose*

**Fr. Bartholomew Hutcherson, OP**, Pastor  
(frbart@gmail.com)

**Fr. Donald Bramble, OP**, Associate Pastor  
(djbramble@aol.com)

**Fr. James Thompson, OP**, Associate Pastor  
(FrJames@UACatholic.org)

**Sr. Elizabeth O'Donnell, OP**, Past. Assoc.  
(SrElizabeth@UACatholic.org)

**Sr. Angelica Velez, OP**, Past. Assoc.  
(SrAngelica@UACatholic.org)

**Br. Kevin Andrew, OP**, Campus Min. Intern  
(BroKev@UACatholic.org)

Jane Furet, Religious Ed Coordinator

**Susan Balistreri**, Operations Manager  
(Susan@UACatholic.org)

**Matthew Ellis**, Bookkeeper  
(bookkeeper@UACatholic.org)

**Student Receptionists**  
(FrontDesk@UACatholic.org)

Walter Tearne & Johnny Granillo, Building & Maintenance

In Residence, Fr. Robert Burns, OP

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**THERE WILL BE NO 5:15 PM MASS ON  
THUR., DEC. 26 or FRI., DEC. 27**

**The Newman Center Will Be Closed  
Dec. 26 & 27 and Dec. 30 - Jan. 3**

## WINTER BREAK MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 28: 5:15 PM

Sunday, December 29: 8:30, 10:30, 5:00

Tuesday, December 31: 5:15 PM  
(Vigil Mass for Holy Day)

Wednesday, January 1: 5:15 PM  
(Mary Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation)

Saturday, January 4: 5:15 PM

Sunday, January 5: 8:30, 10:30, 5:00

Saturday, January 11: 5:15 PM

Sunday, January 12: 8:30, 10:30, 5:00

**Our regular worship schedule resumes  
the weekend of January 18/19**

## 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.*





IN HONOR OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE NEWMAN CENTER CHURCH, THE CENTER IS CREATING A NEW OUTDOOR MARIAN DEVOTIONAL SPACE WITHIN THE EXISTING ROSE GARDEN IN FRONT OF THE CENTER... STUDENTS, ALUMNI, PARISHIONERS, PARENTS, BENEFACTORS & FRIENDS OF THE NEWMAN CENTER ARE INVITED TO PURCHASE ENGRAVED BRICKS WHICH WILL PAVE THE RENOVATED SPACE. Each Brick is \$100 and can be ordered in the Newman Office.

**R.C.I.A.**

***(Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)***

Please continue your prayerful support for our Catechumen and Candidates, Desmond Ondoua, Michaela Duarte, and Ari Urtusuastegui. Growth in our faith takes ongoing nourishment through prayer and education for all of us throughout our adult lives. PARISHIONERS are invited and welcome to attend any or all presentations offered through the RCIA program throughout the year. Sessions take place in the Newman Classroom from 1-2:30 PM. Next session Sun, Jan. 19.



**ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER**

The Newman Center has EFT available to make it possible for you to make your regular contribution by automatic deduction from your checking account. This is intended to help those who would like help being more intentional with their regular parish stewardship. Pick up an Authorization Form at the Newman front desk.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHERS MEETING**

Those interested in working with the K-6th grade Religious Education program are asked to attend a meeting on Sat., January 25 from 9:00 AM to Noon at the Newman Center.

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE READINGS & MASS INTENTIONS**

**December 29: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  
 Sir 3:2-6, 12-14; Col 3:12-21 or Col 3:12-17; Mt 2:13-15, 19-23  
 8:30 AM Pro Populo  
 10:30 AM No Intention  
 5:00 PM No Intention

**December 30**  
 1 Jn 2:12-17; Lk 2:36-40  
 5:15 PM No Intention

**December 31**  
 1 Jn 2:18-21; Jn 1:1-18  
 5:15 PM Rick, Ruben, Fina, Louie & Fred Gabu

**January 1: Mary, the Holy Mother of God**  
 Nm 6:22-27; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21  
 5:15 PM Pro Populo

**January 2: Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops**  
 1 Jn 2:22-28; Jn 1:19-28  
 5:15 PM No Intention

**January 3**  
 1 Jn 2:29-3:6; Jn 1:29-34  
 5:15 PM No Intention

**January 4: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious**  
 1 Jn 3:7-10; Jn 1:35-42  
 5:15 PM No Intention

**January 5: The Epiphany of the Lord**  
 Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12  
 8:30 AM No Intention  
 10:30 AM Pro Populo  
 5:00 PM No Intention

# January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <b>New Year's Day</b> 5:15 PM Mass  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b>	2  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b>	3  <b>CENTER CLOSED</b>	4
5  <b>Just Coffee</b>	6	7 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry 7:00 PM Theology on Tap @ O'Malley's on 4th Ave  <b>Winter Session Ends</b>	15 7:00 PM RCIA Team  <b>Classes Begin</b>	16 7:00 PM Lector Prep	17	18 Grad Hike
19 <b>Regular Masses Resume</b> 11:00 AM RCIA Lunch 1:00 PM Neophytes 1:00 PM RCIA	20 <b>CENTER CLOSED</b>  <b>MLK Day</b>	21 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry	22	23 7:00 PM Lector Prep	24 7:30 PM Grad Bonfire	25 Kino Trip 9:00 AM Catechists Meeting
26 9:00 AM Rel Ed 11:00 AM RCIA Lunch 6:00 PM Sustaining Board Dinner	27 7:30 PM Grad Reading Group	28 7:00 PM RCIA Inquiry	29	30 7:00 PM Lector Prep	31	