

ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER

Preaching the Gospel at the University of Arizona since 1926

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December 13-14, 2014

Third Sunday in Advent

NEWMAN CENTER CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, December 24

5:00 PM (Children's Mass), 8:00 PM, Midnight

Thursday December 25

8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

THERE WILL BE A 5:15 PM MASS on Wed., Dec. 31 & Thu., Jan. 1 (Mary Mother of God, Holy Day of Obligation)

THERE WILL NOT BE A 5:15 PM MASS on Fri., Dec. 26, Mon., Dec. 29, Tue., Dec. 30 & Fri., Jan. 2

The Newman Center Will Be Closed December 26 - January 2

WINTER BREAK MASS SCHEDULE BEGINNING DECEMBER 20

Saturday 5:15 PM

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

Our regular worship schedule resumes the weekend of January 17/18

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS

5:15 PM

SUNDAY MASSES

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:15 AM
5:00 PM & 7:00 PM

MONDAY—FRIDAY

Morning Prayer: 7:30 AM
Evening Prayer: 5:00 PM
Daily Mass : 5:15 PM

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4:00-5:00 PM
Sunday 4:00-4:45 PM
(or by appointment with a priest)

NEWMAN CENTER STAFF

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

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

Fr. Jacek Buda, OP, Associate Pastor
(jbuda@uoregon.edu)

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

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

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

Br. Cody Jorgensen, OP, Campus Min. Intern
(cojorgensen@gmail.com)

Jane Furet, Religious Ed Coordinator
(boscoeman@earthlink.net)

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

Matt Ellis, Bookkeeper
(bookkeeper@UACatholic.org)

Walter Tearne & Johnny Granillo, Maintenance
Receptionists (FrontDesk@UACatholic.org)

In Residence: Fr. Robert Burns, OP

THIS MONTH AT NEWMAN

Sunday, December 14

2:00 PM - OPL Inquiry - Green Hall
3:00 PM - OPL Chapter Meeting - Green Hall
5:00 PM - Baccalaureate Mass - Chapel

Thursday, December 18

7:00 PM - Lector Scripture Study - Classroom

Sunday, December 21

Winter Break Mass Schedule Begins

Monday, December 22

7:00 PM - Lector Scripture Study - Classroom

Wednesday, December 24

8:00 AM - Decorate the Chapel
Masses: 5:00 PM, 8:00 PM, Midnight

Thursday, December 25

Masses: 8:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Wednesday, December 31

5:15 PM - Mass - Chapel

LITURGY CORNER 15

with Fr. James

Is Christmas Pagan?

Many Catholics gleefully repeat the old canard that our celebration of Christmas on December 25 is simply a pagan feast that was re-invented as Christian. But is that true? Probably not.

Historians and biblical scholars agree that there is no historical basis for December 25 as Jesus' actual birth date. However, there was a theological basis as to why Christians picked this date.

Coming out of the 2nd century controversies as to the dating of Easter, Latin Christians concluded (mistakenly) that Jesus died on March 25 in AD 29. Following a notion of "the integral age" - that the great prophets died on the anniversary of their birth or conception - they then figured that the date of the Annunciation was also March 25. Since Jesus was the perfect human, his gestation would be a perfect period of 9 months, which brings us to December 25.

But what about the Roman feast of Sol Invictus? It was instituted by the pagan Emperor Aurelius in AD 274. Rather than Christians appropriating an ancient pagan feast, it may well be that part of Aurelius' motivation was to taunt Christians instead. Later on, of course, Christians could incorporate the theme of the sun applied to Christ, who is indeed the "Sun of Righteousness" prophesied by Malachi 3:20.

There is no record of the actual date of Jesus' birth. No matter what biblical scholars and historians make of this fact, what is certain is that Jesus was conceived and born, and Christians through the ages have considered these events as worthy of solemn celebration. So the Annunciation (March 25) celebrates his virginal conception and Christians celebrate the first visible manifestation of the one prophesied to be called the Son of the Most High (Luke 1:31-32) on Christmas. So, no, Christmas is not a pagan festival that has been "baptized", but a Christian feast through and through.

WEEKLY FINANCE REPORT

OFFERTORY

Sunday Offertory Sunday Offertory 12/7/2014	4,371
Once a Month Contributions *	5,430
8-week Average Offertory	5,078
Actual YTD Offertory	128,193
Budgeted YTD Offertory	130,690
YTD Offertory (Deficit)	(2,497)

* The 8-week average offertory includes approximately 50 donors who give once a month, received on assorted schedules.

ACTUAL V. BUDGET TOTALS

YTD Total Income	141,891
YTD Budgeted Income	208,269
YTD Income v. Budget (Deficit)	(66,378)
YTD Expenses	168,251
YTD Budgeted Expenses	208,594
YTD Net Budgeted Expenses **	(40,343)

** YTD Expenses are below budget for several reasons: payments to the Diocese have been delayed for four months, some scheduled events have been cancelled or reduced in scope, and payments to some vendors are behind by two to four weeks, among others.

N.B. A report on both the 85 for 85 Capital Campaign and the Diocesan Capital Campaign Rebates is in still process.

NEWMAN CENTER PARISH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is time to elect a new secretary to serve on the Parish Board of Directors. Fr. James has nominated Cliff Bowman. If you would like to nominate someone, nomination forms are available at all Chapel entrances and the front desk. Nominations will be open until December 21.

THE JESSE GIVING TREE

Just a reminder, the gifts are due by Monday, December 15. The gifts do not need to be wrapped. Thank you for your generosity!

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Our student musicians are away during the Christmas break. If you are a vocalist or instrumentalist and would like to help provide music for one of the Christmas Masses, especially the Midnight Mass, please contact Br. Cody.

POINSETTIA DONATIONS

The Newman Center is accepting poinsettia donations for the Christmas season. Please bring your poinsettias to the front desk by Fri., Dec. 19. Financial donations are also accepted. Thank you!

DECORATE THE CHAPEL FOR CHRISTMAS

We welcome anyone who is willing to lend us a couple of hours and help create our Christmas environment. Join us Wednesday, December 24 at 8:00 AM. No special skills are needed.

SPRING 2015 PARKING PERMITS

Applications are now being accepted through Fri., Dec. 19. Permits are \$100. A permit doesn't guarantee the availability of a space. You must be a registered parishioner to purchase a permit.

CONFIRMATION CLASS SIGN-UP

Applications for the spring semester Confirmation classes are now available online at www.UACatholic.org.

TAX CREDITS...HELP STUDENTS

Continue to support a needy and deserving student by continuing to take advantage of the tax credit. Please pick up a brochure at the Chapel entrance that explains how you can get a dollar-for-dollar tax credit or visit the CTSO website; www.ctso-tucson.org.

YEAR-END STOCK GIVING

When you are planning your year-end giving, please consider donating your appreciated securities to the Newman Center. Why not avoid capital gains, receive a tax deduction and support the Newman Center all at the same time. For information, contact Nancy Kirk at the Catholic Foundation, 838-2508.

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [facebook.com/uacatholic](https://www.facebook.com/uacatholic)

Twitter: [@uacatholic](https://twitter.com/uacatholic)

Instagram: [instagram.com/uacatholic](https://www.instagram.com/uacatholic)

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Dec. 14: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; 1 Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec 15: Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Mt 21:23-27
Dec 16: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Mt 21:28-32
Dec 17: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Mt 1:1-17
Dec 18: Jer 23:5-8; Mt 1:18-25
Dec 19: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Lk 1:5-25
Dec 20: Is 7:10-14; Lk 1:26-38

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Dec. 14: Gilbert & Irene Fimbres (5:00 PM)
Dec. 15: Michael Rivera
Dec. 16: Robert Rivera