



ST. THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC NEWMAN CENTER

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Dear Newman Community:

Greetings and Summer blessings! I hope these days of summer are providing you with some moments for fun and renewal. If escaping the heat has been impossible, thus far, my thoughts and prayers are with you. That being said I have an important announcement about the Sunday Mass schedule that will affect us all at the Newman Center.

In May, the staff met for several days to establish some priorities and affirm some values that we feel should reflect the faith community at Newman. These priorities and values were a group effort and reflect the consensus of those meetings. The reality is that Newman is a small faith community and yet we have a Mass Schedule which equals many of the larger parishes in town. Several of our masses are less than a 1/3 capacity. It is hard to find liturgical ministers and choirs to serve these masses. It was the recommendation of the staff that we let go of the 8:00AM Sunday Mass and shift the times of the other two Sunday morning masses to 9:00AM and 11:00AM, so the impact will actually effect three different segments of the parish. **The advantages of this are several. The Religious Education program will have a longer time to prepare our children in their catechesis, which has been limited to less than 45 minutes. With only two full-time priests on staff this will allow us to be more relational to the community and not just serve as sacramental machines. There is a hope that this will also foster a greater sense of community among all the Mass times as those who regularly attended the 8:00AM would choose another time and expand the numbers at that Mass and empower our faith community to get to know, relate, and 'build community' with one another. There is the obvious advantage that our liturgical ministers who are stretched pretty thin would have more time in between the exercise of their ministries thus preventing burnout.**

I realize that the news of this change will come as a difficulty to some who have made the 8:00AM their permanent home. I invite you and others who already lovingly adapt to this Mass change in the summer to see the overall advantages for the community. **We will still have five Masses at various times from which to choose: Saturday 5:15PM, Sunday 9:00AM, 11:00AM, 5:00PM, and 7:00PM.** In this time of rebuilding it is essential to make some choices with the goal of strengthening our community. If you would like to discuss this further please make an appointment to speak with me or any other staff member personally. Our contact information is available on our website: www.UACatholic.org

Our new 'Sunday' mass schedule of 9am, 11am and 5pm will begin on August 6th. The 7pm Mass will resume on August 27th. May God bless us in our efforts rebuild and form a greater sense of community and welcome for our students as well as all our resident members of the St. Thomas More Catholic Newman Center.

Respectfully Yours in Christ,

F. John Paul Forté, OP

Father John Paul Forté, O.P.
Pastor