

# CHRIST CHURCH NEWMAN CENTER

OPENING HEARTS, CHANGING LIVES

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**July 23rd, 2023**

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday Masses



10am & 8:00pm

**Confessions**

Sunday, 7:30pm

[This Week's Happenings](#)

**Tuesday (7/18)**

Newman Staff Meeting: 10:30am

Parish Council Meeting: 7pm

**Thursday (7/27)**

Carrie Ahrens Funeral: 11am

**Sunday (7/30):**

Mass: 10am & 8pm



**Dear brothers and sisters,**

I'd like to again share an article from the blog for the Eucharistic Revival. This one is a story of how Jesus present in the Eucharist sustained Yohan Garcia, a migrant from Mexico.

In the Eucharist, "we experience Christ's love for us—and for others. In the depth of prayer, we become so moved and sensitized to his love for those who suffer that the words of St. Augustine become a reality for us: 'The pain of one, even the smallest member, is the pain of all' (*Sermo Denis*)" (*Eucharist and Social Mission: Body of Christ, Broken for the World*, pg. 7). Many foreign nationals migrate, under conditions of maximal vulnerability, to seek asylum and protection from harm. In the United States, many of them live invisibly, without any sense of belonging or security. Therefore, it is necessary for migrants and refugees to feel connected and welcomed and for the community of believers to encounter them so that they experience a sense of healing, transformation, and communion.

I was born and raised in Mexico. In my country, I was unable to finish high school because of my family's economic hardships. Determined to resume my education and make something good of myself, I immigrated twenty years ago to the United States in search of a better life. Before embarking on my journey, I went to my town's chapel to talk to Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, and to entrust myself to him. Even though I was sad about everything I was going to leave behind, including my parents, I experienced a moment of consolation during my contemplation of the Lord in front of the tabernacle and an old crucifix. I knew Jesus was there, listening to the joys and preoccupations of my heart and mind. It was a very comforting moment before the living God. Amid the silence surrounding the chapel, I did not feel alone.

Like many migrants and refugees crossing oceans and deserts to arrive at the promised land, I also journeyed for hundreds of miles through Mexico and through a harrowing seven-day hike across the Arizona desert. On the first day of our journey, our group was robbed at gunpoint. The men that assaulted us were armed with machine guns, they took our possessions and beat some of the members of our group without any compassion. The leader of the armed group approached me and pointed his gun at my head and asked me if I was afraid to die. At that moment I cried out to God in my heart, "Lord, will this be my last day? I decided to migrate in search of a better life, but is this how it will end?"

I was only sixteen years old. I was afraid, but somehow I managed to say, "You have no authority over me. It is not for you to decide whether I live or die." I knew in my heart, just as I had known a few days before in the chapel, that I was not alone. The offender looked at me, surprised by my answer, and asked me to lie down on the floor and not to open my eyes until the armed group had completely departed. My life had been spared and not one of my bones was broken.

I do not intend to portray myself as a righteous man, nor is my story the only one. There are millions of unique and sad stories of migrants and refugees, some of which will never be told by our brothers and sisters who never reached their destination. I weep for the lives that have been lost, drowned in the oceans and bodies left unburied in the deserts. The toll on human suffering and the lasting trauma that migrants and refugees experience on their journey is immense. While these experiences of our human journey make us vulnerable, Christ lifts our vulnerability through his sacrifice on the Cross. At the Eucharist, our burdens and preoccupations are transformed into feelings of hope and gratitude. As the Psalmist put it, "Because you have the LORD for your refuge and have made the Most High your stronghold, no evil shall befall you, no affliction come near your tent" (Ps 91:9-10).

**Continued on the back**

**Parish Office**

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Over the years, I have experienced Christ's immense love, mercy, and companionship in the Eucharist. He is my refuge and the source of purpose in my life and ministry. These encounters with Jesus at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass have also led me to experience more deeply how I am created in the likeness and image of God. It is through Christ's life and Paschal Mystery that my migrant journey is best understood and shares in the mystery of God.

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life and of the human journey to the divine. Christ is a pure sacrifice to God and a self-gift to humanity. "Through Him, with Him and in Him," our dignity is restored, and our hearts are healed. "Through Him, with Him and in Him," our migration story achieves its full realization. "Through Him, with Him and in Him," our difficulties, pains, and wounds join Jesus' sacrificial love to God.

"The Sacrament of the Eucharist is itself a striking and wonderful figure of the unity of the Church, if we consider how in the bread to be consecrated many grains go to form one whole, and that in it the very Author of supernatural grace is given to us, so that through Him we may receive the spirit of charity in which we are bidden to live now no longer our own life but the life of Christ, and to love the Redeemer Himself in all the members of His social Body" (Pope Pius XII, *Mystici corporis*, no. 83). In effect, "The Eucharist draws each of us closer to Christ as individuals, but also as a community" (*Eucharist and Social Mission: Body of Christ, Broken for the World*, pg. 7)

As Pope Francis reminds us, "the presence of migrants and refugees—and of vulnerable people in general—is an invitation to recover some of those essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society." The Eucharist is a summons for us to examine how we respond to those in need: "We must not forget that 'the 'mysticism' of the sacrament has a social character. When those who receive it turn a blind eye to the poor and suffering, or consent to various forms of division, contempt and inequality, the Eucharist is received unworthily" (Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, no. 186). The more we choose to love one another, the more fully we exist and share in the mystery of life with God. On the contrary, the more we limit our relatedness and acceptance of those relationships, the more we diminish our existence and holiness. For indeed, when Jesus prayed to the Father, he prayed that all may be one... "as we are one" (Jn 17:21). The best way to experience and foster this unity is through the reception of Holy Communion by receiving Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity; we become the Body of Christ.

In the midst of the current reality of women, men, and children risking everything for a better life, let us remember that the Body of Christ includes migrants and refugees. Let us share the journey and break bread together at the table of the Lord. Each migrant and refugee we encounter represents an opportunity to live the mystery of the Eucharist more fully and transform our own prejudices and vulnerabilities. Let us also pray that our hearts are at peace and able to listen to Christ as he whispers to us from the altar, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me" (Lk 22:19).

Parish Prayers		
†Anne Fields	Kelly Hoppe's mother-in-law	†Mike Schmiesing, brother of Sharon
Nancy Huber	Helen Trisko	†Carol Reiter
Penny Zook	Carol Agnes	†Ed Schnettler
Waletzko's grandson Isaac	Cathy Wieme's mother, †	†Jim Pehler
Kathy Williams	Carol Skoien	†Denise Keller
Kevin & Melissa Kruger's brother Mark	†Katie Waletzko	†Jennifer Symalla
Linda Urbik	†Don Prom	†Elaine Quella
Courtney Vorell's father	†Renee Miller	†Bob Huber
Paul Snyder	†Will Ellenbecker	†Dawn Newton
Grace Bellicot	†Stanley McElhone	†Robert Surma
Doug Nieters	†Bill Schroeder	†Geneva Cameron
†Mil Voelker	†Vern Cronin	†William Luketich
Tom Keaveny	†Donald Lardy	†Michael Garrity
Isla Johns	†Sallie Bellicot	Gary Killmer
Aaron Volker	†Deborah Rodriguez	†Sarah Mcfadden
†Gene Hoelscher	†Valerie Meinz	†Mike Strobel
Millie Moran, sister of Jay Schroeder	†Bette Bartos	†Jacob Olson
	†Rich Theisen	†Carrie Ahrens

**Save the Date**  
**OLD FASHIONED ACC PICNIC**  
 Kickball, Lawn Games, and more!  
 Bring your own blanket and picnic lunch  
 Holy Spirit Church  
 SUNDAY, AUGUST 6TH

**Metro YOUTH NIGHT**  
 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23RD  
 5:30-8PM  
 SACRED HEART IN SAUK RAPIDS  
 GRADES 6-12  
 Mass, water games, and slip-n-slide kickball!

**As I Have Done for You.**  
**A Day of Service**  
 Thursday, August 10th, 8:30 AM-7:30 PM  
 Sacred Heart Parish, Sauk Rapids MN  
 For: High School & Middle School  
 Day will include:  
 \* Service in St. Cloud Metro Area \* Mass  
 \* 2 Hour Pass to Summerland \* Breakfast & Supper  
 Cost is \$25 per participant.  
 Questions or to Register, contact Philip Shefelvand

Daily Readings are found at [uscbb.org](http://uscbb.org)



Visit our livestream! Search YouTube: Christ Church Newman Center

**Parish Staff**  
 Pastor: Fr. Derek Wiechmann [fatherderek17@gmail.com](mailto:fatherderek17@gmail.com)  
 Sacramental Minister: Father John Paul Igboekwe  
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