



scsucatholic.org | 320-251-3260 | newmancenter@scsucatholic.org |    @SCSUNewman

February 9, 2025

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Masses

10am & 8:00pm

Confessions

Sunday, 7:30pm

Pastor:

Father Derek Wiechmann

fatherderek17@gmail.com

Sacramental Minister:

Father JohnPaul Igbokwe

igbokwejohnpaul7@gmail.com

*In case of immediate need, call your parish office to reach a priest directly.

This Week's Happenings

Tuesday (2/11)

9:30-11:30am Office closed for cluster staff meeting

5:30pm Bible Studies (Wil's Place)

Wednesday (2/12)

7:00pm Confirmation

Thursday (2/13)

6:00pm Theology on Draft

Saturday (2/15)

9:00am First Sacraments Activity Day @ St. Mary's

Sunday (2/16)

11:00am Coffee & Rolls

Dear Beloved,

First and foremost, I want to give all glory to God Almighty for bringing me back safely and soundly from my trip to Nigeria. I am deeply grateful for His protection and guidance throughout the journey. I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each one of you who remembered me in your prayers. May God continue to bless you all abundantly. I recently had the opportunity to travel to Nigeria for a month, leaving the United States on December 31st and arriving on January 1st. Upon arrival, I was welcomed by the warm Nigerian weather, which ranged between 80 and 90 degrees—just the way I like it! At times, the heat was intense, while other moments brought a slight chill, but overall, I truly enjoyed the climate. My trip to Nigeria was truly an unforgettable experience. The Priests' general assembly was a joyous reunion, bringing together over 500 priests, as well as friends and fellow clergy. The Priests' General Assembly commenced with a solemn Holy Mass, presided over by the Archbishop of Owerri Archdiocese, along with His Auxiliary and the Emeritus Archbishop. It was a moment of great reverence and unity. We had the precious opportunity to pray, sing, eat, and socialize together. It was so wonderful to reconnect with friends I hadn't seen in years. The Priest General Assembly ended on a high note, with a vibrant party, food, and drinks in abundance.

I also spent precious time with my family, especially my parents, and it was a heartwarming experience to be with them again. As always, I was blessed with delicious native food cooked by my mom. It felt like home. I also had the opportunity to visit my last parish where I served as a pastor before traveling for studies. They were thrilled to see me, and I celebrated the Eucharist with them. I also made a donation to support the completion of their restroom building project. We took some lovely pictures after Mass. During my time in Nigeria, I was able to make substantial monetary donations to orphans, widows, and institutions that are struggling to provide for those under their care. One of the highlights of my mission was purchasing over 100 bags of rice to distribute to the less privileged, especially those who are starving and struggling to find food. Seeing the joy and relief on their faces was both humbling and fulfilling. It reminded me of the true essence of our calling—to serve, to give, and to bring hope and Joy to those who need it most. A special thanks goes to the Marcellus Mission Group at Holy Spirit for their generous monetary support towards the people of Nigeria and my former parish. Your kindness has made a significant impact. I am grateful to everyone who supported me in my trip—whether financially, materially, or prayerfully. Your generosity means the world to me, and I truly appreciate you all. The people in Nigeria especially my home diocese, family and friends also send their warm greetings and appreciation to you. They are deeply touched by your kindness and support. I would like to thank Jon and Sharon Grill and family, Marilu Hornstein and family, and others—for their constant love and support. May God continue to bless your generosity. I ask that you keep my country in your prayers. The suffering is real, but I believe that through faith and perseverance, things will get better. Let us continue to pray for a brighter future for all those in need. I also want to express my deepest gratitude for the wonderful Christmas gifts and heartfelt messages. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and thoughtfulness. May God continue to keep you all healthy in body and soul, and may His joy and presence never depart from your households.

For the first couple of days after my return, the cold reminded me that I was back home, and I humorously welcomed myself once again to the life of an "African Popsicle in Minnesota." Finally, I would like to thank the Bishop of St. Cloud, His Lordship Most Reverend, Patrick Neary, Fr. Derek, Fr Scott, Fr Tom, and all the priests of the Diocese of St. Cloud for their continued prayers and support. Thank you to my lovely and wonderful Parishioners. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making my trip to Nigeria a successful one. Wishing you all a blessed new month of February. Remain blessed always. With gratitude, Love, and blessing.

Fr. JohnPaul Igbokwe

Castaway 2025 - March 28-30

High schoolers are invited to the 2025 Diocesan Castaway Retreat in Detroit Lakes, March 28th-30th!

This three day retreat includes incredible talks, music, Adoration, Reconciliation, Mass with Bishop Neary, and a ton of fun! It continues to be one of the most affordable overnight retreats available at \$200. This retreat is made possible for our area through Illuminate Youth Ministries, a 3 ACC collaboration making vibrant youth ministry possible in St. Cloud.

Contact Kelli Kleinschnitz at kelli@holysaintsmn.org, for more information on how to sign up for this impactful weekend!

Wonderful Newman Event

Help Needed

Please consider signing up to bring a small appetizer or sweets to the Curtis and Loretta concert on Saturday, February 22. We will be setting a table of delectable snacks for everyone's enjoyment during the intermission and after the concert. We are also in need of helpers to set up, serve and clean up. Directions are on the signup sheets in both gathering spaces. We are looking forward to spending a fine evening with everyone!



Newman Winter Concert

Curtis & Loretta

Singer/Songwriter Duo

Saturday Feb. 22, 2025 in the terrace

6:15 Social Hour 7:00 PM Concert

No Charge/Free Will Offering

ALL ARE WELCOME



Parish Prayers

- †India Faith Krueger Wasilowski
- †Bob Trisko
- †Frank Roehl
- †Mary Helen Montgomery
- †Mary Morton
- For Sam Warner discernment
- † Millie Moran Sister of Jay Schroeder
- † Sam Skoien
- Jill Schultz

Catholic resources on "immigration" issues

Archbishop Timothy Broglio, the presiding bishop of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), recently wrote:

"Many of the issues [that the current administration is addressing through] executive orders . . . are matters on which the Church has much to offer. . . . I wish [to reiterate](#) that the Catholic Church is not aligned with any political party, and neither is the bishops' conference. No matter who occupies the White House or holds the majority on Capitol Hill, the Church's teachings remain unchanged."

The USCCB's Committee on Migration, which is chaired by Bishop Mark Seitz (diocese of El Paso), has published a statement that seeks to articulate how the Church's teaching applies to the current issues related to immigration.

This statement can be read at: www.usccb.org/news/2025/executive-actions-will-subject-vulnerable-families-and-children-grave-danger-says-bishop

TREATS NEEDED! Our Peer ministers are hosting short hot cocoa and conversation socials for Students and young adults after the 8pm Mass each Sunday. They are held in our front gathering space and have been a nice start to the week for our Campus Ministry attendees. WILL YOU HELP by signing up to provide homemade sweets or another easy to carry treat they will enjoy with their cocoa? You do not have to be at Newman on Sunday evenings to help with this, simply leave your treat ready to serve in the Terrace kitchen before 8pm on Sunday. Directions are on the signup sheets or call/text: Pam 320-252-1974 or Philip 320-281-9518. And THANK YOU for being a part of this fun ministry!

Youth Group Calendar for February:

February 9th: No Youth Group

February 16th: Activity Night

ACC Faith Formation Reminders

Confirmation: February 12, 7:00pm

SEND: February 26, 5:45pm Root Session 3

1st Sacraments: February 15 Activity Day at St. Mary's

Pastor: Fr. Derek Wiechmann fatherderek17@gmail.com
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