

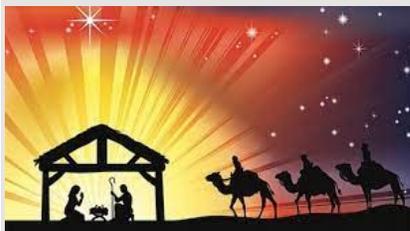
# CHRIST CHURCH NEWMAN CENTER

OPENING HEARTS, CHANGING LIVES

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

**December 25th, 2022**

*Christmas Day*



## Sunday Masses

9:15 am & 8:00 pm

## Confessions

Sunday, 7:30 pm

## This Week's Happenings

### Sunday (1/1):

Mass: 9:15am & 8pm

**The office will be closed Monday  
Dec. 26th and Jan. 2nd**



Reflections on the meanings of Christmas – Christmas Day, 2022

“The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation.” J I Packer

I have always been fond of the Nativity scene, so I delighted when I was able to visit the city of Assisi at Christmastime.

Francis of Assisi is the originator of such scenes – and the city was filled with them.

What he offered was a profound theology, not merely a visual representation of the story.

For Francis, the salvific nature of the Gospel story is rooted in the Incarnation, not isolated in Jesus’ death and resurrection. “Francis intuited that the whole thing started with incarnate love. . . . Francis realized that if God had become flesh – taken on materiality, physicality, humanity . . . [then the feast of Christmas] basically says that it’s good to be human, it’s good to be on this earth, it’s good to be flesh, it’s good to have emotions. We don’t need to be ashamed of any of this. God loves matter and physicality.” (Fr Richard Rohr)

Because of this, we can become avenues of God’s continual “incarnation”. “Christ’s birth in Bethlehem makes it possible for us to co-labor with God in yanking pieces of heaven and bringing them closer to Earth.” (Rev Adam Russell Taylor)

And so, how do we co-labor in the work of Christmas today?

“It’s tempting to turn Christmas into a safe holiday that asks little of us. But that would ignore the prophetic, subversive life of Jesus. Christians honor him . . . only if we risk the scorn of the powerful to stand with the undocumented immigrant, the Muslim family viewed with suspicion, the refugee fleeing injustice. Jesus brought the margins to the center and welcomed outcasts to the table.” (Pastor John Gehring)

“We must never view Christmas as if it were simply about Jesus’ birth 2,000 years ago. If we do, then Christmas becomes a mere historic relic.” (Rev Benjamin Perry)

The story represented by that manger scene calls us “to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among others, to make music in the heart,” (Howard Thurman.). It calls us to co-labor in the common good of building the Beloved Community

Pope Francis has shared that “Jesus knows well the pain of not being welcomed and how hard it is not to have a place to lay one’s head. May our hearts not be closed as they were in the homes of Bethlehem. (Urbi et Orbi 2017)

St Oscar Romero, bishop and martyr of El Salvador, echoed that sentiment. “Let our hearts be open like the cradle so that Christ can be born in each soul . . . and from there flood every heart with delight.”

*Kevin LaNave, Peace and Social Justice Coordinator, Christ Church Newman Center*

*In this Christmas Season, God, expand our heart for you to be born anew, and may our life radiate your presence.*

*Shalom in Christ,*

*Fr Mark Stang*

*Canonical Administrator*

## Parish Office

396 1st Ave S | St Cloud, MN 56301 | (320) 251-3260

Follow us!    @SCSUNewman

# Merry Christmas



## El Paso Mission Trip

Please pray for our 16 students and permanent members headed to El Paso from Dec. 31st-Jan. 7th this Christmas break. The generosity of the parish to help make this trip possible for our students continues to amaze me! Thank you to all who attended our El Paso breakfast and all who have been able to make a financial contribution toward scholarships for our students. We are excited to share about experiences next semester!

Philip Shefveld, Director of Campus Ministry

## Update on Fr. Herzing from Bishop Kettler:

Following a professional evaluation in accordance with our diocesan protocols, Father Joe Herzing has agreed to enter a recommended 10-week program beginning in January. This program aims to support, give direction, and improve Father Herzing's priesthood ministry and pastoral practices. Please keep Father Herzing and all those impacted in your prayers.

## Staff Open House

The Newman Staff wants to invite you to our annual open house on Thursday, December 29th from 6pm-8pm downstairs in Wil's Place. No need to bring anything but your Christmas cheer as we provide hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and more! We hope to see you there!



Visit our livestream!  
Search YouTube:  
Christ Church Newman Center



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

## Parish Prayers

Anne Fields	Millie Moran, sister of Jay Schroeder	† Valerie Meinz
Nancy Huber		† Bette Bartos
Penny Zook	Kelly Hoppe's mother-in-law	† Rich Theisen
Waletzko's grandson Isaac	Helen Trisko	+Mike Schmiesing, brother of Sharon
Kathy Williams	Carol Agnes	+Carol Reiter
Kevin & Melissa Kruger's brother Mark	Brett Wise, son-in-law of Kevin & Vickie Strobel	+Ed Schnettler
Linda Urbik	Cathy Wieme's mother,	+Jim Pehler
Dave & Caroline Williams's son Jeff	+Carol Skoien	+Denise Keller
Courtney Vorell's father	†Katie Waletzko	+Mary Kelley, sister of Barb Grachek
Paul Snyder	†Don Prom	+Jennifer Symalla
Grace Bellicot	†Renee Miller	+Elaine Quella
Doug Nieters	†Will Ellenbecker	+Bob Huber
†Mil Voelker	†Stanley McElhone	+Dawn Newton
Tom Keaveny	†Bill Schroeder	+Robert Surma
Isla Johns	† Vern Cronin	+Geneva Cameron
Aaron Volker	† Donald Lardy	Kevin LaNave
† Gene Hoelscher	† Sallie Bellicot	
	† Deborah Rodriguez	

## Parish Staff

Music, Stacy Ellens: [sellens@scsucatholic.org](mailto:sellens@scsucatholic.org)

Pastor, Fr. Joe Herzing: [frjoe@scsucatholic.org](mailto:frjoe@scsucatholic.org)

Office Manager, Janice Wuebkers: [jwuebkers@scsucatholic.org](mailto:jwuebkers@scsucatholic.org)

Parish Administrator, Fr. Mark Stang

Campus Ministry Director, Philip Shefveld: [pshefveld@scsucatholic.org](mailto:pshefveld@scsucatholic.org)

Peace & Social Justice Coordinator, Kevin LaNave: [klanave@scsucatholic.org](mailto:klanave@scsucatholic.org)