



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

December 15, 2024

**3rd Sunday in
Advent**

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

Monday (12/16)

6:30pm Advent Reconciliation
Service at St. Anthony's

Tuesday (12/17)

8:00am Faith in Housing Meeting
6:30pm Music Rehearsal

Wednesday (12/18)

8:00am Private Event (Terrace)
3:00-6:00pm 1st Sacraments
Learning Stations
7:00pm Confirmation

7:00pm Peace & Social Justice
Committee Meeting via Zoom

Thursday (12/19)

6:30pm Advent Reconciliation
Service at Holy Spirit

Dear friends,

Andy Kummrow, a past student and now member of Christ Church Newman Center, shares with us his perspective on the unique Nativity Scene that we display. Enjoy his reflection!

Peace, Fr. Derek

I remember going to church as a child with my family at Christmas time . Some years Christmas eve, and some years Christmas day, depending on when it fit into the busy holiday schedule. Whenever we would get to the Christmas mass, I remember looking at and admiring the manger scene. Looking at baby Jesus, his parents Mary and Joseph. I always enjoyed seeing the ceramic animals as well. Usually many camels and sheep along with the Wiseman placed in ways as to admire the new baby and the holy family.

When I went off to college I remember seeing the manger scene a little differently displayed in the Newman community. Of course being a student here, much of the Christmas season was celebrated in my home parish so I didn't have much time to ponder this new(to me) nativity scene.

This same nativity scene is the one we continue to use each year as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Maybe you have had a chance to take it all in. There is a baby Jesus, and a Mary figure. As I recall there are several other non traditional figures there as well. Regular, ordinary looking people. One man walking a dog stands out in my mind.

This beautiful set was created by a member of this community. It's very intentional design is meant to draw us into the beauty and mystery of the birth of our Lord and savior as a baby. To not only recall his birth over 2,000 years ago, but to allow us to ponder his birth in our every day life.

Each year as I gaze at this unique Christmas display in our community, it reminds me that Jesus was born so vulnerable in such a human manner. Coming into this world not as a strong and demanding leader, but as an innocent and vulnerable baby. It also reminds me of the metaphor of Jesus being born into each of our hearts, and how that might look right here in our community, not some 2,000 years ago, but right now. Jesus was born for every day people like you and me, not only for shepherds and magi who were able to visit the manger scene at his birth.

I invite you and your family to take in the manger scene this season. Talk with your loved ones about how our manger scene is similar to many you see around the area, but also how it is slightly different. Do these differences help you to ponder the amazing beauty of the birth of our Lord Jesus? I hope the answer is yes.

As we celebrate this beautiful time of year, let us to ponder the gift of Jesus and what it might mean or look like to us, right here in this community.

December 2024 Monthly Employee Spotlight

To introduce our wonderful cluster staff, we will be doing a monthly employee spotlight. Once a month, we will introduce one of our employees and tell a little about them. Each employee will be given a sheet with three questions, so the answers will be direct quotes from what they said.

Name: Janice Wuebkers

Job Title: Cluster Business/Finance Manager



Brief Description of what she does: "Financial reports, HR, Payroll, AP, anything needing a spreadsheet"

One or two projects that she did that she is proud of or most enjoyed doing: "I am very proud of our Cluster Staff Team! We have been through some very turbulent times and situations, but we have come through as a better, stronger team! And everyone is very supportive and willing to step up and help out when there is a need. That makes for a great office and work environment."

Fun fact about her: "I love reading and learning new things! Challenges to figure things out energizes me."

Christmas Giving Tree-Donations Needed

There are colorful mittens on the tree with suggested needs for our community. Take a mitten and bring back with the specific need. e.g. Gloves-Mittens-Hats-Socks-Long Underwear

Donations can be placed in the box by the Christmas tree in our lobby. Donations will be accepted through Jan 10th, and will be shared with our Community Meal attendees and other area caring organizations.

Help Needed for Christmas

Please come help decorate for Christmas. We will be meeting Monday December 23rd at 12:30 p.m.

We are also looking for donations for Christmas flowers to remember your loved ones. Use your flower envelopes or mark your own envelope by labeling flowers.

Any 2024 contributions have to be received to the office by December 31, 2024.

Advent faith-sharing opportunities

The Prayer and Spirituality Committee is offering several avenues for faith-sharing in Advent. We're using excerpts from "The Spirit of Advent", by Edward Sri (no purchase necessary)

Sundays following the 10 am Mass (with coffee and rolls) - Dec. 8th, and Dec 15th (sign-up not necessary)

Tuesdays 10-11 am (at a coffee shop) Dec 10th & 17th
Contact Warren Christie: 320-493-5404;
[wbchristie56@gmail.com](mailto:wchristie56@gmail.com)

Wednesdays, 9-10 am, 12-1 pm, and 4-5 pm (in-person and Zoom options) Dec 11th and 18th Contact Kevin LaNave: 320 640-7627; klanave@scsucatholic.org

Youth Group Calendar for December:

December 15th: Men's & Women's Sessions

December 29th: Christmas & New Year's Party

ACC Faith Formation Reminders

Confirmation: December 18, 7:00pm

K-9 ROOT/SEND: January 8, 5:45pm meal 6:15pm class

First Sacraments: December 18 Learning Stations 3-6pm

Pastor: Fr. Derek Wiechmann fatherderek17@gmail.com
Sacramental Minister: Father JohnPaul Igbokwe
Director of Discipleship & Evangelization : Philip Shefeland—pshefeland@scsucatholic.org

Cluster Business Manager: Janice Wuebkers—jwuebkers@spiritandsaints.org

Music Director: Stacy Ellens—sellens@scsucatholic.org

Cluster Office Manager: Nathan Schmitt—nrschmitt@spiritandsaints.org

Office Assistant/Coordinator of Middle School Faith: Melanie Solland—melanie@allcalledtochrist.com

Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry: Andy Tolman andy@allcalledtochrist.com

Peace & Social Justice Coordinator: Kevin LaNave—klanave@scsucatholic.org

Parish Office: 320-251-3260

Cluster Website: spiritandsaints.org

Parish Prayers

- †Parisa
- †Julie Gabrielson
- †India Faith Krueger Wasilowski
- †Bob Trisko
- †Frank Roehl
- †Mary Helen Montgomery
 - Aaron Dockendorf
- †Mary Morton
 - Abbie's Grandfather
 - Barb Pladson
- For Sam Warner discernment