

# CHRIST CHURCH NEWMAN CENTER

OPENING HEARTS, CHANGING LIVES

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

**November 6, 2022**

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



*"They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."*

## Sunday Masses

9:15 am & 8:00 pm

## Weekday Mass

Thursday, 8:00 pm

## Confessions

Sunday, 7:30 pm

## This Week's Happenings

### **Tuesday (11/8): Election Day**

Bible Study

Music Rehearsal

### **Wednesday (11/9):**

FF, SEND, Confirmation—5:30pm  
Meal

### **Thursday (11/10):**

Thursday Night at Newman—6pm

Mass—8pm

### **Sunday (11/13):**

Mass—9:15am & 8pm

Coffeehouse—9pm

## Finding Gratitude during Difficult Times

By Roxann Storms, MSW, LICSW, FT

Typically, I write articles for the Holy Spirit quarterly newsletter as a member of the parish. On the Sunday night following the weekend announcement regarding Fr. Joe's leave, I wrote an additional reflection for the fall issue of the newsletter (with its theme on gratitude) from the perspective of two other roles I hold, that of a therapist and also as the diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator. To our clustered parishes of Holy Spirit, St. Anthony's and Christ Church Newman Center and our other ACC parishes, I offer this for your own reflections.

When such news comes, it can leave us with an array of intense emotions: shock, confusion, denial, hurt, questioning/searching for understanding, disappointment, anger, or just deep and profound sadness. Often it robs us of joy, impacts trust, and can have us question our faith in our leaders and even in our Church. Emotions have such a strong impact that sleep can be disrupted, concentration challenged, and energy drained. These are difficult, but natural and normal responses. During such times, it is especially important to find safe places to process these reactions and feel supported. I pray you have such outlets, maybe within your family, friends, fellow parishioners, or professional support. Please talk to children and teens about their feelings and help them gain perspective. These emotions do tend to diminish as we come back into daily routine, so take good care.

In the case of Fr. Joe, Bishop Kettler, along with Fr. Bob Harren (named as the initial canonical administrator) and Fr. John Paul, met with whomever of the cluster parish staff and leadership could quickly gather on October 29. Bishop stated, and Fr. Bob restated at the weekend Masses after reading Bishop's statement, there has **not** been an allegation of misconduct and there are **absolutely no concerns involving minors**.

It is human nature to speculate about the circumstances. Maybe past experiences within the universal Church, some of our own diocesan parishes, or even our personal lives lead us to suspect the worst-case scenario - or maybe to minimize or justify. This does an injustice to Fr. Joe, who is cooperatively participating in diocesan protocol when a concern of a certain level comes forth. Bishop shared at this meeting that Fr. Joe will undergo an evaluation focusing on physical, psychological, and spiritual wellbeing at a place specific for clergy. This will be arranged as soon as possible and extend for about five days. Hopefully this will be a time for rest and restoration of body, mind, and spirit. Bishop and Fr. Joe will then discuss the recommendations. In the meantime, **Fr. Mark Stang is now appointed as canonical administrator** and, with the support of Fr. John Paul, we are in good hands. Fr. Mark will continue his duties as chaplain at St. Cloud Hospital during this time.

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**Lord,**  
WHEN YOUR GLORY APPEARS;  
MY JOY WILL BE FULL.

## Parish Office

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## The opportunity – and responsibility – and power of voting

On Tuesday, November 8th, state and local elections will be held. We urge all parishioners to exercise their right and responsibility to vote.

### The power of voting

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a robin asked a wild dove. "Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case I must tell you a marvelous story," the robin said. "I sat on a branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not in a giant blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snow-flakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch—nothing more than nothing, as you say—the branch broke off."

Having said that, the robin flew away. The dove . . . thought about the story for a while and finally said to themselves: "Perhaps there is only one person's voice lacking for peace and social justice to come about in the world."

<https://friendsofsilence.net/quote/author/kurt-kauter>

Kurt Kauter's parable illustrates the power of each person's actions in the world, including voting.

### Voting and the Common Good

Our faith, drawing upon Catholic social teaching (CST), rooted in and guided by the person and message of Jesus, calls us to focus our decisions about voting on "the common good". CST "teaches us that all people are children of God, so every person belongs to a single and interconnected human family. As sisters and brothers, our gifts are shared and our needs are met in relationship with one another. When making individual and collective decisions, we have a responsibility to consider the good of the community over and above the interests of the few." (*Catholic Social Justice Reflection Guide, NETWORK, p. 12*)

A life-giving alternative to the hyperindividualism so often present in our US society.

**You can find out** who can vote, how to register, where to vote, what you need to take with you to the polls on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and more here: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/>

Kevin LaNave (Peace and Social Justice Coordinator; Christ Church Newman Center)

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Speculation is also common concerning who else might have been involved. We must resist this temptation and squelch rumors. Care and prayers are needed for all directly impacted. God's mercy is unconditional.

As we enter the season of giving thanks, it can be challenging to be grateful for difficult experiences. Yet these are often the times of deepest growth and healing, bringing increased compassion and stronger reliance on the Lord. As in life, even in the midst of sadness there were also tender and uplifting moments in those weekend liturgies: the sacred candle lighting for our beloved dead on Saturday, and on Sunday we at Holy Spirit joined in song with the first cluster choir for inspiring praise through music and celebrated a 60th wedding anniversary. We hope you had such moments during your liturgies as well. It is through all these times that we are encouraged to truly live our faith: to leave judgment to God and pray for the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the light of Christ to lead us through the difficult times as we continue to be people of hope, faith and love.

Please pray for all impacted by this situation and all those difficult situations in our world. If you have specific questions or needs, please connect with your parish staff/leadership; they will seek to find answers. Blessings!

**Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Philippians 4:6-7

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Christ Church Newman Center



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

#### Parish Staff

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