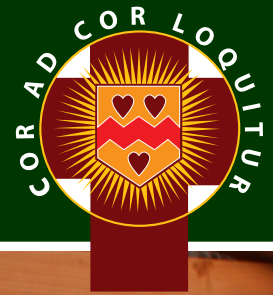


ST. THOMAS MORE NEWMAN CENTER
NEWMAN NEWS

Fourth Sunday of Advent | December 22, 2019 | www.comonewman.org



MASS TIMES —

SUNDAY: 9 a.m. | 11 a.m. | 5 p.m.

SATURDAY: 5 p.m.

WEEKDAY: Noon

RECONCILIATION:

Tuesday & Saturday: 4-4:30 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday:

8 a.m.-Noon & 12:30-4:30 p.m.

COME, FOLLOW ME



[.com/CoMoNewman](https://www.comonewman.org)

 **#COMONEWMAN
PHOTO OF THE WEEK**



@hoguec

It was a brisk one for the 7:30 AM loading but we got the job done and the gifts delivered. Thanks to Bob, Jimmy and Brian for all their help. And to #comonewman for all their generosity. Giving Tree 2019 is complete! #givingtree #christmas #babyitscoldoutside



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by December 31*
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THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS



FR. RICH
Servant Leader

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Christmas Eve was coming to a close. After dinner and presents at my grandparents, my siblings and I were getting ready for a long winter's nap. Mom and Dad would gather us around the tree, ablaze with lights and tinsel. (Mom always put tinsel on the tree until the day before we took it down!) Dad would read "the story": the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2, verses 1-14. Then it was off to bed for us all. Christmas began with Mass (we lived across the street from the parish), followed by presents, and then a gathering of the extended family for a feast! As we got older,

we would invite dates to come to Midnight Mass with us, home for hot chocolate and orange Danish, dates home, us to bed, and then Mass in the morning. The numbers would change over the years as family members moved away, or died, but the feast continued.

As my brothers and sister had families of their own and as I, too, had a family, the one tradition that flourished was the reading of "the story." *She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger* has been the heart and soul of my family's celebration of Christmas as long as I can remember. I've not celebrated the feast of Christmas with my family since entering the Dominicans in 1999. The celebration has always been centered on the community in which I lived and served, each with their own traditions. And each year has been a testament to the beauty of Christmas, the gentle enfolding of a community of its members as we celebrated the birth of the Christ.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

There is always, in today's craziness, the challenge to find and hold onto the spirit of Christmas. The traditional Christmas carols and hymns, finding their way into celebrations, are a gift. The lights and decorations appear: luminaries shining through the gloomy weather of December in New Mexico and lights in the decorated homes, glowing in the snow that falls in Denver or in Columbia. Since coming to St. Thomas More, I've been blessed with the challenge of preparing our worship space to celebrate the season.

I love Midnight Mass at Christmas, the lone voice intoning the proclamation, reminding us of how long we've waited for the birth of this Child. The fullness of the voices as they ring in this celebration with the Gloria, mostly absent through Advent. I enjoy seeing families coming together to celebrate and share stories of past Christmases. It reminds me of my own family, Jake, Beth, and their children, sharing Christmas at home. The thought always brings a smile because I know that they are together, amidst their own traditions.

The moment is always tinged with some sadness. I know that this can be a difficult season for many in our community. The death of loved ones, whether recent or distant, can color our celebration. The separation that comes with distance can challenge us to stay in the joy of Christ's birth: first responders, members in the military, and family members working for other reasons. There are a myriad of reasons for the joy of the season to be a source of melancholy and pain. I invite you to pray with me for all these things.

THE GHOST OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE

As a science fiction fan, the future is rich with potential, good and bad; so too, the ghost of Christmases to come. New traditions are born. Life circumstances change, new dynamics require that we rethink how we enter into our celebrations. Change can be growth, an opportunity to deepen our own experience and the experience of others. Old traditions continue and grow, inviting others to join us.

We can stand as a source of hope in a world divided and chaotic. Each year, the season of Advent invites and challenges us, to get rid of those habits or activities or mindsets or traditions that interfere with our being ready for Jesus Christ. We have a new opportunity to open our hearts to the joy of those carols and hymns that celebrate so richly this birth. We are free to choose to place the "spirit of Christmas" in our hearts and live it out every day. Choose wisely!

My Dominican brothers and the staff of St. Thomas More Parish Newman Center wish each of you a **BLESSED CHRISTMAS!**

Fr. Rich, O.P.



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

December 25 | The Nativity of the Lord

Isaiah 9:1-6; Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

December 29 | The Holy Family

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Psalm 128

Colossians 3:12-21; Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

WELCOME!

Welcome to Newman! Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. If you frequently attend Mass with us, please consider registering here so we can better serve you. Registration forms are in the Gathering Space under the TV, in the parish office, or online on our website (www.comonewman.org). Thank you for being part of our faith community!

THIS WEEK

12/23/19 - 12/29/19



LIBRARY CLOSED THIS SEMESTER

For the full catalog listing of the library, visit:
www.comonewman.org/dbd-ministries/kemper-library

MONDAY, DECEMBER 23

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5 p.m. Christmas Eve Children's Mass/Chapel
7 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass/Chapel
11:30 p.m. Midnight Mass Music Prelude/Chapel
Midnight Christmas Midnight Mass/Chapel

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25 — OFFICE CLOSED

10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass/Chapel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28

3:30 p.m. Music Rehearsal/Chapel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29

8 a.m. Music Rehearsal/Chapel
10 a.m. Music Rehearsal/Chapel
3 p.m. Music Rehearsal/Chapel

Information for the bulletin is due by noon on the Friday before the weekend it is published. Dates may change with upcoming holidays. Please submit to Theresa Nguyen at theresa@comonewman.org.

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISM

Parish registration required; contact the office to register for a catechetical session during the early months of pregnancy.

MARRIAGE

Register and worship with us for at least three months, then contact Deacon Frank (frank.ruggiero@comonewman.org) at least six months in advance of planned wedding.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK

The priests, deacons and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist are available to bring Holy Communion to the home. Please call the office if a parishioner is in a nursing home.



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE

If you need low gluten communion hosts, please call the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, Dec. 23	Noon	Charlotte & Scott Adam
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Noon	† Peggy Haag
Tuesday, Dec. 24	5 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 24	7 p.m.	
Tuesday, Dec. 24	Midnight	
Wednesday, Dec. 25	10 a.m.	† Arsenio Directo
Thursday, Dec. 26	Noon	All Deacons
Friday, Dec. 27	Noon	† Chuck Wilson
Saturday, Dec. 28	5 p.m.	† Geraldine Childress
Sunday, Dec. 29	9 a.m.	† Ron Fredrick
Sunday, Dec. 29	11 a.m.	† Walter Artinger
Sunday, Dec. 29	5 p.m.	

PARISH FINANCES

December 7/8

Offertory	\$42,995.75
Month-to-Date	\$58,803.27
Budget for month	\$211,250.00
Variance	— \$152,446.73

CONTACT INFORMATION

602 Turner Avenue | Columbia, MO 65201 | (573) 449-5424
www.comonewman.org | All emails end in: @comonewman.org

Pastoral Staff

Pastor | Fr. Rich Litzau, O.P. | rlitzop
Associate Pastor | Fr. Mike Ford, O.P. | mfordop
Associate Pastor & Diocesan Vocations Director
Fr. Christopher Aubuchon | vocations@diojeffcity.org
Pastoral Associate | Sr. Karen Freund, O.P. | srkaren
Deacon | Frank Ruggiero | frank.ruggiero
Deacon | Gene Kazmierczak | deacon.gene

Campus Ministry

Director | Angelle Hall | angelle.hall
Assistant Director | Yvonne Chamberlain | yvonne
Development Director | JoAnn Shull | joann.shull
Resident Campus Minister | Allison Stuesse | allison
Office Assistant | Terri Brown | campus.ministry

Music & Liturgy

Director | Kelley Burns | kelly.burns
Assistant Director | Joe Kouba | joe.kouba
Assistant Director | Mary Mertes | mary.mertes

Faith Formation

Director of Religious Education | Emily Shull | emily.shull
Director of Youth Ministry | Renee Molner | renee.molner
RCIA Coordinator | Lisa Rose | lisa.rose

Office

Receptionist | Janet Kelly | reception
Accounts Manager | Angie Claas | angie
Communications Coordinator | Theresa Nguyen | theresa

➤ All registrations/RSVPs are found on the website under *Parish Sign Ups*:
www.comonewman.org/parish/parish-sign-ups



Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve:
 5pm (Children's Mass)
 7pm
Midnight Mass
 (11:30pm music prelude)
Christmas Day: 10am

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Mass Times are: Christmas Eve (Tuesday, December 24) at 5 p.m. for the Children's Mass and 7 p.m.; Midnight Mass with a music prelude beginning at 11:30 p.m.; and Christmas Day Mass (Wednesday, December 25) at 10 a.m. The parish office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25.

SECOND COLLECTION CHRISTMAS MASSES

There will be a second collection at all of the Christmas Masses benefiting Seminarian Formation & Priest Retirement.

CABINET FOR SALE



The cabinet located in the second floor study area of the library is for sale. You must be able to haul it away. Contact Fr. Rich at rlitzop@comonewman.org if interested or with questions.

YEAR-END GIVING & CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

To be credited as a 2019 financial contribution, your donation must be received by St. Thomas More Newman Center by Tuesday, December 31, 2019. Anything received after 12/31/19, regardless of the date on the check, must legally be listed as a 2020 contribution.

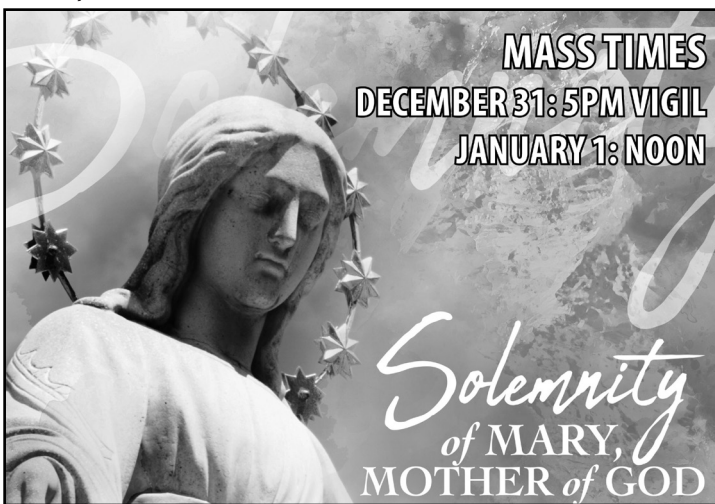
Annual contribution statements will again be sent by email. Our system sends these to the email address of the person listed as "Head of Household." You can check/edit the email address your statement will be sent to by logging into your account or if you haven't set one up, visit <https://comonewman.breezechms.com/login/create>. Here you will be able to view your giving history as well as make sure your contact information is up to date. Statements will be printed and placed in the Gathering Space for those who don't have an email registered with us.

If you have questions on how to give through your IRA, annuity, or other non-cash assets, please contact JoAnn Shull at joann@comonewman.org or by calling the office. These gifts often take longer to process, so please begin these options now if you're interested in giving in this tax year.

2020 CALENDARS AVAILABLE

2020 Calendars from Catholic Extension are available for pick up in the Gathering Space. Calendars are free, courtesy of Central Missouri Auto Body.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD MASS TIMES



January 1 is a Holy Day of Obligation, celebrating the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. Mass Times are 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31 and Noon on Wednesday, January 1.

A NIGHT OF COMMUNITY DINNER & PRAYER (ACTS 2:42)

Join us on Saturday, January 11 after the 5 p.m. Mass for the first Acts 2:42 of the new year! Sr. Karen will be giving a talk on Wisdom as a Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Based on the Bible verse Acts 2:42, Newman is hosting this monthly night to deepen your faith, prayer, and community life. Each night consists of dinner in the Multipurpose Room, praise and worship music in the Chapel, a talk, and Adoration and Reconciliation. Come for specific parts of the night if you wish; the Nursery will be open for children. This semester, the talks will be based on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Contact Theresa at theresa@comonewman.org with questions.

NEWMAN VOLUNTEER CORPS

PERSONAL ITEMS COLLECTION

Newman Volunteer Corps is collecting items for Room at the Inn during December. Requested items include warm gloves & hats, crew length socks, over-the-counter medications, and travel-size toiletries. Please see the NVC bulletin boards for a complete list of requested items and contact information if you wish to volunteer. Donations may be placed in the large silver bin in the Turner Street entrance. Thank you for your generosity!



WINTER BLOOD DRIVE: INTERESTING FACTS

The average adult has about 10 pints of blood in his/her body. Roughly 1 pint is given during a donation. A healthy donor may donate whole blood every 56 days. At Newman blood drives, the Red Cross also brings a "double reds" machine where a person can donate just red cells, returning platelets and plasma. This procedure takes a bit longer, but these two units of red cells help more folks in need of packed cells. Since the other blood fluids are returned, the donor feels fine after the "double reds" donation. She/he can then only donate blood again after 112 days. **Join us for Newman's Winter Blood Drive on Sunday, January 26, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the MPR.**



COMO LIFE TEEN

LIFE NIGHTS RESUME JANUARY 19

Life Nights might be on Christmas break, but don't worry; we'll start back up on January 19. For our upcoming spring semester Life Night schedule, find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at [@comolifeteen](#). We meet for Life Nights on Sundays from 6:45-8:30 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Education building. Join us for dinner, friends, and games!

ENCOUNTER: EXPLORE YOUR FAITH FURTHER

Are you a teen looking to explore your faith further through scripture and conversation? Join us for Encounter, starting this spring! We'll be talking about how to incorporate our faith into our everyday lives, studying the Bible, and just having some relaxed time to talk about what's going on in your life. Encounter meets in the Aquinas Room at Newman from 7-8:30 p.m. every other Thursday starting January 30.

STAY IN TOUCH OVER BREAK

Want core members from CoMo Life Teen to come watch your game/concert/theatre show? Let Renee know when they are so we can come support you! Also, teens can email Renee at renee.molner@comonewman.org to join the CoMo Life Teen GroupMe to hear about any pop-up events over break!

COME, FOLLOW ME



[.com/comolifeteen](https://www.facebook.com/comolifeteen)



WE PRAY

for our Newman Community

For those who are sick, especially Jim Charlton. (Jim Charlton is now in hospice. He and Carol are grateful for the support of your prayers.)

For our beloved dead. Eternal rest grant unto them and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Pope Francis' December Prayer Intention: That every country take the measures necessary to prioritize the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Bishop McKnight's December Prayer Intention: As we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Family, may our Churches and schools support parents in the raising of their children in the faith.

Call the Parish Office to request prayers or to have the Eucharist brought to the homebound. Names will be listed for two weeks.

A STEWARD'S WAY

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK: A LOOK BACK AT 2019

With your time, talent, and treasure, this past year has brought new ministries to our Newman community.



- In Religious Education, we are in our inaugural year of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd with our Pre-K and K Wednesday night classes. This is a new way of learning the faith for our parish, and we are excited to see how this impacts our catechetical formation of our youth!
- Young adult ministries are growing with the summer kickball league, monthly gatherings, and Bible studies. These have allowed the 20- and 30- somethings who are in the professional world to gather with their families for fellowship.
- Trivia Night, which was previously a Life Teen fundraiser, has now morphed into a non-fundraiser parish event. This year, costs will be lowered for participants, but all funds raised will benefit the Tiger Pantry on campus.
- Acts 2:42 has become a monthly event where parishioners of all ages can gather for a meal, listen to a talk, and spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament.
- In September, we sent a group of parishioners to Texas to work at the US/Mexico border. In addition to the parishioners on the ground doing the work, many more contributed funding to make the trip possible.

We are grateful for the ways in which you have made this possible. Whether through your time, talent, or treasure, your gifts have brought these ministries to life. As we look to 2020, we hope to continue to meet the needs of our parish family as we respond to how the Lord is calling us as a parish to be stewards of our gifts!

KIDS MINISTRIES RESUME IN JANUARY

Sunday events including CEP, EDGE, Children's Liturgy, and the Nursery will resume on January 5. Wednesday CEP will resume January 8. EDGE Bible Study will not resume until February.

KIDS' CORNER

For Kids: Our wait is almost over? What will you do to prepare for Christmas in these last days of Advent?

For Parents: Let this Sunday be a last chance to experience the quiet and holy season of Advent together before Christmas. Read today's first reading or Gospel together, light your advent wreath candles, and talk about the long wait of God's people and the joyful knowledge for Joseph and Mary that the wait was almost over.



Read the Gospel and Color



TITHING REPORT

November 2019

Tiger Pantry has become a tithing partner to the Newman Center as it directly relates to our mission to serve the University of Missouri campus, faculty, staff, and students. It is another example of how we are broadening the ministries that we are touching.

As a "tithing parish," the Newman Center contributes 5 percent of the offertory each month to nonprofit organizations. You can read more about the organizations we tithe to at:

www.comonewman.org/parish/tithing

\$257.92	Adult Day Connection
\$309.50	Columbia Meals on Wheels
\$257.92	Coyote Hill Children's Home
\$154.75	Day Dreams Foundation
\$257.92	Food Bank of Central/NE MO
\$206.33	Habitat for Humanity
\$103.17	Heart of Missouri Girls on the Run
\$206.33	Life Network of Central Missouri
\$257.92	Love, INC.
\$103.17	Spectrum Health Care
\$309.50	St. Francis House
\$103.17	Tiger Pantry
\$206.33	True North
\$257.92	Voluntary Action Center
\$206.33	Welcome Home

AROUND TOWN

CURSILLO NEWS

Please join the Columbia Area Community of Cursillistas as we gather for our first Ultreya of 2020 on Thursday, January 2 at Our Lady of Lourdes from 7-8 p.m. The Saturday morning Columbia men's group will be facilitating. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact Marcia Doll at 573-999-5066.

JOB OPENINGS AT TOLTON CATHOLIC



Fr. Tolton Catholic High School is currently hiring for the following positions: Administrative Assistant (full-time), School Cafeteria Chef/Manager (full-time), School Cafeteria staff (2 part time positions).

We are also hiring a full-time math teacher for the 2020-21 school year. Interested applications should contact Gwenn Roche at groche@toltoncatholic.org.

FAREWELL TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Please join the Our Lady of Lourdes Contemporary Group for the 4th annual "Farewell to Christmas Concert" on Sunday, January 5 at 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes! The concert includes an (optional) singalong of Christmas carols and arrangements of "In the Bleak Midwinter," "The Angel Gabriel," and Mannheim Steamroller's "Silent Night." Our Lady of Lourdes youth will also perform. Admission is free, but a free-will offering will go toward scholarships for OLL youth to attend music ministry formation institutes.

