



## Parish update from Fr. Jake Anderson

**January 8, 2020**

Dear Friends of St. Lawrence,

As Catholic-Christians, we are not called to “live under a rock.”

By this statement I mean that we are not called to live in *willful ignorance* of the state of the world/our Country and certainly not to be *unaffected* by or *passive* to the needs of others, particularly those we encounter. We are called to be “in the world but not of the world.”

When the Church talks about the identity and call of the laity, this is not a passive, “second-rate” vocation but an authentic way of sharing in the life of Jesus. What this involves, in the words of the Lord Jesus, is to be like a “leaven in the dough.” A leaven is that which gives life and animates. Leaven in a spiritual sense elevates and points to the Creator vs. the creature. Thus, laity are to bring the life and leaven of Jesus Christ living within us to *animate and bring life* to our concrete circumstances in the world.

But...in order to do this, we must be *anchored firmly* in the Lord. The psalms speak about it this way: “*Like a tree planted near running water...*” On a very practical level, I want to juxtapose two sentences, one from the top headline of the Wall Street Journal yesterday/Thursday and one from the 1<sup>st</sup> reading from yesterday’s daily Mass. Notice how easy it is for our minds to be seized by the first and how we can easily pass over the second!

**The Wall Street Journal (Thursday):** “*Mob Storms Capital: Pro-Trump rioters terrorize lawmakers, disrupt debate over ratifying electoral votes*”

**St. John’s letter (Thursday):** “*Whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith.*”

I am not seeking to be political by quoting the first headline; it could be any headline or Instagram post, any circumstance, even any thought in my head! My point is that if my mind and heart are giving way to *sustained* agitation, anxiety, anger, undue curiosity as a result of any worldly stimuli, it shifts my anchor point away from God and to something else.

On any given day or even moment, we are invited to take solace and stability in the peace of Christ. Again, this is not an “escape to a happy place” or any such thing. Rather it is like a tree *living from its roots instead of its branches*. Roots are strong, stable, and not subject to a lot of shifting around. Branches on the other hand, are like finger-traps for the mind and heart. They are ever-changing and keep us always subject to whatever wind is blowing.

Certainly, we need to stay abreast with what is going on. After all, we do not live under a rock! Depending on our vocation in life we may need to be spending a fair amount of time with current events, news, and global realities. However, the faculty of our will must learn how to rest in and be rooted in what is truly good and lasting. St. Paul says, “*whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, think about these things.*”

As we begin this new year of 2021, let us pray that regardless of what may come for good or ill, we may be rooted firmly in the Lord and less and less in that which is fake, foolish, or fleeting. Jesus says in John's Gospel: "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world."

In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
Fr. Jake

*St. Lawrence Newman Center Communication Update!*

- Join us for a **virtual only**, online event on **January 11 at 10:30am** to hear from Bill Marsella, former Director of Partner Relations of the Catholic Community Foundation. He will provide a workshop on the legacy you wish to leave as a Catholic Christian and speak to the following questions. Please **RSVP** to Kathy Jo Peterson in development at 612-261-2811 or [kpeterson@umncatholic.org](mailto:kpeterson@umncatholic.org)
  - How is the world better because I've lived?
  - How would I like to be remembered?
  - If I knew I was going to die tomorrow, what would I want to tell my loved ones?
- **Monday, January 18th** Mass will be at 9:00am followed by Confessions. The building will be closed for the remainder of the day in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will be **NO** Mass or Confession at 12:15pm.
- Governor Walz just released a new executive order starting **Monday, January 11**, which will allow houses of worship to raise attendance to 50% of total capacity and eliminates the 250-person cap.
- Join us for the **Ascend Conference** on **January 21-23**. The Ascend Conference will be an **online only conference** and will take you on a deep dive into what it means to be "created for worship". There will be three nights of high-powered key notes, convicting exhortations, live whole-hearted worship, and more. Ascend will open your heart to a new and profound experience of your identity in Christ. Registration is free and can be found at [here](#). All parishioners and students are welcome.
- Tune in to the podcast entitled [Priest, Brother and U!](#) Brother Matthew and Fr. Jake team up with a new student each session to answer some of the deepest questions from life on campus.
- **Just FYI:**
  - The holiday building hours will be **Monday-Friday, 11:30am-1:30pm**, and Saturday and Sunday, 30 minutes before all Masses. These hours will remain in effect until **Tuesday, January 19th**.
  - **Tuesday, January 19th**, the building will begin Spring Semester hours from 11am-4:30pm.
  - The north doors will be unlocked 30 minutes before Mass, so folks do not have to walk around outside in the cold. We do ask that you still enter through the back of church.
  - We have installed a drop box for Sunday offerings located on the outside confessional wall at the back of the church. You may also continue to slide them through the office window, mail, or set up electronically at [www.umncatholic.org/donate](http://www.umncatholic.org/donate). Please call Kathy Jo Peterson at 612-261-2811 to learn more ways about giving to St. Lawrence. Thank you for your generous support.
  - As we do our best to stay safe during this unprecedented time, if you have a cough, sore throat, fever or are not feeling well, join us for Mass via livestream at 8am. Go to [umncatholic.org](http://umncatholic.org) and scroll to the bottom where it says, "Check out our YouTube Channel".
- Unable to come to Mass? Especially if you are a parishioner with underlying issues, you can always **set up a private appointment with Fr. Jake** to receive Holy Communion at the Parish with no one else in close proximity to you. Email him at [Frjake@umncatholic.org](mailto:Frjake@umncatholic.org) or call his office line at 612-261-2807.

In Christ,  
Izabella Frederiksen