



Update from Fr. Jake

October 8, 2021

Dear Friends of St. Lawrence,

As mentioned in the last few weeks, scripture says that “without a vision, people perish.” I sense the Lord inviting us into a vision for what it means to belong here at St. Lawrence, whether young or old. We have been thinking about this vision for some time as a staff and leadership. As your pastor and director here at St. Lawrence Newman Center, I am inviting you into the following three things:

- 1) **Belong**
- 2) **Give**
- 3) **Serve**

The last few weeks we have spoken a bit about what it means to **belong** (Sunday Mass and small group) and **giving** (financially and/or daily prayer for the mission of evangelization) and now we turn to **serve**.

Given that we are primarily a Newman center but also with a parish component, we rely heavily on the service of our students, young adults and parishioners at large to make this mission of evangelization happen! While many parishes offer an extremely long list of ways to serve, our mission here is more focused because we are in a university setting.

We are always in need of key volunteers to keep the “life-blood” flowing in the Sacramental life, e.g., extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, lectors of the Word of God, ushers, singing/sacred music, etc. We are always in need of people who can step up in leadership for leading small groups, Bible studies, mentoring/discipling others, etc. It is so impressive to see many of our young adults doing this in beautiful ways! Since some of our parishioners are home-bound and elderly and at times, isolated from others, we truly need people who can visit them and simply be with them, converse with them and help them realize they are not alone.

Given that we are on the “front lines” of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a university community, we are perennially in need of intercessors who truly consider it a calling to pray for the fruitfulness of this mission. This is no small task! Additionally, so many people comment on how St. Lawrence is a welcoming atmosphere...this doesn't happen accidentally! We continue to need people who serve in hospitality (donuts and coffee) and who take it upon themselves to reach out to new people and even greet them at the doors!

All this to say, there is a place for everyone here at St. Lawrence! We are so grateful for your presence and support of the Lord's work here in our one spiritual family.

Sincerely in the Lord,
Fr. Jake

St. Lawrence Newman Center Communication Update

- Subscribe to our [YouTube channel](#) to view Mass livestreamed on Sunday at 8am
- **This Sunday, October 10, *Catholicism Considered*** will not have a session due to the CSU Fall Retreat.
- The monthly **Praise and Adoration** following 7pm Mass will resume **Sunday, October 31**.
- Join us for a Votive Mass with individuals from all over the archdiocese to pray for the Synod on **Friday, October 22 at 12:15pm**
- We are planning three Synod sessions here at St. Lawrence Newman Center. These sessions are open to all with a focus on college students and young people. They will be offered at the following three consecutive dates and times: **Sunday, October 17, 24, and 31**. All sessions will take place following the 10:30am Mass and go for 2 hours in the Social Hall. Lunch will be provided, and Br. Ken will facilitate. The overall goal of these sessions is to pray together, critically engage in and discuss questions regarding the future of the Church here in our Archdiocese. To learn more, please watch this [video](#).
- The next **Builders, Men's Night**, will be **Wednesday, November 3 at 7pm** in the Social Hall. Men who are grad students, young adults, and parishioners are invited. The topic will be masculine spirituality.
- We have a new [resource page](#) on our website under the "Connect" tab. Feel free to use these sources as tools to grow more in our Catholic faith.
- Do you know of anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic? OR, anyone who is just wanting to know more about the Catholic faith? Please have them contact Br. Gary Davis (brogary@brohope.net) to learn more. Our next Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program will be this **Sunday, October 10th** after the 10:30am Mass and end on Easter.
- Volunteers needed! Please contact Br. Gary at brogary@brohope.net to learn more.
 1. Calling all future ushers, lectors, and altar servers for the 8am, 10:30am & 7pm masses.
 2. We are looking for some volunteers that would be willing to come in for about two hours each week to straighten the books in the pews and replace candles.
 3. Consider joining the livestream team. You will be trained to use the livestream equipment to stream one of the Sunday Masses.
- Have a Mass intention? Click [here](#) to request a Mass in honor or in memory of a loved one. You may continue to request a Mass at the front office.
- We are grateful to our generous supporters for contributing to the mission here at St. Lawrence. Consider giving a gift today at umncatholic.org/donate or contact Rochelle Shirk at 612-261-2808.
- **Beginning Friday, November 5 (NOTE: DATE CHANGE)**, we will be printing the bulletin in-house with a different one-page, front and back, design. The "new" bulletin will be a merge of Fr. Jake's weekly update and the "old" bulletin content. The purpose of this is to provide the most up-to-date information. Fr. Jake's weekly update will continue to be emailed each week.

In Christ,
Izabella Frederiksen
Communications Coordinator