



Update from Fr. Jake

September 10, 2021

Dear Friends of St. Lawrence,

Once a woman shouted out this question to the pope in St. Peter's square: "Holy Father, what should I do about my 32-year-old son who lives at home and won't practice his faith?" The pope simply responded: "stop doing his laundry."

Perhaps this humorous anecdote reveals something about growing in maturity. Growing in maturity requires something of us; it rarely comes easily and without effort; the effort to go against our instincts for comfort and the path of least resistance.

Growing in true understanding in our particular area of study in college? It requires effort. Growing in mastery in a particular position in an athletic sport? It requires effort. Growing in authentic relationship with others in a Christ-centered way? It requires effort.

What hinders us? St. Thomas Aquinas mentions two things: effeminacy and sloth. Interestingly, he defined both in the same way: "An unwillingness to set aside one's pleasure in order to pursue what is arduous or difficult." When it comes to growing in maturity in the Christian life, like many things, it comes through taking responsibility and an honest taking up of one's cross which oftentimes entails some pain and suffering. I bring this up more not to highlight our weaknesses so much as to highlight the positive character of Christ revealed in our first reading for this upcoming Sunday from the prophet Isaiah:

"The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear;
and I have not rebelled,
have not turned back.

I gave my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who plucked my beard;
my face I did not shield
from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help,
therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint,
knowing that I shall not be put to shame."

May this new semester and season of Fall find us emulating the character of Christ who courageously endured the cross for the sake of the joy that lay before Him.

Sincerely in the Lord,
Fr. Jake

St. Lawrence Newman Center Communication Update

- **Donuts are back!** Starting this Sunday, we will have donuts every Sunday for the Fall Semester.
- **Beginning Friday, October 1**, 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.
- Beginning **at the end of September**, our Sunday Faith Formation sessions will return. Time and place are yet to be determined. Details to come soon.
- A Celebration of Life for Evelyn Czaia will be held at Crooners Supper Club, Highway 65 and East Moore Lake Drive in Fridley, on **Saturday, September 11**, from noon until 3pm. Evelyn’s family invites her friends from St. Lawrence to share in their celebration of gratitude for a life well spent. Please RSVP if planning to attend: 612-772-8181.
- The monthly **Praise and Adoration** following the 7pm Mass will resume **Sunday, September 26**
- We are planning three Synod sessions here at St. Lawrence. 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. 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](#).
- **Helmet found.** If you lost your helmet, please come to the front office to claim. Our lost and found is located under the St. Lawrence bulletin board on the right when you enter through the main doors. The more expensive items will be kept in the office.
- As One Spiritual Family, we love coming together every week to receive our Lord in the Eucharist. This has been difficult for some who are sensitive to strong fragrances. We ask that you be mindful and keep your perfume/cologne light out of respect for those who are sensitive to such aromas. We thank you in advance.
- Livestream Masses will be returning in October. Consider joining the livestream team. You will be trained to use the livestream equipment to stream one of the Sunday Masses every week. Contact Izabella Frederiksen for more information at ifrederiksen@umncatholic.org.
- Do you know of anyone 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. Watch Aidan’s story [here](#). Our next Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program will begin on October 3rd (**Note date change.**)
- Stay up to date with current news and events happening at St. Lawrence Newman center at umncatholic.org/st-lawrence.
- 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.
- 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.

In Christ,
Izabella Frederiksen
Communications Coordinator

Making disciples of Jesus as a university Catholic church