

Newman Center Notes

Penn Newman Center 3720 Chestnut Street
www.newman.upenn.edu

Drexel Newman Center 30 South 33rd Street
www.drexelnewman.org

Daily Mass

Mon-Fri 7:30 am, 12:05pm Penn Newman
St. Bede Chapel – Upper Level
Mon-Fri 1:00pm Drexel Newman
St. Katharine Drexel Chapel – 2nd Floor

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at Drexel Newman on a weekly basis on Wednesdays 12:30-1:00pm. Weekly Eucharistic Adoration is offered at Drexel Newman Center on Thursdays, after the 1:00 pm Mass until 4:00 pm.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Locks of Love Hair Drive

Locks of Love is an organization that uses donated hair to create wigs for children who have suffered from an illness that results in hair loss. On April 25 Penn Newman will be holding an event where hair stylists from the area will provide haircuts for anyone interested in donating 6 or more inches of hair! For more information contact Elizabeth Kopec: ekopec@sas.upenn.edu.

Circle of St. Bede

The Circle of St. Bede invites interested faculty and professionals to join us on **Tuesdays 8:10-8:50 am** in the lower level of Penn Newman. If interested, please contact Dr. Peter Dodson: dodsonp@mail.vet.upenn.edu.

Prayer Resources

Penn Newman invites you to check out our webpage with several links to resources designed to enhance your spiritual life. Go to www.newman.upenn.edu. Click on Activities, then Prayer & Spirituality, then Prayer Resources.

DREXEL NEWMAN CENTER

Christmas Holiday Schedule

In observance of the Christmas Holiday Season the Center will be closed from Monday, Dec. 14 and reopen at 10 am on Monday, Jan. 4 when the Winter Term begins. However, please note that the 1:00 pm Mass will not resume until Monday, Jan. 11.

PENN NEWMAN: ALL STUDENTS

Extended Hours for Finals Week!

All Penn students are invited to use the Penn Newman Center as a place to study, relax and socialize. We'll have snacks and maybe even some healthy food available, along with free wi-fi!

- Sunday, Dec. 20: 7:30-11:00 pm
- Monday, Dec. 21: 8:30 am -11:00 pm

Christmas Holiday Schedule

The Penn Newman Center will **close** on **Wednesday, Dec. 23** at 12:30 pm and reopen on **Jan. 5** at 8:30 am.

Penn Newman: Spiritual Mentoring/Direction

Spiritual mentoring/direction is an opportunity to meet one-on-one with a professional minister to speak about your life. Several mentors are available to Penn undergraduate and graduate students. See www.newman.upenn.edu.

Service Opportunity: Tutoring

Undergrads, grad students and young professionals are invited to participate in a tutoring program for children from K-4th grades at Annunciation BVM Church in South Philly on **Mondays, 3:00-5:15 pm**. The children are primarily Mexican immigrants who are just learning English, and consequently placed below grade level in local schools. Contact Jeff Klein at jeffklein@newman.upenn.edu.

West Philly Recess Initiative

Penn Newman undergrads and grad students will be gathering for this program at local elementary schools. **2 hours per week (M-F)** on site around lunchtime. Promote a more pleasant lunchroom and environment conducive to interactive play and fitness through games and activities. Contact Natalie at west.philly.recess@gmail.com.

An Introduction to ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

We Christians hold a festival around the time of the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. We call this festival "Christmas," the feast of Christ. Christmas takes several weeks to prepare and then several weeks to celebrate. The preparation is called Advent and is symbolic of the growing darkness *before* the solstice. The celebration is called Christmastime and is symbolic of the growing light *after* the solstice.

Of course, Advent cannot exist if we jump the gun on Christmas. And Christmas cannot exist if we are already tired of it by December 25th. These two seasons demand each other. Only after the silence of Advent can the carols of Christmas spring. Only after Advent's darkness can a single star give such cheer. Only after Advent's terror can an angel be heard, once again, telling us to fear not. Year after year we so need these seasons as rehearsals for heavens.

We *need* Advent. We need quiet, sober time before Christmas to encounter darkness, to slip slowly into winter instead of immediately masking it with tinsel.

The Advent Wreath is a symbol of our waiting. The four ribbons represent the four weeks of anticipating the Birth; the candle, our hope in the Light of the World; the branches, the presence of the Everlasting in our midst even in the coldest time of year.