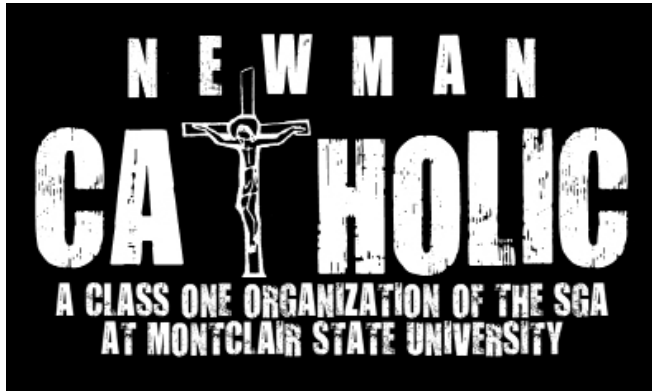


The Newman Center is located at 894 Valley Road, Montclair, NJ 07043. You can reach the center by walking down the 82 steps right behind Moorehead Hall on the South-East end of Campus.



St. Patrick

“  
**"I arise today  
 Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity  
 Through belief in the threeness  
 Through confession of the Oneness  
 Towards the creator."  
 - from St. Patrick's Breastplate**  
 ”

## St. Patrick, pray for us

**By Sean Greely**  
 Campus Minister

St. Patrick's Day is up there on my list of favorite holidays, just behind Christmas. I think plenty of people would agree with me, and especially those of Irish heritage. There is no feeling quite like being in the midst of a parade crowd with bagpipes blaring, children step dancing, and people wearing green as far as you can see. Plus, there's usually a good pint of Guinness or another Irish drink to go along with the aesthetic, which can certainly make for very good "craic" (pronounced "crack" - an Irish word meaning general fun and enjoyable conversation).

In fact, when you consider that the entire holiday originated as a feast day to a Catholic saint, it becomes fascinating that some (actually, many) people's way of celebrating is to get wasted/hammered/sloshed/etc. and act outrageously,

pretending that's what Irish people do on a daily basis.

It would be interesting to hear what St. Patrick himself would think about how his feast day is celebrated by many, and perhaps more interesting would be his opinion of the state of Ireland today. After all, though he was enslaved on the Emerald Isle as a boy, he returned as an ordained Catholic priest with the mission of converting the Pagan people there. And he was by-and-large successful, with the help of other saints like Brigid and Columba; from the 5th century onward, Catholic Christianity has been the dominant religion among the people of Ireland, and the monasteries and universities there became centers for intellectual and spiritual development within the Church, earning it the nickname "the land of saints and scholars."

He was rejected by many communities, and was even captured, chained, beaten, and imprisoned throughout his time there.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## MEET

### Tuesday Newman Night

**7:00 PM** - NEWMAN NIGHT - Our weekly Meeting of Newman Catholic - All are welcome to join us for free dinner; and a different topic every week at Newman II. This week's topic: Mardi Gras party!

## PRAY

### Thursday Eucharistic Holy Hour

Join us for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the opportunity for confessions - Newman Center Chapel

## DAILY CALENDAR

### Sunday, March 17, 3rd Sunday of Lent

**7:30 PM** - Sacrament of Reconciliation - Do you want to experience Jesus' forgiveness of your sins - Fr. Jim is available to hear confessions till 8:15 PM - Student Center Café B & C

**7:30 PM** - SING? PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? Join our musicians with Mr. Bruce Mauro, our Music Director as they rehearse for this evening's Mass. - Student Center Café B & C

**8:30 PM** - CATHOLIC SUNDAY MASS - Student Center Café B & C

### Monday, March 18

**2:00 PM** - Eboard Meeting - Newman II

**4:00 PM** - Raising Hearts Small Group - Newman Center

**5:30 PM** - DAILY MASS - Newman Center Chapel

**8:00 PM** - Men's Bible Study - Newman Center (email Darin if you plan to attend)

### Tuesday, March 19

**5:30 PM** - DAILY MASS - Newman Center Chapel

**7:00 PM** - NEWMAN NIGHT - Our weekly Meeting of Newman Catholic - All are welcome to join us for free dinner; and a different topic every week at Newman II. This week's topic: The Four Loves w/ Stephanie Sonnick

### Wednesday, March 20

**5:30 PM** - Daily Mass - Newman Center Chapel

### Thursday, March 21

**5:00 PM** - Men's Bible Study - Newman Center (email Dan if you plan to attend)

**7:00 PM** - BQ Small Group - Newman Center

**8:30 PM** - LATE NIGHT MASS - Newman Center Chapel

**9:00 PM** - Holy Hour - Come pray before the Eucharist for an hour of adoration with praise and worship music - Newman Center Chapel

### Friday, March 22

**12:00 PM** - DAILY MASS - Newman Center Chapel

### Sunday, March 24, 4th Sunday of Lent

**7:30 PM** - Sacrament of Reconciliation - Do you want to experience Jesus' forgiveness of your sins - Fr. Jim is available to hear confessions till 8:15 PM - Student Center Café B & C

**7:30 PM** - SING? PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? Join our musicians with Mr. Bruce Mauro, our Music Director as they rehearse for this evening's Mass. - Student Center Café B & C

**8:30 PM** - CATHOLIC SUNDAY MASS - Student Center Café B & C

NEWMAN CATHOLIC  
PRESENTS

## emmaus group

"...THE ONLY SOLUTION IS LOVE  
AND THAT LOVE COMES WITH  
COMMUNITY."

- DOROTHY DAY



Meet with a different group  
member each week

Talk about anything - faith,  
family, goals, struggles, etc.

Go for a walk, get coffee,  
exercise together, or simply  
sit down for conversation

Build friendships,  
make new ones,  
and build community

Sign up at  
[MSUnewman.com/emmaus](http://MSUnewman.com/emmaus)

## Recurring

We'll have new extended hours for Catholic therapy at the Newman Center through the CatholicPsych Institute! Therapy will now be available on Monday through Friday, with two certified therapists available to talk with you. Visit our website at [www.MSUnewman.com/catholicpsych](http://www.MSUnewman.com/catholicpsych) to learn more and make an appointment.

## ABOUT US

### WHO IS NEWMAN?



We are named after BLESSED JOHN HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN. Over the last century on many secular colleges and universities around the world, centers have been founded to meet the spiritual needs of the Catholic people as well as to be a voice in the dialogue between the Church and the secular world on these campuses.

These centers are named after Blessed John Henry

Cardinal Newman. Newman lived in the 19th Century, was a professor, became a convert to the Catholic faith and is still remembered among many things as a holy priest.

Among the many theological writings he did was "The Idea of the University" a series of essays where he observed that the University and the Church are driven by the same goal - the search for the universal truth.

### WHAT IS NEWMAN CATHOLIC?

The NEWMAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY has been an active organization at Montclair State University

for over 50 years. Our mission is to help students grow in their faith through spiritual, social and community outreach programs. We do this through helping each other deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church which he founded. We are sponsored, funded and operated by the ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF NEWARK. We are chartered as a CLASS I ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION and are a recognized active partners with the University on many committees and initiatives.

## CONTACT US

NEWMAN CATHOLIC CENTER is located in 2 houses adjacent to the campus of Montclair State University. You can access the 99-step staircase from campus going around Moorehead Hall...

You can also reach the Newman Center from the street. Our address is 894 Valley Road, Montclair NJ 07043.

**Main Phone:** (973) 746-2323. Campus Phone Ext 7240

**Website:** [www.MSUNEWMAN.com](http://www.MSUNEWMAN.com)

**On Facebook:** [facebook.com/NewmanCatholicMSU](https://facebook.com/NewmanCatholicMSU)

**On Twitter:** @MSU\_Newman

**Instagram:** Newman\_Catholic

**HAWK SYNC (MSU Org Sync portal):** at Newman Catholic

## OUR STAFF

### E-BOARD OFFICERS

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Dan Robinson - [daniel.robinson@focus.org](mailto:daniel.robinson@focus.org)

Darin Howell - [darin.howell@focus.org](mailto:darin.howell@focus.org)

## DAILY MASS READINGS

**Today's Mass:** Ps 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9, 13-14; Phil 3:17-4:1; or 3:20-4:1; cf. Matt 17:5; Luke 9:28b-36 - Transfiguration

**Monday:** Dan 9:4b-10; Ps 78:8, 9, 11+13; See John 6:63c+68c; Luke 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Isa 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21+23; Ezek 18:31; Matt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20; Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-

16; John 8:12; Matt 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4+6; See Luke 8:15; Luke 16:19-31

**Friday:** Gen 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21; John 3:16; Matt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday:** Mic 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12; Luke 15:18; Luke 15:1-3, 11-12



## Greely, from front

More recently, there has been a shift in the tides. Over the past few hundred years, political turmoil led to violence between the independent Catholics, who wanted Ireland to be a free state, and the loyalist Protestants of Northern Ireland, who wanted the nation to remain as a part of the United Kingdom. The ensuing power struggles culminated in a war of independence directly followed by a civil war in the early 1900s. As a result, most of Ireland became the Irish Free State, though six of the northern counties remained a part of the UK. Violence continued all through the 20th century, including kidnappings, assassinations, and terrorist attacks between the Catholic and Protestant factions that formed.

This division in Ireland has existed between political factions to be sure, but there has also been a widening gap between the Catholics and the Church. In the early 1970s, over 90% of Ireland's Catholics reported attending Mass at least weekly. Today, it is closer to 30% nationwide, and less than 20% within Dublin's archdiocese, where half of the country's population lives. Additionally, about 10% of Irish citizens now identify as "nones," claiming to have no religion at all. This lack of participation is even more pronounced among young men and women, and the Church at large is suffering for the laity's laxity. At St. Patrick's College of Maynooth, Ireland's largest Catholic seminary, there were 82 men ordained in 1899. In the fall of 2017,

the newest class of first year students only has 6 men.

At the turn of the Millennium, the global sex abuse scandal dealt a great deal of damage to public perception of the Church. Most recently, Ireland voted in a referendum to legalize abortion, a striking blow to the nation's view on the dignity of life and its Catholic identity that would have been unthinkable just 10-20 years ago. Ireland's spiritual life is a shell of its former self, and sadly, these sorts of trends have plagued most of the Western world for decades. So what would St. Patrick say about it all? Based on historical records and his own writings, we know that he went into a hostile Ireland and preached the Gospel humbly and courageously. He was rejected by many communities, and was even captured, chained, beaten, and imprisoned throughout his time there.

He met people where they were, and he used symbolism they were familiar with to explain the Triune God. Famously, he used a shamrock to explain how God could be three Persons with one divine Nature. And while the Pagan Druids worshiped the sun, he put a representative circle on a cross and explained the true Son that was to be worshiped from then on.

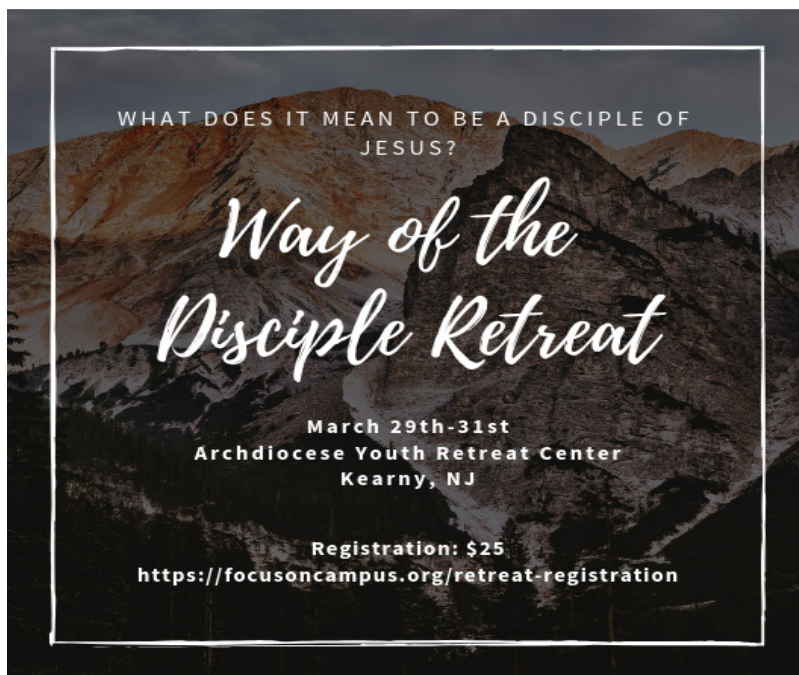
In a letter to Coroticus, an Irish raider who was attacking new Christian communities, Patrick wrote, "I am Patrick, yes a sinner and indeed untaught; yet I am established here in Ireland where I profess

myself bishop. I am certain in my heart that 'all that I am,' I have received from God. So I live among barbarous tribes, a stranger and exile for the love of God... If I have any worth, it is to live my life for God so as to teach these peoples, even though some of them still look down on me."

Any practicing Catholic today, whether in Ireland or right here in New Jersey, might, in a way, be considered "among barbarous tribes, a stranger and exile for the love of God." Being Catholic means recognizing your own sinfulness and rebelling against it; it means choosing virtue over vice, and doing so repeatedly. That can mean a lot of unpopular choices among friends, colleagues, family members, and society at-large.

Yet, it's what we're called to. Let today be a reminder of the example of Patrick, who though looked down upon, still recognized that his value was judged only by God, and by no one else. He knew that he owed all to God - his life, his salvation, and his happiness. The saints give us examples of holy lives for us to imitate so that others might be inspired by our own lives, and ultimately, that we might reach Heaven. We all, each of us, have an opportunity in our brief lives to inspire future generations to live life for God and God alone, and hopefully, to draw them toward Heaven alongside us.

Thank God that He gave us the example of St. Patrick to follow.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DISCIPLE OF JESUS?

*Way of the Disciple Retreat*

March 29th-31st  
Archdiocese Youth Retreat Center  
Kearny, NJ

Registration: \$25  
<https://focusoncampus.org/retreat-registration>

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19).*

Every believer is called to make disciples of all nations. But what does it mean to be a disciple?

In this retreat, participants deeply encounter the Person of Jesus in Eucharistic adoration and learn to respond to His call to "come, follow me." The talks of the retreat explore the meaning of discipleship and challenge participants to invite others to become disciples of Jesus."

Join students from Newman Catholic here at MSU and the other schools from the Archdiocese of Newark for this special opportunity. For more info, speak with any of the staff or FOCUS Missionaries