



BENGAL CATHOLICS NEWSLETTER





THE SEMESTER SO FAR

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

- Philippians 4:8 -

God continues to amaze us with his faithfulness and love for His ministry at Idaho State University.

As I think about all of the people we have already encountered, it makes me ever more thankful for everyone who supports St. John's through their prayer & giving. You're helping to build the Kingdom here at ISU.

Our semester started early, with Sunday Masses resuming two weeks prior to classes starting. This was to help re-gather the community that were already in Pocatello.



The first week of school concluded with our annual Scavenger Hunt & BBQ. This event, a favorite among students, started with a BBQ in our courtyard followed by teams of 4 making their way around campus and the wider-Pocatello area. Teams had to take photos of places, people they encountered, and even bring one of their roommates along for the adventure that concluded at

Jungle Retreat with some well-deserved ice cream and fellowship.

We also began our Dinner & Discussion series with an interesting talk by our campus minister, David O'Neill, on the reality of the soul. Our underlying theme for our dinner & discussions this year revolves around realities. Sometimes we can forget that many of the things we learn about the faith are not just lofty philosophical ideas. They are actual, tangible realities. This semester we'll explore topics such as, joy, the Father's love, justice, and the call to missionary activity. Please pray for open hearts to receive these messages and for a call to action to live them out.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Name: Adriene Pavek,
Major: Biology, Business Minor.
Year: Senior.



Why I like St.. John's.

I think that having a strong, faith community on a college campus has helped to fight distractions, peer pressure, and different influences that try to discourage faith. It's been great to have St. John's on campus with all of its events, faith formation, and prayer opportunities. I feel as if I've become more grounded in the Catholic worldview and have found a community I can relate to.

What will you do after graduation?

I plan to attend medical school. I'm not sure where, yet, so please pray for me!

SMALL GROUP STUDIES

FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, has been on campus at ISU for nearly 6 years. In that time, these young Catholic missionaries have been reaching out to the peripheries, investing in students, and forming future Catholic leaders who will be a positive influence on their parishes after college.

Forming students as disciples of Jesus Christ is an exercise in humility and patience. In the past 12 months, 12 students accepted the invitation to be formed as missionary disciples - someone who has had a transformational encounter with Jesus and has then chosen to surrender and follow. These students' transformed lives transform their community, which in turn transform the world around them.

One of the ways that we are making an impact on our community is through small group studies. Students are invited to go deeper, investing in relationships with others through honesty and vulnerability.

Besides the traditional bible studies, we have also introduced 4 new small group studies, lead by students for students. We have a 'The Lion, The Witch, & The Wardrobe' book study, 'A Biblical Walk through the Mass' study, an 'Iron Sharpens



Iron' weightlifting bible study for men, and an 'Awaken my Heart' book study for women.

RCIA

Our Rite of Christian Initiation group has begun in anticipation of students being received into the Church at Easter. At present, we have 5 committed catechumens/candidates with 3 more in the Inquiry phase. We continue to encounter many students who aren't Catholic that have a desire to know more and potentially become Catholic! Please continue to pray for the continued conversion of souls on campus at Idaho State University.



BY THE NUMBERS

- 90-100 regular Sunday Mass attendees.
- 15-20 regular 'Holy Hour' attendees.
- 25-30 Dinner & Discussion attendees.
- 35-40 Bible Study attendees.
- 150+ students fed each week.

FUNDING THE FUTURE

Support the programming crucial to the mission of St. John's. Invest in your parish's future and the continued growth of this vital ministry.

Contact David O'Neill to discover ways to make a lasting impact on the future of St. John's.

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SEEK '22 UPDATE

Each year, FOCUS coordinates a nation-wide conference for college students known as SEEK. This large-scale event offers our students a moment of encounter where they listen to talks, dive into discussions, have fellowship over meals and leisure time, and experience the power of the Gospel and the beauty of the faith together.

Each year, our campus has attended this event and we've come back transformed - on fire for the faith and renewed with a sense of urgency to bring Christ to Idaho State University.

Last Spring, the conference was offered virtually, so we organized a collaborative in-person event (Covid safe) in Boise with BSU and the young adult community there. It was a huge success.

With SEEK 22 being offered in similar way, we have decided to plan another in-person (Covid safe) event. We look forward to sharing more of the details with you as they emerge. Our students are excited and enthusiastic about this conference and we ask that you continue to pray for all of the planning that will go into making this event possible.

If you are interested in attending, please contact David O'Neill for how to register.

PRAYER REQUESTS

if you have any intentions that you would like to be added to our prayer requests, please reach out to Dave & we will include them.



- For the continued conversion of students at Idaho State University, especially those currently in RCIA.
- For all our student leaders.
- For all students on campus who experience mental health issues, especially anxiety and loneliness.
- For students during their application process to graduate schools.
- For the safe delivery of baby Snow.
- For the safe delivery of baby McGowan.
- For the newlyweds, Cooper & Emily Dow.
- For the complete healing of David O'Neill from cancer.