



BENGAL CATHOLICS NEWSLETTER





GRACE & GROWTH

"And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

- Colossians 1:9-10 -

There's been a lot of things going on at St. John's since school restarted in August and it is all made possible by the grace of God and your support.

Fr. Emil Parafiniuk, our new chaplain, joined us after brief stops in Boise, Brooklyn, and his Polish home, Warsaw.

We also gained 2 new FOCUS Missionaries to serve on campus this year. We are currently a team of 3 - 1 guy, 2 girls - but we are praying for another guy to join us in the Spring after graduating in December. Even being short one team member, the whole ministry team - chaplain, campus minister, FOCUS Missionaries, & student leaders - have given themselves fully to the mission of evangelizing the Idaho State University campus. The Lord is cultivating growth!



We have 9 active & thriving Bible Studies, with 8 being led by students! Our RCIA program, led by 2 students under the guidance of Fr. Emil & Dave, has an average of 12 attendees, ranging from non-Catholics to Catholics desiring to grow in understanding what the Church teaches. On Sunday, November 13, Rhonan Brownfield will be baptized Catholic after being involved in Inquiry, RCIA, and the community for the past 3 years. God-willing, another 4 students (or more) will be received into the Church this coming Easter.

Because of the great success of our Bible Studies and RCIA program, we said farewell to our 'Dinner & Discussion' program. For the past 5 years, St. John's hosted a weekly faith formation evening covering a myriad of Church teachings that included dinner. To ensure our students didn't starve due to this meal being discontinued we began hosting Sunday Supper after 5pm Mass on Sunday, as well as a monthly 'Community Dinner' where students would invite their friends to simply come share a meal with the Bengal Catholic community - much like our lunches on Monday & Wednesday. We've seen a great increase in students inviting others to come be a part of our community, as well as greater relationships forming with Holy Spirit parishioners who join us for dinner on Sunday evenings.



SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

There have been so many amazing things happen during the semester that would take more than this newsletter to communicate them well. Here are a few highlights:

- 11 members of St. John's, including Fr. Emil, joined the Knights of Columbus at a ceremony held in our chapel.
- Pancakes on the Patio as part of our outreach to students - we've cooked pancakes on our new griddle, invited students to come eat breakfast, check out the Center, and join us for other activities.
- Hiking in Yellowstone was a great opportunity for new & old students to build relationships, as well as to check out one of our great National parks.
- Handing out over 50 Miraculous Medals throughout the semester and witnessing what Our Lady's intercession has done in bringing students closer to Jesus.
- Spending the first few weeks of the semester grilling, playing games in Fr. Emil's yard, and making s'mores.
- The ladies hosted a 'Little Flower' party on the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux where they made floral bouquets.
- The men of St. John have been walking around campus after Sunday Suppers to pray the rosary.



BY THE NUMBERS

- 80-100 regular Sunday Mass attendees.
- 15-20 regular 'Holy Hour' attendees.
- 56 students in Bible Studies.
- 8 Student-led Bible Studies.
- 5 students in RCIA (12+ students attend)
- Countless Rosaries, Holy Hours, & Masses being prayed for your intentions.
- Around 200 students fed each week.
- Many new students engaging weekly.



WAYS TO GIVE

St. John's is always seeking to improve the ways in which we evangelize the Idaho State University campus.

As we continue to grow and encounter more students on campus, we are always looking for funds to help us with the many events, activities, and especially meals that we provide for the students and community-at-large. On average, we spend over \$200 a week on food alone! Would you consider sponsoring one week of meals?

Have you considered being a monthly donor? Monthly gifts help us plan accordingly for all the activities and services we provide. A simple recurring gift of \$40/month goes a long way at St. John's. Go to www.bengalcatholics.com to find out more.

Lastly, you can always use the envelope provided to make a one-time gift, supporting the various needs of the Center - include in the memo line any donor intentions you may have. Thank you for being a partner in our mission and for all the ways in which you help grow the Church here at Idaho State.

PRAYER REQUESTS

As we continue to pray for you daily, please join us in offering these intentions as part of your prayers. We appreciate all the support that we receive from you.



- For the continued conversion of students at Idaho State University.
- For all our student leaders.
- For all students on campus who experience mental health issues, especially anxiety and loneliness.
- For students in RCIA preparing to receive the Sacraments this Easter.
- For the safe delivery of baby Dow.
- For Faith & Carson as they prepare for marriage.
- For our FOCUS Missionaries, especially for the Lord to send one more to us this year.
- For the complete healing of David O'Neill from cancer.
- For all those new to the Bengal Catholics community, that they may find a place of welcome, and feel called to be sent out on mission to share the faith on campus.

MASS INTENTIONS

St. John's offers Mass Sunday-Friday and we would love to offer your intentions during these celebrations. If you have any birthdays, anniversaries, departed loved ones, etc. that you would like to have Mass offered for, please write their names down, along with the relevant dates & celebrations, and send them to us in the envelope provided. Our community is happy to pray with you and for you.

