

SPRING 2025

NEWMAN *Connection*

NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS MAGAZINE FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & ALUMNI

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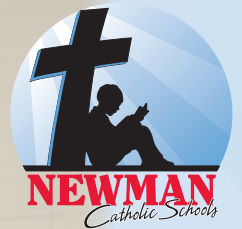
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INVEST IN YOUR LEGACY



Newman Catholic Schools Fosters Disciples of Christ Through Catholic Faith, Service and Academics.

Message from the Chaplain

FR. ERIC J. MASHAK

ASSOCIATE PASTOR ST MARK & ST. THERESE AND NCMS/HS CHAPLAIN



Lent as the Only Preparation for a Joyful Easter

Having an awesome Easter always begins with having an awesome Lent. This great season starts with the great penitential Psalm 51, which is the Responsorial Psalm for Ash Wednesday. The words of the Psalmist beg mercy for sin, but woven throughout is the imagery of cleansing or washing:

***Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Create a clean heart in me, O God;
renew in me a steadfast spirit.***

The three pillars of Lenten observance that the Church gives us are Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Each serves to cleanse our hearts of sin and the things that turn us away from God.

Prayer: The lifting up of the mind and heart to God.

Fasting: For members of the Roman Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that, together, are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Roman Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. The fasting and abstinence required by the Church during Lent pertains directly to food, but many people choose to give up other legitimately good things in addition as an exercise in self-discipline and to make reparation for sin.

Almsgiving: Donating money or goods to the poor and performing other acts of charity.

To help our students grow in the disciplines of Lent a tool that we are using with our middle school students at Newman Catholic is called 'the wheel of penances.' This is a wheel that is spun by a student to receive their weekly penance during the season of Lent. The wheel looks a little like the wheel from the popular show 'Wheel of Fortune,' but instead of getting money, the students get a penance which comes from one of the three categories: Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. A few examples of things the students could receive from their spin include: 'random act of kindness,' 'no social media for the day' and 'pray the stations of the Cross in the Chapel.'

I have always found that I enjoy Easter more when I had an awesome Lent. That is what I wished for my students, too, as they celebrated this Lenten season!



Message from the President

JEFF GULAN



Dear Friends of Newman Catholic Schools,

As we draw closer to the Easter season, I want to take a moment to reflect on its profound significance and share with you how we, as a school community, embrace this special time.

Easter, as the cornerstone of our faith, celebrates the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is a time of joy, hope and renewal. The resurrection is not only a historical event but also a transformative experience that speaks to the core of our Catholic beliefs and values.

In the spirit of Easter, Newman Catholic Schools aims to embody and impart the teachings of Christ through our daily interactions, educational endeavors and community outreach. Thus, supporting our mission statement of "Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics." This season provides a unique opportunity for us to deepen our faith, strengthen our bonds and recommit ourselves to living out the Gospel values of love, compassion and service.

As we journey through Lent and prepare for the joyous celebration of Easter, let us remember the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. These practices help us draw closer to God, purify our hearts and extend a helping hand to those in need.

To our parents, thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to your children's education and spiritual formation. To our alumni and supporters, we are grateful for the legacy you have left behind and the continued connection you maintain with our school.

May this Easter season be a time of profound blessings and renewal for each of you. Let us rejoice in the resurrection of Christ and by His light in our world.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Easter!

JEFF GULAN

President of Newman Catholic Schools

You're Invited!

It's summer festival time!

Celebrate God's glorious gifts as we come together in community this summer.

Holy Name of Jesus Parish

Summerfun

Friday, June 6 & Saturday, June 7

Visit holynamewausau.com
to learn more

St. Anne Parish

St. Anne Fest

Friday, June 13 & Saturday, June 14

Visit stanneswausau.org
to learn more

St. Therese Parish

August Fest

Saturday, August 9 & Sunday, August 10

Visit sttheresecc.org
to learn more

St. Mark Catholic Parish

June Bug Festival

Sunday, June 8

Visit smproths.org
to learn more

St. Florian Catholic Parish

St. Florian Picnic

Saturday, July 26 & Sunday, July 27

Visit stflos.org
to learn more

St. Agnes Catholic Parish

Sports Banquet

Saturday, September 20

Visit stagnescatholicparish.com
to learn more

Thank you to our supporting parishes and local Catholic community for your support!

Catholic Schools Week Service Project

SUPPORTING CASA HOGAR JUAN PABLO II

Each year during the system's Catholic Schools Week celebration, our Newman Catholic Family comes together as disciples for Christ through a system-wide service project. The focus each year is to ensure all Cardinals, from the early childhood programs through high school, can participate and live our mission.

This year, our system came together in support of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, a home for youth in Peru founded by Father Joseph Walijewski. NCS has supported Casa Hogar over the years; through Project Milk, by donating funds and sending students on mission trips. This year, we wanted to do something a bit different. Upon reaching out to the Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild, we learned that the school had a great need for classroom supplies and sports equipment. What a wonderful opportunity for Newman Catholic students to support the students of Casa Hogar and their Catholic education journey.



Over a five day period, students brought in art supplies, craft activities, board and card games, stuffed animals, soccer balls, volleyballs, basketballs, and so much more. The donations filled two large car loads. Two car loads full of necessities to help bring joy to the students who will use them. Noel Furger, Director of Development for Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild, reached out to NCS after the first round of donations made its way to Peru to let us know that the children were so happy to receive the supplies, especially all of the brand new backpacks that were donated.

Newman Catholic Schools' Dean, Fr. Sebastian Kolodziejczyk, helped kick the service project off at the middle & high school by taking a few moments to teach the students about Fr. Joseph Walijewski and Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II. Fr. Sebastian was Casa Hogar's Executive Director for many years, making him the perfect person to help motivate the students. Though our families are always generous in support of service projects, it is important that the students know why we choose to support organizations. Helping the students to feel a connection with a project ensures they are driven to participate.

Though the service project is complete, Newman Catholic Schools wants to ensure students continue to feel a connection to Casa Hogar in hopes that they consider supporting the cause in the future. Fr. Joseph Hirsch, current Executive Director, will be visiting with all of Newman Catholic's elementary, middle and high school students in May 2025 to deliver a talk on the organization's history and mission.



Father Joseph Walijewski
Legacy Guild
Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II

The Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild is an association of people dedicated to furthering the cause of the Servant of God, Father Joseph Walijewski, and providing continued support for the legacy he left behind. Padre Jose's spirituality is rooted in seeing Christ crucified in everyone he met; especially the orphans, the abandoned, the marginalized and the poor.

Learn more about Fr. Joseph's Walijewski's work or how you can support Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II by visiting

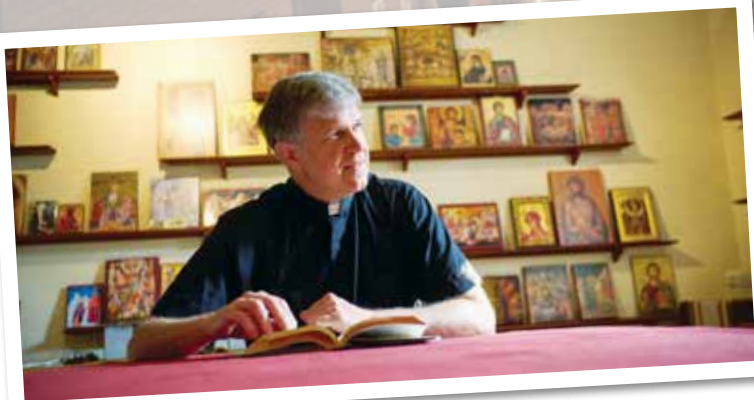
www.frjoesguild.org



The Road to Priesthood:

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

BY: FR. THOMAS KRIEG



I'm pretty sure that at the Senior Awards ceremony before my graduation in 1982 I won the award for "Most Likely to Succeed." I'm not sure what my classmates were thinking, to be honest. I guess I did well in school, GPA-wise anyway. I was decent at basketball when that was the glory sport, and I got along well enough with everyone. Now that I've seen the extraordinary things that so many of my classmates have done, I don't suppose I would get that award again.

Success is hard to define. Our culture seems to define it in terms of money and power. On the other hand, many have learned that success has more to do with relationships, commitment, and how well we have loved one another. That seems to be the bar that Jesus set for us.

When I was in high school I had little sense of this. I knew I wanted to be right with God, but love and compassion were not on my to-do list. I wanted to succeed on the basketball court and get good grades so I could go to an exceptional university and get a high-paying job some day. I thought about being a lawyer or an engineer because of the prestige and pay.

It was not until my junior year in college, when my heart broke, that I discovered the need for God in my life. I further discovered shortly afterward that being in strong communion with others and serving people in need made me more aware of God's vivid presence in my life. It would be nice if we could gain such wisdom by eating cotton candy, but it seems like the recipe for wisdom almost always includes a good deal of suffering.

While those life-changing insights came to a boil well after my years at

Newman, it is fair to say that the stew was simmering during high school. Friends and faith were the key ingredients.

The greatest blessing of my time at Newman was having a good group of friends to hang out with. While playing sheephead nearly every weekend, four or five of us gathered in someone's basement learning about life's joys and struggles and our limits with junk food. It was a safe place. Happily, these relationships continue to this day. I am grateful.

As far as faith goes, it was "steady as she goes." I don't recall any dramatic changes to my faith life during high school, but Newman helped me stay on course. I continued to go to Mass every week with my family. In classes, I learned about the Bible, Church history, morality, and my class was privileged to be part of a pilot program with a Jewish Rabbi teaching a course. You don't see that happening anymore, but it was a rich experience. The more I learned about religion and faith, the more I liked it. In college, I ended up with a minor in theology because of that.

Fr. Al Slowiak, the very same as the one still serving parishes in Wausau, was one of my teachers. I enjoyed his teaching, and when I went to Newman baseball games we sat together in the press box where I announced the game and he smoked his pipe with his special blend of tobacco from some place in Chicago. I don't think we ever talked about me becoming a priest, but the time we shared made me realize that normal people who were fun to hang out with could become priests, and I could imagine myself being one. Since then, Fr. Al has accompanied me on many pilgrimages to the Holy Land; it is a joy to have him as a colleague and friend.

Nine years after receiving that "Most Likely to Succeed" award, I decided to go ahead with ordination to the priesthood for the Diocese of La Crosse. I finally made that choice after realizing that God would be OK with whatever I chose to do, as long as I did so with faith and love in my heart. Indeed, St. Mother Teresa said "God has not called me to be successful; He has called me to be faithful." That sounds right to me.

For that quote to sound right to me, a lot of things had to happen in my life. Many of those things happened while I was at Newman. I am grateful to all my friends, coaches and teachers at Newman High School for sharing their time and care with me in a way that helped me see the bar that Jesus set for my success. May they have the reward of their goodness.





What Easter means to Us



Easter is a day of joy for me. It's a day of being proud of our faith believing that Jesus truly rose from the dead. For me it's always a day of praying, a day of celebrating. My family and I go to Easter Mass. We spend the day with family and friends and have dinner to celebrate the resurrection.

Yaneisy, 5th grade at NCES: St. Anne



We celebrate Easter to praise Jesus for coming back to life. It makes us feel happy because our Lord has risen.

Yonathan, 6th grade at NCCS: Holy Name



To me Easter means a new life and a new beginning. We celebrate Easter because Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Easter is important to me because on Easter Jesus got a new life and no one else in the world can get a second life.

Stella, 5th grade at NCES: St. Anne



To me Easter means that we need to remember and thank Jesus Christ himself for saving us from eternal sin. It means that we need to learn from him, having to save us, and be the best we can at all times. But still, we won't ever be perfect but we can always put our trust in God and do our best.

Benjamin, 6th grade at NCMS



Easter means that Jesus loves us very much.

Jordy, 2nd grade at NCES: St. Mark



Catholics all over the globe celebrate Easter because during this time we remember Jesus's resurrection. This marks the day when God fulfilled His promise to mankind to open the gates of Heaven. Easter gives us the opportunity to share the love with others that the Lord has given us.

Lily, 6th grade at NCMS



We celebrate Easter so we can remember how Jesus was put on the cross and died for us to save our sins. We also remember His resurrection. Finally, we celebrate it so that we remember all He did for us.

Maren, 3rd grade at NCES: St. Mark



We celebrate Easter to celebrate the Resurrection, the salvation Jesus has won for us, and His Presence in our lives today. Easter means to me a time to find joy in our relationship with Jesus and recognize His great love for us.

Addison, 11th grade at NCHS



We celebrate Easter because Jesus rises from the dead and forgives our sins. Alleluia!

Ignatius, 7th grade at NCCS: Holy Name



To me, Easter is a season of joy and prosperity to be happy about how Jesus defeated death so we can now enjoy the fullness of His kingdom. We celebrate Easter as gratitude for the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

Carson, 12th grade at NCHS

Celebrating Christ Through Music!

Doug & Dave Concert - December 3, 2024

Doug and Dave are talented storytellers and musicians who share their Faith in a fun and entertaining way. Students, faculty and staff were able to celebrate as a community while enjoying Doug and Dave's "The Faith We Live" show.



Paul Kim Concert - March 19 & 20, 2025

On March 19 & 20, students got to enjoy the unique, inspirational stylings of Paul J. Kim, a highly sought after Catholic speaker. Paul Kim uses a unique blend of beatboxing, comedy and inspirational talks to share the Gospel message while keeping the students engaged and entertained.



*"I play the notes as they are written but it is God who makes the music."
-Johann Sebastian Bach*

Celebrating Our Unsung Heroes

THE NCS MAINTENANCE TEAM

They say it takes a village to raise a child, and that's certainly true at Newman Catholic Schools when operating a school system. From teachers to support staff to administrators to food service and maintenance staff, everyone is needed to ensure that Newman Catholic Schools is a great place to learn. It's important to recognize our unsung heroes who are often working behind the scenes but care for an incredible amount of work to ensure the school system and students are successful. One such group, deserving of praise is the NCS maintenance team.

"Though you may not consider a clean school something special, there is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes. Thank you for the work you put into making Newman such a good atmosphere. We appreciate all you do!" – Mallory, 11th grade at NCHS

"The Newman maintenance team is very dedicated and hardworking! They always have a smile on their faces and are willing to help no matter the task. We are so blessed to have a loving staff that keeps our school clean, safe, and welcoming!" – Lily, 12th grade at NCHS

"Thanks for all you do to keep our kitchen running smoothly. You are always available with a moment's notice! And the hot coffee in the morning is an added bonus!! You guys are awesome!!"
– Mrs. Lammar, Head Cook at NCMS/HS

"A huge shout out to our custodians for keeping our school running smoothly—not just inside the building but outside too! Thank you for everything you do guys!" – Mrs. Mootz, Band Teacher at NCMS/HS

"I thank our maintenance department for the time, effort, and care they put into maintaining the school and our athletic fields. We're lucky to have them on our team!" – Mr. Noll, English Teacher at NCHS

Newman Catholic Schools is grateful to the maintenance team for their hard work and dedication to providing the system with clean and inviting spaces to learn and teach in. Well-maintained and comfortable learning environments play a large role in student success and school pride, and we thank the maintenance team for ensuring this is available to all students both in and outside the classroom.

*"What makes a hero
is not a cape,
but a heart of service."*

– Martin Luther King Jr.



Newman Catholic Schools:

FULLY ACCREDITED AND DRIVING FORWARD

Accreditation is designed to help educational institutions boost their ongoing performance efforts for the benefit of their students, offering some assurance that they are receiving a quality education. Newman Catholic Schools (NCS) is blessed to be accredited through Wisconsin Religious & Independent Schools Accreditation (WRISA) for kindergarten through 12th grade.

During the fall of 2024, NCS was visited by the accreditation team who met with building leaders, faculty and staff to review all facets of Newman Catholic's K-12 programs, adhering to the accreditation process as set forth by WRISA. WRISA is a nonprofit organization formed in 1991 by the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS). WRISA's three phase accreditation process provides school communities with the opportunity to explore every aspect of their school program, receive valuable feedback from a team of impartial professional educators, and develop a long range plan using the WRISA framework.

A natural outcome of the accreditation process is the creation of an updated Strategic Plan to help the system move forward successfully. The strategic planning process began in the spring of 2024 with the first meeting of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee, a group focused on laying the groundwork for system leadership to build upon once the accreditation process was complete. The committee's findings were turned over to system leadership during the summer of 2024 to take the next crucial steps.

Over the past six months, system and building administrators have gathered regularly to review the initial feedback and suggestions made by the steering committee; using those gatherings to develop goals and objectives within each area of strategic focus ensuring timelines and specific benchmarks are set to ensure accountability. The team identified five key areas of focus before developing goals and objectives for each:

Strategic Category #1: Creating a System of Excellence

Strategic Category #2: Financial Stability and Stewardship

Strategic Category #3: Foster and Enhance a Culture of Respect and Trust

Strategic Category #4: A Branding and Marketing Strategy Aligned with Values

Strategic Category #5: Strengthen Relationships with Parishes and the Greater Catholic Community

The initial draft of the new strategic plan was presented to the Finance Committee and Education Commission on March 18, 2025. Receiving approval at those sessions means the system could move forward with finalizing and formally publishing Newman Catholic Schools' Strategic Plan which will be made available to all stakeholders who wish to review its contents.



The Importance of

youngstar 

Early childhood education plays an important part in a child's development and provides a strong foundation for future academic, social and emotional success. Newman Catholic Schools is proud to offer a number of early childhood programs for families, including a licensed child care program at Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Michael and St. Therese, offering care to children as early as six weeks old. Although these programs are operated by Newman Catholic Schools, they are monitored by Wisconsin's Department of Children & Families as licensed child care facilities. The standards issued by the state of Wisconsin ensure that child care programs offer safe, high-quality early childhood experiences.

Newman Catholic Schools early childhood centers take great pride in offering quality licensed child care programs, and participate in YoungStar, a child care quality rating and improvement system. Participating in YoungStar is optional for licensed child care programs, but offers additional support to facilities that are always looking for ways to improve and offer a high-quality, safe, healthy, nurturing and engaging early child experience for students, families and staff.

Both NCECC: St. Michael and St. Therese participate in YoungStar, aiming to provide strong and meaningful early childhood experiences in the Wausau community. The centers go through bi-annual reviews where they are observed and interviewed by members of the YoungStar team. These teams observe and evaluate the following areas:

1. **Provider's education and training**
 2. **Program's learning environment and curriculum**
 3. **Program's professional and business practices**
 4. **Children's health and well-being**
- The review team provides feedback to centers offering them detailed information about areas of strength and opportunities for growth.**

Newman Catholic Schools strongly believes in laying a solid foundation for our youngest cardinals in the early childhood programs offered. By participating in YoungStar, the system is ensuring that we are going above and beyond the baseline expectations to guarantee children receive the best early childhood experience to prepare them to be lifelong learners.



NEWMAN *Congratulations!* ★★★★★

Newman Catholic Early Childhood Center: St. Therese
5-Star YoungStar Rated
Licensed Child Care Program

NCECC: St. Therese went through their bi-annual review in October 2024 where they were observed and interviewed by members of the YoungStar team.

Newman Catholic Schools is proud to announce that NCECC: St. Therese was rated a 5-star center, the highest rating a center can receive. The NCECC: St. Therese team has been rated a 4-star center for the past 10 years, and has been working hard to obtain a 5-star rating.

*Congratulations to the NCECC: St. Therese team.
The NCS family is proud of you!*

Invest in Your Legacy



Using IRA Distributions to Support NCS

Do you have an individual retirement account (IRA)? Are you 70 1/2 or older? If yes to both, then you likely know that you must take your required minimum distribution (RMD) before the year ends, but did you know that you can avoid paying taxes and decrease your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), also known as an IRA Charitable Rollover, is a nontaxable distribution of up to \$105,000 made directly to a qualified charitable organization. **Help further the mission of Newman Catholic Schools by making a QCD!**

Though QCDs do not qualify for a charitable deduction, they do count towards your required minimum distribution. For this reason and those laid out below, making a charitable contribution from your IRA is truly advantageous.

Making a QCD means

- You will pay no income tax on your gift
- You can help support your favorite causes
- Your gift can help build your charitable legacy
- You can use your IRA in the way you want

Planned Giving Bequests

Leave a bequest and you are leaving a legacy which supports the students, faculty and staff of Newman Catholic Schools. A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make but one that leaves a lasting impact. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift be made to family, friends or Newman Catholic Schools as part of your estate plan.

What are the benefits of making a bequest?

- You leave a lasting legacy to be remembered
- You lessen the burden of taxes on your family
- You may receive estate tax savings

What are your options?

A bequest can be made in several ways:

- You can gift a specific dollar amount or asset
- You can gift a percentage of your estate
- You can gift from the balance or residue of your estate
- You can make a beneficiary designation of certain assets.



Learn more by calling the Advancement
& Alumni Office at 715-842-4805

The Dreaded Senior Capstone Project

As a requirement to graduate from Newman Catholic High School, students must complete a Senior Capstone Project. The Senior Capstone is a self-directed learning experience designed to provide students with the opportunity to share skills and information they have learned in an area of interest. This is a unique opportunity that allows students to demonstrate what they have learned through extensive research while gaining necessary skills that can be used within their post-secondary education.

With guidance from a faculty advisor and an industry consultant, students develop a research project or senior thesis in a subject area of their choice. The process begins in the second semester of junior year, at which time students select their topic and identify a consultant who has expertise in the field to be studied. Students then spend eight months working on the project before presenting their findings to a panel of judges. The completion of the Senior Capstone Project is truly a day to rejoice.



Why does Newman Catholic require the Senior Capstone Project?

1. Capstone provides a unique learning experience for students.
2. Students direct their own learning.
3. Capstone helps students explore areas for careers or avocations that may be of interest.
4. Students develop skills in critical thinking, independent research, organization, communication, writing and speaking.
5. Students must meet deadlines and demonstrate responsibility.
6. Capstone can be an impressive element of a resume for college acceptance and scholarships.

Though a long and sometimes arduous process, the Senior Capstone Project is an important part of the Newman Catholic educational experience. It is the culmination of years of rigorous study when students are able to showcase all they have learned.



Congratulations Class of 2025!

Camryn Balk-Yaatenen
Kaitlyn Barich
Evie Bates
Madison Beck
Carson Calo
Sarah Cicha
Eva Espinoza-Almazar
Olivia Fox

Brock Gasper
Evan Groene
Reagan Herdrich
Grace Hoelter
Gavin Hynes
Esteban Juan
Andrew Kaiser
Steven Klement

Noah Kucharski
Nolyn Lindner
Chuxeng Lo
Fiona MacCarthy
Noah Martin
Liam McCarty
Anthony Moua
Oluwatimileyin Odeyemi

Owen Reeves
Carson Rice
Melayna Severson
Lily Shields
Naomi Stenstrom
Annika Svennes
Gregory Zabrowski

SENIOR REFLECTION

BY: NAOMI STENSTROM

After all the years of preparation, the time has come to submit our applications to our future endeavors, whether it's the workforce, technical school, or college. With high school coming to a close, the difference between who we were and who we have become is worthy of applause. We grew as a class, as individuals, and in our faith. I personally will look back on Newman as a discovery of self. I learned leadership, perseverance, and compassion through sports, clubs, and the people I've met. As we graduate, I hope my peers agree with me. The Senior class of 2025 is a winning combination. In school events, we celebrated our wins and our school spirit. I hope our class has been influential role models for the underclassmen.

On behalf of my class I would like to thank all the teachers that have gotten us this far. Graduation would not be possible without the teachers' pep talks, support, and entertaining classes. They gave us the chance to express ourselves and the space to learn in the way that benefits us.

As we move on to the next stages of life, our class definitely made our mark. We will always remember our high school experience through the kind memories we shared and also the embarrassing stories we know about each other! I will definitely miss the people who have made every day of school enjoyable. As we walk across the stage to receive our diplomas, we will be thinking about the teachers, the classes, and the friends who made us who we are. They will be forever in our minds. Even if some of us forget and move forward, we will always carry Newman with us through our actions, like going to Mass and being in service to our community, and through our habits, like studying for exams, people skills, or preparing for a 15 minute presentation (Capstone!). I'm looking forward to seeing everyone prosper and achieve success in their own way.

"To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

The words of St. John Henry Newman



Legacy with NCS

From Early Childhood to Graduation

Newman Catholic Schools is a system that focuses on education from early childhood to graduation. A system that celebrates the legacy that many of this year's seniors have forged as being part of the Newman Catholic family since their earliest school years. Newman Catholic Schools is built on legacy, not just through alumni generations but through connections within each student's Newman Catholic journey.

Camryn Balk-Yaatenen - Infant
- 12th Grade

Kaitlyn Barich - 4K - 12th Grade

Evie Bates - 4K - 12th Grade

Madison Beck - 1st Grade - 12th Grade

Carson Calo - 3P - 12th Grade

Sarah Cicha - Kindergarten - 12th Grade

Eva Espinoza-Almazar - Child Care & K
- 12th Grade

Olivia Fox - 2P - 12th Grade

Brock Gasper - 4K - 12th Grade

Evan Groene - Kindergarten - 12th Grade

Reagan Herdrich - 1st - 12th Grade

Grace Hoelter - 4K - 12th Grade

Gavin Hynes - 4K - 12th Grade

Esteban Juan - 2nd - 12th Grade

Andrew Kaiser - 3P - 12th Grade

Steven Klement - Kindergarten
- 12th Grade

Noah Kucharski - Kindergarten
- 12th Grade

Nolyn Lindner - 2P & Kindergarten
- 12th Grade

Chuexeng Lo - 4K - 12th Grade

Fiona MacCarthy - 4K - 12th Grade

Noah Martin - 6th - 12th Grade

Liam McCarty - 4K & 10th - 12th Grade

Anthony Moua - 5th - 12th Grade

Oluwatimileyin Odeyemi - 9th -
12th Grade

Owen Reeves - 4K - 12th Grade

Carson Rice - 4K - 12th Grade

Melayna Severson - 2P - 12th
Grade

Lily Shields - Kindergarten
- 12th Grade

Naomi Stenstrom - Kindergarten
- 12th Grade

Annika Svennes - 2P
- 12th Grade

Gregory Zabrowski -
Kindergarten - 12th Grade



Once a Cardinal, Always a Cardinal

MICHAEL SPLETTER, CLASS OF 1985

During the spring of 2024, Michael Spletter, Class of 1985, journeyed back to the halls of Newman Catholic High School, bringing him full circle. Upon retiring from his role with Lee College in Texas, Mike moved back to Wausau and found himself, again, becoming a full time supporter of Newman Catholic Athletics.

Mike's journey with Newman Catholic began with his mother, Marilyn Spletter, class of 1955, Newman Catholic's first graduating class. Mike remembers hearing his mom talking with classmates about all of the wonderful times they had and how proud they were for being the first high school class. She would often say that she hoped future classes would continue the class of 1955's pioneering legacy. Mike took this as a challenge and got involved in school as a class officer, Junior Achievement officer, part of the choir, Red Hat, on the yearbook staff and, of course, in athletics.

A lifelong athlete, Mike's love of sports began while in grade school at St. Anne Elementary, now NCES: St. Anne, where he was part of the basketball team and bowling league. He continued to play basketball through high school but also found a love for tennis, the sport that brought him pure joy and success throughout his life.

Mike's experience with tennis before trying out for Newman's team consisted of two weeks of free park and recreation tennis lessons. Making the team and having the opportunity to play with mostly upperclassmen showed him the dedication and commitment that it takes to be successful, on the court and in life. In fact, professional positions that he held as an adult had a tennis component. One of his greatest memories was representing Newman at the city tennis tournament and winning the #1 singles flight, becoming City Champion.



Initially, Mike stayed in Wausau, graduating from Northcentral Technical College and coaching the Newman girls tennis team in 1986 and 1987 and the boys team in 1987. From there, Mike held several teaching pro jobs in Wisconsin, Illinois and North Dakota, and coached at the collegiate level at Penn State, Colgate University and Lee College. His last career was Student Engagement Manager at Lee College where he spent 22 years directing campus events and advising the Student Government Association and recreation programs.

Mike always knew he would retire to Wausau because of his connection with Newman Catholic and St. Anne Parish. Being a part of both growing up played significant roles in his life, starting with his grandfather who was a founding member at church and part of the parent group who raised funds to start Newman High School. Mike's own life experiences, and a strong desire to give back to his alma mater, made the decision to move back to Wausau quite easy.

In the short time he has been back, Mike has already made an impact on Newman Catholic High School. Whether cheering on the Fighting Cardinals at home games, offering his expertise to the tennis program, or financially supporting the school through the Marilyn Spletter Memorial Scholarship and donating to Newman Catholic Athletics.

When asked why he chooses to support Newman Catholic, Mike shared, "I was given a great opportunity to learn, grow and connect with my faith from my parents and the teachers and staff of Newman and Saint Anne. I want others to have that same opportunity and not say "I wish" or "I should have." Mike also shares that the discipline and Christian values that he learned from his Newman coaches stay with him today.

Michael Spletter is the true definition of, "Once a Cardinal, always a Cardinal!", and Newman Catholic Schools is grateful for him.





NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Thank you to the families, alumni and organizations who have contributed to the Newman Catholic Schools Scholarship Program. Awards are granted through an application process to support students in grades K-12 and graduating seniors.

- » Mary Bandoch Memorial
- » Bishop Gerard W. Battersby
- » Bishop John Paul Educational Endowment Trust
- » Mary T. Carlson Memorial
- » Catholic Daughters - Court St. Rose
- » Catholic Financial Life
- » Class of 1963 - Jim and Mary Kay DeBroux
- » George & Lucille Ferguson Memorial
- » William L. and Marlene J. Fredrich Memorial
- » William Goggins Memorial
- » Raymond & Marie Goldbach Foundation, Inc.
- » Thomas D. Hammer Memorial
- » Sally M. Hattenhauer Scholarship Fund
- » Jon Hoffmann Medical & Engineering Fund
- » Holy Name Parish Men's Society
- » Holy Name St. Catherine Council
- » Randy Juley Memorial
- » Katie Kennedy Memorial
- » Steve Klos Memorial
- » Knights of Columbus
- » Frank & Johanna Liszewski Memorial
- » Lorraine Moadlo Scholarship Fund
- » Glen Mroczenski Memorial
- » Lucille Murphy Scholarship Fund
- » Josephene Myszka Memorial
- » NCHS & NCMS Home & Schools
- » Robert & Ruby Neugebauer Memorial
- » Newman High School Class of 1961
- » Raphoon Family Memorial
- » Paul & Ruth Schultz Foundation
- » Edward J., Gertrude & John D. Sorges Memorial
- » Marilyn Spletter Memorial
- » St. Anne Fatima Council
- » St. Anne Parish George L. Geisler Education Endowment Trust
- » St. Mark Ladies Council
- » St. Matthew Soup Supper
- » St. Paul Parish
- » St. Therese Little Flower Council
- » Harold and Ruth Tessmer Memorial
- » Fred & Carol Wakeman Memorial
- » Christopher Wallschlaeger Memorial
- » Richard Yaeger Education Fund

How Can You Support Newman Catholic Schools?

Perhaps you have asked this question of yourself but don't know where to start. Maybe you have considered offering financial support, or volunteering your time or talent is your preferred way of giving back. No matter the path you would like to take, your support is needed and encouraged.

As a nonprofit organization, Newman Catholic Schools relies on the generosity of many to ensure that the system's mission is fulfilled, and NCS is truly grateful to its many supporters.

If you find yourself wanting to support NCS but don't know where to start, reach out to the Advancement & Alumni Department to find out where your support can best be used. The Advancement & Alumni team's primary focus is to help work with current and future supporters to help move the system's mission forward. Reach out and learn more about supporting:

1

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

2

TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - SCHOLARSHIPS AND THE GRANT & AID PROGRAM

3

PLANNED GIVING - REMEMBER NCS WHEN MAKING ESTATE PLANS

4

DEPARTMENT AND BUILDING NEEDS - SUPPORT SPECIFIC NEEDS OR PROJECTS

5

CO-CURRICULARS - SUPPORT SPECIFIC CLUBS OR ATHLETICS

6

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCEMENTS

7

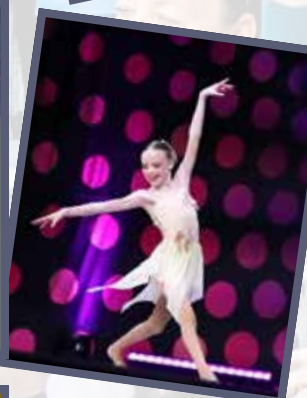
SAFETY & SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

Together we can ensure Newman Catholic Schools continues to foster disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.

NEWMAN CATHOLIC STUDENTS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Outside of school, Newman Catholic students participate in non-school sports and fine arts programs which must be celebrated. These talented young boys and girls are wonderful representatives of their families and of the Newman Catholic community as they share the gifts God gave them and offer their determination, leadership and commitment to their teams and organizations.

Congratulations to these wonderful athletes and artists for all of their success!





Family Night

Family Night at Newman Catholic Schools is an annual event where all students and families are invited to cheer on the Cardinals and enjoy a night full of family fun! This year NCS was blessed to host a doubleheader, cheering on both the boys and girls varsity basketball teams to a victory! Students and their families were invited to participate in raffles and halftime games, and showed their school pride by wearing their favorite spirit wear.



NCS is proud to offer basketball to students in grades 3 through 12 for both boys and girls. This year the basketball program had 128 students participate. Offering extra-curricular activities at a young age can positively impact a student's physical, mental and emotional health, academic performance and social skills. Through competition, teamwork and physical activity, students have the opportunity to learn skills, develop self-confidence, build character and so much more.

Some basketball highlights from the 2024-25 season include:

- The 6th grade boys team qualified for the state tournament and finished in 6th place
- Aubrey Puente, girls varsity, was awarded the Marawood All-Conference Honorable Mention and All-Defensive Team
- Melayna Severson, girls varsity, was awarded the Marawood All-Conference Honorable Mention
- The girls varsity team took 1st place in the 2025 Saints Showdown
- Quincy Pfender, boys varsity, was awarded the Marawood All-Conference 2nd Team
- Cooper Guld & Lucas Pfiffner, boys varsity, were awarded the Marawood All-Conference Honorable Mention
- Lucas Erdman, boys varsity, was awarded the Marawood All-Conference All-Defensive Team

Newman Catholic Schools is proud of our student-athletes and all they do to represent the system in a positive way both on and off the court. Go Cardinals!



Academic, Athletics & Faith Complex Update

Groundbreaking for Phase II of the Academic, Athletics & Faith Complex has officially happened which means Newman Catholic Schools will soon have an all state-of-the-art turf football/soccer field and new track with field events. If all goes well, the complex will be ready for use by August 1, 2025, just in time for the fall 2025 season. Completion of phase II will consist of:

- Shifting the current field/track to allow for an enlarged, WIAA compliant track with new field event facilities.
- Enlarging the track will offer enough space in the center to allow for a shared soccer and football field.
- Adding lights around the multi-use field which will allow for night games.
- Constructing a 100 yard practice field to offer space for multiple practices to occur simultaneously.



Phase II will also include the final steps needed to finish the tennis courts. Though the tennis complex opened towards the end of the 2024 tennis season, only six of the seven tennis courts could be built. The seventh court had to wait until the land became available. The land in question currently holds the soccer field. Additionally, all of the tennis courts will be sealed and painted, and lights will be added to allow for evening matches.

Completion of Phase II is exciting for many reasons but one of the primary is the ability for Newman Catholic students to enjoy "Friday Night Lights", a right of passage for any high school student. Since Newman Catholic opened its doors, home football games have been held most often on Saturday afternoons. For many years this was due to the fact that Newman Catholic had to share Thom Field with the public programs, but even after moving games to our home field, Balliet Field, the lack of lights made night games impossible. Completion of the new complex means Newman Catholic students will finally be able to cheer on their Fighting Cardinals while enjoying that traditional experience of Friday night games.

Safety was another focus when the new complex was designed. Moving to a turf field is a necessary step in lessening concussion and injury risk. Currently, soccer and football games are played on grass fields which offer uneven surfaces, surfaces that must be



rolled throughout the year to flatten the terrain. Unfortunately, rolling the fields can only do so much so teams still play on uneven surfaces, which allow greater risk for injury. The turf field will offer a consistent, level surface to play on and will have a shock pad under the upper layer to increase safety. Additionally, updating the track and field areas will ensure WIAA compliance. The current track does not meet required specifications, so the track and field program cannot host home meets.

With each phase of the Academic, Athletics & Faith Complex Campaign, no construction can happen until all funds are received. For this reason, the campaign committee has been working diligently to seek out donor support. Ensuring all funds are in hand before construction begins means the system does not have to incur debt to complete the project.

Now that Phase II is underway, the committee will keep moving forward to ensure the final two phases are completed. Currently, the system has received 43% in pledges towards Phase III and 44% towards Phase IV which makes the prospect of reaching the final goal quite achievable.

- **Phase III: Softball Diamond** – turf field with dual batting cages and lighting to allow for night games.
- **Phase IV: Educational Pavilion** – outdoor staging and permanent seating that can be used as an outdoor chapel, classroom and entertainment space. Celebrating our Catholic identity will be highlighted in this phase with a cross installed on the stage, sculptures, and Stations of the Cross.

One portion of phase II that is on hold until funding comes in is completion of the Pedestrian Pavilion which will house the concession stand and bathrooms. To ensure construction of the multi-purpose complex would be completed in time, this piece of the project shifted to what the system is lovingly calling Phase 2.5. Completion of the concession area would require an additional \$400,000 - \$500,000 before the ground could be broken. Though the decision was not an easy one to make, moving forward with the multi-use facility was necessary. If funding comes in by summer of 2025, then the concession stand and bathrooms can still be completed for the fall sports season.

This is an exciting time for Newman Catholic Schools as it shows the viability of the system now and into the future. The goal of raising \$7,000,000 is lofty but achievable with the support of generous donors who believe in the system's mission. If interested in learning more about the project or to support the campaign, contact the system's President, Mr. Jeff Gulan, at 715-845-5735 ext. 2035 or via email at jgulan@newmancatholicschools.com.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

JEFF GULAN

715-845-5735 EXT 2035

[JGULAN@NEWMANCATHOLICSCHOOLS.COM](mailto:jgulan@newmancatholicschools.com)



LEAVE A LEGACY BY SPONSORING A PAVER BRICK

HONOR YOUR FAMILY, LOVED ONES, CLASSMATES...

Engraved bricks will be installed in the Pedestrian Pavilion, the walkway that connects the courts and fields. Funds Raised through the Paver Brick program, will go towards growing the sustainability fund to ensure the new complex can be enjoyed for years to come.

4" x 8"

Sponsorship: \$500.00

Engraving Proportions:
3 lines / 14 characters per line

8" x 8"

Sponsorship: \$1,000.00

Engraving Proportions:
6 lines / 14 characters per line

12" x 12"

Sponsorship: \$5,000.00

Engraving Proportions:
9 lines / 21 characters per line

16" x 16"

Sponsorship: \$10,000.00

Engraving Proportions:
12 lines / 18 characters per line

Logo Engraving: \$75.00 additional charge
Add a business or organization logo to the brick.





Witness the Difference at Newman Catholic Schools

*Enroll now for the
2025-2026 school year!*

Newman Catholic Schools offers an education embraced by

- **FAITH** where students grow as Christians, both individually and as a community
- A culture of **SERVICE** where students live God's word by giving of themselves to others
- Rigorous **ACADEMICS** enhanced with social-emotional learning

Visit newmancatholicschools.com to learn more!

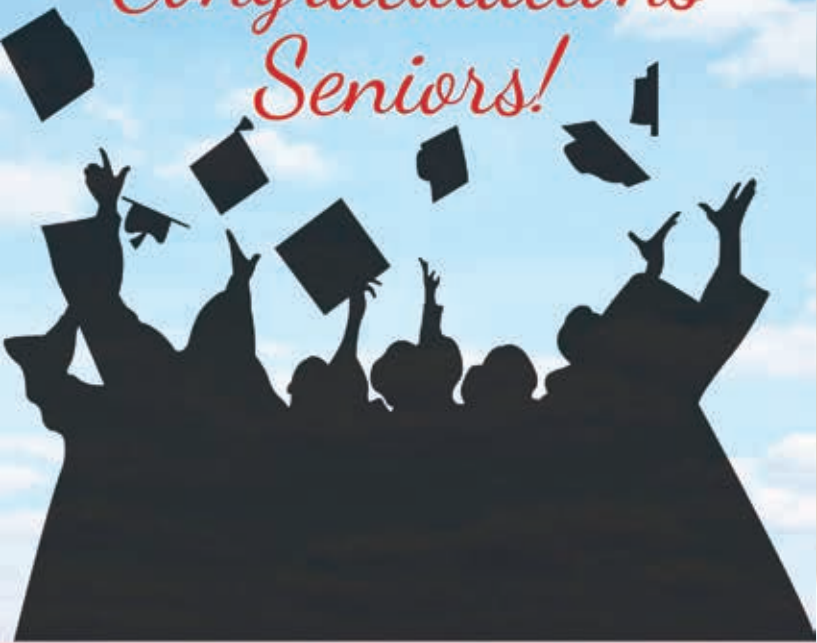
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We are thankful for teachers who have given personalized care to our children, challenging them in their areas of giftedness and supporting them where they need help. We love that our children are surrounded by others who love Jesus, they get to pray and worship with their school family, and our faith is integrated into their learning and school activities. ~Ethan & Kim Gilray

”

Newman Catholic Schools fosters disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.

*Congratulations
Seniors!*



Newman Catholic High School
Class of 2025 Graduation
Friday, May 23, 2025

COME ON OUT FOR
NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS'
FAMILY NIGHT AT THE



FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2025
VS. GREEN BAY ROCKERS
FIRST PITCH 6:35 PM

Let's celebrate the end of the
2024-25 school year together!

More information coming soon!

Newman Catholic Booster Club

SwingFest

Dual Cup Scramble



SAVE THE DATE!



Friday, July 18, 2025
Noon Shotgun Start

Information for sponsorships, donations
and team sign up is coming soon!



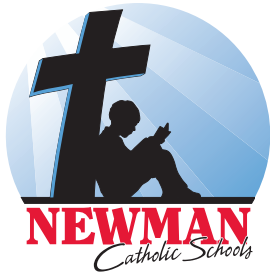
2025 NCS ATHLETIC SUMMER CAMPS

Get involved and stay active this summer!
Join NCS summer camps!

REGISTRATION
OPENS IN APRIL!

newmancatholicschools.com/athletics





Newman Catholic Schools
1130 W Bridge Street
Wausau, WI 54401



*Newman Catholic Schools Fosters Disciples of Christ Through
Catholic Faith, Service & Academics.*

