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The Cardinal Connection

Fostering disciples of Christ through Catholic faith, service and academics.

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December 2026 **NCECC: St. Michael**

Dear Parents,

During Advent the teachers will work with the children to help them learn the true meaning of Christmas: Jesus' birth. While the outside world is filled with Santa, we will strive to support our parents in helping young children learn about Jesus, God's gift to the world. Families are encouraged to keep an Advent wreath at home and count down the days and weeks to the birth of Jesus. This is a simple way for families to grow together in faith. Teaching your child the value of waiting and learning Jesus is the reason for the season are important life lessons.

Our Preschool and 4K Christmas Concert is Tuesday, December 1 at 6:00 pm in the St. Michael gym. Parents, please have your children to their Preschool or 4K classroom by 5:30 pm that evening.

I pray that this Advent season brings you peace.

Merry Christmas!

Sarah Welch
Site Director
NCECC: St. Michael



NCECC: St. Michael Program Holiday Schedules



Preschool Christmas Break

- No class Thursday, December 24 through Friday, January 1
- Classes resume on Tuesday, January 5

4K Christmas Break

- No class Wednesday, December 23 through Friday, January 1
- Classes resume on Monday, January 4

Licensed Child Care Holiday Schedule

- Monday, December 21 - Center open from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm as normal; weather permitting.
- Tuesday, December 22 - Center open from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm as normal; weather permitting.
- Wednesday, December 23 - Center open from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm as normal; weather permitting.
- Thursday, December 24 - **CLOSED** - Employee Christmas holiday
- Friday, December 25 - **CLOSED** - Employee Christmas holiday
- Monday, December 28 - Center open from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm as normal; weather permitting.
- Tuesday, December 29- Center open from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm as normal; weather permitting.
- Wednesday, December 30 - Center open from 6:30 am to 5:30 pm as normal; weather permitting.
- Thursday, December 31 - Center open from 6:30-**3pm**; weather permitting.
- Friday, January 1 - **CLOSED** - Employee New Year's holiday

We wish your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Bits 'N Pieces from NCECC: St. Michael

Preschool & 4K Christmas Concert - Tuesday, December 1

Preschool and 4K students should report to their classroom no later than 5:30 pm that evening. The concert is scheduled to begin at 6 pm. The concert will be in the NCECC: St. Michael gym.

NCES: St. Anne & NCECC: St. Michael Home & School Association

The next Home and School Meeting will be Monday, January 11, 2027 at 6:30 pm at NCES: St. Anne. All NCECC: St. Michael families are invited to attend as the Home & School supports our Licensed Child Care, Preschool, and 4K students as well.

Winter Weather Clothing

Please remember to make sure your children comes to Licensed Child Care, Preschool, or 4K dressed for winter weather. Teachers are still able to take the children outside with the colder weather. All students - Licensed Child Care, Preschool, and 4K - are expected to have winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats and mittens so they can go outside. Thank you in advance for your preparation.

Extra Clothing

Please make sure the extra clothing your child has here at NCECC: St. Michael is appropriate for the winter weather if they need to change in the event of an accident (i.e. exchanging t-shirts for long sleeves and/or exchanging shorts for long pants). If you are able to provide more than one full change of clothing that would be appreciated.

Additionally, if your child (ren) were sent home in clothing borrowed from NCECC: St. Michael, please return those items to our child's teacher.

NCECC: St. Michael Employment Opportunities

Child Care Teachers - Experience preferred but not required. Any necessary training will be provided. We're looking for:

- Second teacher in the Rainbow classroom (2 1/2 years to 3 years)
- Second teacher in the Noah's Ark classroom (3 years to 4 years).
- Licensed Childcare Support Staff
- Administrative Assistant
- 4K Teacher

If you have questions or are interested in any of these positions, please contact Sarah Welch, NCECC: St. Michael Site Director at 715 - 848 - 0206 option 2 or swelch@newmancatholicschools.com.

Newman Catholic Schools is an equal opportunity employer.

Volunteering at NCECC: St. Michael

If you are interested in volunteering at NCECC: St. Michael please reach out to Ms. Sarah in the Early Childhood Center Office for the appropriate forms from the Diocese of La Crosse that need to be completed.

1) Complete the online Safe Environment Training provided by the Diocese of La Crosse (**Link to online portion**).
   ** When selecting a "School", select "Newman Catholic Schools".
   ** When selecting a "Position", select "Other" and answer "Classroom Volunteer", "Field Trip Chaperone", or both. **Please be specific.**
   ** Make sure to take your time. The online portion will not be complete if you rush through the process.

2) Complete the "Diocese of La Crosse Authorization and Acknowledgement of Criminal Background Check & Authorization for Release of FBI Information" form (**Link to website PDF**).
   ** Under "CATHOLIC SCHOOLS", select "Other" and answer "Classroom Volunteer" or Field Trip Chaperone".
   ** **All blanks MUST be completed in order for the background check to be run**. If you do not have a completed background check, you will not be able to volunteer.

   At the bottom of the form:
   ** Parish / School - Newman Catholic Schools
   ** Parish / School Contact Person - hr@newmancatholicschools.com
   ** City/Unified System - Wausau / Newman Catholic Schools
   ** Contact Phone Number - 715-845-5735



3) Complete the "Annual Verification of Protect and Heal Training" form (**Link to website PDF**).

4) Complete the "Diocese of La Crosse Protect and Heal Employee and Volunteer Confidential Questionnaire" form (**Link to website PDF**).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Ms. Sarah in the Early Childhood Center Office.

Upcoming events extra hands will be appreciated at are:

- NCECC: St. Michael Preschool & 4K Christmas Program (Tuesday, December 1)
- NCES: St. Anne and NCECC: St. Michael Yearbook Committee (March / April 2027)
- NCECC: St. Michael and NCES: St. Anne Spring Fling (April 2027)

Classroom News

Little Lambs

Merry Christmas to all!!
In the month of December our themes are Merry Christmas, Happy Birthday Jesus and Happy New Year!
The babies will be working on tummy time and rolling over. The toddlers will be working on eating meals at the table and sleeping on a cot.



God Bless, Ms. Amanda and Ms. Rachel

Rainbow

Hello Rainbow Room families, in the month of December other than all of the Holiday festivities, we will also be learning about winter and snow. A few fun things to look forward to include, learning about hibernation and migration, water turning into ice, along with the northern lights and star. We do have some Christmas classroom activities going on as well such as pin the heart on the Grinch, Frosty's magic snow hat, and Reindeer games. Looking forward to a Merry and Bright December Mrs. Liz



Little Angels



December?!?!
Where did the year go? Time has surely flown by!
In the month of December, Little Angels will be learning about why we celebrate Christmas.
We will be singing songs,
creating art projects in honor of Jesus's birthday,
Dates to remember:
From the bottom of our hearts,
It is always a pleasure working with your children.

Merry Christmas To All And A Very Blessed New Year!
Ms. Gabby and Ms. Savannah

Noah's Ark / Young Disciples

Please remember the weather is changing so please make sure your child has appropriate outside gear.

Our weekly themes are;

Snow/winter
Christmas
New Years

Reminders:
Tuesday , December 1 Preschool/4K Christmas Program
Please have your child here by 5:30 in their preschool room

Week of Dec 14th—Holiday Dress up week
More information to come

No Preschool– December 24nd– Jan. 1st.

Center Closed– December 24th –25th
-Closing at 3pm December 31st

December Religion news

This month we will be celebrating Jesus's birth, from an angel telling Mary she's going to have a baby to Mary telling Joseph and Elizabeth and then Mary and Joseph heading to Bethlehem. This is one of my favorite stories to tell.

We will be making a book about it for you to read together at home.
We also will be making some cute crafts to celebrate this special time.
May you all have a blessed Christmas with your families.

Ms. Paula

Like us on Facebook!
See all the fun things happening at Newman Catholic Schools. "Like" us on Facebook!
Look for the Newman Catholic Schools logo!

Classroom News (continued)

Preschool

December 1st we will get to perform our Christmas concert. Our 3P friends have been working so hard on their songs and all their hard work is really paying off!

In 3P this month, we will be talking about our 5 senses and the Christmas story. We will continue working on our letter identification with letters K, L, M, and N. We are going to continue working on using our pincer grip to trace letters. Each child will be starting with the letters in their name. We will continue naming the parts of a book, working on our shapes and becoming more independent with scissors.

In religion, we will continue talking about Jesus and His family and practicing the sign of the cross.

In class this month, as we anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birthday, we will be working hard on our class room to live the way Jesus asked us to. When friends do kind deeds their name will go on the board in class. At the end of class, we will be calling those names to come up and add hay to our class manger. Our kindness will help to keep Jesus warm when he arrives the day before Christmas break!

Our 3P friends are learning so much and we have been seeing so much growth this last month. Keep up all the hard work. We are going to need to have snow clothes soon. With our snow season just around the corner, please help your kiddos practice getting on their winter gear independently! The faster everyone can get dressed, the more time 3P has to play outside.

Dates to remember
December
1st - Christmas Program - 6 pm, Drop kids in 3P room at 5:30 pm
15th - 19th - Holiday dress up week
22nd - January 2nd - Christmas Break

January
6th - 3P Resumes
15th - Open House for 26-27 school year, 8-6 pm

Ms. Monica

4K AM & PM

Hello 4k families,
Our Christmas Concert is on Tuesday, December 1st @ 6 PM! Please make sure to have your child in the 4K classroom by 5:30!

This month, 4k will get to perform in their holiday concert! They have worked very hard to get ready for this and we can't wait to see how well they do!

In 4k this month our classes will be working on comparing and contrasting things. Our themes for comparing and contrasting are Living vs Nonliving, Stories, Real (non-fiction) vs Make Believe (fiction), and Opposites. During these units we will be working on sorting, rhyming, identifying 3-D shapes compared to 2-D shapes, and introducing venn diagrams as a way to compare characteristics of things.

The kids will continue to work on building hand strength for cutting and writing and work on beginning letter formation. We will continue to practice colors and shapes.

We will begin identifying numbers 6-10 and continue practicing numbers 1-5 as well. The kids are beginning to learn to see quantities of number and identify how many there are without counting them. It would be great to try these things with them at home using dice or dominos.

Our 4k friends are learning so much and we have been seeing so much growth this last month. Keep up all the hard work. We are going to need to have snow clothes soon. With our snow season just around the corner, please help your kiddos practice getting on their winter gear independently! The faster everyone can get dressed, the more time 4k has to play outside.

We are going to have a great December!

Ms. Monica and Ms. Paula

Upcoming Events
- Christmas Concert: Dec. 1
- Winter Break: Dec. 23 - Jan. 1

A tasty recipe from long ago, Gingerbread is full of wonderful ingredients that help to make Christmas yummy.

Today gingerbread is a holiday staple for many families.

You can often find tasty gingerbread cookies or cake offered at holiday gatherings. A favorite activity during this festive time is creating a gingerbread house decorated with all a child's favorite goodies.

Have you ever created a gingerbread house?



NCECC: St. Michael Calendar
December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 **Preschool and 4K Christmas Program @ 6 pm in the Gym**	2	3	4 **Spirit Day -** Wear Red & Blue (Newman colors) **NCS Family Night-**(watch for more details to come)	5 **St. Nicholas Day**
6 **St. Nicholas Day** 	7	8	9	10	11 **Spirit Day -** Wear Red & Blue (Newman colors)	12
13	14 **Holiday Dress Up Week - More information on next page. A paper handout will come home at a later date.**	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 **No 4K and Preschool— Christmas Break**	24 **Center Closed for Christmas**	25	26
27	28 **No 4K and Preschool— Christmas Break**	29	30	31 **Center Closing at 3pm**	January 1 **Center Closed for New Year's**	January 2

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR CALENDAR TO STAY UP-TO-DATE ON BUILDING EVENTS

1) Go to the Newman website (www.newmancatholicschools.com).
2) Under "About", click "Calendars".
3) On the "Academic" calendars tab; click the grey RSS icon. If you wish to subscribe to lunch menu calendars, click "Lunch Menus" then click the grey RSS icon.
4) In the "Calendar Feeds" box; click the green "ICAL" button to the right of the calendar you wish to subscribe to. Select the appropriate option for your device.

CARDINAL CHARACTER



BRING IT!

Be **RESPONSIBLE**

RESPECT the learning environment
yourself and others

INTEGRITY wins

Nurture **EMPATHY**

GRATITUDE is key

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