



 **Newman**  
Catholic Community at RIT

2022–2023 ANNUAL REPORT





# Cool Thoughts

Dear Tiger Catholics,

As we come to the end of another remarkable year, I am filled with gratitude and awe for all that we have achieved together. It is with immense joy that I reflect on the past year, marking my ninth year with the Catholic Newman Community. The support and dedication of individuals like you have made it possible for us to accomplish incredible things.

In this year's report, you will witness the profound impact we have had on the lives of our students and the wider community. Week after week, we have welcomed over 250 students who have found solace and inspiration at our Sunday masses, social programming, spiritual growth opportunities, and service initiatives. Whether it was through our 60 programs, we have fostered a warm and nurturing environment where students can find a sense of belonging and strengthen their Catholic faith.

The numbers speak volumes of our collective efforts. We have recorded an astonishing 200 hours of tutoring and mentoring services, highlighting our commitment to service and academic success for young minds and hearts at the Nativity Preparatory School and Boys and Girls Club of Rochester. Sunday Masses, attended by over 300 unique individuals, have been a source of spiritual nourishment and communion. The return of our signature retreat program Kairos was an experience of transformation for almost 40 students. Additionally, we are proud to have witnessed the full initiation of four students into the Church, and feeding over 400 meals to students throughout the year have further enriched our community. And let's not forget the joyous trip to Niagara Falls and the Maid of the Mist boat into the falls itself. To be honest, I am still drying off 😊.

While we have achieved so much, we also acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. Like any organization, we face rising costs in these times of high inflation. Balancing the financial demands of providing competitive salaries and health insurance for our staff while meeting the growing ministerial needs of our students has been a daunting task. However, we remain resolute in our commitment to overcome these obstacles and continue our important work.

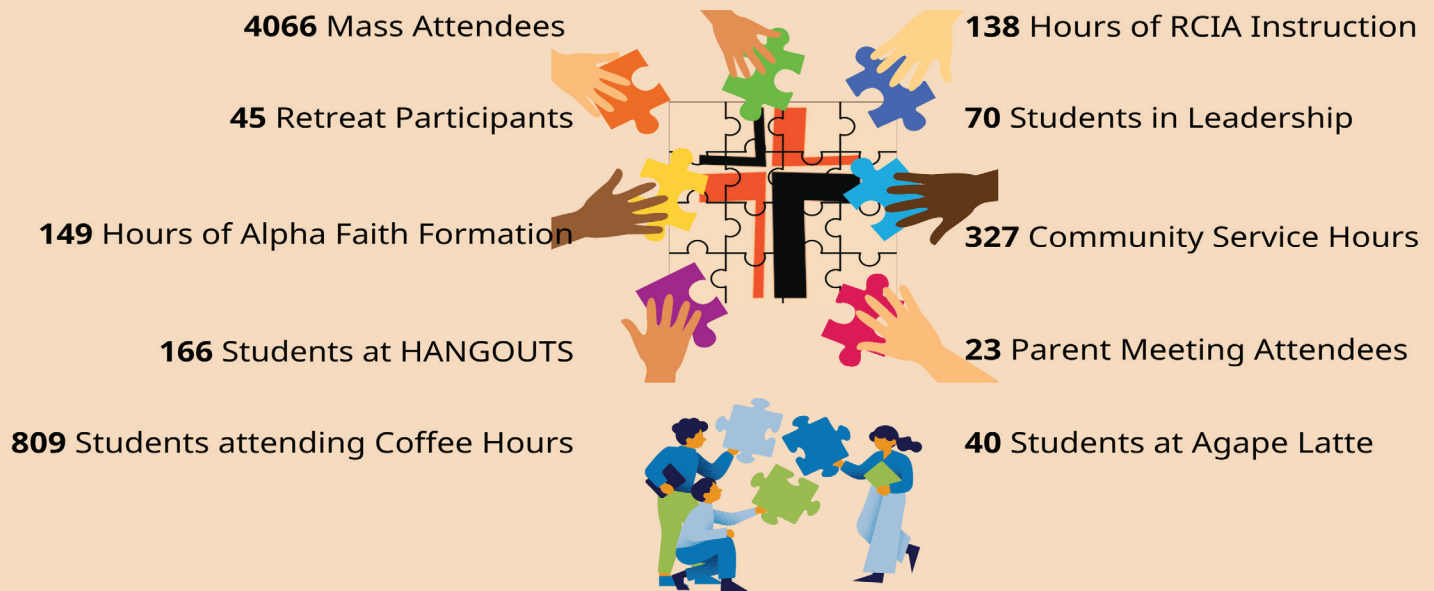
As we bid farewell to this year, and already look forward to welcoming the Class of 2028, I want to express my deepest appreciation to each and every one of you. Your unwavering support, whether through your presence, prayers, or financial contributions, has been instrumental in creating an environment where students can thrive spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally. Together, we have made a lasting impact on the lives of countless individuals.

With faith in Christ Jesus, and with confidence in your continued support, we will continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and inspire them to live out their Catholic faith with passion, vigor and purpose. There is so much more being planned for the coming year! May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and commitment. Thank you for being an essential part of the Catholic Newman Community at RIT.

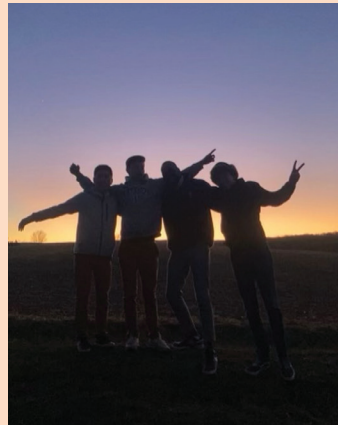
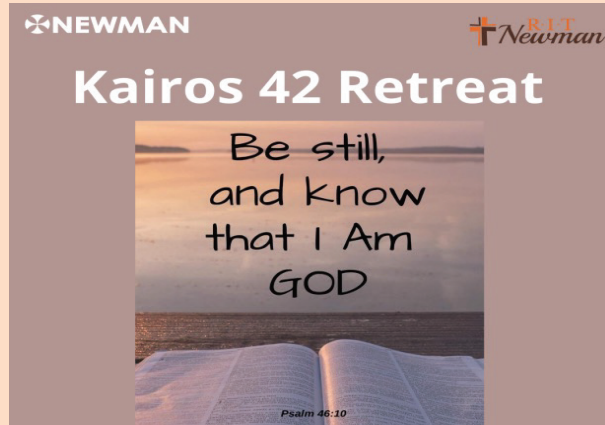
Yours in faith,

PS...Be on the lookout for RIT Newman's first ever strategic plan being created by the Advisory Board which will be published this fall! We are on the move!!

# Newman by the Numbers



## KAIROS 42—Be Still, and Know I Am God.



Each February, Newman presents the Kairos 42 Retreat at the Notre Dame Catholic Retreat Center, which overlooks the picturesque Canandaigua Lake in Canandaigua, NY. This serene location adds to the tranquil atmosphere of the retreat, a perfect setting for students from the University of Rochester and the Rochester Institute of Technology to come together and delve into the enriching experience of unity, spiritual growth, and self-discovery. The breathtaking surroundings complement the theme of the retreat, “Be STILL and KNOW I AM God,” providing a peaceful backdrop for the transformative journey that awaits all participants.



# WHY NEWMAN?!

## Meet the E-Board Catholic Tigers!

**Name:** Christis Shepard  
**Graduation Year:** 2026  
**Major:** Museum Studies  
**Hometown:** Bayonne, New Jersey



**Why Newman:** "It's fun to be able to practice our faith among our peers. You don't normally get to have that in college. You can also make a lot of friends with people of the similar faith."

**Name:** Ian LaForest  
**Major:** 3D Animation  
**Graduation Year:** 2024  
**Hometown:** Shaker Heights, Ohio



**Why Newman:** "It keeps my faith strong thanks to its community of people. It is a constant reminder of the most important task in my life. Being forced to love God and choosing to love God are two different things and produce vastly different results. Choosing to love God by your own will, even if it's slow, will result in an improved sense of happiness. I urge others to get involved at Newman for this reason."

**Name:** Thomas Pawlak  
**Major:** Computing and Information Technologies  
**Graduation Year:** 2025  
**Hometown:** Clarence, New York



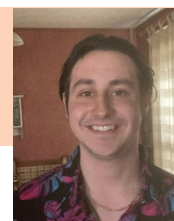
**Why Newman:** "It helped me grow in my faith and continue practicing it in college, with a group of like-minded peers. If you are a Catholic at RIT, this is your parish, and it is available to you. Newman thrives when new people bring their own experiences to the table and relies on new membership each year to keep itself running. I've personally made excellent friends and don't doubt that you will, too!"

**Name:** Tobi Fadipe  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Graduation Year:** 2025  
**Hometown:** Lagos, Nigeria



**Why Newman:** "It gives me a way of staying connected to my faith while going through the college experience. I think others should get involved with Newman because you will make friends who you have something in common with no matter what differences you have."

**Name:** Noah Decker  
**Major:** Chemical Engineering  
**Graduation Year:** 2025  
**Hometown:** Schenectady, New York



**Why Newman:** "At Newman, everyone is committed to growing together as a community. The community welcomes all and encourages each other to be their best. Becoming involved at Newman, is a great way to develop in a personal and spiritual way, which I think is important for a happy and successful life."

**Name:** Theresa Haas  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Graduation Year:** 2025  
**Hometown:** Chester, Pennsylvania



**Why Newman:** "I can grow in my faith with people who love God like I do!... It is easier to make friends when you get involved!"

**Name:** James Fay  
**Major:** Mechanical Engineering Technology  
**Graduation Year:** 2026  
**Hometown:** Nicholson, Pennsylvania



**Why Newman:** "I love Newman because it has inspired me to grow deeper in my faith through the events hosted by Newman and because I have made many good friends. Newman has become my home away from home. I think others should get involved at Newman because the community has helped me grow to be a better disciple of Christ while also building many friendships and having a good time."



# Congratulations Newman Class of 2023!

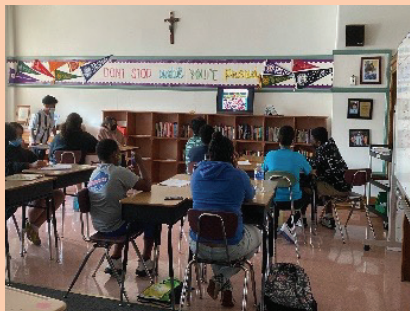
Ikenna Ajah  
Oliver Alonzo  
April Arbutiski  
Anthony Bacchetta  
Maryalice Ball  
Renee Banagan  
Meghan Barker  
Ethan Bartiromo  
Derek Basta  
Benjamin Blakley  
Rebecca Bober  
Andrew Carbonari  
Gia Caruso  
Giovanna Caruso  
Andrew Cochrane  
James Coppola  
Julio Cuello Paiewonsky  
Sarah D'Souza  
Dominic DeByle  
Erika Doroshenko

Sean Duffy  
Jessica Edwards  
Gerald Galano  
Jose Garza  
Holland Gillis  
Dylan Green  
John Hackett  
Kayla Houston  
Swath I Jacob  
John Kinsley  
Gina La Rosa  
Jesse Martin  
Dominic Melchiorre  
Christina Nguyen  
Afe Omiyi  
Robert Opielski  
Cashmere Pascual  
Anthony Peruma  
Nicholas Piwko  
David Prichett

Joseph Pulsoni  
Victoria Rea  
Luke Roberge  
Michael Romano  
Anthony Roohan  
Jack Ryan  
John Ryan  
Patrick Sammon  
Katherine See  
Allen Smith  
Christian Steiner  
Matthew Stoffolano  
Ryan Torpey  
Swetna Annette Tribhuvan  
Joey Trumbull  
Alessandria Vigneri  
Liza Ward  
Peter Wengert  
Michelle Yim  
Nicholas Zarach

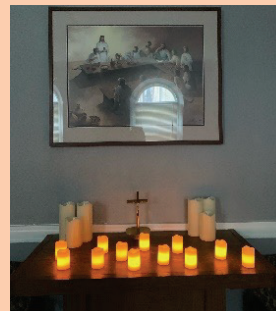


## Serving Those In Need With Love and Faith



**Nativity Preparatory School**

Noah Decker '25 helping students with math homework (left).  
RIT Students tutoring Nativity Prep Students (right)



**Bethany House For Women and Children**

Prayer Service (left).  
Tobi Fadipe '25 making dessert for guests (right)

The RIT Newman Catholic Community, through the Tiger Crossways Ministry program has been making a significant impact in the community. Volunteers engage in activities including Nativity Prep Academy, Bethany House, St. Anne's Nursing Home, St. Joe's House of Hospitality, The Boys and Girls Club, and Mercy Spirituality Center to uplift those in need. This year we provided CASE Training (Creating A Safe Environment) through the Diocese of Rochester for 50 students who want to volunteer with Newman, through Tiger Crossways. Through their volunteer work, they have touched the lives of many individuals and organizations.

One initiative is tutoring at Nativity Prep Academy Middle School, where we provide academic support and mentorship to over 25 middle school students, helping them unlock their full potential. Through this experience, they discover how their own gifts and talents are strengthened. Brendan, from McKinney, TX, has tutored weekly shared, "Being a tutor has not only allowed me to make a positive impact on these young minds and be a positive role model for them but has also been a way for me to be a light to others."

2

Student Leaders

50

additional CASE  
Trained students

105

College Student  
participants

278

hours of service to  
those in need

1

Amazing Semester!

# Annual Donors

We are deeply grateful for the support of the following alumni, parents, student and friends who support Catholic life at RIT. You are critical to our ministry! We aim to acknowledge and regret any inadvertent omissions. Please contact us with any changes.

## **Doctors of the Church** (\$5,000 and above)

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester  
Ministry Foundation, Inc.

## **Saint Alive** (\$2,500–\$4,999)

Mark Saunders  
Michael and Joan Vernarelli

## **Blessed Among Us** (\$1,000–\$2,499)

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Rev. Brian Cool  
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Gary Proud  
Mr. Lawrence M. Tyndall, Jr.  
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## **Venerable Disciple** (\$500–\$999)

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## **Faithful Prospect** (\$250–\$499)

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Margaret & Dave Traub  
Matt Uzelac  
Ms. Mary L. Warth  
Thomas Wasik (RIT Alumni)  
Thomas and Megan Wasik  
Ralph & Elaine Zajac  
Robert Zimmerman



## Grants Awarded to RIT Catholic Newman Community



**W**e are delighted to share that the RIT Catholic Newman Community has been chosen to receive a grant from the Congregation of St. Basil based in Toronto, Canada. The Basilian Fathers were impressed by Newman's exceptional dedication to promoting justice, peace, and empowerment, which strongly aligns with their own principles. The grant will pave the way for the creation of the inspiring "Tiger's Crossways" project. This initiative aims to bring together RIT students and young individuals from the City of Rochester in a mentoring relationship, fostering connections and bridging the gap between various communities. This remarkable acknowledgment highlights our commitment to our Catholic faith and the biblical vision of justice and peace shared by the Basilian Fathers.

Additionally, the Sisters of Saint Joseph Ministry Foundation in Rochester, NY. Awarded, for the sixth consecutive year, a generous community grant seeking partnerships and ministries that align with their mission actively contributing towards alleviating ignorance, poverty, and oppression within our community. Newman's focus is on providing service in places where the Sisters themselves serve, including the Bethany House for women and children, and the Nativity Prep School that serves underserved youth, both of which have been highlighted in our report.

This grant also empowers RIT students to explore their own sense of purpose through deep reflection on how they can serve others, guided by faith and prayer.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our esteemed ministry partners, the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Rochester and the Basilian Fathers. Their belief in our ability to make a positive difference in the world, inspired by our Catholic faith, motivates us to continue our meaningful work.



**SAVE THE DATE**

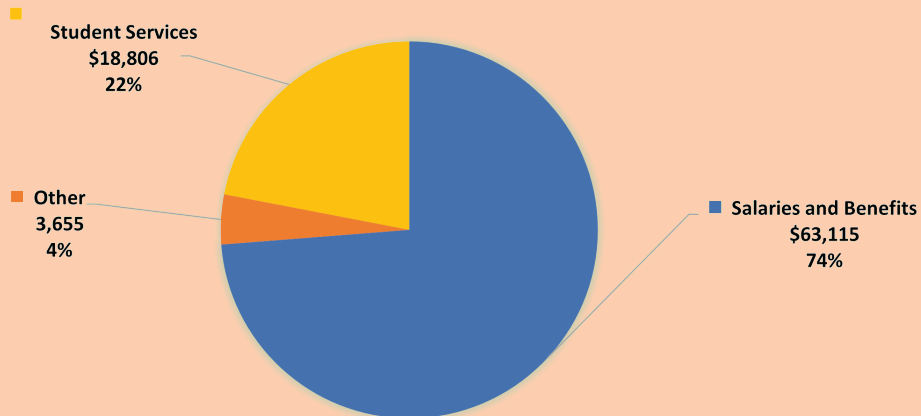
**SEP 28-29, 2023**

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DESIGNATE CATHOLIC NEWMAN COMMUNITY

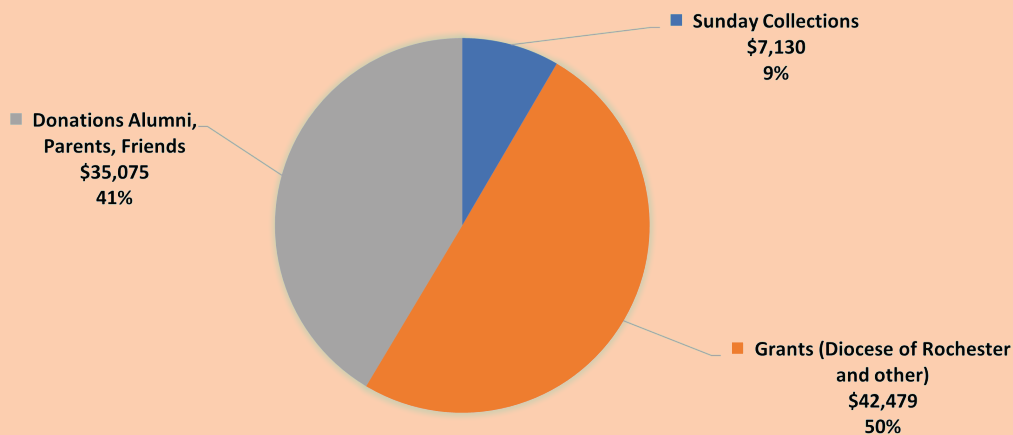
# Financial Report

Year-End Fiscal Result  
July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

## OPERATING EXPENSES: \$85,576



## OPERATING INCOME: \$84,684



## Our Team

### ADVSORY BOARD

- Rev. Brian Cool
- Richard DeMartino
- Quynh-Thy Do
- Ron Dufort
- Dimple Joseph
- Katie Linendoll (Honorary)
- Dan Rosica
- Mark Saunders
- Kevin Sheldon
- Michael Vernarelli

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Rev. Brian Cool
- James Gaudet
- Laurie Martin
- Dan Rosica

### STAFF

- Rev. Brian Cool, Director
- Sr. Leandra Kosmoski, SSJ
- James Miller
- Kristen Smith
- Michael Vernarelli

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