



Students attended a Newman-sponsored leadership training after the 9:15 mass, one of two trainings offered this semester to encourage strong leaders in our community.



## Newman Matters

**Nora Bradbury-Haehl**  
Director of RIT Newman

**Newman matters.** After only 8 months on the job, I can tell you that what we do here makes a difference every single day. Newman is a place where students encounter Christ. It's a place for students to find friendship and guidance during some of the most difficult times of their lives. They also find support for their choice to live their Catholic faith in a world that doesn't always welcome that. We could not be any of these things for our students if it weren't for you. I know that if our students had the chance to tell you themselves how **Newman matters** to them and how grateful they are for your support, you would see in their eyes and hear in their voices the real difference that Newman

makes. **Newman matters** because faith matters. I am certain you know this. Newman celebrates sacraments, serves the poor, and deepens the faith experience of our students. Working together with our Newman staff and student leaders, with you and many like you, **Newman matters** as a community that is dynamic and growing, is a positive presence on the RIT Campus, and in the lives of our Catholic students every single day.

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**...the most important  
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## Cool Thoughts

**Fr. Brian Cool**  
Director of RIT Newman

When the Bishop of Rochester appointed me as Director of the RIT Newman Catholic Community 8 years ago, the goal was and remains to build a sustainable ministry. For too long, as you know, RIT Newman had great ministry and chaplains but we were severely restricted by uncertain funding streams. Perhaps you don't know that 90% of our budget comes from alumni and parents and less than \$600 from RIT, a reduction of over \$8,000 from before the pandemic. We are more reliant on you and those outside our community.

I am also very aware that the most important aspect of our work is the sacramental and pastoral care of students. Nothing will ever be greater and nothing will make our ministry more sustainable. To this and with you I am committed. This newsletter highlights those we serve and who, like you, know the importance of our Catholic faith. It not only sustains us, but faith also allows us to grow and transform lives.

Student Spotlight  
**Andrew Carbonari**



**Year:** Third

**Major:** Game Design & Development

**Hometown:** East Meadow, NY

**How did you get connected with Newman in the first place?**

I just kind of found Newman, I always knew that there was a catholic community on campus, but I had different priorities in freshman year. When Covid hit my entire life changed, I suddenly couldn't do many of things I loved to do previously. I went through a lot of stuff, as I'm sure a lot of people did, but I decided one day to come to Sunday mass. Now I'm the Vice President of Newman.

**Newman helped get my life back on track and I've made some good friends and met some amazing people.**

**What is your role now and why are you still involved?**

Right now, I am the internal Vice President of Newman and I help manage the weekly operations. Eryk takes care of the planning and I love to plan but I am much better at talking with people about Newman. I stay at Newman because of the people. I have met a lot of friends at Newman, and I'm thankful for that. We all have a shared interest in God which

makes it much easier to bridge the first gap of social awkwardness. The people I met at Newman helped inspire me to work hard when I didn't want to, and they helped me get my life back on track. So, I wanted to give back to the community.

**What would you tell someone who was thinking about getting involved with Newman?**

I would highly recommend getting involved in Newman. As I've said before, getting involved in Newman helped get my life back on track and I've made some good friends and met some amazing people. It will take work but doing work with good people for a good reason, makes leadership at Newman feel great even if we're stressed. It's something that you must experience to truly appreciate. You don't have to go for Vice-president right away like I did, but get to know the higher-ups on the E-board and they can help find somewhere for you to really shine.

Student Spotlight  
**Alex Geiser**



**Year:** First

**Major:** Industrial Engineering

**Hometown:** Barrington, RI

**How did you get connected with Newman in the first place?**

Before I came to RIT I googled the Catholic community here and Newman came up. I came to mass my first Sunday here, met people, and have gotten to know the community since.

**What is your role now and why are you still involved?**

I am the recruitment chair for the Knights of Columbus and attend a bunch of Newman events.

**What would you tell someone who was thinking about getting involved with Newman?**

Do it!! We're a friendly community that's a ton of fun to be involved with.

Student Spotlight  
**Ellie Warren**



**Year:** First

**Major:** Biomedical Sciences

**Hometown:** Columbus, Ohio

**How did you get connected with Newman in the first place?**

I'm involved in my church at home as an altar server and MC, so I wanted to find a similar way to get involved here. I was also a Confirmation sponsor for my cousin who was confirmed last year, so when Mike asked me if I wanted join RCIA, I immediately accepted.

**What is your role now and why are you still involved?**

You will find me at the 9:15am Masses as a minister of hospitality or a sacristan, and at the RCIA meetings as a sponsor. I stay involved because of how welcoming it is and making friends through my involvement.

**What would you tell someone who was thinking about getting involved with Newman?**

If you are thinking about it, just do it! I haven't looked back.

Student Spotlight  
**Maggie Blaisdell**



**Year:** Fourth

**Major:** Graphic Design

**Hometown:** South Fork, PA

**How did you get connected with Newman in the first place?**

During the announcements at my first mass as a freshman, the then associate director, Kim, invited students to stop by her office that week to meet her and chat. When I went to her office,



# The Alpha Program @ Newman

Every Tuesday night, a group of eight to twelve students meet in the Skalny room to share a meal, watch a video, and discuss life's biggest questions, including "What on earth am I here for?" This group at RIT Newman is one of many across the world participating in Alpha.

The Alpha Program was started in 1977 by an Anglican priest to start people on a deeper journey of faith and has since had millions of participants in nearly 170 countries.

Senior Maggie Blaisdell participated in Alpha through Newman during her freshman and sophomore years at RIT. Maggie describes Alpha as "the perfect space to learn and grow in faith, and make true, lasting relationships." While Alpha had to be canceled during the

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height of the pandemic, Maggie knew that she wanted the program to be her legacy at Newman. This semester, she has brought Alpha back once again to Newman, and hopes it is here to stay!

With the generous support of the St. Marianne Cope Parish community students share a meal each week. Soon, students will start preparing meals themselves! "I couldn't have asked for a better way to finish my last year at RIT," Maggie said.



Mike (our wonderful campus minister!) was also there. Our conversation was the first time that I felt that RIT could really be my home and I knew that I wanted Newman to be a part of my life. By second semester, I was our Tiger Stripes Coordinator. Second year, I became our board Treasurer. Third year, I became president which, while one of the hardest things I've ever done – especially after Kim's departure – was rewarding in more ways than I can name. While I've largely stepped down from Newman leadership to pursue my career hunt and spend more time with my Rochester extended family and friends, Newman is still my home and, in my humble opinion, the best community at RIT.

**What is your role now and why are you still involved?**

This semester I will be leading the Alpha course. It is a program that changed my life in my first year at RIT. It means so much to me to be running it again and I hope it continues after I graduate!

**What would you tell someone who was thinking about getting involved with Newman?**

I have two pieces of advice. First, don't be afraid! The students at Newman are accepting and

kind. Whether you're looking for a leadership role or thinking of coming to your first event, we are here to welcome you; I can guarantee you'll make great friends by getting involved! Second, pray! It may seem obvious coming from a fellow Catholic, but everything becomes clearer when we let God speak to us. Pray, pray, pray and let God show you what to do!



Student Spotlight  
**James Fay**

**Year:** First

**Major:** Mechanical Engineering Technology

**Hometown:** SNicholson, PA

**How did you get connected with Newman in the first place?**

I was very involved in my parish at home, so when I came to RIT, I immediately searched for the Catholic Community here and found Newman. During my first week I was immediately

welcomed by everyone and felt at home.

**What is your role now and why are you still involved?**

Right now I am involved in a couple of things here at Newman. You can almost always find me at the 9:15 mass playing the djembe with the amazing Jack Ryan, serving with Ian and Ellie as a sacristan, and setting up and cleaning up coffee hour after mass. I also just became a Knight of Columbus, so if you're interested in joining you can talk to me. I am also a Tiger Stripes worker so you will sometimes see me in the SRL office. I am also a regular at the Wednesday mass. After mass we all go to dinner and it is always a great time. I am still involved here because everyone here is so nice and welcoming and I love hanging out and going to mass and various events with everyone.

**What would you tell someone who was thinking about getting involved with Newman?**

You should 100% join. Everyone here is so nice and welcoming and there is a place for everyone here.

## RIT Newman Staff



**Fr. Brian Cool**  
Director of UR  
& RIT Newman



**Nora Bradbury-Haehl**  
Associate  
Director



**Kristin Leschhorn**  
Campus Minister



**Mike Vernarelli**  
Campus Minister



**Jimmy Miller**  
Business Manager



### Roar Day is April 21st!

**Make some noise for Newman on April 21, 2022!** ROAR Day is RIT Newman's largest fundraiser. Join Tigers and Tiger supporters everywhere to give back to RIT and grow Catholic life. Newman matters to students, parents, alumni, and friends. On April 21st you can show that Newman matters to you. By supporting RIT Newman on ROAR Day, you can double your donation! Our generous donors will match your gift. Watch [ritnewman.com](http://ritnewman.com) and follow us on Facebook @ritnewman and Instagram @ritnewman. Get ready to ROAR!



*Fr. Bob Kennedy with students Chase, Nava, and Conrad who are preparing for the sacraments of initiation.*



*Students make Valentine cards after mass for the elderly residents of St. Anne's Home.*



*Fr. David Tedesche speaks at our Eve Away Retreat "Hearing God's Voice."*

## Our Students are Working Hard

Our Eboard keeps Newman going strong! From leadership training to scheduling volunteers for mass, organizing and leading retreats, service, and social events, our Eboard are the student leaders who make all the difference! We've added weekly coffee hours after the morning mass and our Tiger Stripes Volunteers have been tutoring middle school students steadily every Wednesday at Nativity School. Our speaker series Agape Latte is coming up soon and Newman Hangouts on Sunday nights after mass foster fellowship within our community!



### The Newman Gala is May 1st!

**Join us the first Saturday in May for a celebration of our community!** The Newman Gala is an opportunity for Alumni to connect with current students and enjoy a fun evening. More to come very soon!

## Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday Masses**  
9:15a and 5:00 pm

**Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper**  
5:00 pm

**Good Friday Service**  
3:00 pm

**Easter Vigil**  
7:00 pm

**Easter Sunday Mass**  
9:15 am and 5:00 pm