



CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY at the
UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

St. Thomas More Oratory

45 Lovett Ave. Newark, DE 19711

www.udcatholic.org

(302) 368-4728

Fr. Ed Ogden, OSFS - eogden@oblates.org
Pastor, St. Thomas More Oratory
Chaplain, Catholic Campus Ministry at UD

Kim Zitzner - kimztmo@udel.edu
Director, Catholic Campus Ministry at UD
Pastoral Associate, St. Thomas More Oratory

Colleen Jordan - udcatholic.finance@gmail.com
Finance Manager

James Werber - udcatholic.re@gmail.com
Coordinator of Religious Education

Maureen McDonald - udcatholic.re@gmail.com
Assistant Coordinator of Religious Education

Mandy Manzella - udcatholic@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
Daily Mass: 12:30PM
Blue Hen Student Mass will resume in the fall

Confession

Tuesday: 5:30 – 6:30 PM
or by appointment

Office Hours

Monday – Friday: 10 AM – 2 PM
or by appointment

JUNE 23, 2019 THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



*"I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
whoever eats this bread will live forever."*

"The worst way of speaking is to speak too much.

Therefore, speak little and well, speak little and gently, speak little and charitably, speak little and amiably."

~ St. Francis de Sales

ST. THOMAS MORE ORATORY COMMUNITY
STATE OF THE PARISH—TRANSITION OF LEADERSHIP REPORT

Mission Statement

We, the community of St. Thomas More Oratory, are the home of Catholic Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware. We are empowered by the Spirit and inspired by John Henry Newman's motto: *Heart Speaks to Heart* to reach out inclusively to make Jesus present to all who share their journey with us. We commit ourselves to the mission of Jesus Christ, which has been entrusted to us.

What are the strengths of the Oratory, that is, what is going well?

- Our **Religious Education** program is strong and dynamic, especially with the recent growth of the program, generous and dedicated college student catechists, and the commitment of parental involvement. There is no greater service to our children that our college students can engage in than this ministry of evangelization.
- There is a strong **sense of community** at the Oratory, which is fostered by a welcoming and accepting environment, by programs such as open houses, monthly pancake brunches, and annual trips that all are invited to participate in. Students feel comfortable coming to the Oratory and more diverse students are taking advantage of the study space. It was noted that although we are a University Parish with a great deal of focus on student programs and events, our community still feels inclusive of everyone - both student and community members.
- The **celebration of the Mass** is one of the strongest hallmarks of the Oratory: meaningful homilies, beautiful music, diverse engagement of students and other parishioners as lectors, servers, musicians, gift bearers, and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. One parishioner noted that our Masses are "one of the finest Masses in the state."
- The **presence of students** at the various Masses is strong and has noticeably increased over the past four years. They are engaged in the liturgical ministries, they give weekly announcements, the student leadership team has grown, and there are many opportunities offered for students to get involved.
- The Oratory was commended for its **transparency and communication** between parish staff and parishioners through bulletins, announcements, homilies, and reports, all of which are readily accessible on the website. In particular, the annual State of the Parish report each year on Stewardship Weekend has been very informative.
- The **administrative leadership** has been restructured to foster collaborative ministry, clearly defined job descriptions have been created allowing the workload to be split more evenly amongst the four staff members: Pastor/Chaplain and Campus Minister (full time), Finance Manager and Administrative Assistant (part-time).
- The Oratory community is extremely **generous financially**: every year we exceed our Annual Appeal goals for the diocese, we consistently meet our annual Offertory goal, the diocesan collections are robust, we have sufficient funds to provide quality programs, and we have a comfortable amount of funds in our savings for a rainy day.
- The Oratory does an exceptional job with **on-going faith formation**: inspirational homilies, Bible Study for students and non-students, Teaching Tuesday series, the annual student beach retreat, the Parish Mission, and most importantly, the mini-retreat week during Lent each year.
- During the past four years in particular, the **Oratory facility** has been upgraded significantly with the renovations of the bathrooms, the Social Hall, the new Library, the offices and hallways, new roof, repair of exterior drainage issues, new landscaping, and new artwork throughout the building. The Oratory is ready to embark on an extensive expansion project with the completion of a **Feasibility Study** that will be passed onto the new pastor to implement.

Where is improvement necessary, that is, what can we do differently?

- Although we have a diverse **music ministry** at the four Masses, the music selections can be more familiar to help community engage the assembly to better singing and to provide a better space in the renovations for instruments and choir to give them better visibility and quality.
- Although there is a vibrant community **Bible Study** on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, this particular timing prevents those who work during the day from attending.
- The **daily mass at 12:30 PM** has been in place for many years and one of the few places in the diocese to offer a later daily mass, has there been any thought to moving the mass to Noon so that the University staff can attend the mass at the beginning of their lunch hour (instead of the end of the lunch hour) and still respect the one hour fast before receiving the Eucharist.
- The Oratory community is aware that the mission of the parish is designed for Catholic Campus Ministry for the **university students**. However, can more be done to include programs for parents who do not have children? As someone wrote, “childless adults and non-students aren’t on your radar, but we are present and want to be involved, but there isn’t much for us.”
- Parishioners want to get involved in the parish and want **to volunteer** to help and have offered, but all too often they “never get any follow-up.”
- Although there has been increased presence of students at Mass and coming to use the facility to study, more can be done to outreach to engage students NOT just for free food or for a study space, but to engage them to grow in their **Catholic identity** and to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus - a fundamental pillar of Catholic Campus Ministry.
- Although we offer a variety of programs for students to get engaged, we need to do a better job of growing more **diverse student involvement** in service (which has dramatically declined this past year especially), and coming to the various events that we sponsor. This year we cancelled a number of events because of lack of participation.
- A few areas of growth for the Religious Education program: space for classes is always a challenge and we will need to cap our program to no more than 80 students; scheduling of enough classes is difficult because of the UD calendar and students away for the Winter session; the responsibility for the Dinner and Movie Night with the college students ought to be placed with the Religious Ed Coordinator supported by the college students’ party planning committee.
- A few other **suggestions** parishioners made: more emphasis on traditional Church practices such as Lenten fast and abstinence requirements, importance of holy days of obligation, perhaps a retreat for non-students, possibly wine at Sunday Mass, pancake brunch after 9:30 AM Mass or pot luck after the 5:00 PM Mass, and the announcements - some want more, others want less.

ONGOING PROGRAMMING

ROSARY

MON 7:30 PM

Come join us to pray the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament

PRAYER & MEDITATION TUE 5:30 PM

Looking for some quiet prayer & meditation time during your busy day?

Stop by the O on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30

5:30 – 6:30 Exposition & Adoration
5:30 – 6:30 Sacrament of Reconciliation
Available
6:30 Benediction

BINGO OUTREACH TUE 6:30 PM

The Jeanne Jugan Home is a retirement home in Newark run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. We volunteer our time by spending an hour playing bingo and talking with the residents. We leave from the Oratory at 6:30 and are back by 8:15PM.

BIBLE STUDY RESUMES IN THE FALL

Looking for a student Bible study? Join us as we look ahead to the Sunday scripture readings and discuss how they affect our lives. Stop by and share the challenges of living out the gospel on campus.

Student Leader: Jenn Wallach

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY IN FALL

Community Bible Study meets weekly to look ahead at the Sunday readings. Community Bible Study is welcome to all non-students. Call or email for more information: udcatholic@gmail.com

FAITH JOURNEY/ADULT CONFIRMATION

Need to receive the sacrament of Confirmation? Thinking about joining the Catholic Church? Sign-up online. Feel free to call or email with questions. Contact – udcatholic@gmail.com

FOR THE SAKE OF GOD'S CHILDREN

For the Sake of God's Children is the safe environment program of the Diocese of Wilmington, designed to keep young people participating in ministry around the diocese free from harm. Participants include the Bishop, all priests, deacons, seminarians, religious, all lay employees and volunteers. For more information visit www.cdow.org and click the FSGC logo.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Daily Mass on
Thursday, July 4
will be held at
9:30 AM

Please join us downstairs after each Mass

June 29 & 30

to thank Fr. Ed for sharing his gifts with the Oratory community as our pastor for the last four years and wish him well as he prepares to become the Dean of Students at De Sales University.

Light refreshments will be served.



2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal was conducted the weekend of April 6 & 7.

As always the Oratory community was extremely generous, and quickly pledged gifts totaling \$56,605, which is 96% of our \$59,000 goal.

If you have given to this year's campaign, please know that your participation is greatly appreciated.

If you have not yet done so, please consider supporting this important effort with a pledge or one-time contribution.

It is never too late to participate.

If you would like more information, please visit www.cdow.org/annualcatholicappeal

As always, thank you for your continued support!