



# Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
OF GOD'S GRACE!

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Thank you!

## WEEKLY MEETINGS

The Center has a variety of regularly meeting groups for your spiritual growth. **Newcomers are always welcome.**

Our **Catch the Spirit** Bible study group meets **Tuesdays**, 10-11:30 a.m. to discuss the lectionary (Bible) readings assigned for the coming Sunday. Marise May, OSF, leads this study.

The **Contemplative Prayer Group** meets **Wednesdays**, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tom O'Connor facilitates this group of meditators. If you'd like to attend, contact him at 315.313.3758.

The **Women's Faith Sharing Group** meets one **Thursday** a month from 3 - 4:30 p.m.. Upcoming meetings include March 15 and April 19. Led by Kathy Papa (315.457.4922), group members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life. Suggested offering: \$15 per session.

## Dreamwork as Spiritual Practice



Dive deeper into your dreams with this presentation by Steve Moore on **Thursday, March 22 at 7 - 9 p.m.** for \$20 or whatever you can afford. Additional dream discussion sessions will be held April 6, April 20, and May 4, 3-4 pm (suggested fee: \$15/session). You are welcome to attend any one or combination of these events.



Throughout the Scriptures and our Christian tradition, dreams have offered guidance to those seeking a deeper relationship with God. They have also been a key source of spiritual discernment as people struggle to understand God's will for them. This presentation will explore the role of dreams in our Christian tradition and provide some practical starting points for incorporating dreamwork into your spiritual life.

Presenter Steve Moore is the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Marcellus and a licensed psychologist at Hutchings Psychiatric Center. A spiritual director on staff here at the Center, he completed additional study in dreamwork at the Assisi Institute, the Jung Institute in San Francisco, the Haden Institute/ Mt. Carmel Spiritual Center, and elsewhere.

More Upcoming Events on page 3

Register today online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com). You can also contact the Center at 315-472-6546 or [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com)

## ABOUT US

The Spiritual Renewal Center is a Christian ministry that provides spiritual direction and renewal opportunities to all members of the community.

Learn more about us at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com).

## DIRECTOR

Jim Krisher

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The Spiritual Renewal Center is located at 1342 Lancaster Avenue in Syracuse. You can reach us at 315-472-6546.

## HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Fridays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Center will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Good Friday: March 30  
Easter Monday: April 2

## A Note from a Member of our Board of Trustees

In the early 1990's, Rev. John Rose introduced me to the Spiritual Renewal Center through our parish at St. Augustine's in Baldwinsville. Since then, my wife Marie and I have attended many evening events at the Center, deepening our understanding of God's presence in our lives and in those around us. The spiritual direction I receive at the Center helps me grow in my relationship with God every day. Through the Center's ministry, my confidence in sharing my faith with others has grown; one fruit of this has been facilitating a monthly men's spiritual group at St. Augustine's parish.

I am blessed to serve on the Board of Trustees to support the Center now and into the future. The Center survives with support from those deepening their desire in relationship with God, like you and me. Please continue your support by being involved, by inviting others to join in, by praying for our ministry, and financially supporting the Center as you are able.

Peace and blessings,  
Neil LaBrake, Jr.

## Give back by giving your time at the Center!



The Center welcomes Fran Burton as our new Volunteer Coordinator. In her new role, she will oversee the reception area and develop our volunteer program. She is retired from Loretto, where she was a social worker. "I found the Center to be the ideal place to volunteer, says Fran. "I have enjoyed all the people I've met, and finally have all the books I've ever wanted to read in the Center's 10,000 book library!"

We are looking for reliable reception-area volunteers who can greet guests, answer the phone, help patrons in the library, and ring up sales in our fair trade gift shop. We'll provide an orientation and training. Volunteer for a regular half-day slot or fill in when needed, based on your availability!

Contact Fran Burton at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com) for more information.

## Did you miss one of our presentations?

We have several hour-long video presentations available on our website for download, including:

- Human Suffering and the God of Love
- St. Teresa of Avila & St. John of the Cross
- Spirituality & Embodiment
- An Awakening to Faith: We Are Born of Stardust
- Tree of Life: Living the New Creation

You can also purchase Director Jim Krisher's book, *Spiritual Surrender*, as an audiobook, or listen to a free meditation by him. Visit the Resources section of [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) to find these and more!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Register today online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com).  
You can also contact the Center at 315-472-6546 or [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com)

## Would Jesus Come if We Had Not Sinned? The Franciscan Understanding of God's Love & Beauty

Learn about love on **Thursday, March 1, 7 - 9 p.m.** with Sr. Kathleen Osbelt for \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Did Christ come only to atone for sin? Or does his work extend in crucial ways beyond paying for our sins? Sr. Kathleen's talk will introduce attendees to a view of God's work being rooted in love, a Franciscan theology that is biblically based, taught for centuries, and refreshing! She will discuss how this underlying stance emphasizing God's love and delight in beauty alters our sense of creation, the Trinity, incarnation and salvation. Sr. Kathleen founded Francis House in 1991 and she is now the Director of Mission Outreach. She frequently speaks on grief, end-of-life planning, and various spiritual topics, as well as leading retreats.

## Enneagram Insights for Christian Growth

Join us for this highly popular two-session seminar on **Thursday, April 12 and 19, 6:45 - 9 p.m.** with Jim Krisher for \$40 or whatever you can afford.



The enneagram is a way of understanding human personality believed to originate in the writings of early Christian desert dweller Evagrius Ponticus, who wrote in the 4th century of nine "distracting thoughts" that can impede our way to God and peace of heart. The enneagram presents nine fundamental compulsions that can affect us in negative ways as we walk life's journey, and teaches that in each of us one of these compulsions predominates. Participants will learn about the nine types, identify their own basic compulsion, and explore how this understanding is useful with ourselves, others, and God. Jim Krisher, the Center's Director, will lead this two-session workshop. This event frequently fills to capacity, so register today!

## Easter Grieving

Come together and reflect on **Wednesday, April 18, 7 - 9 p.m.** with Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ, for \$20 or whatever you can afford.



In response to his mother's death, Henri Nouwen wrote a small reflection to an intimate group of family and friends. The last two sentences of this reflection help us catch the importance of the days and weeks after the discovery of the empty tomb for the Jesus community — "Sometimes I find myself daydreaming about radical changes, new beginnings and great conversions. Yet I know that I must be patient and allow her who taught me so much by her life to teach me by her death."

Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ, Jesuit priest and staff spiritual director, will lead us in considering the scriptures and our own experiences of the vulnerability of life, drawing connections between the mourning experience of those first disciples and our own, moving to an acceptance of the gift of Spirit as we learn to live anew by Christ's death.

## Save the date: Annual 24 hour retreat, May 18-19



Plan now to join us for our annual 24 hour Retreat. Those who have attended the Spiritual Renewal Center's retreats in the past often saw only snow and cold. This year's late-spring retreat begins Friday May 18 at 7 pm and ends 24 hours later. Our theme is "Jesus: Image of the Invisible God." Our time together includes three inspiring talks by Center staff, a social on Friday evening, time for walking the lovely garden paths, private quiet time, an optional spiritual direction session, and Eucharistic celebration. Cost of the retreat is \$140, which includes 3 meals and lodging. Register by calling the Spiritual Renewal Center at 315-472-6546. Let us know if you have any special needs.



# Popular Picks from our Library



**The Enigma of Anger: Essays on a Sometimes Deadly Sin** by Garret Keizer, an Episcopal priest. Fellow writer Richard Rodriguez describes this book by saying “Here is writing that triumphs over an emotion that otherwise, so often, defeats reason and frustrates love.”



**With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God** by Skye Jethani. Jethani uses 4 prepositions—for, under, over, and from—to examine ways in which we relate to God that, in the end, can thwart a thriving relationship with God. Funny, apt, insightful, and challenging.



**Confessions of a Funeral Director: How the Business of Death Saved My Life** by Caleb Wilde, a sixth generation funeral director. A reflective memoir of what caring for the dead and their loved ones teaches about life.



**The Kingdom of Ordinary Time** by Marie Howe. Poems of seeing God in the midst of ordinary days—one poem begins: “The people Jesus loved were shopping at The Star Market yesterday” and continues on to a breathtaking ending.



Our entire catalog is available online at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) (click on “library”). Search for books by title, author, or subject, learn if a given book is available, and even place a temporary hold on something you’d like to check out.

Any questions? Email our master librarian, Molly Wilber, at [library@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:library@spiritualrenewalcenter.com).



# We are turning 40!



Throughout 2018, we are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> year of God's work through the Spiritual Renewal Center. Beginning with Jim Krisher's original call to promote the spiritual renewal of adults, we have grown tall and wide. Our 22 spiritual directors from a range of Christian denominations provide skilled direction to over 240 people, helping individuals see God's presence in their lives. Through the efforts of Center staff, volunteers, and partners, we provide thought-provoking workshops and lectures, lead spiritual retreats for prisoners, host a library of almost 10,000 books on Christian spirituality, and offer fair trade goods through Hand to Hand Fair Trade.

For those of you who have lovingly supported this ministry with your involvement, prayers, and financial support: thank you! If you are new to us, check us out on line at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) or drop by the Center at 1342 Lancaster Avenue.

And, stay tuned for further information on our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration this fall!

It is  
MOST IMPOSSIBLE  
that we should ask for  
mercy & grace,  
and not receive it

— Julian of Norwich



What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace from staff and friends of the Spiritual Renewal Center. This month's feature comes from Jim Krisher, the Center's Director

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?

"My siblings and I had traveled to Indiana to celebrate Thanksgiving with my mother," he explained at our December meeting for spiritual direction. His mother was 94 and in reasonably good health for her age. Yet she unexpectedly took ill with pneumonia while they were there, and went rapidly downhill. By the Saturday after Thanksgiving she was in the hospital, unconscious most of the time, and her vital signs plummeting.

He explained how he sat with his sister in their mother's room watching her labored breathing and waiting for the inevitable. At one point he and his sister were engaged in conversation when they suddenly heard their mother laughing! They turned to see her sitting bolt upright in her bed and laughing! Then she exclaimed, her eyes wide with joy, "This is the best day of my life!" They were beyond astonished to see her vital signs returning to normal on the monitor. She then proceeded to tell them how much she loved them, and how grateful and proud she was to be their mother.

She then lay back and drifted into sleep, her vital signs once again declining. It was to be their last conversation with their mother. She died soon afterward.



That's what *Grace* looks like.

## Spring is bringing new merchandise to Hand to Hand



At Hand to Hand Fair Trade Gift Shop, we are looking forward to Spring just like everyone else. We have had a peek at the new merchandise available from Ten Thousand Villages and Serrv, and is it gorgeous!

It will be arriving soon so stop in for best picks and help to *Change the World by Changing the Way you Shop.*

## Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

Get social with the Spiritual Renewal Center and find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter today. You can also share your email address with us at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) and get the the latest information sent right to your inbox.



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1342 Lancaster Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210

