



# Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS  
OF GOD'S GRACE!

May / June 2018  
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The cost of this newsletter was generously subsidized by Sally Manahan, in gratitude for Kathy Papa's ministry of spiritual direction, and by a community of religious sisters.

## 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, led by Sr. Marise May, meets **Tuesdays**, 10-11:30 a.m. to discuss the readings assigned for the coming Sunday.

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

The **Women's Faith Sharing Group** meets once a month on a **Thursday** (upcoming: May 17 and June 21) from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Led by Kathy Papa (315.457.4922), members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life.

## Finding the Sky Within You: Lessons from Thomas Merton



Join us for this presentation on **Thursday, May 10 at 7 - 9 p.m.** by Dr. Monica Weis, internationally known Merton scholar. Beginning with an overview of Thomas Merton's life, she'll explore how nature influenced Merton's prayer and spirituality, including quotes from his journals. In the second half, we'll shift to examine Merton's commitment to solitude, his fascination with St. Brendan's Voyage, and his challenge to us to value solitude as part of our own spiritual journey. The evening will include time for personal reflection and interactive discussion. The seminar fee is \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Dr. Monica Weis, SSJ, professor emerita of English, taught at Nazareth College in Rochester and was a Fulbright Visiting Scholar in Hungary. She is a frequent national and international presenter on Thomas Merton and author of *Thomas Merton's Gethsemani: Landscapes of Paradise* (2005), *The Environmental Vision of Thomas Merton* (2011) and *Thomas Merton and the Celts* (2016).

## Save the Date!

We're turning 40! Save Friday evening, September 28, to come celebrate 40 years of God's grace at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Stay tuned for details.

## 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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Allison M. Bowman

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.  
Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Center will be closed on Memorial Day, May 28.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for these upcoming events at the Spiritual Renewal Center!

## Dreamwork as Spiritual Practice: Dream-Sharing Group Continues

**Friday, May 4 and Friday, May 18, 3 - 4 p.m.** with Rev. Steve Moore, Psy.D.; \$15 for each session or whatever you can afford.



Throughout the Scriptures and Christian tradition, dreams have been a key source of spiritual discernment as people have sought to understand God and God's will for them. These conversations about understanding dreams will be led by Steve Moore, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Marcellus and a 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 (San Francisco), the Haden Institute/Mt. Carmel Spiritual Center, and elsewhere.

## Meeting Christ in Prayer

Strengthen yourself with this eight-session program with your choice of **Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:45 a.m. beginning on May 16** or **Thursday evenings, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. beginning on May 17.**



If you are interested in deepening your relationship with Christ through prayer, join Franciscan sisters and staff spiritual directors Marise May (Wednesday mornings) and Rose Wagner (Thursday evenings) for this program. The focus of this course is on praying daily with scripture texts and meeting weekly for faith sharing with a small group of like-hearted people. Each week also includes guided meditation and preparation for the coming week's prayer time. We will use a handbook based on

the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. If you've thought about doing the Spiritual Exercises but haven't been able to devote the 30 weeks needed—or if you have completed the Exercises, and would like to revisit some of those approaches to prayer—this course is for you. \$100 course fee includes materials. Registration ends on May 14. Space is limited!

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

**Wednesday, May 23, 7 - 9 p.m.** (rescheduled from May 1) with Sr. Kathleen Osbelt; \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Did Christ come only to atone for humans' 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 frankly—refreshing! She will discuss how this underlying stance of emphasizing God's love and God's delight in beauty alters our sense of creation, the Trinity, incarnation and salvation. Kathleen Osbelt, OSF, founded Francis House in 1991 where she is now the Director of Mission Outreach, assisting others who are opening homes for those who are dying. She frequently speaks on grief, end-of-life planning, and various spiritual topics, as well as leading retreats.

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)

## The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola: A 30-week adventure in prayer



The spiritual legacy of St. Ignatius has blessed Christians since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. His classic *Spiritual Exercises* have inspired many to make the scriptures an integral part of their lives and their prayer, and taught them an

approach to discerning God's leading in the daily circumstances of everyday life.

The Center will again offer the full Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius program as a 30-week retreat. Participants meet on Tuesday afternoons with an individual prayer guide and for a group session. Material for daily prayer is given in the book provided. The 2018-2019 program begins Tuesday, September 18 at 1 p.m., and continues through mid-May. Participation is capped at 14. Please contact Sr. Marise May for more information at 315-472-6546.

## The HORIZONS Program: Training to Be a Spiritual Director



For nearly thirty years, the Spiritual Renewal Center has been training men and women for the vitally important ministry of spiritual direction. Have you sensed that God might be calling you to this work? Consider applying for our two-year HORIZONS Foundational Program for the Training of Spiritual Directors. HORIZONS is a practicum-based program for people wanting to develop their gifts for this work. Monthly sessions focus on the principles and practices of spiritual direction, alongside close supervision of direction practice.

Staff includes Jim Krisher, Sr. Marise May, Kathy Papa, Lana Riley, and Rev. John Rose. Applicants must have substantial knowledge in theology, scripture, and spirituality, and a minimum of one year's experience receiving spiritual direction.

The first year of HORIZONS meets at the Center October 2018 through June 2019, on the first Monday of each month, 1:00-5:15 p.m. During the second year, monthly sessions are held October 2019 through June 2020, 2:45-5:15 p.m. Tuition is \$695 per year. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program. Contact Center Director Jim Krisher for more details or an application.

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature comes from Kathy Faber-Langendoen, Board Chair and spiritual director.

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?

*Let each generation tell its children of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4*

The honeymoon was short-lived. Three weeks after our wedding, I interrupted medical school to have spine surgery. My husband, newly immigrated from Canada, could not find work. As my anticipated 3-month recovery stretched on without improvement and student loans ran out, we struggled to maintain hope. Quite honestly, I was unable to string together a coherent thought about what I could realistically expect from God.

And then, this letter arrived from my Grandpa. A school janitor with a 6<sup>th</sup> grade education, a depression-era survivor with a wife now lapsing into early-onset Alzheimers, my Grandpa wrote this:

*Dear Don and Kathy:*

*Now what can I write about to professional people? Maybe just tell you that I think of Don and Kathy often. Your Mom said Kathy is walking around. That is good news. When I think back over the last 55 years and think of how good God has been to Grandma and me—oh sure there were hard times but, God has never failed us and he never will. Some day Kathy will be all better. Don will have a good job and that will be a good time to thank God for his loving kindness and tender mercy. Grandpa will be praying for Don and Kathy. Trust in the Lord always.*

*With love from Grandpa*

For 34 years this letter, now creased and yellowed, has stayed in my Bible. "Thank God for his loving kindness and tender mercy." The word of God, through the people of God.



That's what *Grace* looks like.

## “Jesus: Image of the Invisible God” Register Now for the Retreat!



Plan now to join us for our annual 24 hour Retreat, beginning Friday May 18 at 7 p.m. Our theme is “Jesus: Image of the Invisible God.” Our time together at Christ the King Retreat House 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.

## Spiritual Direction Staff Expands






Joining our staff is Kathleen Osbelt, OSF. Sr. Kathleen founded Francis House in 1991 where she is now the Director of Mission Outreach. She holds a Master’s degree in

Pastoral Ministry from Boston College and completed post-graduate work in theology and the Center’s spiritual direction training program. Contact the Center if you wish to meet with Sr. Kathleen or any of our staff of gifted spiritual directors.

## 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](mailto:spiritualrenewalcenter.com) and get the the latest information sent right to your inbox.

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