



# Offerings

November - December 2021  
Volume 8 • Issue 6

## ABOUT US

The Spiritual Renewal Center is an ecumenical Christian ministry providing spiritual direction and renewal opportunities to all members of the community.

1342 Lancaster Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
spiritualrenewalcenter.com  
315-472-6546

## OUR HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9-5  
Friday 9-4  
The Center will be closed  
November 25 & 26  
December 24 & 31

## OUR STAFF

Steve Moore, *Center Director*  
Marise May, OSF  
*Programming Associate*  
Andrea Pollock,  
*Administrative Assistant*  
Meg Castellini,  
*Communications Specialist*

## OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Derr, *Secretary*  
Patty Hubbard  
Scott Kelso, *Treasurer*  
Rev. Don Kirby, SJ, *Vice-Chair*  
Maureen Lasda  
Sally Manahan, *Chair*  
Mac McKinstry  
Rev. Dan McMullin  
Rev. Steve Moore,  
*Center Director*  
Kathy Papa  
Bob Talomie

## Conversation Around the Thanksgiving Table and Beyond: Moving from “I” to “We” with the Practice of Spiritual Conversation Thursday, November 18 | 7:00-8:30 pm EST (virtual option available) Presented by Alec Hufford, nSJ

As Thanksgiving approaches, we feel gratitude and excitement but may be noticing some anxiety as well. In this uncertain year, with its challenges and great diversity of personal and political opinions gathered around the table, we might be thinking, “Just how will we talk to one another?”

For hundreds of years, people of faith have been using the practice of spiritual conversation to foster an atmosphere in which intimate and effective communication with those of different experiences is possible. Join us at the Spiritual Renewal Center as we explore how to relate to others and to oneself in a manner that is marked by reverence, freedom, and discernment, cultivated by the principles of spiritual conversation as practiced in the Ignatian tradition.

Facilitated by Alec Hufford, n.S.J., the Jesuit novice assigned to the Spiritual Renewal Center for the 2021 fall semester. *Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.* For more information or to register visit our website [spiritualrenewalcenter.com/events](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com/events) or call the Center 315-472-6546.

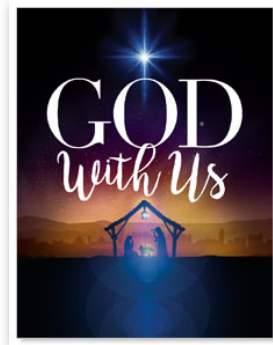


## We Honored Our Founder!



We had the opportunity to honor Jim Krisher on Friday, September 17th. We were blessed with a lovely evening for celebrating with Jim. Attendees enjoyed food provided by Brady Market in the festive outdoor area near our entrance. During the short program, Lana Riley, Marise May and Kathy Papa noted Jim’s ability to invite or “tap” individuals to share their gifts for the benefit of the Center. This “tapping” was a feature of Jim’s leadership. Jim expressed his gratitude for this celebration as well as the many blessings of his 43 years as Director of the Center. A special thank you to Maureen Lasda as chair of the committee that organized this celebration.

**Learning to Pray: A Journey from Advent to Incarnation**  
**Tuesdays November 30 - December 21 | 1:00-2:30 pm EST (virtual option available)**  
**Presented by Gerry McKeon, SJ and Alec Hufford, nSJ**



Join us at the Spiritual Renewal Center either in person or on Zoom during the season of Advent to grow in awareness of, and intimacy with, God.

We will meet each Tuesday from 1pm to 2:30pm to explore the meaning of Advent, deepen our practice of prayer, and share our experiences with one another.

Moving from themes of discernment and mercy, to hope, trust, and promise, we will learn from the wisdom of spiritual guides such as St. Ignatius of Loyola, Pope Francis, Fr. James Martin, S.J., Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and more.

In addition to the weekly gathering, participants are invited to strengthen their practice of prayer each day through provided suggestions for daily meditation and contemplation.

Facilitated by Jesuit priest Gerry McKeon and Jesuit novice Alec Hufford, this journey invites all into the mystery and majesty of the Advent season with the lens of the Ignatian tradition. *Fee: \$50, or whatever you can afford.*

**O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!**  
**Advent Vespers Service with the Jesuit Novices**  
**Friday, December 17 | 7 pm EST (in person only)**

Join the Spiritual Renewal Center and the Jesuit novices of St. Andrew Hall in ushering in the final seven days of Advent by proclaiming the first of the O Antiphons in our Advent Vespers Service, a beautiful experience of music and liturgy, simple chant, prayer, and teaching, focusing on the theme of preparation and joyful anticipation for the Incarnation and Second Coming. A time of social fellowship and celebration as a community will follow the service. *Free will offering.*

Preregistration is required for all of our events. Registration through our website is preferred. You can also register by emailing us at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com). Please include your full name, email and phone number.

**Grief and the Holiday Season**  
**Thursday, December 9 | 6:30 pm EST (virtual option available)**  
**Presented by Kathleen Flannery, LMSW and Rev. Jana Biesanz**

We are excited to have Kate Flannery and Rev. Jana Biesanz from Francis House present at the Center on Grief and the Holiday Season. We know that grieving is especially hard during the holiday season, especially this year when so many have lost so much. Please come and join us on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, either in person or on Zoom. *Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.*

**Kathleen Flannery, LMSW** is the Director of Mission, Outreach and Education at Francis House. She is the recipient of the 40 Under 40 Award, the Syracuse University School of Social Work Distinguished Alumnae Award, the Central New York Women in Business Award, the Onondaga County District Attorney's Award and the Syracuse Post Standard Achievement Award. She has served as an adjunct professor and frequent lecturer and is a dedicated volunteer for many local non-profit agencies. **Rev. Jana Biesanz** is an Interfaith minister and serves as the Francis House Household Coordinator and chaplain. She served as the chaplain for Hospice of CNY for several years, and continues to be an Assistant Chaplain for Upstate Medical Center's Department of Spiritual Care. She teaches contemplative care for the dying and their families to healthcare professionals, caregivers, and volunteers.

**Silent Directed Retreat**  
**January 7-9, 2022 at**  
**Christ the King Retreat House**

Begin 2022 with renewed hope in God's providence for the world and God's friendship with you! The New Year's retreat is back!

The retreat begins on Friday evening with supper and concludes at noon on Sunday. All meals, snacks and meetings with a spiritual director are included.

The fee is \$250 with a \$50 nonrefundable deposit. Reservations must be made by December 10th. Call the Center or visit our website for more information and to save your spot for this popular retreat.

## Welcome to Wisdom Wednesdays

Please consider joining us Wednesday afternoons **4-5 pm at the Center** (no virtual option) for a weekly time of study and reflection. Feel free to stay after for our contemplative prayer group at 5:30 pm.



One of the best kept secrets of our Christian tradition is the wisdom of the mystics. For a long time it was thought that “ordinary people” shouldn’t be getting involved with such things. Yet, the great theologian Karl Rahner wrote, “the devout Christian of the future will either be a ‘mystic,’ one who has experienced ‘something,’ or he will cease to be anything at all.” The Spiritual Renewal Center has been devoted to sharing the wisdom of Christian traditions throughout its history.

**On Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup>** we will begin by studying one of our best loved mystics St. Thérèse of Lisieux, through her autobiography *Story of a Soul*. This timeless classic outlines Thérèse’s “little way” of following Jesus. Thérèse’s method is so accessible that anyone can benefit, and so profound that St. John Paul II made her a Doctor of the Church in 1997, one of only four women to earn that title in the Roman Catholic Church.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per session. If you are interested or have any questions please contact Steve at the Center.

## Recurring Groups

**Our Catch the Spirit Bible Study** held on **Tuesday mornings from 10-11:30 am** is going virtual beginning November 2nd. Our group is facilitated by Jesuit Novice, Alec Hufford. If you are interested in joining in the conversation, please call the Center for the zoom link.

**Ignation Spirituality Group for those who have completed the Spiritual Exercises** is facilitated by Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ and takes place on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Upcoming meetings are **November 10th and December 8th**.

**Women’s Faith Sharing group** meets on the **3rd Thursday of the month**. This group is facilitated by Kathy Papa. Upcoming meeting are **November 18th and December 16th**.

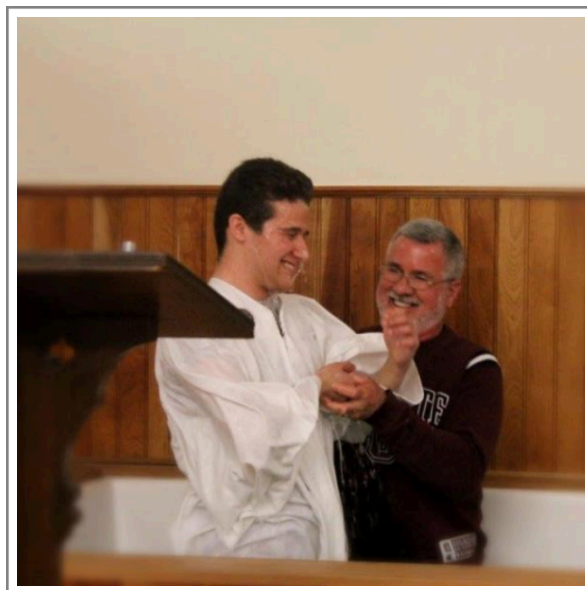
What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God’s grace. This issue’s grace story comes from Alec Hufford, a Jesuit novice assigned to serve the Center this fall.

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?

On a crisp December morning in 2015, I gathered together with my newfound Christian fellowship, pastor, a college professor or two, and several old friends to make a momentous public profession, to signify an immutable decision, to change my life: to be baptized.

Foremost among them all, stood both my parents and most of my siblings, my family - my Jewish family, alongside my college’s Jewish community and rabbi, too, all accompanying me at my baptism.

While not the path they all would’ve wanted for me, nor a path they can understand fully, those who love me most of all chose to walk that path with me, witnessing my journey in awe and holding my new spiritual identity with acceptance. And, in so doing, my community, my siblings, and especially my parents, gave me one of the most holy, loving, blessed gifts of my life: a sign of being unconditionally supported and cared for no matter what, a sign of grace.



That’s What *Grace* Looks Like



## Change the World by the Way You Shop!

The Hand to Hand Fair Trade Shop is open for your business.....and well stocked for the Holidays. Like many, we are experiencing some shipping hold-ups but are confident that you will find the perfect gifts here for your friends and family. All merchandise is Fair Trade Certified and marketed through Ten Thousand Villages and Serrv. It has all been crafted by artisans who have been paid upfront, earning a living wage in an environmentally supportive environment. Change the World by Changing the Way you Shop. We are open during Center hours. Keep an eye on your email for some special holiday hours!




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## Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

Get social with the Spiritual Renewal Center and find us on Facebook and Instagram 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.

 [facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter](https://facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter)

 [instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse](https://instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Syracuse, NY 13210

