



# Offerings

...touching lives in Christ

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF  
GOD'S GRACE

January / February 2018  
Volume 5 • Issue 1

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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 monthly on Thursdays from 3 - 4:30 p.m.. Upcoming meetings include January 18 and February 15. Group members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life. Call Kathy Papa at 315-457-4922. Suggested offering: \$15 per session.



Clear Pond Woods (Karen Burns). Used by kind permission of the artist. For information, see karenburnspaintings.com

## Deep Is Calling Unto Deep: Renewing our Connection with God

Come to the Center on **Wednesday, January 17, 7 - 9 p.m. or Thursday, January 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.** for this presentation led by Rose Raymond Wagner, OSF for \$20 or whatever you can afford.

This time of reflection on the sacred Psalms will invite us to a fuller appreciation of how these 150 inspired prayers can connect our human hearts with the Heart of the Divine. Come and see why these words of scripture have fed the prayer lives of believers since ancient times, and how they are not only words to pray but teach us how to pray, and what prayer is. Sr. Rose Raymond Wagner is one of our staff Spiritual Directors and formerly served at Christ The King Retreat House and Stella Maris Retreat Center. This presentation will be offered twice – Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

Please visit Page 2 for other upcoming programs and events at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

## 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. Thursdays: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., and Fridays: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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

New Year's Day: Jan. 1  
President's Day: Feb. 19

Occasionally, the Center must close in the winter months due to inclement weather. Always use your own best judgement concerning travel to the Center, especially if the Syracuse City Schools have announced closures. We will post Center weather closures on [syracuse.com](http://syracuse.com) and the local television stations for your information. You can always call ahead to verify we're open if in doubt.

## UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS AT THE SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CENTER, Cont'd from page 1

### Love Lost? Love Left? The Allure of Lent

Share your love of Lent on **Thursday, February 15 at 7 - 9 p.m.** for this presentation led by Matt Cortese, SJ for \$20 or whatever you can afford.

While Lent often gets a bad rap, all wilderness and penance, the season is nothing less than the Christian story of love in microcosm. Join Matt Cortese, SJ, for an evening adventure into the beauty and love of Lent! Matt will share wisdom from St. Augustine and contemporary writers to help us see and celebrate Lent in a new way. Contact the Center to register for what promises to be an insightful and inspiring teaching!

To register for these events, contact  
[mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com)  
or 315-472-6546.

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

Join us on **Thursday, March 1 at 7 - 9 p.m.** for this presentation led by Kathleen Osbelt, OSF for \$20 or whatever you can afford.

Did Christ come only to atone for human sin? Or is his coming about something more than paying a debt for sin? 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 quite refreshing! She will discuss how this understanding emphasizes God's love and God's delight in beauty, and alters our sense of creation, the Trinity, incarnation and salvation.

Sr. Kathleen Osbelt founded Francis House in 1991 and is presently 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.

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 the Reverend Dr. Richard Laribee, friend of the Center.

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?

One of my friends is a young man with a wicked sense of humor that brings joy to those blessed to know him. Not only does he see humor—especially irony—everywhere and in everything, but he often sees the humor that the rest of us miss. Happily for us, he not only sees the humor, but loves to share it with his friends, making the world a brighter place for us.

Because cerebral palsy impairs his speech, my friend communicates primarily through gestures, such as a well-timed rolling of his eyes or shaking of his head. And once he gets you laughing, he'll join in with the best, most wonderful, raucous laughing imaginable.

One sunny afternoon when we were first getting to know one another, we meandered around the neighborhood, he in his motorized wheelchair, I walking beside him. Toward the end of our outing as I finished telling him a little about my life as an Episcopal priest, we came to a rough patch of broken sidewalk. As he carefully maneuvered his motorized wheelchair between two potholes, a wheel suddenly slipped and fell into one of the holes. I shouted something unprintable, terrified he was going to fall. Fortunately the heavy machine didn't fall over, and he managed to drive out of the hole. Once the danger passed and my heart rate returned to normal, I said to him, "Way to go... you made the priest swear!"

And he laughed and laughed and laughed—that wonderful, raucous laugh. Which made me laugh too. It was one of those simple, tender, shared moments of life that stay with a person forever.

That's what *Grace* looks like. +



## Save the Date!

As winter eventually gives way to spring, the Spiritual Renewal Center will continue to offer more thought-provoking and faith-deepening events for your spiritual growth. Details are on our website, [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com). Mark your calendars now!

- Join Steve Moore, one of the Center's Spiritual Director, clinical psychologist and Episcopal rector, on March 22, 7 – 9 p.m., for Dreamwork as Spiritual Practice. On Fridays, April 6, April 20, and May 4, Steve will also facilitate an afternoon Dreams Discussion Group, 3-4 p.m.
- Center Director Jim Krisher will lead his always popular two-session seminar Enneagram Insights for Christian Growth. The enneagram is a way of understanding human personality through the lens of nine fundamental compulsions that can impact us in negative ways as we walk life's journey. Participants will identify their own basic compulsion and explore how this understanding is useful in our relationships with ourselves, others, and God. This two-session seminar will be on April 12 and 19, 6:45-9 p.m.
- Staff Spiritual Director and Jesuit priest Louis Sogliuzzo will lead Easter Grieving. Reserve April 18, 7-9 p.m. for this Easter Season reflection on how Christ's empty tomb provides ground for understanding our own experiences of life's fragility and for moving to an acceptance of the gift of Spirit as we learn to live anew by Christ's death.

## LAST CHANCE!

### Get a peaceful start with God at our Silent Retreat

Join us Friday, January 5, 6 p.m. through Sunday, January 7, 12 p.m.

Tired of making New Year's resolutions? Is it the "same old, same old" every year, making resolutions only to break them sooner or later? Why not let God make your resolutions for you for 2018? In a few days of silence with God and with a trained spiritual director, you may well come to know what God is inviting you to in this new year. What a wonderful way to start 2018!

Our annual Silent Directed Retreat Weekend will be held the first weekend of the new year. The fee includes your stay at the scenic Christ the King Retreat House with a private room, all meals and snacks, quiet time for rest and prayer, and individual sessions with a spiritual director. The Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday evening.

Directors for this year's retreat are Sr. Rose Bill, Matt Cortese, SJ, Jim Krisher, Sr. Marise May, and Lana Riley—all staff spiritual directors from the Center.

Register for this grace-filled event by contacting us at 315-472-6546. Cost for the retreat is \$250, all inclusive. +

God is doing something new among the churches in this age, and the ministry of the Spiritual Renewal Center seeks to be of service to all believers and seekers as God's dream for us comes to light. Your financial support is essential – please send your gifts using the enclosed envelope, or online. We are so grateful for your partnership with us in this work – thank you!

# Thank you for a great holiday season!

Business has been brisk in the Hand to Hand Trade Gift Shop. Many gift givers are making the choice to help change the world by changing the way they shop through their purchases of Fair Trade goods.

We'll be getting the mark down pen out in January, so make sure to shop for bargains then! Thanks for your support of artisans from the developing world, and the Spiritual Renewal Center.


**Stop by this January and see what is on sale!**

# SALE




## 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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