

## **Adult Education *at the Church of Saint Francis of Assisi* Spring 2019**

### **FAITH AND THEOLOGY**

“IN THE BEGINNING ...” PART TWO: GENESIS 12-50

Picking up where we left off in the fall of 2018, this eight-week course will continue our study of the first book of the bible, and explore the stories of the patriarchs and matriarchs of our faith: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, Jacob and his many wives who gave birth to the twelve tribes of Israel. These stories reveal a God who does not choose the perfect or the powerful to engage in covenantal relationship, but flawed men and women with real problems and real struggles. These are stories of survival, of trust and of God’s commitment to those whom God chooses and calls. This course will delve into the literary and theological dimensions of these stories as well as their meaning for our own lives of faith.

Instructor: Joseph Nuzzi, M.A.

Wednesdays: February 13 – April 10, 2019

12:00 – 1:00 PM **OR** 6:30 - 7:30 PM; San Damiano Hall

Fee:\$60.00

### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: THE CHURCH’S BEST-KEPT SECRET**

Some of the most exciting and challenging developments in official Church teaching over the past 125 years address the areas of social, political, economic and ecological justice as well as the gospel imperative to pursue peace. Yet, too few Catholics are even aware of this rich treasure trove of theological reflection on the implications of our Christian faith for the shape of our public policy. This course will explore the foundational principles of Catholic social teaching: the dignity of the human person; the call to family and community; the pursuit of the common good; human rights and responsibilities; the option for the poor and the vulnerable; the dignity of work and the rights of workers; solidarity with all men and women; and our divinely-given vocation to be good stewards of Mother Earth, our common home.

Instructor: Fr. Brian Jordan, O.F.M., D.Min.

Tuesdays: March 12 – April 2

12:30 – 1:30 PM; Classroom 2

Fee: \$40.00

## SIN, FORGIVENESS AND THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Over the course of its long history, millions of people have come to St. Francis of Assisi Church seeking the healing, compassion and forgiveness of Christ—especially in the sacrament of reconciliation. This year, our parish celebrates its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of that celebration, this course will reflect on an experience that is central to the parish's mission: the graced encounter between us sinners and the God of infinite mercy. The classes will review the biblical understanding of sin and reconciliation, the history of the sacrament of penance, and the opportunities and challenges for the renewal of the sacrament today.

Instructor: William Beaudin, O.F.M., M.Div.

Wednesdays: March 13 – April 3, 2019

6:15 – 7:15 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$40.00

## THE PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

Needless to say, the life, death and destiny of Jesus of Nazareth is the very heart and center of our Christian faith. Through a concentrated study of the passion and resurrection narratives in the four gospels, as well as other Old and New Testament texts, this day-long course will guide participants in sustained theological and spiritual reflection on the paschal mystery—an appropriate activity for the Lenten season and an apt preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and the Easter sacraments.

Instructor: Mary J. Gennuso, Ph.D.

Friday: March 29, 2019

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$40.00

## **FAITH AND THE SAINTS**

### **LIVING UP TO ONE'S CONVICTIONS: MARTYRS PAST AND PRESENT**

This day-long seminar will focus on individuals who were martyrs or who made life-threatening decisions based on their beliefs. It will reflect on the stories of biblical heroines like Judith and Esther; canonized saints like Perpetua, Joan of Arc and Gianna Beretta Molla; and contemporary women like the Nobel laureates Malala and Nadis Murad, the activists and humanitarian aid workers Kayla Mueller and Anna Campbell, and the journalist Marie Colvin. Some of the women surveyed made their decisions in the light of explicit faith; others did so out of their passion for the betterment of society. Among other topics, the course will consider the question: can those whose "hunger and thirst for justice" isn't religiously motivated still be considered "secular saints"?

Instructor: Denise De Vito, M.A.

Friday: March 15, 2019

9:30 AM – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$40.00

### **SAINTS, MYSTICS AND MARTYRS: 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY CARMELITE WOMEN**

Three women will be featured in this day-long seminar: Edith Stein, the German Jewish philosopher who became a Catholic convert, a Carmelite nun, a victim of Auschwitz and a martyr for Christ; Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, the French Carmelite sister and spiritual writer; and St. Teresa of the Andes, a Chilean Carmelite who died at the age of 20 but whose diary and letters contain a deep wisdom well beyond her years.

Instructor: Mary J. Gennuso, Ph.D.

Friday: March 22, 2019

1:00 – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$25.00

## FAITH AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

### A DAY OF CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Contemplative prayer is the opening of the mind, the heart, and our whole being to God. It is a process of interior transformation initiated by God, a process that leads, if we consent, to friendship, trust, love, and deeper union with God, and to ongoing conversion from our false self into our true self, the self which is made in God's image and likeness. This day-long course, recommended for new and long-time practitioners, will include periods of instruction as well as the actual experience of traditional forms of contemplative prayer.

Instructor: Teresita Pia, M.A.

Saturday: February 16, 2019 **OR** Saturday: March 2, 2019

10:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Francis Room

Fee: \$30.00

### SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS PROGRAM

Attendees will learn simple and effective spiritual and physical exercises to decrease stress, improve focus, deepen relationship with God and better discern God's plans for their life in service to others. Spiritual Pathways incorporates the practices of Fr. Adrian van Kaam's Formative Spirituality as well as those of Brain Gym©, a movement-based program that helps re-educate your nervous system so that you can live and work with greater ease and efficiency. The seminar will consist of group spiritual direction, movement, scripture reflection, quiet prayer, and weekly home practice guides, and a final integrative session to solidify what you have learned. *[Limited to 10 participants per series of evenings.]*

Instructor: Christa M. Gesztesi, M.Ed.

Tuesdays: February 26 – April 16, 2019

6:30 – 8:00 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$80.00

**OR**

Thursdays: February 28 – April 11, 2019

6:30 – 8:00 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$70:00

## DYING TO LIVE: THE DEATH THAT LEADS TO A FULLER LIFE

In discussions of Christian spirituality, we often read or hear of the necessity of “dying to self.” But what “self” needs to die? It is the false self, the ego that imprisons us in varying degrees of misery, pain and suffering. This day-long course will offer instruction about the formation of the false self and best practices for ongoing transformation into our true selves, the selves made in the image and likeness of God. The day will also include experiences of *lectio divina* and centering prayer. The same workshop will be offered on two Saturdays.

Instructor: Teresita Pia, M.A.

Saturday: March 16, 2019 **OR** Saturday: March 30, 2019

10:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Francis Room

Fee: \$30.00

## FAITH AND THE ARTS

### JEWELRY AS RELIGIOUS ADORNMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

This seminar will offer an overview of religiously inspired adornment in Christianity and other faith traditions from the ancient world to contemporary society. Rosaries, prayer beads and scapulars, as well as the distinction between what is decoratively worn and what is devotionally used will be explored. The afternoon session will take place at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Instructor: Denise De Vito, M.A.

Saturday: February 23, 2019

9:30 AM – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$30.00, plus a \$12.00 museum entrance fee (*payable at the morning session*)

### SACRED CHORAL MUSIC FROM GREGORIAN CHANT TO MOZART

There is an old saying, often attributed to St. Augustine, that “he prays twice who sings his prayer.” Indeed, when sacred words are wedded to music of the highest caliber and are well sung, God is abundantly praised and human hearts are uplifted. This six-week course will survey the history of Christian choral music from its beginnings to the Classical period of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Instructor: Charles Powell

Mondays: February 25 – April 1, 2019

12:15 – 1:30 PM; Classroom 3

Fee: \$50.00

## SACRED AND SECULAR AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE: 1870 TO TODAY

For some, the design of sacred space is, or ought to be, frozen in time, as if only the architecture of 5<sup>th</sup> century Rome or 12<sup>th</sup> century Paris fits the bill for God's temple. For others, a living faith begs to be expressed in living artistic forms. In this course, attention will be given to major American architects who designed houses of worship: Henry H. Richardson, Ralph Adams Cram, Bertram Goodhue, Frank Lloyd Wright, Philip Johnson, Richard Meier and Rafael Moneo. Analysis will include the historical, theological and cultural influences that contributed to the construction and decoration of their cathedrals and churches.

Instructor: Francis J. Greene, Ph.D.

Tuesdays: February 26 – April 9, 2019

12:15 PM – 1:30 PM; San Damiano Hall

Fee: \$70.00

## IRISH FILM FESTIVAL

Compassion, forgiveness, and the healing power of love are some of the themes featured in this film survey of Irish writers and actors. Six films will be viewed and discussed: *Hal Roach: Tribute*, *Waking Ned Devine*, *Good Bye Christopher Robin*, *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and *Whisky Galore*.

Instructor: Edward Kent, O.S.F., M.A.

Thursdays: February 28 – April 4, 2019

12:00 – 1:30 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$40.00

## FAITH AND LITERATURE

### MARY OLIVER: POET OF ECOLOGY AND WONDER

Award-winning contemporary poet Mary Oliver is known for her descriptions of nature and for her wonder at the possibilities and the fragility of the human spirit. She once said in an interview: “Attention is the beginning of devotion.” The first hour and a half of each of this course’s class sessions will be devoted to an attentive reading and discussion of select poems. In the last half hour, those students who wish to participate will respond to the poems in writing. While this course component is optional, students are encouraged to use these written exercises as a way of paying attention to and appreciating Oliver’s subjects and techniques. The course text will be *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*, which is available in either hardcover or e-book format.

Instructor: Sr. Fran McManus, R.S.M., M.A.

Tuesdays: February 19 – April 2, 2019

6:00 – 8:00 PM; Francis Room

Fee: \$70.00

### WALKER PERCY: FICTION FIGURING TRUTH

When the Southern, Catholic writer Walker Percy died in 1990, his obituary in the New York Times described his fiction as the “search for faith and love in a chaotic world.” This course will follow Percy on his literary search. After an introductory class, we will spend two weeks on each of Percy’s first three novels: *The Moviegoer*, which won the National Book Award for fiction, *The Last Gentleman*, and *Love in the Ruins*.

Instructor: Sr. Fran McManus, R.S.M., M.A.

Thursdays: February 21 – April 4, 2019

12:15 -1:15 PM; First Floor Conference Room

Fee: \$50.00

## A LITERARY WALK THROUGH DUBLIN

James Joyce's short story collection, *Dubliners*, is filled with humanity, humor, memorable characters, superb prose and a vivid picture of Joyce's hometown. We will read this classic in its entirety, and conclude the course with a viewing and discussion of John Huston's film adaptation of "The Dead," the last story of *Dubliners* and possibly the finest short story in the English language. Students can acquire a copy of this literary classic in bookstores or online.

Instructor: Edward Kent, O.S.F., M.A.

Wednesdays: February 27 – April 3, 2019

12:00 – 1:15 PM; Classroom 4

Fee: \$60.00



## **FAITH AND THE LITURGY**

HAVE MERCY, O GOD, IN YOUR KINDNESS:

SOLEMN LENTEN VESPERS

Thursday, March 28, 2019

Upper Church of St. Francis of Assisi

6:30 – 8:00 PM

Instruction and celebration come together in a “lecture-demonstration” of Solemn Vespers, one of the pillars of the official prayer of the Church. The evening will include an introduction to the Lenten season, to the Jewish and Christian dimensions of the psalms we will be singing, and to the music we will be performing in praise of God “whose mercy endures forever.”

Facilitators:

Fr. Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M. and Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.

*No fee and no registration required*

LENTEN AFTERNOON OF PRAYER

Saturday, April 6, 2019

2:00 – 5:00 PM; San Damiano Hall

Facilitator: Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.

Is our cross too small? The central symbol of our Christian faith is often reduced physically to a trinket, spiritually to an object of private devotion, and theologically to the appeasement of an angry God demanding satisfaction for sin. As a preparation for Passiontide, Fr. William will offer two retreat conferences that, hopefully, will widen and deepen the participants’ perspective on the crucifixion of Jesus. The afternoon will include communal prayer as well as time for personal reflection, and conclude, for those who wish to participate, with St. Francis of Assisi Parish’s 5:15 PM Vigil Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent.

Fee: \$15.00

Please Note: Instructors' biographies and registration forms are available on our website: [stfrancisnyc.org](http://stfrancisnyc.org)

## **CLASSROOM LOCATIONS**

Most classes are held in the St. Francis Adult Education Center, 139 West 31<sup>st</sup> Street, immediately to the left of St. Francis Church. The entrance is in the passageway between the church and the adult education building. San Damiano Hall is located at 127 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street (enter under the glass awning). The Clare Room and the Conference Room are located on the first floor of St. Francis House, 135 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street, and the Francis Room is located on the lower level of St. Francis House, 135 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **REGISTRATION POLICY**

1. Please try to pre-register at least one week in advance of the course or program you wish to attend, either by mail or at the reception desk of St. Francis House.
2. **NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE MADE BY MAIL.** You will be notified *only* if a course is closed.
3. Check each course you wish to attend on the registration form and, where applicable, please indicate which class session you will be attending.
5. Include the indicated fee along with the completed registration form.
6. Confidential scholarship aid is available upon request from the director.

For more information contact: Adult Education Center, (212) 769-8500, Ext. 277

# SPRING 2019

Church of Saint Francis of Assisi  
ADULT EDUCATION CENTER COURSES

REGISTRATION FOR

New Participant       Returning Participant

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (  ) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (  ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Enclosed (  ) :    Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_

**CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO:**

***St. Francis Adult Education Center***

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS:**

***Only at the reception desk of St. Francis House***

***Check our website for online registration***

**Check  below the course(s) you would like to attend:**

**“In the Beginning...” Part Two** (Noon Session)

**“In the Beginning...” Part Two** (Evening Session)

**A Day of Contemplative Prayer** (February 16 Session)

**A Day of Contemplative Prayer** (March 2 Session)

**Mary Oliver: Poet of Ecology and Wonder**

**Walker Percy: Fiction Figuring Truth**

**Jewelry As Religious Adornment**

**Sacred Choral Music**

**Sacred and Secular American Architecture**

**Spiritual Pathways Program** (Tuesday Sessions)

**Spiritual Pathways Program** (Thursday Sessions)

**A Literary Walk Through Dublin**

**Irish Film Festival**

**Catholic Social Teaching**

**Sin, Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Living Up to One's Convictions**

**Dying to Live** (March 16 Session)

**Dying to Live** (March 30 Session)

**Saints, Mystics and Martyrs**

**The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus**

**Lenten Afternoon of Prayer**