

Fee: \$70.00

Instructor: Joseph Nuzzi, M.A.
Wednesdays: February 12 – April 15, 2020
 (No classes on February 26 and April 8)
12:00 – 1:00 PM OR 6:30 – 7:30 PM; San Damiano Hall

most welcomed in those classes is not a prerequisite for this course. Newcomers are taken the previous semesters' classes. However, prior participation This course will complete our study of the Torah for those who have raised and the challenges faced by Israel's occupation of the Land. Deuteronomy and Judges. We will examine what is unique in the study Deuteronomy and the first two books of the "Deuteronomistic B.C.E. to the Babylonian Empire. In this eight-week course, we will book itself into the biblical account of the history of Israel from the and theological perspective. This perspective is carried beyond the Genesis, Exodus, Numbers and Leviticus by its own unique structure Deuteronomy is a distinct book within the Torah, set apart from

DEUTERONOMY AND THE CONQUEST OF THE LAND

FAITH AND THE BIBLE



Adult Education
 at the Church of
 Saint Francis of Assisi
Spring 2020

Please note: Instructors' biographies are available on our website, strandsnyc.org.

Instructor: Mary J. Gennuso, Ph.D.
Friday: March 20, 2020
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$40.00

In this daylong seminar, we will study Jesus' masterful use of stories, images and pithy sayings in his preaching about the Reign of God. We will examine such parable favorites as the good shepherd, the prodigal son, the hidden treasure, the pearl of great price, and the mustard seed; explore the contexts in which Jesus proclaimed them; review various interpretations of his teaching; and, where there is more than one version of a parable or saying, compare and contrast the different gospel traditions. Finally, we will consider the relevance of these scripture passages for our lives today. The required text for this course is a good, scholarly translation of the scriptures such as the New Revised Standard Version or the New American Bible.

THE PARABLES AND SAYINGS OF JESUS

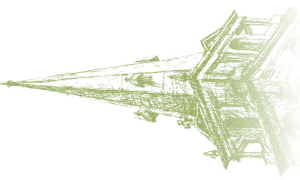
Instructor: William Beaudin, O.F.M., M.Div.
Thursdays: February 27 – March 19, 2020
6:15 – 7:30 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$40.00

Priest, prophet, mystic, mad man—these are just some of the titles with which the 6th century B.C.E. visionary Ezekiel ben Buzi has been labeled. He was slated to serve in God's temple in Jerusalem. But before he could undertake his priestly ministry, Ezekiel was exiled to Babylon, along with many of his fellow Israelites. There he struggled to make sense of the disastrous defeat that had befallen God's holy people at the hands of the Babylonian Empire. One of the most imaginative and difficult books of the bible, the text Ezekiel left behind has inspired Jews and Christians alike to find hope in seemingly hopeless situations. This course is a four-week introduction to Ezekiel, a complex man with a compelling message, and an appropriate Lenten meditation on the dynamics of purification and renewal, death and resurrection.

READING EZEKIEL

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FAITH AND THE LITURGY

A LENTEN AFTERNOON OF PRAYER
Saturday, April 4, 2020
2:00 – 5:00 PM; San Damiano Hall
 (Late registration begins at 1:30 PM)

Facilitators:
 Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M., and Charles Powell
 Fee: \$20

Although Matthew the Evangelist followed St. Mark's version of the passion and death of Christ very closely, nevertheless Matthew added his own unique touches to the story of Jesus' journey to the cross. These insights will form the basis of our reflections during this Lenten afternoon of prayer and help us to prepare for the solemnities of Holy Week. Meditations on Matthew's gospel will be interspersed with selections from J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion—the work of a faith-filled musical genius and one of the towering achievements of Western culture. The afternoon will include communal prayer and conclude, for those who wish to participate, with St. Francis of Assisi's Parish's 5:15 PM Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday.

LET US REJOICE AND BE GLAD: VESPERS FOR THE EASTER SEASON
Thursday, April 30, 2020
Upper Church of St. Francis of Assisi
6:30 – 7:30 PM

Facilitators:
 Fr. Timothy Shreenan, O.F.M., and Fr. William Beaudin, O.F.M.
 No fee and no registration required

Solemn Sung Vespers is one of the pillars of the liturgy, the official prayer of the Church. Come and celebrate the joyful season of Easter by chanting selected psalms, listening to the good news of Christ's resurrection, and reflecting on God's Word with the help of a homily and sacred silence.

CLASSROOM LOCATIONS

Most classes are held in the St. Francis Adult Education Center, 139 West 31st 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. 31st 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. 31st Street, and the Francis Room is located on the lower level of St. Francis House, 135 W. 31st Street.

SCHOOL OF ADULT EDUCATION REGISTRATION FORM

Mail to: Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Adult Education Center, 135 W. 31st Street, New York, NY 10001. Please print clearly.

Name _____

Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ – _____

Work _____ – _____

Email: _____

New student? Yes _____ No _____

Payment enclosed: Check _____ Cash _____

Checks should be made payable to "St. Francis Adult Education Center".

Credit card payments may only be made at the reception desk of St. Francis House.

Please try to pre-register at least one week in advance by mail or at the reception desk.

No acknowledgement of pre-registration will be made by mail. You will be notified only if a course is closed or cancelled.

Check on the reverse side each course you wish to take and include the fee with the registration form attached.

Confidential Scholarships aid is available in consultation with the Director.

For more information contact the Adult Education Center at 212-736-8500, Ext. 277.

FAITH AND MORALITY

THE PERILS OF PORNOGRAPHY

An insidious, multibillion dollar industry that exploits the bodies, minds and souls of men, women and children in the human family, pornography is an ethical, spiritual, social, psychological and legal problem. As such, it requires an interdisciplinary approach to confront and address it, drawing on the varied perspectives of the social sciences, moral theology and pastoral practice. This three-hour seminar will examine the causes and effects of our culture's addiction to pornography. It will be led by a panel that includes a psychologist, an addict in recovery, an assistant district attorney, and a priest. Of special interest to educators, pastoral ministers, law enforcement officials and concerned loved ones, the seminar is open to all who seek a better understanding of a wide-spread blight in today's world.

Convener: **Brian Jordan, O.F.M., D.Min.**
Friday: April 24, 2020
1:00 – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$20.00

FAITH AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

THE POWER OF LETTING GO

In this nine-week seminar you will learn simple and effective spiritual and physical exercises to help you let go of the past and to make space for God's unique plans for your life. Along the way, you will strengthen your prayer life and deepen your relationship with God as you learn to decrease stress and anxiety, and listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The course 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, gentle movement, scripture reflection, quiet prayer, weekly home practice guides, and a final integrative session to solidify what you have learned. (*Limited to 10 participants.*)

Instructor: **Christa M. Gesztesi, M.Ed.**
Tuesdays: March 3 – April 28, 2020
6:30 – 8:00 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$80.00

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 God's image and likeness. This daylong program, recommended for new and long-time practitioners, will include periods of instruction as well as the actual experience of traditional forms of contemplative prayer. The same workshop will be offered twice.

Instructor: **Teresita Pia, M.A.**
Saturday: February 29, 2020 OR April 18, 2020
10:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Francis Room; Fee: \$40.00

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 two-day long workshop will be offered twice.

Instructor: **Teresita Pia, M.A.**
Saturdays: March 7 and 14, 2020 OR April 25 and May 2, 2020
10:30 AM – 4:30 PM; Francis Room; Fee: \$40.00



THE SACRED HEART: HISTORY AND DEVOTIONS

The heart of Jesus as the human wellspring of God's mercy and the source of the sacramental life of the Church has been the focus of theological reflection since St. John first wrote his gospel at the end of the first century. 1600 years later, another saint, Margaret Mary Alacoque, helped to promote popular devotion to the Sacred Heart which has flourished ever since. In this, the 100th anniversary year of her canonization, we will explore the context and content of the visions and mystical encounters she experienced, as well as study the history, theology, development and dissemination of the Sacred Heart devotion and related pious practices.

Instructor: **Mary J. Gennuso, Ph.D.**
Friday: March 27, 2020
1:00 – 3:00 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$15.00

FAITH AND THE ARTS

FROM BEETHOVEN TO BRAHMS: CHORAL MUSIC OF THE ROMANTIC AGE

St. Francis of Assisi heard heavenly music in birdcalls and troubadour songs. Millions of others have heard it in the great choral works of Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Brahms. This course will survey the compositions for vocal ensemble created by these and other musical masters of the 19th century.

Instructor: **Charles Powell**
Tuesdays: March 3 – April 7, 2020
12:15 – 1:30 PM; Classroom 3; Fee: \$50.00

ANNE BRONTE FILM PRESENTATION

The year 2020 is the bicentennial of the birth of Anne Bronte, the youngest and most religious of the six Bronte siblings. Her second and final novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, is today considered a work of genius by many critics. An instant success, the book sold out six weeks after its publication in June of 1848. A film version of the novel will be presented in three parts with commentary and discussion following each section.

Instructor: **Denise De Vito, M.A.**
Friday: March 6, 2020
12:30 – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$25.00

JEWELRY AS RELIGIOUS ADORNMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

This seminar will offer an overview of religiously inspired adornment from the ancient world to contemporary society, from the high priest Aaron's breastplate to the prayer bead necklaces and bracelets sported by many young people today. We will explore the distinction between what is decoratively worn and what is devotionally used, and spend an afternoon at the Metropolitan Museum of Art for further study of our topic.

Instructor: **Denise De Vito, M.A.**
Friday: April 3, 2020
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM; Classroom 4
Fee: \$30.00, plus a \$12.00 museum entrance fee (*payable at the morning session*)

FAITH AND LITERATURE

RICHARD WRIGHT: ACTIVE VOICE

Writing what some critics have called "the literature of engagement," Wright depicts the personal, familial, communal and national consequences of the sin of racism. We will discuss two of Wright's early works: *Uncle Tom's Children*, a collection of five lengthy short stories set in the South, and the internationally acclaimed novel *Native Son*, which is set in Chicago. We will use the expanded version of *Uncle Tom's Children*, which added "Bright and Morning Star" to the initial volume of four stories, available on Kindle and in Harper Collins paperback.

Instructor: **Sr. Fran McManus, R.S.M., M.A.**
Thursdays: February 27 – April 16, 2020 (No class on April 9)
12:15 – 1:15 PM; First Floor Conference Room; Fee: \$60.00

DYLAN THOMAS: IMAGE AND EMOTION

According to Thomas, "the joy and function of poetry is, and was, the celebration of man, which is also the celebration of God." Rich in natural imagery and symbolism, Thomas's poetry is often described as a modern extension of the 19th century Romantic tradition in English literature. In the first hour and a half of each class we will analyze and discuss Thomas's poems, and devote the last half hour to optional writing exercises based on the evening's study. Any edition of the 1953 collected poems will suffice, but *The Collected Poems of Dylan Thomas: The Original Edition*, published by New Directions in 2010, is highly recommended.

Instructor: **Sr. Fran McManus, R.S.M., M.A.**
Tuesdays: March 3 – April 14, 2020
6:00 – 8:00 PM; First Floor Conference Room; Fee: \$60.00

THE DUBLIN OF JOYCE AND YEATS

James Joyce is considered to be one of the greatest prose writers of the modern period. His fellow Irishman and 1923 Nobel Laureate, William Butler Yeats, was hailed by T.S. Eliot as "the greatest poet of the 20th century." This course will focus on Joyce's short story collection, *Dubliners*, and on Yeats's early works. A viewing of John Huston's 1987 film classic, *The Dead*, will supplement the readings.

Instructor: **Edward Kent, O.S.F., M.A.**
Wednesdays: March 4 – April 8, 2020
12:00 – 1:30 PM; Classroom 4; Fee: \$50.00

Check below the courses you would like to attend:

- Deuteronomy and the Conquest of the Land (Noon Session)
- Deuteronomy and the Conquest of the Land (Evening Session)
- Richard Wright: Active Voice
- Reading Ezekiel
- A Day of Contemplative Prayer (February 29 Session)
- A Day of Contemplative Prayer (April 18 Session)
- From Beethoven to Brahms: Choral Music of the Romantic Age
- Dylan Thomas: Image and Emotion
- The Power of Letting Go
- The Dublin of Joyce and Yeats
- Anne Bronte Film Presentation
- Dying to Live (March 7 and 14 Sessions)
- Dying to Live (April 25 and May 2 Sessions)
- The Parables and Sayings of Jesus
- The Sacred Heart: History and Devotions
- Jewelry as Religious Adornment
- A Lenten Afternoon of Prayer
- The Perils of Pornography