

St. James Parish, Adult Christian Formation 2020-2021

We have a tremendously exciting Christian Formation year for our congregation and beyond, in the 2020-21 program year. We will partner with the Spiritual Life Center (SLC), in West Hartford, to present a year on Christian Spiritual Practices. Part of walking the way of Jesus and truly living the Christian life means drawing forever closer to the Divine presence. In our busy lives, however, finding new, creative, AND practical ways to live the Christian life and engage in our spiritual journey (we are all on one, by the way) can be very challenging indeed. So, St. James Parish will present, in communion with the SLC, six workshops on Christian Spiritual practices. Please save these dates.

Contemplative prayer, Andree Grafstein, MA, C.A.G.S. Thursday, October 1, 6:30–8:30 pm. Andree is an experienced spiritual director, retreat director and program presenter with over thirty years of experience. She is a member of the Spiritual Life Center community in West Hartford where she offers spiritual direction and supervision, and is a member of the Spiritual Direction Internship Training Team.

Lectio Divina, Celeste Calabotta. Tuesday, November 10, 6:30– 8:30 pm Celeste is a spiritual director and Lay Carmelite, and has been in retreat ministry at Our Lady of Calvary Retreat Center in Farmington for 10 years and began studying contemplative prayer over 15 years ago. She has coordinated Lectio Divina prayer groups at Our Lady of Calvary and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in West Hartford.

Spiritual Direction, The Reverend Tom Carr. Saturday, December 5, 10 am – noon. Tom Carr is Pastor of Second Baptist of Suffield, Connecticut. His primary interests are in preaching, worship leadership, teaching and spiritual growth. He is a certified Spiritual Director. Spiritual direction is one person, walking with another person or group of people in the process of paying attention to the movement of God in his or her life, as s/he grows in intimacy with God.

Praying the Daily Office, The Reverend George Roberts. Tuesday, January 5, 6:30–8:30 pm. Fr. George has spent a lifetime utilizing the Daily Office as an integral part of his life of prayer, devotion, and growth in closer awareness to God's call on his life. Fr. George will take us on a journey that will highlight the monastic beginnings of the office and highlight how we can use the Divine office as a tool of prayer of connectivity and walking closer with God.

Ignatian Spirituality, Judy Pluta, BA, MA, Boston College, NYU. Saturday, March 20, 10 am – 2 pm. Judy serves as a Spiritual Director, Supervisor and a trainer of Spiritual Directors and Supervisors at The Spiritual Life Center in West Hartford. Her Jesuit Volunteer Corp and Boston College experiences provided an introduction to the richness of Ignatian Spirituality over 35 years ago.

Praying with Art, Lisa Hudkins. Saturday, April 17, 10 am–noon. Lisa Hudkins is a retired educator with 40 years in education teaching many grade levels as well as mentoring student teachers and beginning teachers. Lisa is a graduate of the Spiritual Director Internship program at the Spiritual Life Center in West Hartford. Lisa runs various book clubs and retreats at Lourdes in Litchfield. She enjoys bringing her love of contemplation and body wisdom into her life.