

Sun & Balance

THE RENSSELAER NEWMAN FOUNDATION

VOL 55, NO. 1 — SPRING 2020

Message from the Parish

Spring: The Season of Change!

As all have experienced, the Parish of Christ Sun of Justice is undergoing some changes. In the last year, we celebrated our 50th Anniversary, said goodbye to Fr. Ed, welcomed our interim priest, Fr. John Cronin, and are now planning to say goodbye to him and Deacon Joe Romand. Times of change are difficult as we ponder what the future holds. We worry about traditions being broken. But throughout history, God calls us to accept change, especially changes of heart. In the history of the C+CC, we find there were periods of doubt and change. The promising news is we adapted each time! The Spirit is now calling us, the faithful people of Christ Sun of Justice, to recognize our need to change and have the courage and faith to accept these changes. Optimism, prayer, and open hearts are the keys to come together and focus on our unique, transformative community we hold essential. This is clear from our mission statement:

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we proclaim we are God's people under the banner of The University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice. Through our words and actions, the Good News of Christ Jesus is announced here at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: students, staff, faculty, alumni, and local community members. As God's people on a spiritual journey, we are committed to lifelong learning, integrating faith with arts, science and technology. In addition, we endeavor to manifest justice and charity called for by our faith to make real the presence of a loving Christ, here and wherever we find ourselves.

In all instances, it is the people that create this community. We have each other to lean on. We thank our Trustees, the Liturgy Committee, Pastoral Council, Music Ministry, Campus Ministry, the C+CC staff, the Rensselaer Newman Foundation and supporters, and the Christ Sun of Justice parishioners. This fellowship has, and will, provide the structure needed for the parish



future. More importantly, we have God, who has promised to be with us always, to guide us in faith, hope, and love.

As our mission states, our parish community is unique and diverse. It is comprised of those associated with RPI as well as local community members. The parish embraces the students. They are welcomed to worship and given assistance. The parishioners help the Newman Catholic Fellowship host meals and provide desserts for their events. The members of Newman, in turn, are eager to lend a hand at parish events.

Our parish togetherness is clearly present during coffee hours held after Sunday morning mass once per month. A number of families come together to provide food and drinks. I like to think that my children enjoy coffee hour for the sense of community and fellowship, but they assure me it's simply for the food! There are smiling faces, laughs, and good food shared during this vital community time.

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Message from the Parish — Continued from page 1

Another way of bringing others together is through our faith formation programs. Deacon Joe has arranged speakers for the GIFT program with the theme of “Catholicism 101” this year. It is a great way for all ages to gain knowledge as well as exchange religious thoughts, struggles, and triumphs with each other as we walk through our faith journeys. We also have those that lead the Children’s liturgy at the Sunday morning mass, instructors for children planning to celebrate their First Communion, and the RCIA program for adults.

As a parish, we are also proud of the ways we have helped the Troy community. A dedicated group of parishioners provide Soup Kitchen meals once per month at the Italian Community Center. For the Christmas meal, we gave extra items such as socks, hats, gloves, and scarves. It is an overwhelming experience for the recipients as these items are desperately needed for the winter months. Our parishioners also generously give to Unity House in the form of Price Chopper/Market 32 gift cards for the Christmas holiday. In the spring, we hold a personal care products drive to restock the shelves of the AIDS Care Closet. Twice per month we also collect food donations for the local food pantries. It is a heartwarming experience

for our parishioners to participate or provide these items to the community.

In addition to helping the Troy Community, we also support the St. James School in Kalk Bay, South Africa. Multiple times per year, we wire funds that are collected along with the proceeds from the Craft Fair in early December. The school greatly appreciates these funds. Over the years they have made small additions to the school and purchased a bus. Giving is a vital part of our parish community and there are so many ways that CSJ has given to others in need.

We, as a community, acknowledge the support from others, especially the generosity of the Rensselaer Newman Foundation. The Parish of Christ Sun of Justice benefits greatly from the RNF contributions that support RPI students, the church building and maintenance, the C+CC director position, and various functions such as the Lenten Speaker Series. For this we say “Thank You”!

In this spring season of change, please reflect on the rich history and traditions that came before us as we focus on the community that currently surrounds us. Let us pray together to embrace change and have that courage to accept the changes. We are thankful for the leadership and guidance from Fr. John, Deacon Joe, the CSJ trustees, and all those that have a hand in making this parish community thrive. It is us, the people, fulfilling the mission to unite as God’s people on this spiritual journey. 

— Christine Relyea, Christ Sun of Justice Pastoral Council



What to Know About Gifting Stocks:

Did you know that you may be able to increase the impact of your donation and reduce your tax liability by donating appreciated stock? If you have held the stock for more than a year, you may be able to avoid long-term capital gains taxes and deduct the fair market value of the

stock on your taxes while allowing a non-profit (such as the Rensselaer Newman Foundation) to receive the full pre-tax value of those appreciated assets. Please speak with your financial or tax advisor to determine if this might be right for you. 

Programs at the C+CC

The Chapel + Cultural Center is used as a regular meeting space and supports a variety of community and cultural programs. We are much more than church on Sundays. Here is how the C+CC is used throughout the week:

- Tai Chi
- Mindfulness Meditation
- Christ Sun of Justice Choir Rehearsals
- Concert Choir Rehearsal
- Rensselyrics Acapella Rehearsals
- MyJourney Program
- Troy Young Peoples Group Meeting
- Kingfisher East Meditation
- Knights of Columbus Rosary and Theology Knight
- Newman Catholic Fellowship Meetings and Dinners
- Gallery Exhibitions and Artist Receptions

The C+CC supports and is also available for many private uses such as:

- Musicians Practice
- Business Meetings
- Weddings and Memorial Services
- Retreats and Receptions

To inquire about a how to reserve the space for your next meeting or have an idea to start a new program, you can begin by having a conversation with the C+CC Director Kevin at krolik2@rpi.edu or 518-274-7793. 



The Phelan-Wiberley Society

The Phelan-Wiberley Society is a community who shares the vision of our early leaders, Fr. Thomas Phelan and Steve & Betty Wiberley. It consists of alumni, parishioners, friends, faculty and staff who support the vision of The Rensselaer Newman Foundation by including the Foundation in their long-term financial and estate plans. Members of the Society belong to a select group of individuals who have chosen to extend their legacies while furthering the work of the Foundation.

If you would like to share your name and intentions with us or learn more about the Phelan-Wiberley Society, please contact Diane Waters at waterd3@rpi.edu or (518) 276-6517. 

Easter Season



Lenten Wednesday Speaker Series

In case you missed any of our speakers this year or from previous years, check out the C+CC YouTube channel. You can listen to the speaker series recordings online. We have a growing archive of recordings going back to 2014!

This year speakers and topics are:

Fr. John O'Grady –“Jesus”

Marcus Gigliotti, STL, SSL –“Sacred Scripture”

Fr. Mark G. Reamer, O.F.M. –“Social Justice”

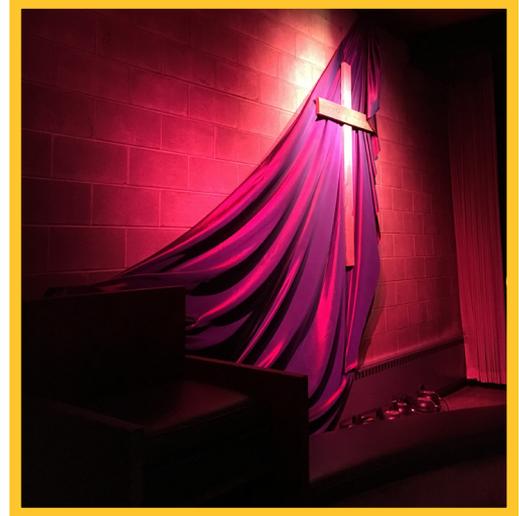
Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS –“Catholic Imagination”

Fr. James Loughran, SA –“Ecumenism”



Search for Chapel + Cultural Center or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRZt3zHOYO82Gyw7zTAl0oQ>



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Organ Project

The project is on it's final stages with repairs and improvements to the casework.



The Rensselaer Newman Foundation

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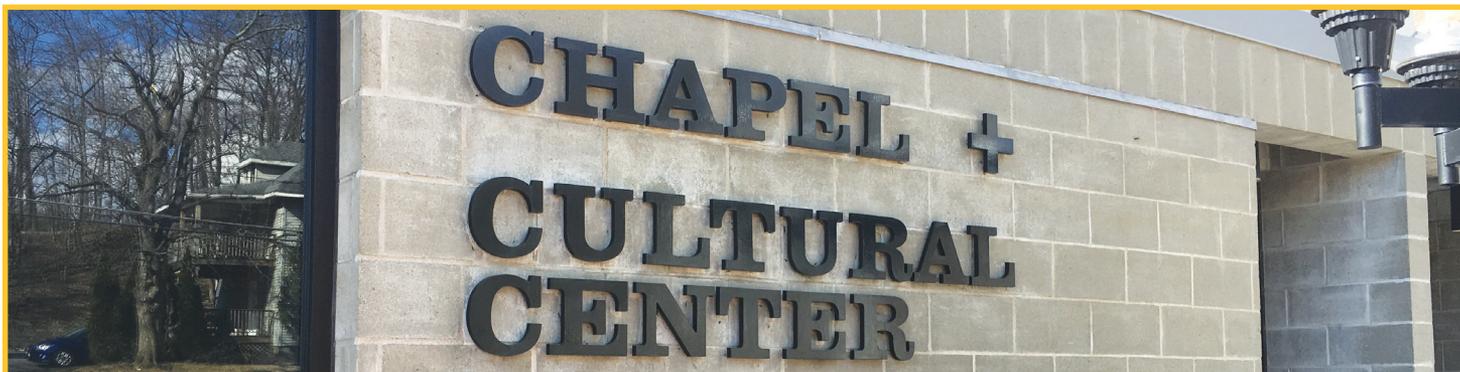


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Email: rnf@rpi.edu

www.chapelandculturalcenter.org



Please visit our website or follow us
on Facebook to view a full list of
upcoming events.



Upcoming Events

APRIL 9	HOLY THURSDAY	6:30PM
APRIL 10	STATIONS OF THE CROSS	6:30PM
APRIL 10	GOOD FRIDAY	7:30PM
APRIL 11	EASTER VIGIL	8:00PM
APRIL 12	EASTER SUNDAY	10:00AM & 5:00PM
APRIL 18	RMA SMALL GROUPS CONCERT	1:00PM
APRIL 24	RENSELYRICS INVITATIONAL	8:30PM
APRIL 25	CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT	7:00PM
APRIL 26	RENSELAER CONCERT CHOIR	7:30PM
MAY 8	SPRING CONCERT WITH MARY SIMONI	5:00PM
MAY 20	ROARKE CENTER ARTIST RECEPTION	6:30PM

Please check our website for more information about upcoming events. All are welcome.