



# THE UNIVERSITY PARISH OF CHRIST SUN OF JUSTICE

2125 Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY 12180

518-274-7793

<https://rensselaernewman.org>

December 24  
2023:

Fourth Sunday of  
Advent

Find us on  

## CATHOLIC CHAPLAIN

Fr. Larry Rice, CSP  
518-276-6517  
[chaplain@rpi.edu](mailto:chaplain@rpi.edu)

## PASTOR

Fr. Tom Morrette, Pastor  
518-273-7602  
[ParishOffice@olvol.org](mailto:ParishOffice@olvol.org)

## MASS/LITURGY SCHEDULE

### DAILY MASS

No Daily Mass DEC. 25-29

### WEEKEND MASS

SATURDAY VIGIL 5 PM  
SUNDAY 10 AM ([livestream on YouTube](#))  
SUNDAY, DEC. 31—No 5 PM Mass

**MONDAY, JAN. 1**—Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God is a Holy day however the obligation has been abrogated. Mass at 5 PM

**CONFESSION** The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available Saturdays 3:30-4:30 PM and by appointment with Fr. Larry at [chaplain@rpi.edu](mailto:chaplain@rpi.edu)

## MASS INTENTIONS

**SATURDAY, DEC. 23** 5 PM Mass—Lawrence Casabonne requested by Patricia Jackson

**SATURDAY, DEC. 30** 5 PM Mass— Beth O'Reilly requested by Dee and Dave Dziejewski

Consider having a Mass said in thanksgiving, for the intentions of another person (ex. birthday), or, most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. Complete the form [here](#) or a hard copy form can be found in the C+CC hallway.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

### Saturday, December 23

- Sunday Vigil Mass - 5 PM

### Sunday, December 24

- Sunday Mass - 10 AM
- Christmas Eve Mass - 7 PM (Reception following Mass)

### Monday, December 25

- Christmas Mass - 10 AM

## COLLECTIONS

Your continued generosity is appreciated! Here are ways to give...

- Mail your collection envelope and/or your check **made payable to Christ Sun of Justice** or place in the collection basket.
- Make an [online donation](#) ("Mass donation" in the comments section.)
- Venmo: At offertory time (or any time, really!) you can use your Venmo app to give to "csjparish". If it is for a special collection, just note that in the comments box.

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*Romans 12:6 "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."*

**COFFEE HOUR** Weekly coffee hours are held after the 10AM and 5PM Sunday Masses. Please come and meet your fellow parishioners! Help is always needed and sign up sheets are posted on the bulletin board.

## CSJ BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Please join us for our next book discussion meeting on Wednesday, January 17, 6:30-8:30 pm in the lounge to discuss, John Vaillant's ["Fire Weather, A True Story from a Hotter World."](#) Everyone is welcome to participate! Join us each month for a new book. Contact Grace Reale with questions or future suggestions at [graceereale@gmail.com](mailto:graceereale@gmail.com)

## THANK YOU

A HUGE THANK YOU for your generosity in providing \$1,695 in grocery store gift cards to those served by Unity House. They were delivered this week and will make a huge difference in many families' lives.

Our Lady of the Snow Food Pantry staff sent a note of thanks to parishioners for their gifts, "Have a Blessed Christmas knowing you helped those in need."

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Readings can be found in multiple ways:

- Web: <https://bible.usccb.org/>
- Sign-up for a daily email with a link to the day's readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/daily-bible-reading#subscribe>
- On the Hallow app
- In the Bible

**Dec. 24 Sun:** 2 Sam 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89: 2-3, 4-5, 27, 29; Rom 16: 25-27; Lk 1: 38; Lk 1: 26-38

**Dec. 25 Mon:** Is 52: 7-10; Ps 98: 1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6; Heb 1: 1-6; Jn 1: 1-18

**Dec. 26 Tue:** Acts 6: 8-10; 7: 54-59; Ps 31: 3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17; Ps 118: 26a, 27a; Matt 10: 17-22

**Dec. 27 Wed:** 1 Jn 1: 1-4; Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20: 1a and 2-8

**Dec. 28 Thurs:** 1 Jn 1: 5 – 2: 2; Ps 124: 2-3, 4-5, 7b-8; Matt 2: 13-18

**Dec. 29 Fri:** 1 Jn 2: 3-11; Ps 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6; Lk 2: 32; Lk 2: 22-35

**Dec. 30 Sat:** 1 Jn 2: 12-17; Ps 96: 7-8a, 8b-9, 10; Lk 2: 36-40

## C+CC NEWS

C+CC will be closed Tues. DEC. 26

**IN THE NORTH**—Exhibit by artist, Virginia Bryant exhibit extended through FEB. Artist information can be found [here](#).

## A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE by Bud Ozar

**QUESTION:** What do you call a family which began with an unmarried pregnant teen and had a twelve year old son who ran away from home and was eventually executed as a criminal?

**ANSWER: HOLY!** Two lessons in today's gospel: (1) No matter what is happening in your family, "The Lord is with you." (2) "Do not be afraid" for "nothing is impossible with God."

## NOTES

**INCLEMENT WEATHER** Winter is fast approaching! Please call the C+CC phone (518- 274-7793) and listen to the voicemail for any changes in Mass times. Also, if you see on TV that OLV Masses are cancelled, Masses at CSJ will also be cancelled.

**TAX LETTERS** If you would like to receive a CSJ gift acknowledgement letter for tax purposes, please complete the form [here](#) or call the office. Letters will be sent out starting JAN. 15.

**BULLETIN** Interested in receiving an electronic copy of the bulletin? Sign up [here](#).

**LOW GLUTEN HOSTS** are available for those who need them. They contain .001% gluten and are authorized for use in the Catholic Mass. If that amount of gluten still presents a problem, Fr. Larry will arrange for you to receive the consecrated wine at communion time. Please see the Mass coordinator or Fr. Larry before Mass to make arrangements.

**PRAYER REQUESTS** If you would like to add a friend, loved one, or yourself to the Prayer of the Faithful intentions for the sick, please complete the form [here](#), or a hard copy form can be found in the C+CC hallway.

## CONTACTS

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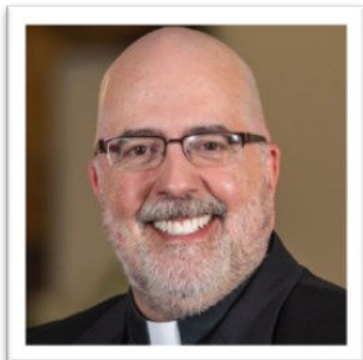
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## ~Campus Connection~



### FR. LARRY RICE, CSP

Father Larry Rice may be contacted at [chaplain@rpi.edu](mailto:chaplain@rpi.edu)

Merry Christmas! May the joy of Christ's Incarnation bring warmth and light into these winter days!

You may have heard or read this past week of an important document that's come out of the Vatican. Predictably, I have some thoughts....

It has to be said, right up front, that Catholics love blessings. We will bless almost anything: Water, candles, meals, our children, new cars, animals, boats, wedding rings, palms, ashes, salt, eggs, houses, new cars, and all kinds of people: sick people, old people, engaged couples, mothers, students, teachers.... We have a blessing for almost anything.

But what is a "blessing," exactly? A blessing is a formal prayer that acknowledges God's goodness, gives thanks, and asks God to preserve, protect, or sanctify whatever—or whoever-- is being blessed.

To someone unfamiliar with the tradition, this might seem like so much superstition. But at its most basic, a blessing is a prayer that takes an everyday object or person and directs us to look through them to see the good that God is doing. Blessing prayers are an acknowledgement that all of creation belongs to God, and that the things we have been given all come from God's generous hand.

This past week, the Vatican Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a document pertaining to the blessing of people in "irregular" relationships. While the press coverage has mentioned mostly people in same-sex relationships and civil marriages, the document also pertains to mixed-gender couples whose marriages aren't recognized as sacramental by the Church. It doesn't propose any change in long-standing doctrine or theology but emphasizes a pastoral approach that sees all people as loved and blessed by God. It's worth reading to know what it truly says. You can find it here: <http://tinyurl.com/mryrc7vu>

A blessing prayer isn't magic. Like all prayers it changes mostly the one doing the praying, helping us to see that the goodness of God reaches into every part of our world, and into every situation of our lives. Our joys and our sorrows, our evening meals and our palm branches, our anniversaries, and our new years—all are occasions to give thanks to God. That's what blessings are for.



### SPIRITUAL SEEDS

by Tracy Watson, RPI Associate Catholic Chaplain  
[spiritual.advisorCCC@gmail.com](mailto:spiritual.advisorCCC@gmail.com)

Merry Christmas!  
And happy almost New Year!

Speaking of new year: on Saturday, January 13th, 2024, the Sisters of St. Joseph will host the annual Peace Retreat, and this year's theme is "Unifying Love Calling Us To Ecological Conversion".

See the flier below to learn more about the retreat.

If you are interested please let me know and I will help you register.

What a great opportunity to learn more about Pope Francis' encyclicals *Laudato Si* and *Laudate Deum*!

~Tracy

### Got a suggestion? A question?

Contact Associate Catholic Chaplain Tracy Watson, MDiv, ([spiritual.advisorccc@gmail.com](mailto:spiritual.advisorccc@gmail.com) or [watsot4@rpi.edu](mailto:watsot4@rpi.edu)) or Newman Student Leaders Cameron Yergeau ([yerbec@rpi.edu](mailto:yerbec@rpi.edu)), Toby McDonald ([mcdont7@rpi.edu](mailto:mcdont7@rpi.edu)), Riley Scritchfield ([scitr@rpi.edu](mailto:scitr@rpi.edu)) and Joey Trosa ([trosaj@rpi.edu](mailto:trosaj@rpi.edu)).

Annual Peace Retreat  
Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet

# Unifying Love Calls Us to Ecological Conversion

## *A One Day Retreat*

Together, our congregation has gone deeper and journeyed farther in our implementation of *Laudato Si'*, which calls us to hear the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor. Now *Laudate Deum*, Pope Francis's latest apostolic exhortation, challenges us to respond boldly. He asks us to "recognize that the most effective solutions will not come from individual efforts alone."

Join Sr. Patty Johnson from our Congregational Leadership for this retreat day as she invites us to consider the individual and communal choices we have made, how these choices have changed us and what we might do to respond with even greater boldness.



JAN  
13  
24

Join us!

10AM-4PM EST  
9AM-3PM CST

## *Registration Form*

Deadline for registration is January 5, 2023

Virtual Attendance  
Registration Button

First Name  Last Name

Email  Phone Number

Attending  In-person\*  Virtually (*see button above*)

*\*Retreat will be held at the Carondelet Hospitality Center.  
Lunch is provided for in-person attendees. A \$15 donation is recommended.*

### Virtual Registration Link:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tz0pcuutrDljH9D6TH\\_3xxUnZnZcZSCDtapV#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tz0pcuutrDljH9D6TH_3xxUnZnZcZSCDtapV#/registration)