



UNIVERSITY PARISH OF CHRIST SUN OF JUSTICE
MASS SCHEDULE: WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM
SUNDAY AT 11:00 AM AND 5:00 PM

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.

Our Vision Statement: The University Parish of Christ Sun of Justice – Responding to God's love through servant leadership, a diverse welcoming community.

Parish Membership: Anyone wishing to join please ask for a membership form from the Chaplains' Office.

Location and mailing address of the C+CC and CSJ Parish: 2125 Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY 12180. (across from BARH dorms)

Office Hours of the C+CC: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

RPI Chaplains' Office: Rensselaer Union - Rm. 3514, 110 Eighth Street, Troy, NY 12180

Telephone: (C+CC) 274-7793 Fax: (C+CC) 274-5945 (Chaplains' Office) Mary Holbriter 276-6518 Diane Waters 276-6517

E-mail: (Chaplains' Office): holbrm@rpi.edu; waterd3@rpi.edu

Web site: (C+CC) <http://www.chapelandculturalcenter.net> (PARISH) <http://www.christsunofjustice.org>

Director of C+CC: Kevin Krolik, (518) 274-7793, krolik2@rpi.edu; **Scheduling of C+CC for any function:** 274-7793

Director of Music: Barbara Musial, musiab@sage.edu

Student Spiritual Advisor: Tracy Watson, spiritual.advisorCCC@gmail.com; (518) 274-7793 ext. 11; (518) 233-4514

Christ Sun of Justice Trustees: Mary Crangle Nagy cranlemary@gmail.com and Paul Kraus csj@kraus-haus.org.

When entering the C+CC, please turn off all devices that may interrupt a service or private prayer. Thanks!

Fr. Randall Patterson, Pastor / Fr. Samuel Bellafiore, Associate Pastor
(518) 273-7602 ParishOffice@olvols.org

Readings for the Week:

(Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Advent) Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Rom 16:-27; Lk 1:26-38.

(Monday) Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Lk 1:39-45.

(Tuesday) Sm 1:24-28; Lk 1:46-56.

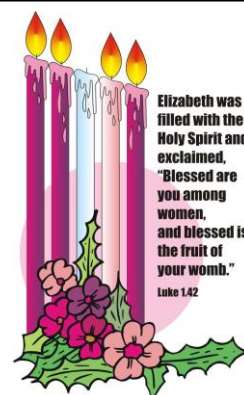
(Wednesday) Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Lk 1:57-66.

(Thursday) Is 62:1-5; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25; Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25.

(Friday: The Nativity of the Lord) Is 52:7-10; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14.

(Saturday: Saint Stephen, The first Martyr) Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Mt 10:17-22.

(Sunday: The Holy Family) Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40.



Christmas Mass Schedule

THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE HAS BEEN FINALIZED AND MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON
THURSDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE, 24 DECEMBER, AT 8:00 PM
AND FRIDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY, 25 DECEMBER, AT 11:00 AM.

DUE TO LIMITED SEATING, PLEASE BE SURE TO PRE-REGISTER FOR THESE MASSES.

Even if you previously indicated a preference for which Mass you would like to attend, you still NEED TO PRE-REGISTER.

BOTH MASSES WILL BE LIVESTREAMED! VISIT <https://chapelandculturalcenter.net/mass> TO VIEW.

A message from Fr. Patterson:

Christmas Peace - I know that Christmas this year will be different. Many of us have experienced prolonged illnesses, have lost loved ones from various maladies and some of us have lost employment. Some of us are burdened with overwhelming worry that the virus will hit ourselves and our loved ones. St. Pio offers us some good advice for life: "pray, hope and don't worry." He could say this because of his faith in the presence of God within and all around us. He was convinced of God's love at every turn in life. Mary and Joseph suffered heartaches as well on the occasion of Jesus' birth. It's hard for me to imagine giving birth to a child in a strange place among the farm animals. Soon after Jesus' birth, Mary heard the words of the prophet Simeon that a sword would pierce her heart. The Scriptures do not indicate there was any further explanation of that prophecy. Imagine Mary's thoughts. Following this, she and Joseph with the child had to flee to Egypt from the jealous wrath of King Herod. We can only imagine how much strong faith on their part it took to believe that God was truly with them in all of this. And so, let us pray for the kind of faith that enables us to surmount all the heartaches and challenges of life and maintain a peace-filled heart. The very reason for Christmas is to assure us of God's love, His presence and the home that we have in heaven hereafter. That is truly the good news that all of us are anxious to hear. Remember the words of St. Paul: "Nothing can separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus." (Rom. 8: 39). With Fr. Bellafiore and our parish staff, I wish all of you and your families a Christmas filled with peace because of a deepening realization of God's personal love for you. You and your families will be remembered at the masses that we celebrate throughout the Octave of Christmas.

PLEASE NOTE: MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD ON FRIDAY, 1 JANUARY, AT 11:00 AM.



Volunteers are needed to decorate the Chapel on Wednesday, 23 December, at 1:00 pm. For more information or to sign up, please contact Rosanne Rose at rose.fr@verizon.net.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS: We would like to keep everyone informed of some of the requirements for attending Mass here at the Chapel + Cultural Center so we all stay safe and healthy.



- PLEASE register for Mass each week and also fill out the Health Survey form in advance. If you need any information on how to do this, please see one of the greeters or ushers.
- PLEASE arrive 15 minutes before Mass.
- PLEASE wear a mask that covers both your mouth and nose and keep it on throughout the Mass. The only exception is when receiving communion. You may momentarily lift or lower your mask at that time.
- PLEASE use hand sanitizer before entering the Chapel.
- PLEASE follow the usher's directions on seating, going to communion, and departing the Chapel. Receiving communion in the hand is encouraged for safety reasons. However, if you wish to receive communion on the tongue rather than in the hand, please be the last in line.
- WE WILL NOW BOTH ENTER AND EXIT BY THE FRONT DOOR TO ENSURE SAFETY UNDERFOOT FOR ALL.
- PLEASE do not congregate in the hallway, sacristy, or other areas inside the C+CC. If you need to speak with the priest, try to make arrangements in advance. Alternatively, make your need for a private meeting known to the priest after Mass and wait until he is available. We must maintain social distancing.

In the light of ongoing health risks to the most vulnerable among us, the temporary suspension of the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days during the pandemic remains in force for the moment (cf. CIC, canon 1247) although this provision is under constant review. That being stated, keeping holy the Lord's Day is of fundamental importance for every Christian and indeed, it is constitutive of what it means to be a disciple of the Lord. Therefore, Catholics should use their prudential judgment based upon religious and medical considerations as to whether or not to attend Mass. Furthermore parishioners are reminded that:

- if they are sick, for example, if they are experiencing cold or flu like symptoms,
- if they are experiencing symptoms of a serious illness,
- or if they are in a "vulnerable" category (the elderly, people with weakened immune systems, people with long term conditions such as cancer, diabetes, heart conditions, respiratory conditions, etc.) they are NOT obliged to attend Sunday Mass, and, out of concern for others, ought not to attend. It would be good, therefore, for them to avail themselves of live-stream/recorded Masses.

LIVESTREAMED MASS: To view Livestreamed & Archived Masses, go to rcda.org/livemass.

Christ Sun of Justice - Sunday Mass at 11:00 am.

Our Lady of Victory Parish - Monday - Friday, at 8:30 am, and Sunday at 9:45 am.





CHRISTMAS GIVING THROUGH THE PARISH - Each year, during this season of giving, our community supports Unity House through the gifts of Price Chopper Gift Cards. To donate to this collection, please place the Price Chopper Gift Card in an envelope, with your name, address and "Christmas Giving" on the outside of the envelope. Cards can be placed in the collection basket on Sunday or mailed in. Gift cards submitted with no identifying information will be considered anonymous.

Patrick and Máirín Quinn will present a dramatic adaptation of Dickens' A CHRISTMAS CAROL online beginning 13 December through the end of the month. For further information, please visit: homemadetheater.org.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is available every Wednesday, following the 7:00 pm Mass, celebrated by Fr. Patterson and/or Fr. Sam.

ADORATION: You are invited to come spend time with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available on Wednesday's from 6:15 pm - 6:50 pm and again for a half hour following the 7:00 pm Mass. Please consider setting aside some time Wednesday evenings to reconnect with the Lord and our faith community.

**** All COVID-19 protocols will be in place.****



THANK YOU! Your continued generosity to our Parish Weekly Mass collection is appreciated! Your support allows us to maintain our essential needs and expenses during these difficult times. We humbly ask that if you are able, to continue to use your offering envelopes. Your gift of treasure is very important and vital to the parish. You can mail your collection envelope and/or your check made payable to

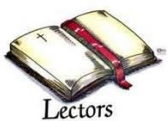
Christ Sun of Justice to: Christ Sun of Justice Parish, 2125 Burdett Ave, Troy, NY 12180.

The collection basket is located by the doors into the church when you enter, and again when you leave the church at the end of Mass. You can also make an online donation by visiting our website at <https://chapelandculturalcenter.net/give-back>, mention "Mass donation" in the Additional Comments section.



ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen



LECTOR BOOKS: The Lector books used to help in preparation for proclaiming "The Word" are still available. If you can, we ask for a donation of \$15 to cover the cost. This request should not keep anyone from obtaining a book. Year B began with the 1st Sunday of Advent (29 November 2020). Please see the Mass coordinator to obtain your book.

Chapel + Cultural Center, Director: Kevin Krolik, krolik2@rpi.edu

The C+CC welcomes Virginia Bryant back for her second exhibition here entitled, "Practice & Composition". This exhibit is made up of two bodies of work, drawings from the first decade of the century and diminutive paintings serving as color and compositional experiments. The drawings are preparatory, similar to a ballet bar before class or performance. They are utilized to prepare the hands and explore compositional possibilities.

ADVENT 2020 -- Advent continues and the Diocese of Albany has a section on their webpage including a message from Bishop Scharfenberger, music, reflections, and ideas on how to celebrate the weeks leading up to Christmas. Visit <https://www.rcda.org/advent> to access these resources.

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".

A PRAYER FOR THE Fourth Sunday of Advent

Jesus, you are constantly coming to your people, even when we fail to see you. In each and every moment that we are blessed to recognize you here and now, give us the courage to leap with joy at your coming. Amen.





~CAMPUS CONNECTION~



from Tracy Watson, MDiv, Student Spiritual Advisor, spiritual.advisorCCC@gmail.com

The Sacred Space of Advent

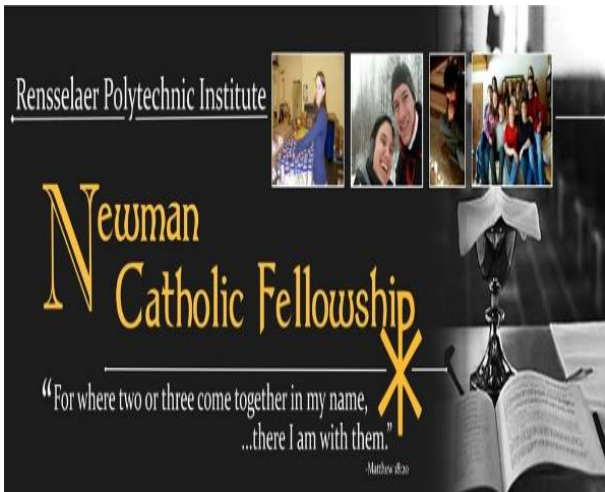
Part of my spiritual practice includes gathering with a heart centered prayer and meditation group via Zoom. The group meets 7am and 7pm everyday, and I join in when I am able. The other night our prayer gatherer shared this reflection that has made quite an impression on me. Now I pass it along to you with hope it touches you in a special way:

"I once heard a magnificent choir sing a stirring arrangement of Agnus Dei. It could not have been sung with greater brilliance; we all caught our breath as the singers held the last note. The conductor's hands were in the air almost forming a circle but not quite touching. He continued to hold this position as the last notes became a whisper. Then silence. Still the conductor did not drop his arms. I knew that once he did a thunderous applause would erupt, and the deep experience of the moment would vanish. But he kept his arms in the air---and a great stillness arose. The music magically transmuted into beauty and power. I sat quietly as an overwhelming spaciousness enveloped the room.

In a similar way, Advent is the space in which we are invited to expand. Within these days is a call to our sleeping souls to move to greater awareness. Lived with intention, Advent becomes a passage through which the Spirit at the core of life draws closer. With what care will my arms encircle the day/days ahead?"

~by writer and retreat leader Paula D'Arcy

NEWMAN CATHOLIC FELLOWSHIP (Contact: Megan Adam, adamm2@rpi.edu)



As the Advent season draws to a close and Jesus' coming approaches, the Newman Club has been reflecting on the purpose of His birth and what this has meant for the world. In our small group sessions, preparing for this coming and contemplating the Word has allowed us to open our hearts to Jesus's messages. By praying and having conversation, we are able to live out what it means to be united in fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join our small group calls, which occur every other Friday at 8 pm Eastern time (keep a lookout in the GroupMe chat and also the bulletin for the next meeting date). The link to the call is <https://rensselaer.webex.com/meet/adamm2>.

Have a great week and a blessed Christmas!

COLLEGE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #13635 (Contact: Andy Bouffard bouffa@rpi.edu)



Our mission: Grow in our love for Jesus and have fun doing it. Being a Knight is a great honor and a great way to spread your faith. Recently, two of our Brother Knights advanced to the Third Degree and more advancement opportunities are coming up. Join us and Newman Catholic Fellowship for online Rosary Knight every Monday at 8pm! (Reach out for the Webex link). If you are curious about the Knights of Columbus and what we do, or if you think you might be interested in becoming a College Knight please contact Andy at bouffa@rpi.edu!

CONTACT INFORMATION AND HEALTH SURVEY FORM

(A separate form must be completed for each attendee)

Name: _____ (PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

HEALTH SURVEY

Have you had ANY symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 Days? Symptoms include: FEVER, CHILLS, LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL, COUGH, SHORTNESS OF BREATH, TROUBLE BREATHING, MUSCLE PAIN, HEADACHES, SORE THROAT.

_____ Yes _____ No

Have you had ANY close contact with persons suspected of OR having COVID-19 in the last 14 days?

_____ Yes _____ No

IF YOU ANSWER YES TO ANY OF THE QUESTIONS ON THE HEALTH SURVEY WE CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO REMAIN ON THE PREMISES