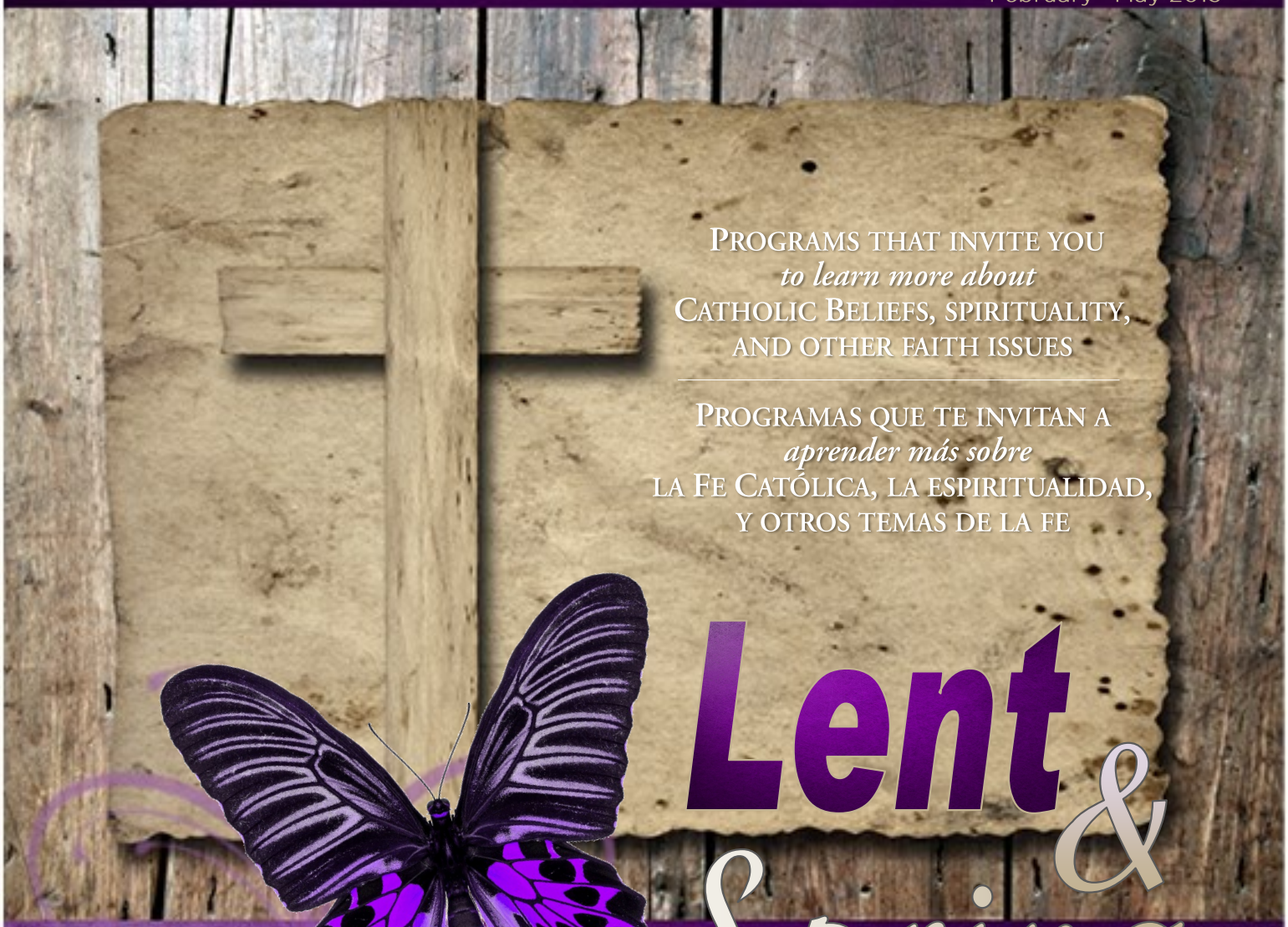
Catholic Information Center

February—May 2015



PROGRAMS THAT INVITE YOU
to learn more about
CATHOLIC BELIEFS, SPIRITUALITY,
AND OTHER FAITH ISSUES

PROGRAMAS QUE TE INVITAN A
aprender más sobre
LA FE CATÓLICA, LA ESPIRITUALIDAD,
Y OTROS TEMAS DE LA FE

Lent & Spring

Cathedral Square Center | 360 Division Avenue S, Suite 2A | Grand Rapids, MI 45903 | 616-459-7267
catholicinformationcenter.org

The Gospel of Mark

Tuesday, February 24, 1:30-3:30pm
OR 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. Bernie Campbell, CSP

1:30pm

Mark is the first and shortest of the four Gospels that we have in written form. Biblical scholars used to frown a bit upon Mark in comparison to the lofty John, the literate Luke and the highly organized Matthew. The almost dismissive view spoke of Mark "as a long Passion Narrative with a short introduction." That view no longer holds among NT scholars, as Mark is now seen as something of a path setter… creating the Gospel written form...and someone with a unique perspective on Jesus, his disciples and the mission. *CFD: Theology ($10.00 donation requested)*

Thomas Merton: A Faithful Visionary
A Reading Circle

Tuesday, March 24, 7-8:45pm
Facilitated by Dan Pierson & Kellan Day

In collaboration with www.faithAlivebooks.com, the CIC is hosting a Reading Circle on *Thomas Merton: A Faithful Visionary* by Michael W. Higgins. This book tells the remarkable story of one of the 20th century's most important and articulate Christian voices. Thomas Merton, author, monk, and spiritual master is widely regarded as one of the most influential spiritual writers of modern times. 2015 is the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Thomas Merton.

Following a short introductory presentation, participants are invited to share their insights and reflections from reading the book. At the end of this session participants will explore ideas and resources for forming their own reading circles.
CFD: Method ($10.00 donation requested)

***Dan Pierson**, is the founder of www.faithAlivebooks.com and **Kellan Day** is parish assistant for people and programs at Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids.* Please visit website faithAlivebooks.com, there you will be able to read Kellan Day's review of *Thomas Merton: Faithful Visionary* and sign up to receive a weekly excerpt from Thomas Merton's writings.

The book, *Thomas Merton: A Faithful Visionary* by Michael W. Higgins, may be purchased at the Catholic Information Center or can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Special Guest

Lenten Beginnings: An Evening of Music and Reflection

Friday, February 20, 6-8:00pm
Presented by Liz Christian
Cost $20.00 per person & includes a Soup Supper

My day starts here in this light, for you are the sun that lights these dark times of mine.
(Lyrics from Sunrise Love, written by Liz Christian)

As we begin the Lenten season, explore how to embrace everyday suffering and discover how our responses to daily irritations, rude comments, and hurtful behavior could prepare us to deal with times of significant loss or trauma.

Liz Christian, a musician inspired by the saints and poets, will share her music and lead us in prayer as we learn how to embrace everyday suffering this Lent and find a faith rooted in Christ that will last beyond the Easter celebration. Please join us for this prayerful evening for people of all faiths.
CFD: Method

***Reservations are required and space is limited.**
Please call the CIC at 616-459-7267

lizchristianmusic.com

***Liz Christian** is a catechetical artist who sings and speaks on how to live an authentic Christian lifestyle. She is a recording artist and writes music based on the diverse thoughts and habitual struggles of the everyday person. Liz is the Music Director at Saint Sebastian Parish in Byron Center. She is a Liturgical Music graduate from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Liz recently released a new CD entitled, Beginnings.*

Interested in purchasing a table?

Buy a table of six for $120.00 and bring your family, friends and colleagues to this wonderful event. If you cannot attend, please consider purchasing a table and we will fill it with our program participants as your guests. Those who purchase a table will receive an autographed copy of Liz Christian's new CD entitled *Beginnings.* Call the Center Office to make arrangements.

Irish Tea with Fr. G!
Celtic Spirituality

Wednesday, February 25, 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. John Geaney, CSP
Cost is $12.00-- (It's awfully good tea!)

The origins of Celtic spirituality are ancient. The beliefs, however, are still practical today and include the major themes of pilgrimage, monasticism and community, the strong connection between God and nature and the beauty of art and symbolism. Learn about the history and joy of Celtic spiritually while enjoying lovely Irish tea and scones with Father G. *CFD: Spirituality*

****Pre-registration necessary, call 616-459-7267**

Find us on Facebook at Catholic Information Center-Grand Rapids, MI

Special Event

The Prodigal Son: The Art of Forgiveness

From the Permanent Collection of Calvin College and the Personal Collection of Larry and Mary Gerbens

Art Exhibit on display February 18-March 30, 2015

The collection can be viewed Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm & 6-8pm and Fridays 10am-12:30pm

At Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Avenue S, Suite 2A, Grand Rapids, MI

The parable of The Prodigal Son is one of the most powerful and evocative stories Jesus told. Its universal themes of greed and regret, arrogance and repentance, sin and redemption, jealousy and acceptance, and most importantly, compassionate forgiveness resonate richly with each retelling. This parable has inspired the work of artists throughout the centuries.

In the mid 1990's Dr. Larry Gerbens was encouraged to read *The Return of The Prodigal Son, A Story of Homecoming* by Henri Nouwen. The book had a profound impact on his life and lead to collecting art inspired by the parable. The collection includes an original Rembrandt Etching, pieces by John August Swanson, Edward Riojas, Thomas Hart Benton, James Jacques Joseph Tissot, Robert Barnum and Jon McDonald.

The Catholic Information Center is privileged to share the Parable of the Prodigal Son with you through this extraordinary collection of art. We are grateful for the generosity of Dr. Larry and Mary Gerbens and Calvin College for lending us the exhibit, and we thank the Diocese of Grand Rapids for allowing the exhibit to be on display during Lent in the second floor Conference Center of Cathedral Square.

During Lent we invite you to enjoy a contemplative moment and let this timeless parable speak to you once again.

Parables on Fire! The Prodigal Son

Tuesday, March 3, 6:30-8:45pm

(6:30-7:00pm see The Prodigal Son Art Exhibit, 7-8:45pm presentation)

7pm

Presented by Fr. Joachim Lally, CSP and Dr. Larry Gerbens

The Prodigal Son is one of the most powerful stories Jesus told and has inspired the work of artists and writers throughout the centuries. Fr. Joachim and Dr. Gerbens team up to respond to the basic issue between Jesus and the Lucan Pharisees: "Are some people outside the limits of God's mercy?" We will look at the various "two-brother stories" in the Scriptures, e.g. Esau and Jacob, Joseph and his brothers and this Lucan parable of the "Prodigal Son"…the last one in Luke 15 of the three "losing, finding and celebrating" parables: Lost sheep, lost coin and lost son. *CFD: Spiritually ($10.00 donation requested)*

The Prodigal Son: The Art of Forgiveness Collection

Monday, March 9, 7-8:45pm

Guided Gallery Tour with Dr. Larry Gerbens

The Parable of the Prodigal Son (or The Father and His Two Sons) captured Larry Gerbens interest and imagination after reading Henri Nouwen's *The Return of The Prodigal Son, A Story of Homecoming.* The book had a profound impact on his life and lead to collecting art inspired by the parable.

Join Dr. Gerbens as he leads a guided gallery tour of The Prodigal Son Collection. He will share fascinating information and history about the artists and their inspirational renditions of this powerful parable. *($10.00 donation requested)*

Please pre-register by calling 616-459-7267 or email us at register@catholicinformationcenter.org

Laughfest Collaboration

The Catholic Information Center is collaborating with Laughfest again this year to bring you a program filled with humor and compassion.

We're celebrating laughter...for the health of it!

Humor from the Bench

Tuesday, March 10, 7-8:45pm

Presented by Judge Sara Smolenski

Judge Sara Smolenski has earned a reputation among her peers as a distinguished judge, and is a proven strong community leader spending countless hours outside of the courtroom as a legal advocate, contributor and activist for several non-profit groups and organizations. She also believes in the incredible power of humor and how it can inspire others. Join Judge Sara as she shares the funny side of Law and how humor helps her find balance in life.

($10.00 donation requested, proceeds for Gilda's Club in Grand Rapids.)

***Judge Sara Smolenski** is a Grand Rapids native. She earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Grand Rapids Junior College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Michigan. In 1982, she earned a Juris Doctorate Degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School. She was elected to the bench in 1990. She was appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as Chief Judge of the 63rd District Court in 1996.*

In addition to her legal work and community service, Judge Smolenski has established herself as a popular local humorist frequently exhibiting her unique "real life" humor for many organizations. She is a frequent speaker at community events, educational programs, charitable organizations, and civic and community groups.

Themes of Richard Rohr: A Monthly Series

Weds, Mar. 4, Apr. 8, & May 6, 7-8:45pm

Presented by Fr. Joachim Lally, CSP

Richard Rohr, OFM, is an internationally known inspirational speaker and has published numerous recorded talks and books. His teaching is grounded in practices of contemplation. Join Fr. Joachim each month as he explores the teachings of Richard Rohr. *($10.00 donation per session requested)*

•**March 4**- Fr. Joachim delves into chapters 6 & 7 of Richard Rohr's newest book, *Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi.*

•**April 8** - Chapters 8 & 9

•**May 6** - Chapters 10 & 11

7pm

Jesus of Nazareth, A Gospel Portrait

Wednesdays, March 11, 18 & 25,

1:30-3:30pm OR 7-8:45pm

Presented by Fr. Bernie Campbell, CSP

During these three talks, Fr. Bernie will focus first on Jesus and His times with a particular emphasis on the Jewishness of Jesus, biblical themes and texts (Hebrew Bible) that the disciples of Jesus used to help them understand Jesus, and the Kingdom of God as Jesus' central proclamation. The second week Fr. Bernie will focus on Jesus in his words and deeds and the third week on the last tumultuous week of Jesus' life.

CFD: Theology ($10.00 donation per session requested)

1:30pm

CIC Dinner and a Movie Presents: Movies of Faith

Thursdays, March 26 and April 23, 2:30-5:30pm

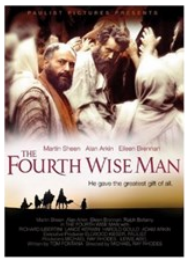
Facilitated by Fr. Marcos Zamora, CSP

Dinner included – cost per person $15.00

Please pre-register by calling (616) 459-7267

Join us for dinner and a movie, as we view and discuss inspirational films that illustrate how great faith can transform our own life and the lives of those around us. The movie will be shown from 2:30-4:30 pm, with dinner and discussion following the movie.

•**Thursday, March 26: The Fourth Wise Man** (***A Paulist Production)*** Based on Henry van Dyke's classic, *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, this fictional story set in Biblical times. A Magi named Artaban (Martin Sheen) sees a sign in the heavens that he hopes will lead him to the Messiah. Artaban takes with him three precious gifts to present to the Messiah. For 33 years Artaban pursues Jesus, only to miss Him at every turn. The story culminates on Easter Sunday as Artaban, old and dying, finally encounters the new King, bringing peace to his life. A deeply moving experience examining what true faith really means.



•**Thursday, April 23: Simon Birch**- This screen adaptation of John Irving's novel *A Prayer for Owen Meany* is heartwarming and funny and earned overwhelming critical acclaim. Starring Ashley Judd and Oliver Platt, this movie tells the story of Simon Birch, the smallest kid in town, who deep down knows that he was born to do something big! Meanwhile, Simon's loyal best friend, Joe, is searching for the identity of his father, a secret his mother has guarded Joe's entire life. Discover for yourself the charm of this uplifting and inspirational story about two friends who share hilarious, and sometimes tragic, ups and downs that will forever bind them together!

Find us on Facebook at Catholic Information Center-Grand Rapids, MI

Bible Basics
Hosea: Great Prophets & Kings of the Old Testament

Tuesday, April 7 & 14, 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. John Geaney, CSP

Hosea is often seen as a "prophet of doom," but underneath his message of destruction is a promise of restoration. What spiritual lessons can we learn from him today about marriage, commitment and God's love? Join Fr. Geaney as he delves into the life of this lesser known Prophet. *CFD: Theology ($10.00 donation per session requested)*

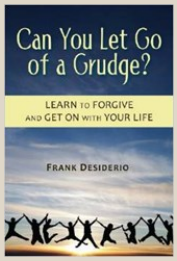
7pm

Special Guest

Can You Let Go of a Grudge?

Thursday, April 16, 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. Frank Desiderio, CSP

When it comes to forgiving a person who has wronged you, friends often say, "just let it go," but rarely do they tell you how. Join Fr. Frank as he explores the spirituality of forgiveness which allows us let go of old hurts and raging resentments and helps us to move forward in life. This program gives participants the basic tools and steps to find healing through forgiveness, which is so central to Jesus' ministry and teaching. *CFD: Spirituality ($10.00 donation requested)*



7pm

***Fr. Frank Desiderio, CSP**, is currently on the Presidential Board of the Paulist Fathers. As President of Paulist Productions, he produced more than twenty-five hours of television documentaries and movies, including ABC/Paramount movie "Judas" which aired on ABC Television. His latest film, "The Big Question: A Film About Forgiveness," launched him into a new ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation. He is also the author of recently published "Can You Let Go of a Grudge: Learn to Forgive and Get On With Your Life" from Paulist Press (2014).*

St. Paul: The Indispensable Man

Tuesdays, April 21, 28 and May 5,
10-11:45am OR 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. Bernie Campbell, CSP

10am

Paul's time was invested throughout the years with evangelizing and teaching...building up the churches which he founded. He was passionate, opinionated, and direct in telling of his trials and disagreements. Paul was no "shrinking violet." Welcome to this three evening course that will explore Saul/Paul, the person, his social and historical setting and his teaching which come to us in at least seven extraordinary letters, that have shaped the church and the world over the last two millennia. *CFD: Theology ($10.00 donation per session requested)*

End of Life:
Medical and Theological Considerations

Thursday, April 30, 6:30-8:30pm
Presented by Dr. William Passinault
Held at St. Robert of Newminister, Ada

Dr. William Passinault will speak about the medical and theological aspects that persons and their families should consider at the end of life. A light dinner will be offered at 6:30 p.m. followed by Dr. Passinault's presentation at 7-8:30 p.m. in the Parish Life Center at St. Robert of Newminster, Ada (6477 Ada Drive 49301, park in Lot G and enter Door G or H.) *Free will donations will be accepted to help offset expenses. CFD: Methodology*

Parables On Fire!
The Great Banquet, Matthew 22: 2-14

7pm

Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. Joachim Lally, CSP

Looking more deeply into the meaning behind this parable of the "Great Banquet" we notice that Matthew's account unfolds in three acts: a) Two calls to the proper guests; b) a call to the outcast; c) a sorting out at the wedding party. We will look at the historical and sociological dimensions in this parable and focus on the theme of "Generosity of Invitation and the freedom of the invitees to respond or not." Special focus will be put on the question of "Who's In and Who's Out," inclusion and exclusion in the reign of God....noting the concept of "worthiness" in our relationship with God. *CFD: Methodology ($10.00 donation requested)*

Divorce Support Group

Wednesdays, May 20—July 22, 7:30pm-8:45pm
Facilitated by Jim Kline

A ten-week series offered for all who are divorced or are in the process of becoming divorced. Led by those who have gone through the process themselves, these support groups provide a great pathway to personal growth. The book, *Divorce and Beyond* by Greteman, Haverkamp and Radtke will be used as a guide and is included in the series cost of $15.00.

Please pre-register by calling 616-459-7267 or email us at register@catholicinformationcenter.org

Special Event

Great Women, Great Wisdom: Courage Ablaze

Presentation & Art Exhibit

Tuesday, May 19, 6:30-8:45pm

With Artist Pamela Alderman, Kizombo Kalumbula & Les Clay

Reservations are required: dessert will be served before the presentation.

We welcome artist Pamela Alderman and her remarkable exhibit Courage Ablaze. Her presentation is designed to raise awareness of the war on innocent civilians in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, particularly on the women.

Pamela, a renowned watercolor artist, will tell the stories of Congolese women that she has recorded in word and in portraits, along with how she became involved in this incredible project. Kizombo Kalumbula, a naturalized Congolese, college professor and executive director of International Berean Ministries, will add to the discussion explaining the reasons for the conflict and the complex history of the Congo region. We will also enjoy the singing of "Les Clay" a Congolese refugee family choir, who humanize war statistics by singing Congolese songs in French, Lingala, and Swahili.

A question and answer period will follow the presentation. Participants will leave with knowledge of this almost unreported, but largest war since WWII and a variety of "things they can do" to make a difference. *($10.00 donation requested)*

Courage Ablaze Art Exhibit on display May18-May 28, 2015

The collection can be viewed Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm & 6-8pm and Fridays 10am-12:30pm

At Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Avenue S, Grand Rapids, MI

"Your art speaks of healing," said international artist Makoto Fujimura when **Pamela Alderman** stood in his book-signing line and showed him her portfolio. He encouraged Pamela to grow her talents and to make them available in hospitals and other venues where healing was needed. Currently, Pamela's paintings are part of the permanent collections in eleven Children's Hospitals from Philadelphia to San Diego. During ArtPrize almost 40,000 visitors responded to her works. Visitors voted her installation called *The Scarlet Cord* into the Top 25 Installations in 2014 and *Courage Ablaze* Top One 100 in 2012.

Kizombo L. Kalumbula is a native of Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He is co-founder and co-pastor of Tabernacle Community Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He leads yearly mission trips to the DRC to work on community development projects. Pastor Kizombo is a Ph.D. candidate in Health Psychology from Northcentral University.

Les Clay is a Congolese family of eight children who moved to West Michigan in 2011. They dedicate their voices to praising God for guiding them through many difficult situations. Les Clay also works to bring light to the Congolese holocaust and the great suffering of these people. The children sing songs in English, French, Swahili, and Lingala.

Find us on Facebook at Catholic Information Center-Grand Rapids, MI

Three Spiritual Masters

7pm

Thursdays, May 7, 14, 21, 7-8:45pm
Presented by Fr. John Kenny, CSP

•St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1228)- What if one were to live the Gospel and imitate Jesus Christ as literally as possible? Francis tried to live the gospel with Christ's poverty as its center and to form a religious community that would follow this idea.

•St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)-In the face of strictures on women and a long-established spiritual mediocrity in Spanish religious life, Teresa succeed in establishing, first for women, then for men, a reformed Carmelite order focused on austerity and contemplative prayer.

•St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)- A girl who begged to enter the Carmelites at 15 and who died of tuberculosis at 24 became the spiritual guide of millions during the first half of the 20th century with her "little way" of generous love found in her autobiography. *CFD: Spirituality* (*$10.00 donation per session requested)*

Programas de Cuaresma y Pascua

miércoles, febrero 4, 11, 18 y
marzo 4, 11, 18, 7-8:30pm
Presentado por Patricia Franco y Jaime Ramirez

•**febrero 4: Estudio Biblico** - Jose hijo de Jacob, fue vendido por sus hermanos pero su gran fe le ayudo a superar la adversidad.

•**febrero 11: Egipto y Exodo**- Dios se revela a Moises para que saque al pueblo de Egipto.

•**febrero 18: El Viaje al Monte Sinai**-La travesia de 40 años por el desierto.

•**marzo 4: Reglas para Vivir** -Los Diez Mandamientos

•**marzo 11: Normas para el culto y un nuevo sacerdocio**

•**marzo 18: Errantes en el Desierto**

Catholic Information Center Lakeshore Annex

Bible Basics: Isaiah the Prophet *(CDF: Theology)*
Thurs., March 12 & 19, 7-9pm with Fr. John Geaney, CSP

Jesus of Nazareth, A Gospel Portrait *(CFD: Theology)*
Thurs., April 9, 16, 23, 7-9pm with Fr. Bernie Campbell, CSP

The Gospel of Mark *(CFD: Theology)*
Thurs., May 14, 7-9pm with Fr. Bernie Campbell, CSP

Classes are held at St. Francis de Sales Church
(2929 McCracken Ave. Muskegon, MI 49441)
Call St. Francis de Sales to register 1-231-755-1953

Lent & Spring 2015

The Catholic Information Center offers a variety of opportunities for learning and spiritual growth in both English and Spanish. All interested persons (from any religious background) are welcome to participate.

Live Streamed

Throughout our brochure you will see our *"Live-Streamed"* symbol. You will be able to watch these classes live on our website at the appointed class start time. Many of the classes we stream will be available for later viewing on our *Video-on-Demand* page. Please visit our home page to watch "live or on-demand."

catholicinformationcenter.org

Registration Options:

•Email us: register@catholicinformationcenter.org
Please include the name and time of the class, your name, address, phone number and preferred email address.

•Call us: 459-7267 ext. 1803
For more information, please call the Center office or visit our website at **catholicinformationcenter.org**

Parking: Free, secure parking is available for all who attend our classes. The parking ramp entrance is on Wealthy Street. Handicap parking is available in the ramp and also in the front parking lot facing Division Avenue.

Por favor tenga presente: La invitación para todos los temas va dirigida solo a personas adultas. No es posible proveer cuidado de niños durante las clases. Tampoco hay costo de inscripción pero se recomienda dar una donación mínima de $10.00 por participante a cada clase.

Estacionamiento: Gratis y seguro, siempre disponible para los participantes a las clases. Por favor use el estacionamiento cubierto de Cathedral Square, lo encuentra entrando por la calle Wealthy, al Este de la Avenida División.

Note to Catechists: Programs at the CIC may be taken for credit toward Catechist Certification for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. The content dimension (CFD) is listed at the end of each course description:

CFD = Catechist Formation Dimension
- *CFD: Spirituality* = the Spiritual Development of the Catechist/Teacher
- *CFD: Theology* = Knowing the Catholic Faith Well
- *CFD: Methodology*= Doing Catechesis Effectively

Brochure designed by Irene Strom

Please pre-register by calling 616-459-7267 or email us at register@catholicinformationcenter.org

Catholic Information Center

Cathedral Square | 360 Division Avenue S, Suite 2A
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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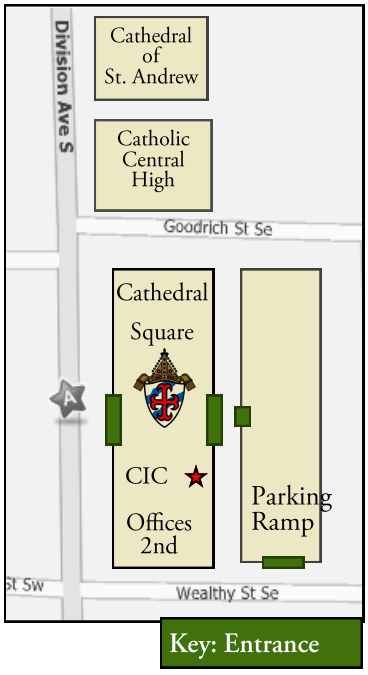
Lent & Spring

Catholic Information Center

A ministry of the Paulist Fathers in collaboration with the Diocese of Grand Rapids



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Grand Rapids, MI 49503 | 616-459-7267

catholicinformationcenter.org

Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am - 4:30pm & 6:00-9:00pm
and Friday, 9am -1pm

Handicapped Accessible & Free Parking
(*Enter parking ramp using the Wealthy Street entrance*)

Staff

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Fr. Bernie Campbell, CSP
Fr. John Kenny, CSP
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Kelly McLaughlin, Director of Marketing & Public Relations
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