

Adult Faith Formation Series
Lent 2017
Three Mini Courses for Four Weeks
Wednesday Evening
March 15, 22, 29, and April 5
7:00 pm. – 8:15 pm.

Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 pm.
Soup and Bread Supper
6:00 pm. – 7:00 pm.

Good News! Ordinary People Are Nonviolently Changing the World

In 2014 the Rev. James Lawson, who taught nonviolent strategies to the students who held the first sit-ins in Nashville in 1960, said that hope for the social justice we are called by Jesus to create lies with educating and inspiring people to use strategic nonviolence to force institutions to change. To rise to this challenge it is not enough to trust God and pray, we must learn practical effective skills and act on them. Gene Sharp offers 198 methods of nonviolent action! This dynamic workshop will help you recognize your courage, fill your tool-kit with way more methods than you thought possible, find networks and learn what makes nonviolent actions work, while weaving in spiritual insights and laughter as we work for justice.

Sharon Shepela, Ph.D

Sharon Shepela, Ph.D. is an award-winning professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Hartford and co-author of the book, *Courageous Resistance: The Power of Ordinary People*. A Pace e Bene (nonviolent living) trainer she offers workshops, retreats and lectures described by CTA attendees as “Extraordinary! Life-giving!” “Helpful and optimistic” “Animated, practical.”

Sharon will teach all four sessions: March 15, 22, 29, April 5

Living a Spiritual Life Today

Pope Francis has recently said that *“Lent is the favorable season for renewing our encounter with Christ.”* This workshop will help you to enrich your spiritual life with tools that will help you to encounter Christ not only during the Holy Season of Lent but throughout the year. Sister Mary Barbara will present various methods of prayer and ways of praying with our everyday experiences. Sister Catherine will enlighten us on various aspects of Ignatian spirituality, which can best be described as “finding God in all things.”

Sister Catherine Hannigan, PBVM and Sister Mary Barbara Hobbs, PBVM

Both **Sister Catherine** and **Sister Mary Barbara** are Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Both Sisters have previously been guest speakers at Our Lady of the Lake and we welcome them back again.

Sister Catherine taught for many years in the Leominster and Fitchburg parochial schools; namely, the elementary schools at St. Bernard’s and St Leo’s and Holy Family High School. Sister Catherine was Superior General of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary from 1976 through 1985. Sr. Catherine recently completed 25 years of ministry work in Boston for the Society of Jesus both at the Weston Jesuit School for Theology and at the Center for Religious Development. She is an experienced spiritual director and retreat director.

Sister Mary Barbara is a convert to Catholicism. A Sister of the Presentation for over sixty years, Sister was a teacher for many years in Presentation schools in Massachusetts and Connecticut. For over 25 years, she served as the Director of the Emmaus Spiritual Life Center, in Uncasville, Connecticut, planning spiritual renewal programs, giving retreats and offering spiritual direction to many. She continues her ministry as a spiritual director and distinguished preacher to this day.

Sister Mary Barbara will speak on March 15 and 22 and Sister Catherine will speak on March 29 and April 5

Living in a World of Difference: Meeting our Jewish and Muslim Neighbors

We're meant to live in peace with our neighbors, and in today's world, that means within a larger multi-faith society. In this interfaith formation experience, we'll discover more about our Abrahamic brothers and sisters, and reflect on our own beliefs as Christians engaging with our neighbors of other faiths.

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman and Mona Ives

Rabba Kaya Stern-Kaufman, MSW is the Rabbi of the Congregation Agudat Achim in Leominster. She is a Jewish Educator and a Jewish Social Entrepreneur. She is the founder of Rimon: A Collaborative Community for Jewish Spirituality in Great Barrington and a co-founder of The Berkshire Minyan where she participated in service leadership at this independent egalitarian minyan. She taught Judaic Studies, Hebrew and Jewish Music to preK-3rd students at Sinai Academy of the Berkshires. She taught adult classes in Hebrew, the Talmud and Jewish Mysticism at local synagogues. She is also a psychotherapist specializing in play therapy, woman's issues, abuse, depression, sexual abuse, anxiety and panic disorders. She was ordained in 2011 by The Academy for Jewish Religion and she also completed the Institute for Jewish Spirituality's Clergy Leadership program and is a Rabbinic Fellow of Clal's Rabbis Without Borders program. Rabba Kaya was recognized by The Forward in 2015 as one of "America's Most Inspiring Rabbis."

Mona Ives is an American-born Muslim woman of Egyptian descent. After starting a major in International Relations at Boston University, Mrs. Ives traveled to Pakistan where she completed her education in Islamic Theology at the International Islamic University. Mona now focuses her efforts on educating the public about Islam, de-mystifying it, and clarifying misconceptions. She organizes and participates in a number of interfaith and outreach activities in the Worcester Community and is an instructor at WISE (Worcester Institute for Senior Education). She also conducts free seminars on Islam at schools, libraries, churches, and other religious institutions. A very important part of her life is charity work, with a special focus on assisting refugees re-settling in America.

Rabba Kaya will speak on Judaism on March 15 and March 22; Mona will speak on Islam on March 29 and April 5

Name(s): _____ **Phone #:** _____

Please choose the mini-course that most interests you.

_____ Good News! Ordinary People Are Non-violently Changing the World

_____ Living a Spiritual Life Today

_____ Living in a World of Difference: Meeting Our Jewish and Muslim Neighbors

Please return to the Collection Basket or to the Parish Office. Thank you!