

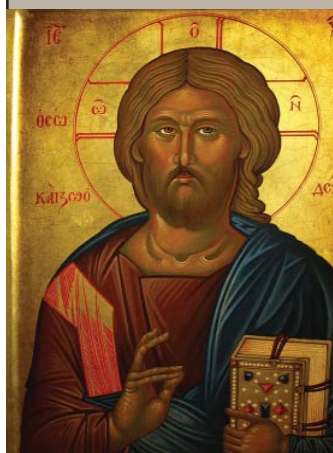


**Catherine of Siena: A Woman of Our Times**  
Wed., Sept. 14, 2011  
St. Barnabbas, 7-9pm  
Sr. Nancy Murray OP

While Bill Murray has become famous for his work on the "big screen," his sister Nancy has been making her own mark in stunning performances on tours across this country and beyond. Based on a script written by her former teacher and drawn from over 400 letters authored by the saint, Sr. Nancy portrays the life of St. Catherine, who boldly chastised popes, cardinals and princes with

whom she differed on political and church issues. Through the play, Sr. Nancy hopes to draw parallels between the wars, scandals and politics of the 14th century and the realities of the 21st century. This presentation offers a rare opportunity to learn something about one of the few women named a "doctor of the church" and how she helped to reform the church of her own time.

Sr. Nancy is one of nine children who were raised in a suburb of Chicago. She entered the Dominican Order in Adrian, Michigan in 1966, and completed a degree in drama at Barry University in Miami. She also has a master's degree in pastoral studies from Loyola University of Chicago, and has served as a high school teacher and campus minister. Currently, she is kept quite busy with her schedule of performances portraying St. Catherine of Siena.



**Icons: Windows into Heaven**  
Wed., Oct. 26, 2011  
St. Joseph Byzantine, 7-9pm  
Fr. Marek Visnovsky

It has been said that icons are prayers, hymns, and sermons made visible in form and color. The icon is a link between the human and the divine, as it provides a space for a mystical encounter between the person before it and God. Yet, while the icon has held a very significant place in Christian spirituality of the Eastern rite churches, it is only recently that an interest in them has developed in the Christian

tradition of the West. Most of us are used to a more representational, realistic form of art, and can find it difficult to enter into the experience of contemplating an icon. Fr. Visnovsky will help uncover the meaning of icons for our spiritual journey, and the ways in which they offer an external human expression of a transfigured state, of a body filled with the Holy Spirit.

Fr. Marek is a Byzantine Catholic priest and administrator of St. Emilian's Byzantine Catholic Church in Brunswick, Ohio. In 2001, he studied iconography under the guidance of the well known iconographer Phil Zimmerman. He has written over 200 icons and holy shrouds here in the USA, as well as in Canada and Europe, and he instructs icon writing classes in the Cleveland area as well as at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana.



**"Looking Toward The End": What Catholics believe about Death, Heaven, Hell and Purgatory**  
Thurs., Nov. 10, 2011  
St. Victor, 7-9pm  
Sr. Mary McCormick OSU

No one needs to wait long these days for another blockbuster film about the coming end of the world, or for the latest TV program to interpret the dramatic "near death" experiences of ordinary people. Every few years, there is new date predicted for the end of the world by some individual or group that is certain that their interpretation of the Bible, or another ancient text, has yielded the exact time and hour for which we should all prepare. We are given many contradictory messages about the "end times" and about our own personal end at the moment of death. What does our Catholic faith tradition have to offer us regarding the meaning of "the last days" and what awaits us beyond death? Sr. Mary McCormick will discuss these issues, offering us the best of what contemporary and traditional Catholic theology has to contribute to the human dialogue regarding ultimate realities.

Sister Mary McCormick is an Ursuline Sister of Youngstown. She has earned degrees in education, theology and religious education, and earned a Ph.D. in Contemporary Systematic Theology from Fordham University in 2001. Her experiences in ministry are diverse, including: teaching high school, serving as a diocesan consultant in religious education, providing formation within her religious community and serving as a parish pastoral minister. Currently, she is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at St. Mary Seminary in the diocese of Cleveland.



**Our Call to Solidarity with Palestinian Christians**  
Wed., January 19, 2012  
St. Basil the Great, 7-9 pm  
Jeffrey M. Abood

Normally when one hears a reference to the "Palestinian problem," the first thought that comes to mind is that of the conflict between Jews and Muslims. However, as the Middle East Monitor has noted, "it is easy to forget that amidst all of the politics and international wrangling there is

another deep rooted and valid claim to what is undoubtedly the most disputed "Holy Land" in the world" (12/11/09). This Christian minority has a legitimate historical and spiritual claim to the land as well as the other groups. Mr. Abood will discuss how living as a Christian in the Holy Land can be both a rewarding and a trying experience today. Their numbers have gone from 18% to 2% of the population. In order for us to effectively be of help, it is important to gain a better understanding of who these Christians are and what they are going through. In this way, we can better equip ourselves to form bonds of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Palestine.

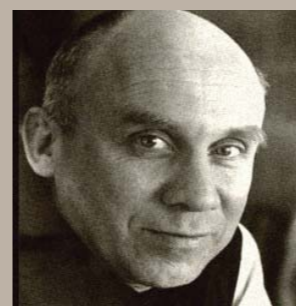
Jeffrey M. Abood serves as Chair of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation's International Speakers Bureau and is Co-Chair of the Council on Global Solidarity for the Diocese of Cleveland. Jeff received a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for his leadership in working with the Palestinian Christian communities in the Holy Land. In addition, Jeff has been knighted by the Vatican in the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.



**Charter for Compassion Lecture: What we can learn from Buddhist Teachings**  
Wed., February 15, 2012  
St. Matthias, 7-9 pm  
Ani Palmo

Each year, the ACE cluster of parishes sponsors one program on the topic of compassion. As stated in the international Charter for Compassion, "the principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves." This year our guest speaker will delineate some of the essential teachings of Buddhism on the practice of compassion in daily life, especially those teachings associated with the Tibetan tradition. As leader of this tradition, the Dalai Lama has taught the following: "a truly compassionate attitude toward others does not change even if they behave negatively... whether another person is a close friend or enemy, as long as that person wishes for peace and happiness and wishes to overcome suffering, then on that basis we develop genuine concern for their problem. This is genuine compassion."

Ani Palmo Rybicki, a native Clevelander, is a nun in the Buddhist tradition of Tibet and the Director of Songtsen Gampo Buddhist Center of Cleveland. Ani Palmo has been studying and practicing Buddhism for 26 years and has completed a total of eight years in retreat. In late 2005 in response to her Teacher's advice, she returned to Cleveland to be in service to others by giving classes on meditation and Buddhism in the greater Cleveland area.



**ACE Retreat: Praying with Thomas Merton**  
Sunday, March 4, 2012  
Jesuit Retreat House, 1-5 pm  
Wayne Simsic

Thomas Merton was perhaps the most beloved Christian spiritual master of the 20th century. As a Trappist monk, he wrote passionately about spiritual-

ity in a way that speaks to the hearts of men and women today. Merton's gift to all of us is this simple message: the contemplative experience, which uncovers our unity with the Lord and a new vision of life, is not only for monks but for all Christians. In this retreat, Wayne Simsic will provide a wonderful overview of Merton's unique approach to the spiritual life. There will be time for prayer and reflection, including time to walk the beautiful grounds of the Jesuit Retreat House in Parma. Come join us for this great opportunity to deepen your relationship with God and to share in the spiritual journey with others.

Wayne Simsic lives with his wife Diana in the greater Cleveland area, and leads retreats and seminars on the mystics of the Christian tradition. He has taught Christian spirituality for over 20 years, primarily through the Religious Studies Department at Ursuline College. He is the author of numerous articles and books on the spiritual life, including *Living the Wisdom of St. Francis*, *Natural Prayer: Encountering God in Nature*, and *Praying with Thomas Merton*. A book on St. John of the Cross is due to be released in 2012.



**Lessons from Rwanda for American Catholics**  
Tuesday, April 24, 2012  
St. Michael, 7-9 pm  
Fr. Michael Denk

Our nation was shocked, but failed to intervene, when the Rwandan genocide of 1994 occurred following political turmoil in that small African nation. Over the course of approximately 100 days, over 500,000 people were killed, or as much as 20% of the country's population. It was the culmination of longstanding ethnic competition and tensions between the minority Tutsi who had controlled power for centuries, and the majority Hutu peoples who had come to power during 1959-62, following their overthrow of the Tutsi monarchy. As a Global Fellow with Catholic Relief Services, Fr. Denk travelled to Rwanda in 2008, where he witnessed firsthand the lasting impact of this genocide on the people of Rwanda. From his reflection on this experience, Fr. Michael has much to share concerning our call as Catholics to respond to the needs of the poor throughout the world, and to be the voice of the voiceless, including the victims of abortion in our own country.

Fr. Michael Denk grew up in Holy Family Parish in Parma, Ohio. He has a B.A. degree in Communications from Cleveland State University, as well as a Master of Arts in Theology and a Master of Divinity degree from St. Mary's Seminary in Cleveland, Ohio. Fr. Michael was ordained in 2007 and was assigned as Parochial Vicar at St. Barnabbas Parish in Northfield. Currently he is serving as Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph's in Amherst, and offers presentations on several religious topics.



**Celebrating Eucharist and Living Eucharist**  
Wednesday, May 16  
Assumption, 7-9 pm  
Fr. Thomas Lane SSS

What connections do we make between the Mass we celebrate on Sunday and the way we lead our daily lives during the week that follows, or do we understand each as totally unrelated experiences? How can we engage more fully in our own life journeys as our means of sharing in the paschal mystery that we celebrate in the Eucharist? These are some of the concerns that Fr. Thomas will explore in this presentation. He will help us to consider the ways in which we can experience all our relationships and commitments as a means of living the Eucharist on a daily basis. The word "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." By participating in this special event, we will deepen our appreciation of how our lives, as well as the Mass, can be more truly an offering of thanksgiving to God.

As a member of the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, whose mission is to assist the Church in forming communities whose center of life is the Eucharist, Fr. Lane is uniquely qualified to present this talk. He is currently pastor of Saint Paschal Baylon Catholic Community in Highland Heights, on the east side of Cleveland. In addition, Fr. Lane is a consultant on the liturgy, Vocation Minister for his religious congregation, and a well-known and respected speaker.



Here are a few comments from some of our participating parish pastors:

*"Quality speakers combined with great settings and hospitality make the ACE presentations worth anyone's time."*

~ Fr. Bruce Riebe

*"Cooperation among all the ACE parishes has resulted in an excellent Adult Education program. The topics that are chosen are always appropriate to the times and the needs of parishioners. The presenters are always highlyqualified and well prepared, and the sessions are consistently well organized. ACE has my highest recommendation."*

~ Fr. Allen F. Corrigan

*"I really appreciate the ACE program and the wonderful presentations brought to the members of our Cluster parishes. We never stop learning in life, and this contributes to living our faith as fully as possible."*

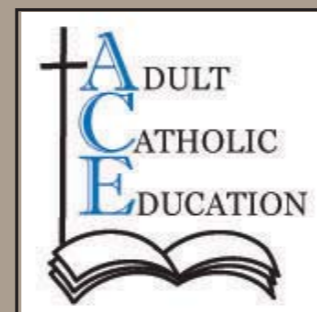
~ Fr. Walt Jenne

*"Adult Catholic Education is a primary effort of the whole Church. I am so grateful that we have the ACE program as a way of making that happen".*

~ Fr. Ralph Wiatrowski

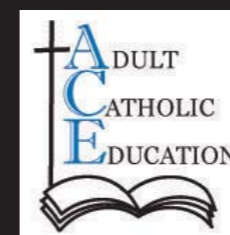
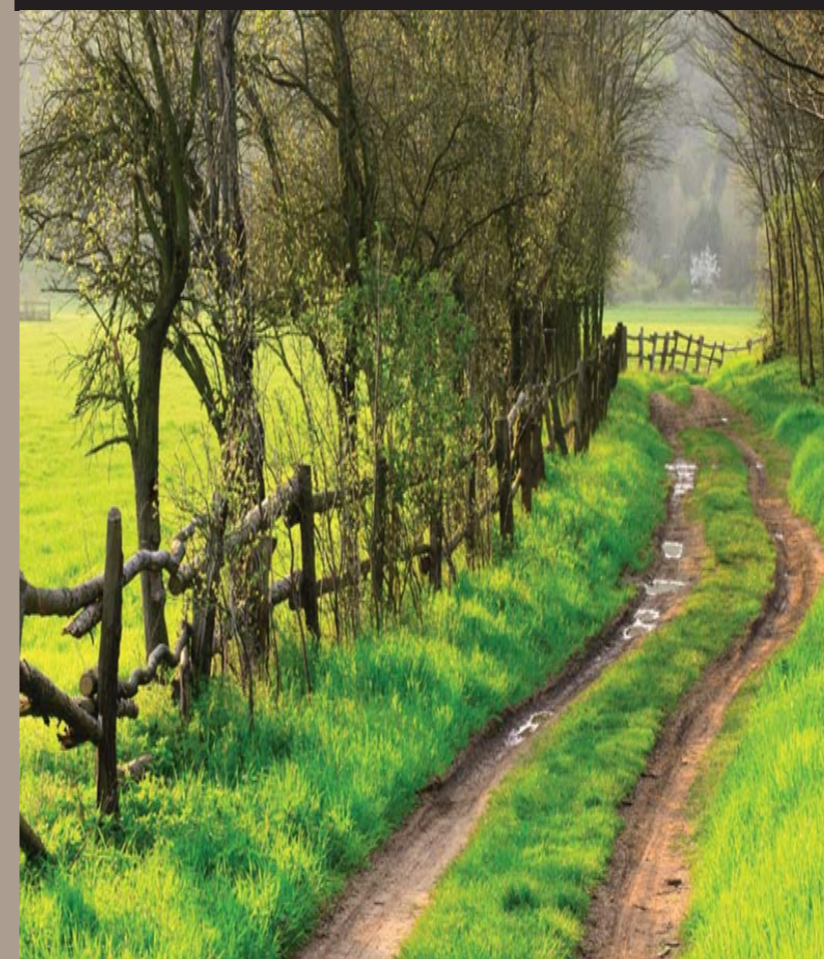
*It is a rare opportunity for parishes to be able to offer their members exposure to a wide variety of theological subjects and issues. The ACE Program makes this opportunity a reality. All one has to do is make the effort to participate by attending the lectures. There is always a topic to address all interests.*

~ Fr. Justin, O. S.B.



# Adult Catholic Education FAITH FORMATION SERIES

Fall 2011 - Spring 2012



## What is A.C.E.?

A.C.E. (an acronym for Adult Catholic Education) is a collaborative regional effort on the part of several neighboring parish communities to provide a continuing source of faith formation for adults. Interpretation of Scripture and Catholic doctrine, spirituality, and contemporary issues facing people of faith are some of the topics addressed by our program. In addition, ACE provides opportunities to learn about other faith traditions so as to promote interfaith understanding and dialogue.

Our speakers represent the best of pastoral and academic leadership in the Cleveland area and beyond. Each presenter brings a special expertise and unique perspective on the topic he or she addresses. It is our hope that many people will continue to avail themselves of the opportunities offered through the A.C.E. program.

## Participating Parishes

**Assumption Church**  
440-526-1177  
9183 Broadview Rd., Broadview Hts.

**St. Barnabas Church**  
330- 467-7959  
9451 Brandywine Rd., Northfield

**St. Basil the Great Church**  
440-526-1686  
8700 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville

**St. Joseph Byzantine Church**  
440-526-1818  
8111 Brecksville Rd., Brecksville

**St. Matthias Church**  
440-888-8220  
1200 W. Sprague Rd., Parma

**St. Michael Church**  
216-524-1394  
6540 Brecksville Rd., Independence

**St. Victor Church**  
330-659-6591  
3435 Everett Rd., Richfield