

**Subject:** "Making All Things New!" - March 2026 - Holy Week Mass Schedule, Retreat Opportunities, and More!



**Making All Things New**

**March 2026**



**You can choose your "real world." Join us at a Mountain event to help you Remember, Reflect and Respond. Consider these questions...**

- 1. What was something important that you experienced?**
- 2. Why was that important?**
- 3. What do you do with this now?**

**[Click HERE](#) or on the photo above to watch Br. Kevin's video.**

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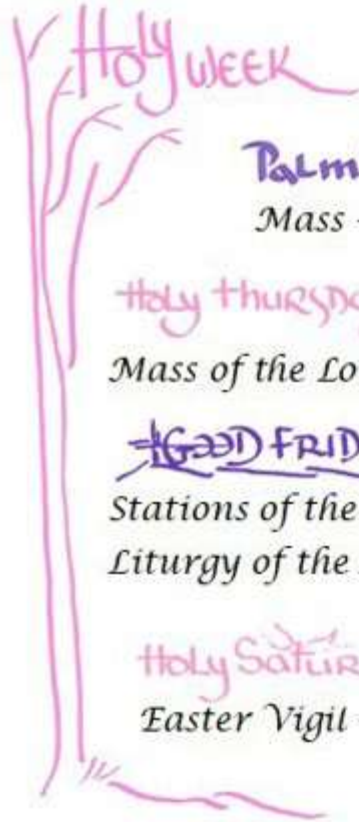
## Sophia and Clare hermitages now open to adult retreats year round.

To support the requests from those who would like to stay at the Mountain for time away, we have now designated two hermitages, Sophia and Clare, primarily for such retreat. In the past, we had blocked those two cabins from use during the academic year if there were student gatherings scheduled on weekends.

Depending on other activities taking place at the Mountain during a stay, particularly coinciding with student retreats, guests may need to attend to their own meals in the hermitages. At other times, retreatants will be able to join the Community for dinner if they wish. Both Sophia and Clare are equipped with a functioning kitchenette and refrigerator.

As with all reservations, please **call Fr. Lou at 585-973-2470** to check availability of space.





# Holy Week

**Palm Sunday** ✠  
Mass — 11 am

**Holy Thursday** ✠  
Mass of the Lord's Supper — 7 pm

**Good Friday**  
Stations of the Cross—1:30 pm  
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion — 3 pm

**Holy Saturday**  
Easter Vigil — 7 pm

**Easter Sunday**  
Mass — 11 am



**All are welcome!**

*Please note the time change for the evening Masses.*



## Franciscan Volunteers Visit with Students

Annually, the Mountain invites students to come and speak with young adults who have dedicated the year after graduation to a Franciscan Service organization. This "Year of Service" can take many forms, such as working at soup kitchens or schools or doing other important work to help the underserved. This year

more than 10 people expressed interest in a Year of Service and spoke to members of the Franciscan Volunteer Ministry (FVM) and the Franciscan Mission Service (FMS) about their experiences as a volunteer.

Below is a reflection from **Olivia Francis-Gray**, one of the students who spoke with the volunteers.

*After attending the St. Francis Inn trip with Campus Ministries, I had the honor to attend the Year of Service Evening Away at Mt. Irenaeus. While I was there, I was able to connect with individuals who did a year of service and who are continuing to serve to this day. Being at this experience made me feel relaxed, surrounded by a group of people who cared about service and helping the community around them just as much as I do.*

*A favorite moment of mine is listening to some of the members of FVM and FMS talk about what got them into doing a year of service and how it was something they had not thought about doing once before.*

*Listening to these stories from all of these volunteers made me feel a sense of hope that we have the right group of people helping those who need it most in vulnerable communities, and it has made me rethink about what a year of service could mean for me after I leave St. Bonaventure.*





## It's not too late - last minute decisions are welcome too!

If you can, please register by visiting [www.sbu.edu/alumni](http://www.sbu.edu/alumni)

*Occasionally, we invite Franciscan voices from beyond the Mountain to offer contemplative reflections. This month, we invite readers to find inspiration in this piece from **Tyler Grudi, ofm.***

I had been craving a gyro for over a week and had no idea why.

But there I was walking through Collingswood, NJ, when a sign on the other side of the street caught my eye; “Jersey Kebab: Mediterranean Grill!” 4.8 stars on Google Reviews sounded promising enough to me.

This gyro was close to divine. You could have it many different ways with many different proteins and toppings. The combinations were endless. I decided to get beef and lamb, doner-style - the works. I got it wrapped in a tortilla at the recommendation of the owner's son, and what a solid recommendation it was. Let me tell you, this place was good! Not just for the quality and freshness of ingredients (and more than generous portion sizes) but most



especially for the generous hospitality of the hosts who joyfully served me food while fasting for Ramadan themselves.

Everyone in this Turkish cafe was a delight. As I slowly sipped my after-gyro cup of Turkish coffee, I watched as one by one, customers entered the cafe and greeted the host as if they were family. The staff at Jersey Kebab greeted patrons by name, even embracing many and asking them about their lives and how they've been. They weren't just making food at Jersey Kebab, they were building relationships grounded in service and generosity.

Posted boldly on their front door was even a sign which offered free meals to anyone struggling with homelessness, a disability, or who simply can't pay for their food. By the end of my meal, I felt that I had not just eaten and drank my fill of food, but that I had supped from Godly hospitality itself.

I was just wrapping up when another customer came in and greeted the host in much the same way as the ones before. But this time, the customer asked how the host and his parents were doing. I couldn't quite hear everything they said, but I could make out something about a one-year anniversary. Right when I thought there was something more to celebrate, I heard the words "ICE raid."

A year ago to the day of my visit, ICE detained the couple who owns Jersey Kebab, the parents of my gracious host, keeping the host's father overnight, and mother for two weeks. The couple had been in the United States legally and had been working on their Green Cards for 10 years.

I didn't know why I had been craving a gyro. But whatever the reason, it led me to this place where God's presence was active and palpable. These Muslim brothers and sisters of mine cared for me with more joy than I can often manage to muster on a regular day of work. And they did so under a dark cloud of uncertainty and fear as they questioned what will happen next and whether their community will continue being a welcoming place for their family. It was an example of true service as well as an inspiration to me as a Christian of how I might better live the Gospel call to love my neighbor.

At a time when our social media timelines and news feeds are often filled with messages trying to divide us, we need God moments like this to remind all of us of our common humanity. I have been blessed by the many Muslims in my life, and I'm especially grateful for their presence in this country today despite increasing forms of hate like Islamophobia.

We always have more to learn about what it means to be good neighbors. Sometimes our differences can seem insurmountable obstacles rather than opportunities for building deeper relationships. But throughout the Gospel, Jesus reminds us to stretch ourselves, going beyond the boundaries of our typical relationships and building fraternity wherever we may go, whether in Jerusalem or Samaria.

I won't soon forget my time at Jersey Kebab, and the many people who came in that day to check on their neighbors in their moment of distress. I'm reassured by the words of the Quran that asserts that God made us all unique, "from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may 'get to' know one another" (49:13). I pray that during these last days of Lent, we can open our hearts more and more to our neighbors and be signs of God's love and hospitality to all those we meet along the way.

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# Spring Work Day

AT MT. IRENAEUS

Saturday, April 11

## Schedule

**10:00a.m.** - Arrive at Mt. Irenaeus

**10:15a.m.** - Prayer and work group assembly

**12:30p.m.** - Group Lunch

**4:00p.m.** - Work concludes

Some of the activities for the day may include prepping the garden for planting, tending flower beds, deep cleaning the House of Peace and cabins, clearing trails, splitting wood and other activities.

Sign up so we know you're coming:



Questions? Need overnight accommodations? Call the Mountain:  
(585) 973-2470



Our annual Community Workday will take place this year on **Sat, April 11.**

All are welcome. Meals included.

Some tasks may include getting the garden ready for planting, working on the flower beds, clearing trails of winter deadfall, deep cleaning the buildings and more!

If you need accommodations, please call 585-973-2470 to inquire about availability. Signups will open soon on our [Event Page](#).



### **Clare and Company: Early Franciscan Women A Fireside Chat at the Mt. Irenaeus**

Storytelling is at the core of Franciscan life at Mt. Irenaeus, and medieval scholar Jean-Francois Godet-Calogeras did not disappoint when he, along with Br. Joe Kotula, ofm, explored “Clare and Company: Early Franciscan Women” on Sunday, March 1, in an afternoon that was attended by more than 40 persons, and live streamed to an even broader audience.

Conceived by the Mountain’s Council for Spirit and Life’s Weekends and More branch, the audience was welcomed by Karen Pulaski, Director of Faith Formation, and speakers were introduced by Allie Lies, a member of the Weekends and More branch.

The conversation explored the earliest commitment of women to Franciscan life, from the historical landscape in which Clare, of the nobility, would never have associated with Francis of Assisi, whose family was of the business class, to Clare’s desire to break from traditional female roles of the time—wife or nun, to found a religious order for women, the first female to do so.

Jean-Francois infused humor into his narrative of Clare's amazing journey, while he addressed the importance of the form of life Clare envisioned for her community.

"Clare wrote the form of their life in an amazing document showing how intelligent and perceptive, and diplomatic and political she was," said Jean-Francois. "What is absolutely unheard of at the time, it gives the women total control of their social and economic life; that is a first."

Br. Joe and Jean-Francois also discussed the word "radical" in reference to St. Clare: "Clare was following the voice of God," Br. Joe said, and in response, Jean-Francois replied, "Well, I think that is radical."

The entire conversation may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpSF1bWJkw4>

*Peace, my friends!*  
~ Mary Freeman

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## **Weekends and More Retreat at the Mountain**

~Don Smith

It is a true blessing to get away to the Mountain, but even more so when it means joining the community in ministry! In February, the Weekends and More branch of the Council for Spirit and Life took a weekend to do just that. We all chipped in for a catered dinner from the Mountain



Auction and used that as our excuse to enjoy good company, look at the year ahead for the branch, and prepare for a Sunday event.

As members of the branch showed up, laughter grew louder and joy filled the House of Peace. When we sat down to discuss the upcoming year (watch the newsletter – there's some good stuff being planned!) the laughter continued. We did a lot of work, but we did it with joy and excitement. I don't know that the branch has a motto, but it certainly feels like "Work Hard, Play Hard" would fit us.

One of the things that made the weekend special was knowing we were supporting the Mountain in a variety of ways. From hosting a fireside chat on Sunday, to bidding (and winning!) on a Mountain Auction item, the weekend felt as much a gift given as a gift received.

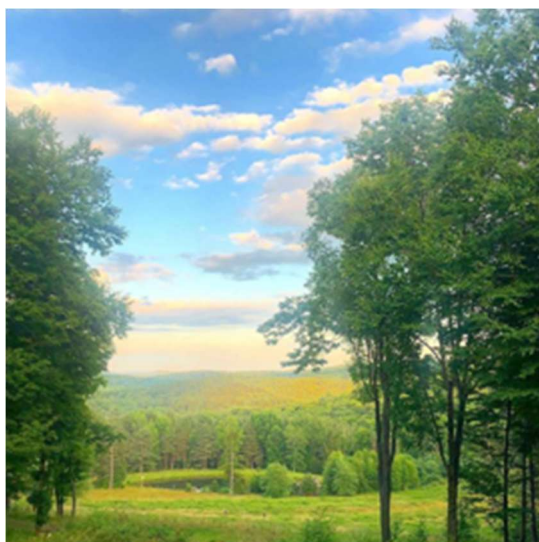
A special note of thanks to Sheila Darrow and Margaret Bryner for an amazing meal! The food was great, but the people around the table, made it fantastic. As Margaret was setting the table, I stepped in to help and she said it was her treat. Without thinking, I immediately said, “but it’s the Mountain, we all participate.” That was the feel of the weekend, everyone treating one another and being treated too!

While our branch may work hard, we have fun doing it. If you are interested in joining our fun, talk to Bro. Joe or Karen! It’s a ministry that truly makes me feel connected to the Mountain and the Mountain Community.

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## Young Adult Family Weekend Aug 7-9

Summer is quickly approaching! If you are a young adult friend of the Mountain who graduated between 2005 and 2026, we invite you to join us for a young adult family weekend August 7-9, hosted by the Young Alumni branch of the Council for Spirit and Life. This is a great time to take a step back from the busyness of life, reconnect with the land, and re-center going into the fall. Whether you last were at the Mountain days or years ago, we hope you will prayerfully consider being a part of this weekend.



We invite you to come as you are, whether that be solo or with your family. Space is limited, particularly for those planning to bring children. More information will be available closer to the date. Please reach out to Allie Leis ([aledat@umich.edu](mailto:aledat@umich.edu)) to register, or with any questions! We look forward to seeing you at the Mountain!



## Summer Retreat Opportunity

Limited Space

Reserve Your Spot Now!


As you make your summer plans, please prayerfully consider joining us for our **annual summer adult retreat weekends hosted by the Council for Spirit and Life** - a time when we create a space at the Mountain where you might slow down,

spend time on the land and share a meal, stories, and prayer with others. This is a

time for reflection and renewal through a Mountain experience. These retreats also provide an opportunity halfway through the year to step back, reflect, and gain a sense of how we are all walking through the world. We offer the same retreat experience on two different weekends. This year, our retreat weekends will be offered on:

**June 26-28 OR July 24-26**

More information about our summer retreats will be made available in the coming months. **Space is limited.** Please reach out to Karen Pulaski at [kpulaski5204@aol.com](mailto:kpulaski5204@aol.com) to register or with any questions you might have! We look forward to seeing you - peace and all good!



*Step aside, take a breath,  
and return refreshed*

### Mountain Lenten Zoom Gatherings

Join us for a series of gatherings this Lenten season, hosted by our Young Alumni Committee. Together we will reflect on our hopes and needs for this time leading up to Easter on April 5.

**Gatherings will be held at 8:30 PM on:**

- Wednesday, February 25
- Thursday, March 12
- Wednesday, March 25
- Wednesday, April 1

We hope you can join us for any or all gatherings. Feel free to invite a friend or two.

Register online at  
[www.mountainonline.org/events](http://www.mountainonline.org/events)

Young Adults Mountain Lenten Zoom Series - have you joined us yet? Don't miss our next meeting on Wednesday!

The dates have been set - mark your calendar and join us for either of our upcoming Zoom evenings.



### Summer Evenings of Re-Creation at Mt. Irenaeus

Our summer Evenings of Re-Creation will begin with Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 5 pm followed by time on the land and supper.

After supper, join us in the Chapel for Mass and "conversation." The evening concludes around 9:00 pm.

**Join us on these Wednesday evenings:  
July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

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All are welcome to join us for these evenings of prayer, reflection, and community.

**Save the Date for our Summer Evenings  
of Re-Creation!**

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

More info to come!

Wednesday, Mar 25  
Wednesday, Apr 1

More information about this Zoom gathering and other events can be found on our Event Page by [clicking HERE](#).



### Upcoming Events:

**Every Sunday - Mass is at 11 am in Holy Peace Chapel with a dish-to-pass brunch following Mass.**

**If you would like more information about ANY of our events, please check our [Event Page](#) on our website or contact us at [peace@mountainonline.org](mailto:peace@mountainonline.org)**

#### March:

Mar 20 - **Mountain on the Road** in Stamford, CT  
Mar 21 - **Mountain on the Road** in Mineola, NY  
Mar 22 - **Mountain on the Road** in Pompton Lakes, NJ  
Mar 25 - **Mountain in Your Home** - Fairport, NY  
Mar 25 - **8:30 pm** - Young Adult Mountain Lenten Zoom  
Mar 27-29 - Student Event at the Mountain  
Mar 29 - **11 am** - Palm Sunday Mass with distribution of palms and brunch to follow  
Mar 29 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

#### April:

Apr 1 - **8:30 pm** - Young Adult Mountain Lenten Zoom  
Apr 2-6 - Holy Week - Mountain Offices will be closed, please call the House of Peace directly at 585-973-2470  
April 2 - **7 pm** - Holy Thursday, Mass of the Lord's Supper (please note time change)  
April 3 - **1 pm** - Stations of the Cross at the

**Schedule and ways to participate can also be found online [HERE](#).**

#### May:

May 3 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom - all are welcome!  
May 8 - Student Event at the Mountain  
May 9 - **SAVE THE DATE - Open Event at the Mountain**  
May 17 - SBU Graduation  
May 30 - Summer Companions Arrive  
May 31 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

#### June:

June 7 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom  
June 26-28 - **Open Summer Retreat** - Registration Required - see our [Event page](#) for more details.  
June 28 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

#### July:

July 1 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation  
July 5 - Franciscan Sojourners Zoom  
July 8 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation  
July 15 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation  
July 22 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation  
July 24-26 - Open Summer Retreat - Registration Required - see our [Event page](#) for more details.  
July 26 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch  
July 29 - Wednesday Evening of Re-Creation

Mountain

- April 3 - **3 pm** - Good Friday, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
- April 4 - **7 pm** - Easter Saturday, Easter Vigil (please note time change)
- April 5 - **11 am** - Easter Sunday Mass with dish to pass brunch to follow
- Apr 11 - **SAVE THE DATE** - Mountain Workday - Please join us to help ready the Mountain for Summer!
- April 17 - Student Event at the Mountain
- April 18 - Closed Event at the Mountain
- April 24-26 - Mt. Irenaeus Board Meeting Weekend
- Apr 26 - OFS meeting at the Mountain after Mass and Brunch

**August:**

Aug 7-9 - Young Adult Family Weekend

**If you would like more information about ANY of our events, please check our [Event Page](#) on our website or contact us at [peace@mountainonline.org](mailto:peace@mountainonline.org)**



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