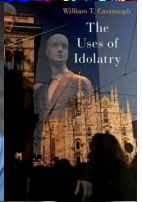
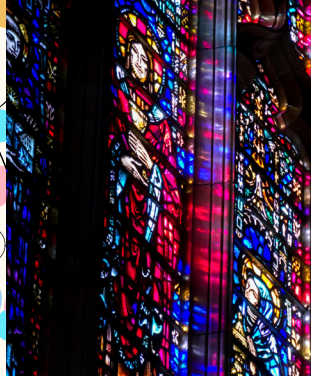
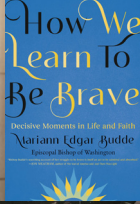
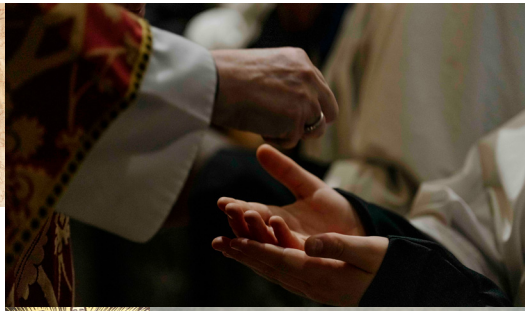
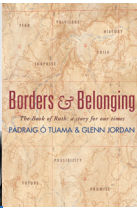
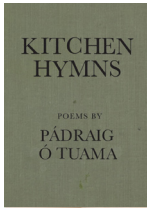


THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

2025-2026



SAINT THOMAS CHURCH
FIFTH AVENUE



Theological Education at Saint Thomas Church

The Theologian in Residence's Talks on Sundays | 10:00-10:45 am

Book Readings on Thursdays | 6:45-8:15 pm

**The Hobart Theology Lecture
and the Spring Theology Lecture**
featuring internationally renowned guest speakers

The Christian Faith for Newcomers on Tuesdays | 6:45-8:00 pm
from January to May

The topics chosen for the **Hobart and Spring Theology Lectures** are examined in depth in the **Theologian in Residence's Sunday Talks** and in the **Thursday Book Readings**.

Talks and Reading Groups take place in the Parish House,
1 W 53rd Street, Fifth Floor Room



The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia is the Theologian in Residence at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York City, and Research Associate at the Von Hügel Institute at the University of Cambridge (UK). He is the author of *The Theological Epistemology of Augustine's De Trinitate* (OUP 2016, with a foreword by Rowan Williams), *Say It To God. In Search of Prayer. The Archbishop of Canterbury Lent Book 2018* (Bloomsbury 2017), and *Saint Benedict's Wisdom. Monastic Spirituality and the Life of the Church* (Liturgical Press 2020). His books have won awards and been translated in six languages.

Sign up for the Theological Education Mailing List to receive weekly reminders, handouts, links to the livestream, and video recordings of the talks.



The Hobart Theology Lecture

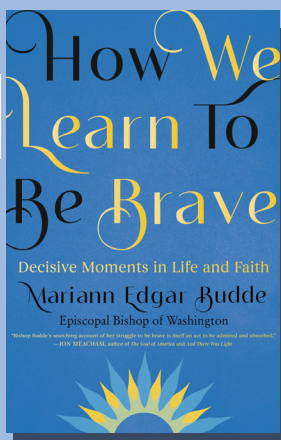


Pádraig Ó Tuama,
Author and Poet-Theologian

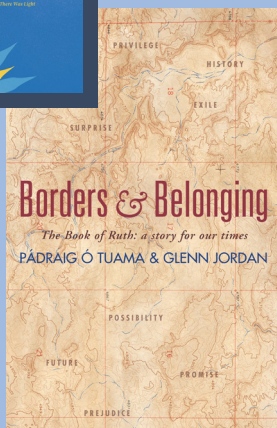
Sanctuary: Space of Belonging and Thriving

WEDNESDAY | October 15 | 7:00-8:30 pm

In Person and Livestreamed



The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde,
Bishop of The Diocese of Washington



Thursday Book Readings



In Person

BOOK:

Borders and Belonging

The Book of Ruth: A Story for Our Times

by Pádraig Ó Tuama and Glenn Jordan

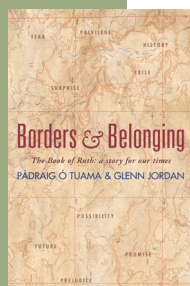
In a world anxious about borders and strangers, Ó Tuama's poetic reading of the Book of Ruth invites us to move beyond suspicion and scapegoating to a society where belonging is reimagined.

THURSDAYS | 6:45-8:15 pm

September 18

September 25

October 9



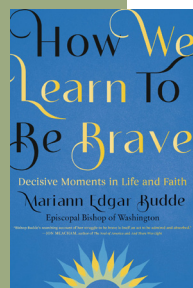
BOOK:

How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith

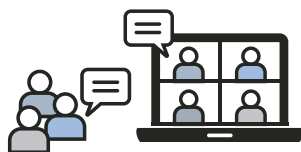
by Mariann Edgar Budde

THURSDAY | October 2 | 6:45-8:15 pm

with the participation of The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan, The Episcopal Diocese of New York.



Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence

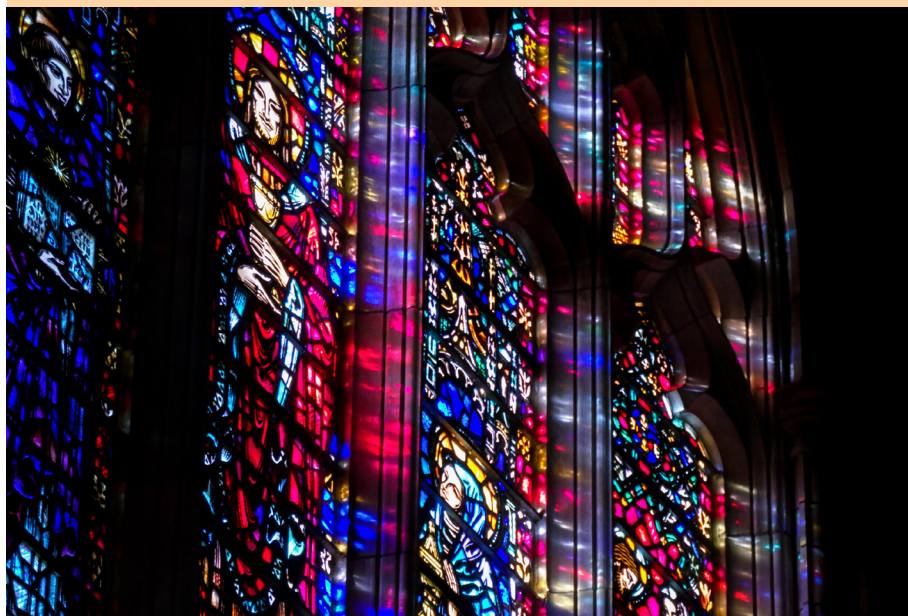
SERIES:

Poetry and Faith in Pádraig Ó Tuama's *Kitchen Hymns*

Poet and peace-builder Pádraig Ó Tuama invites us into the everyday sacred. Through poetry as prayer, questions without answers, thresholds that teach stillness, and kitchen liturgy, we learn to listen, pay attention, and discover God in ordinary life.

KITCHEN HYMNS

POEMS BY
**PÁDRAIG
Ó TUAMA**



**God Between the Lines: Poetry, Prayer,
and the Places We Begin | September 14**

Poetry can hold our questions about God without rushing to answer them. We learn to listen, pay attention, and discover God in ordinary life.

**Do You Believe in God? And Other Questions
Worth Answering Slowly | September 21**

In a world that demands quick answers, Ó Tuama invites us to sit with life's deepest questions—long enough to hear what they're really asking.

**In a Garden by a Gate: The Sacred Work
of Standing Still | September 28**

A journey into the spaces between—waiting, watching, and discovering God in small, overlooked places.

**Kitchen Hymns: The Liturgy of Kettles,
Cups, and Quiet Blessings | October 5**

In Ó Tuama's world, even making tea can be a prayer. Daily life becomes liturgy when we pay attention.

The Prophetic Voice of Poetry | October 12

Discover how poetry unites spirituality and justice, calling us into deeper compassion.

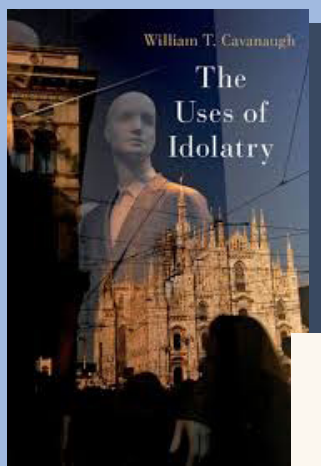
Spring Theology Lecture

Idolatry and The Eucharist: How to See God in Things without Making a God of Things

SATURDAY | May 16 | 11:00 am -12:30 pm



In Person and Livestreamed



Prof. William Cavanaugh

Professor of Catholic Studies and Director
of the Center for World Catholicism and
Intercultural Theology, DePaul University

Dr. William T. Cavanaugh is Professor of Catholic Studies and Director of the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology at DePaul University in Chicago. His degrees are from the universities of Notre Dame, Cambridge, and Duke. He is the author of nine books and editor of eight more, as well as editor of the journal *Modern Theology*. His most recent book is *The Uses of Idolatry* (Oxford University Press, 2024). He has lectured on six continents, and his work has been published in nineteen languages.

Thursday Book Readings



In Person

BOOK:

Babette's Feast

by Isak Dinesen

Dinesen's beloved *Babette's Feast* is a parable of the Eucharist that teaches the power of shared meals to heal relationships and create community.

THURSDAYS | 6:45-8:15 pm

November 13

November 20

December 4

December 11



BOOK:

The Uses of Idolatry

by William Cavanaugh

In secular society, worship is hijacked by the idols of pride, greed, and power. Cavanaugh reveals how the Eucharist reshapes desires and gathers us into a community of authentic worship and freedom.

THURSDAYS | 6:45-8:15 pm

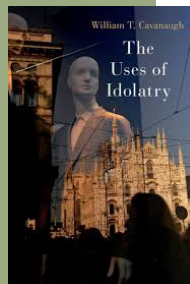
February 26

March 5

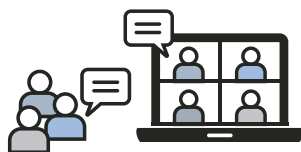
March 12

March 19

March 26



Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence

SERIES:

The Theology of the Eucharist: Worship That Makes Us Whole

The Eucharist gathers us where the world divides.
Christ's presence heals our divisions, unmask the
idols that enslave us, and gives us the freedom to bring
God's love to the world.

Eucharist, Holy Sacrifice, Mass, Divine Liturgy: What's in a Name? | October 26

Names we give to the Eucharist shape the way we welcome
God's healing, presence, and fellowship.

The Words of Institution (Consecration): Are They Magical? | November 2

Jesus' words "This is my body" make sense if we become
aware of the many ways Jesus is present in our celebrations.

The Invocation of the Holy Spirit (Epiclesis): The Eucharist's Forgotten Act? | November 9

The Holy Spirit is called to sanctify bread, wine, and
the community.

The Great Thanksgiving (Doxology): What Does the Eucharist Have to Do with Praise? | November 16

The Eucharist turns everything into praise and thanksgiving to the Father.

**“Do This in Memory of Me” (Memorial):
Are We Remembering or Re-Living? | November 30**

The Eucharist is more than remembrance - it unites us to Jesus' death and resurrection, until he comes again.

**The Eucharist as Meal and Sacrifice:
How Do These Fit Together? | December 7**

We become a sacrifice to God by being united in one body through the sharing of one bread.

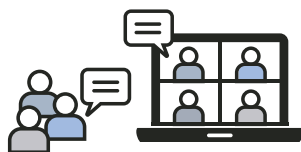
One Bread, One Body (Communion): How United Do We Really Become? | December 14

The Eucharist heals us from division and isolation by calling us into fellowship with each other and with God.

**“Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord” (Mission):
How Does the Eucharist Shape Our Lives? | December 21**

The Eucharist blends into everyday life as God sends us out to love, serve, and be his witnesses to the world.

Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence

SERIES:

Through George Orwell's Eyes: The Road to Totalitarianism

George Orwell's *1984* is a mirror held up to our time. It exposes how language is weaponized, fear engineered, and freedom eroded. Can truthfulness, courage, and love resist the idolatry of power and restore humanity?

The Ministry of Truth: Words as Weapons | February 1

The manipulation of language unsettles our grasp of reality and sharpens the moral call to honesty and truthfulness.

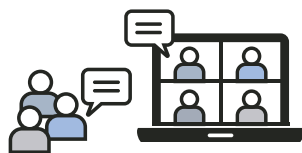
Big Brother and the Worship of Power | February 8

Total surveillance breeds fear and corrodes the integrity of our desires and loyalties.

Love and the Breaking of the Human Spirit | February 15

Winston and Julia's fragile defiance reveals both the resilience and the vulnerability of the human spirit under totalitarian rule.

Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence

SERIES:

Idolatry and the Eucharist: in Search of the Land of the Free

In his recent book *The Uses of Idolatry*, theologian William Cavanaugh explores how the Scriptural warnings about idolatry remain piercingly relevant. Pride, greed, and power keep churning new idols that promise fulfillment but deliver bondage. Only faithful Eucharistic practice ushers in freedom.

The Many Gods of the Secular Age: Idolatry and Restless Hearts | February 22

Secularity undermines religion but gives way to new gods. Idolatry lurks in politics, economics, and culture, diverting our restless hearts from God's liberating love.

The Work of Our Hands: Scripture and Augustine on Idolatry | March 8

Scripture and theology insist idolatry is not ancient superstition but a persistent temptation distorting love, shaping culture, and corrupting human desire.

The Desires of Our Age:

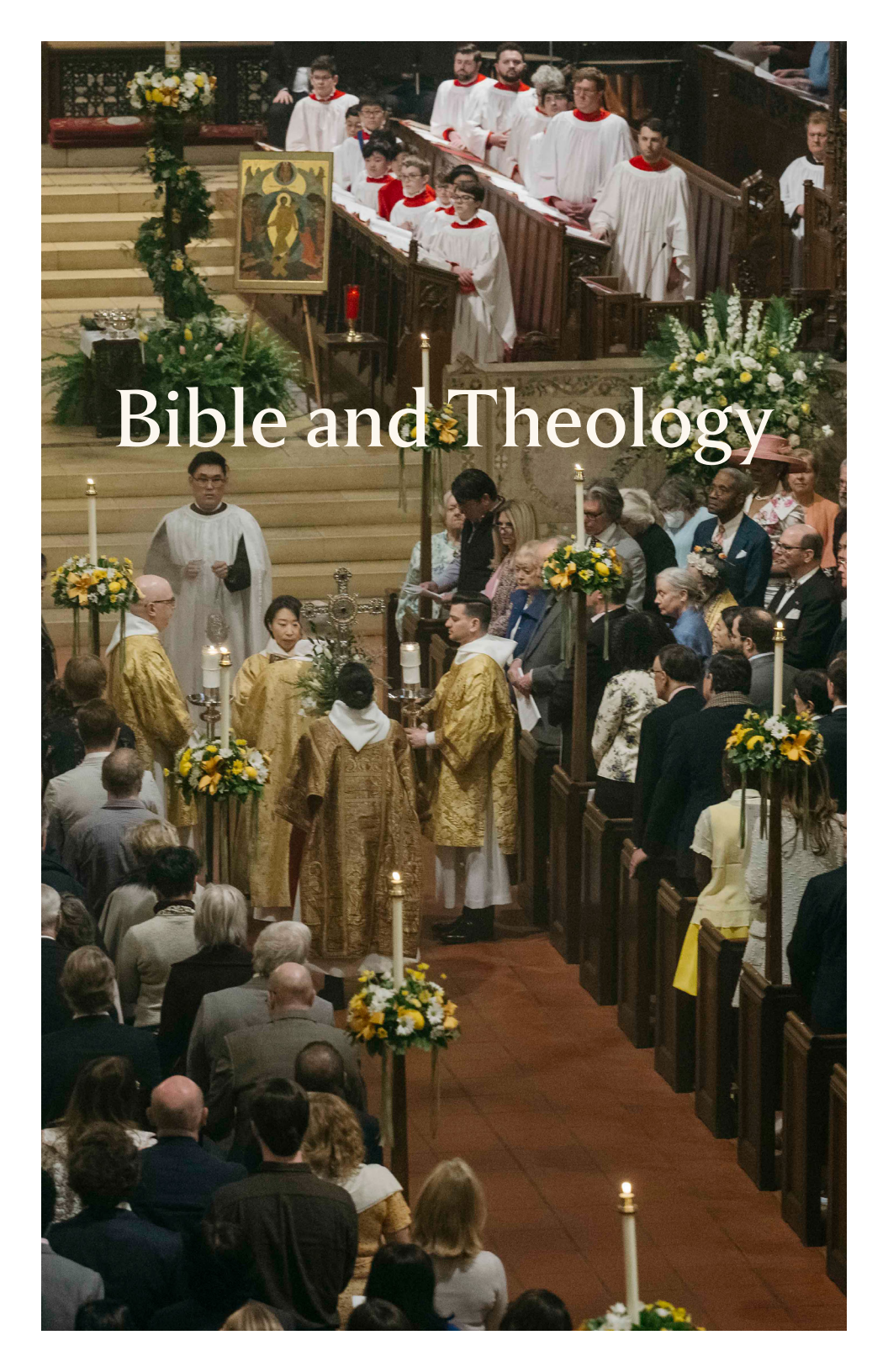
Nationalism and Consumerism | March 15

The idols of Nationalism and Consumerism forge new liturgies that shape identity and allegiance while displacing God's gift of true freedom.

The Gift of God's Presence: The Eucharist as the Undoing of Idolatry | March 22

The Eucharist heals our distorted loyalties and draws our hearts into fellowship rooted in divine presence and self-giving love.



A photograph of a church service, likely a Eucharist or Mass, taking place in a traditional church with wooden pews and a high altar. In the foreground, the backs of several people are visible as they sit in the pews, looking towards the front. The middle ground shows a priest in ornate gold and white vestments standing at the front, facing a group of people who are also dressed in gold and white vestments. They appear to be performing a ritual, possibly the Eucharist, with candles and flowers. In the background, a choir of men in white robes with red stoles stands on a raised platform, holding books. A large, ornate cross is visible on the altar. The church is decorated with flowers and candles. The text "Bible and Theology" is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the center of the image.

Bible and Theology

Thursday Book Readings



In Person

BOOK:

The Gospel of Matthew

In Matthew's Gospel Christ's fellowship heals us from the alienation of idolatry and gathers us into a Eucharistic community of faith and mission.

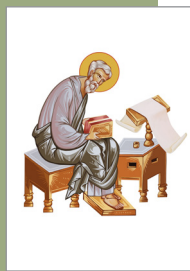
THURSDAYS | 6:45-8:15 pm

April 30

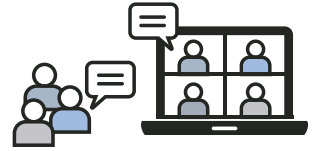
May 7

May 14

May 21



Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence

SERIES:

The Gospel of Matthew: The Healing Power of Christ's Eucharistic Community

Matthew's Gospel opens with Jesus resisting temptation in the wilderness and closes with his promise to be with us always. In his wake, we are healed from greed, power, and pride, and transformed into leaven of forgiveness, love, and hope for a fractured world.

Worship the Lord Your God: Jesus' stand-off with Power, Greed, and Pride | April 12

In resisting temptation, Jesus unmasks false idols and frees us to worship God with undivided hearts.

Blessed Are the Poor: Jesus' Vision of Flourishing | April 19

The Beatitudes overturn worldly values and unveil true happiness rooted in love.

Love Your Enemy: Healing the Heart to Change the World | April 26

Jesus calls us to a love that disarms hatred and transforms the world through mercy.

Upon This Rock: Faith as Resistance to Idolatry | May 3

Faith in Christ steadies us against the shifting idols that demand our allegiance.

Let Him be Crucified: The Cross and the Idol of Violence | May 10

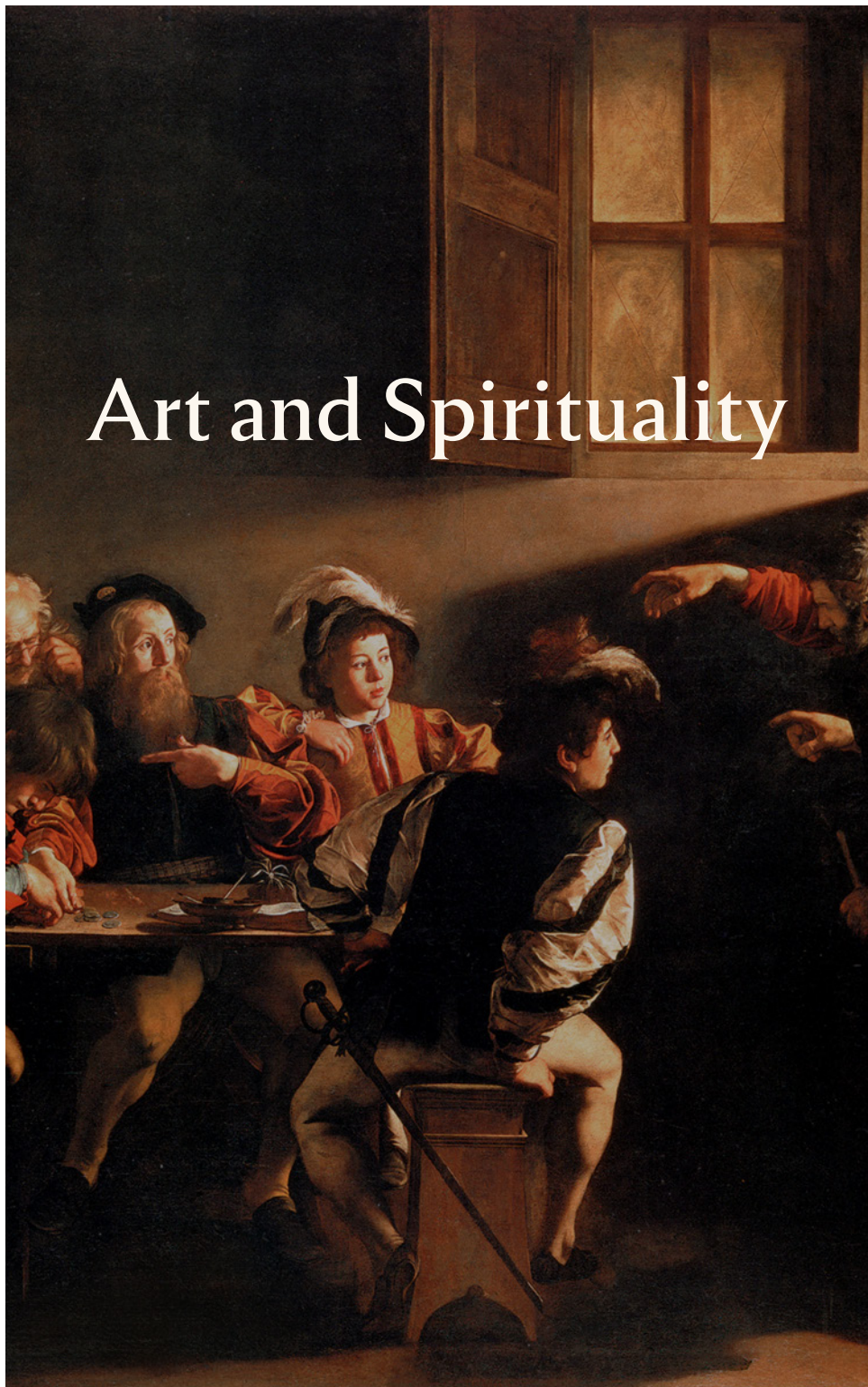
At the cross, Jesus exposes and overcomes the destructive power of violence.

I Am With You Always: The Eucharistic Presence of the Risen Christ | May 17

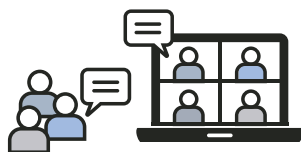
The risen Christ abides with us, sustaining his people through the gift of the Eucharist.



Art and Spirituality



Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, Theologian in Residence

SERIES:

Grace in Three Acts: Caravaggio's Saint Matthew Cycle

In three monumental canvases, Caravaggio paints the drama of Matthew's life as a story of grace—summoned from the shadows, inspired to speak God's word, and strengthened to bear witness even unto death. The brush makes visible the divine light that breaks into human darkness with calling, guidance, and life beyond death.

The Calling of Saint Matthew: Grace That Interrupts | June 21

At a tax collector's table, in a dimly lit room, Christ's hand extends toward Matthew, breaking open his world with a single gesture. Caravaggio captures the interplay of light, gesture, and calling.

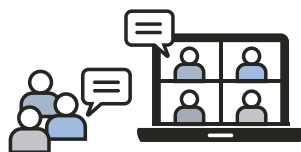
The Inspiration of Saint Matthew: Grace That Guides | June 28

Caravaggio paints the fragile moment of divine inspiration. An angel bends close, guiding Matthew's hand, while the evangelist wrestles with awe, responsibility, and the weight of words.

The Martyrdom of Saint Matthew: Grace That Triumphs | July 5

Caravaggio plunges us in the chaos of violence and the quiet steadfastness of faith. Here the evangelist's own life gives witness to the Risen Lord.

Sunday Theology Talks



In Person and Online

GUEST SPEAKERS SERIES:

Seeing the Eucharist

Seeing the Eucharist explores the mystery of the Eucharist through art across centuries—from illuminated manuscripts and Renaissance painting to the beloved images of Norman Rockwell. Dr. Felicity Harley-McGowan and the Rev. Mark Brown guide participants in discovering how visual art deepens sacramental life.

Dr. Felicity Harley-McGowan

Lecturer in Christianity and the Arts at Yale Divinity School

The Communion of the Apostles | October 19

Based on a miniature in the *Saint Augustine Gospels*, a 6th-century illuminated manuscript.

Living Bread: The Mass of St Gregory | January 11

Based on an image by an unknown Spanish painter, ca. 1490–1500.

Tomb as Altar: the Man of Sorrows | March 1

Based on the painting *Christ as the Man of Sorrows Supported by Angels* by Lorenzo Lotto, ca. 1516–17.

The Rev. Mark Brown
Honorary priest at Saint Thomas Church

“Teach Me, My God and King, in All Things Thee to See.”
Encountering God in the Ordinary | May 31

Based on the image *Lift Up Thine Eyes* by Norman Rockwell.

“Now Thank We All Our God.” *Eucharistia*: Giving Thanks
at All Times and in All Places | June 7

Based on the image *Freedom from Want*, also known as
The Thanksgiving Picture, by Norman Rockwell.

“I Heard an Old, Old Story, How a Savior Came from Glory.”
***Anamnesis*: Remembering What Happened | June 14**

Based on the image *Homecoming Marine (The War Hero)* by
Norman Rockwell.

“Come Down, O Love Divine.” *Epiklesis*: Invocation of the
Spirit and Empowerment | July 12

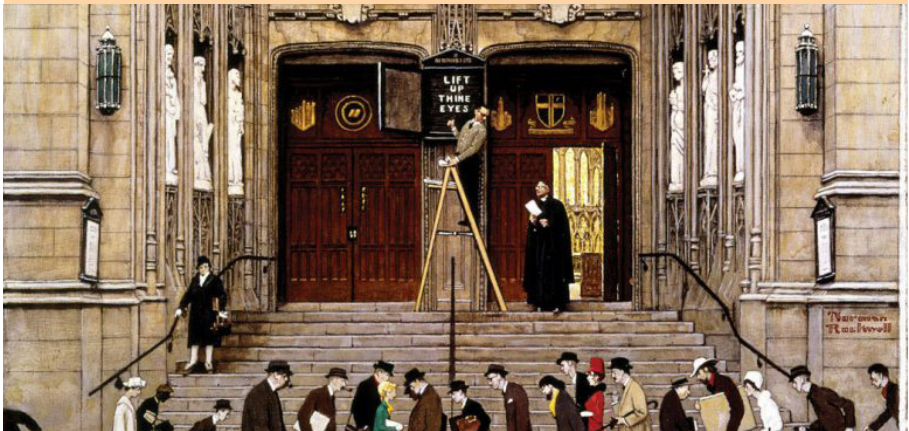
Based on the image *Freedom of Speech* by Norman Rockwell.

“Thou Didst Give Thyself for Me, Now I Give Myself to
Thee.” *Thusia*: Offering and Sacrifice | July 19

Based on the image *Home for Thanksgiving* by Norman Rockwell.

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” *Koinonia, Ecclesia*: Community,
Co-inherence, the Imago Dei, Justice and Mercy | July 26

Based on the image *The Golden Rule* by Norman Rockwell.



Detail of *Lift Up Thine Eyes* by Norman Rockwell, 1957

Slow Looking

Guided Tour MoMA Museum



Slow Looking is a contemplative encounter with art at the MoMA. Instead of rushing past, we linger—shifting from casual viewing to attentive presence. In this slower rhythm, art becomes a space of stillness, offering clarity and insight that often elude us in the rush of daily life.

George Benson is Manager of Interpretation, Research and Digital Learning in the department of Learning and Engagement at the Museum of Modern Art. Previous at the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Smithsonian, George believes the job of a museum is to tell stories that connect people of all backgrounds to art, culture, and the history of making meaning.



Stone and Spirit:

Episcopal Church Buildings in New York City

This series explores the architectural heritage of Episcopal church buildings in New York City. From colonial-era chapels to Gothic revival masterpieces and soaring twentieth-century cathedrals, participants will discover how these structures embody history, theology, and artistry, shaping the city's spiritual and cultural landscape.

Cole Wagner

Historic research specialist at Robert A.M. Stern Architects

Episcopal Churchbuilding in New York City: An Architectural Overview | November 23

Discover New York's Episcopal heritage through its iconic church buildings, from colonial chapels to grand Gothic cathedrals.



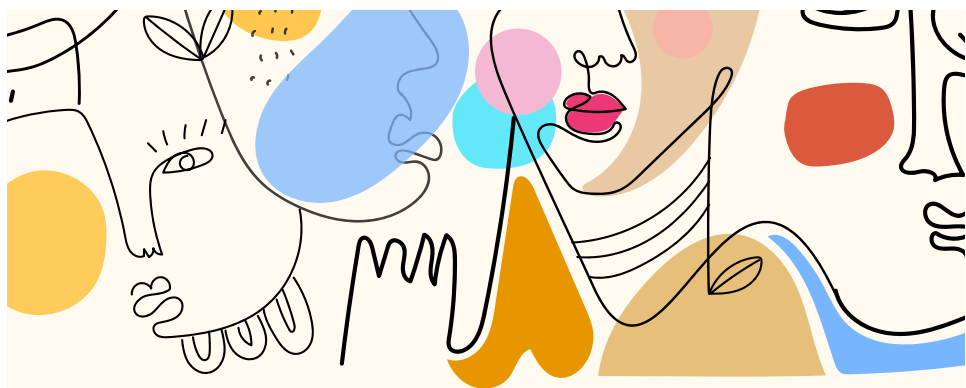
The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin

*Union Theological Seminary (NYC) and Assisting Bishop
of the Diocese of Long Island*

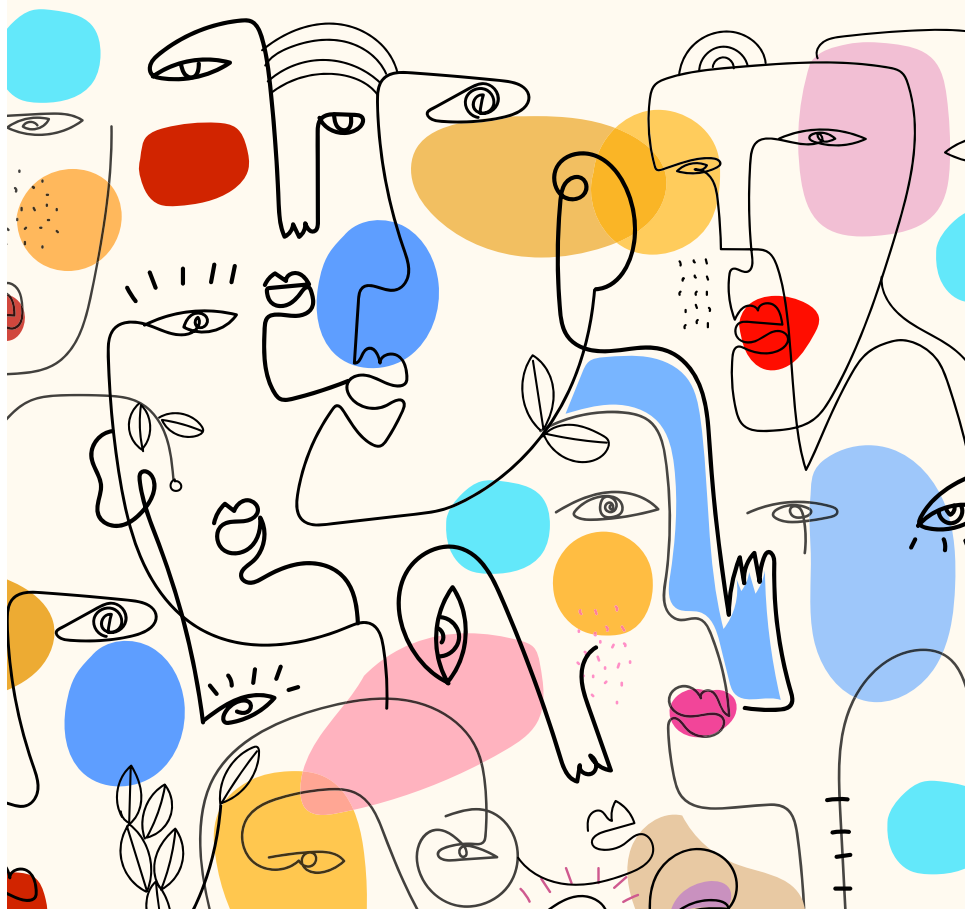
Guided Visit of Grace Church | Date TBD

Join Bishop Bill Franklin for an architectural and spiritual exploration of Grace Church, James Renwick Jr.'s Gothic Revival masterpiece (1846–47). Discover its Sing Sing marble exterior, luminous stained-glass windows, intricate mosaic reredos, and pivotal role in New York's Episcopal heritage.





The Christian Faith for Newcomers





It's not the destination, but the journey that matters

The Pilgrims' Course explores the Christian Faith as the Episcopal Church has received it, and as Saint Thomas expresses it through its mission to worship, love, and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through the Anglican Tradition and our unique choral heritage.

These classes are intended for those seeking reception into the Episcopal Church, baptism, or confirmation.

The classes are open to all, and each year many parishioners join to renew their faith and to support those who are new to our community.

TUESDAYS | 6:45-8:00 pm | January to May 2026



The Pilgrims' Course

The Rev. Canon Carl F. Turner, *Rector*

The Rev. Dr. Luigi Gioia, *Theologian In Residence*

God the Father: Creation, the Fall, and What It Means to Be “Made in God’s Image” | January 13

God the Son: Incarnation, Atonement, and Glory | January 20

God the Holy Spirit: Being “Fully Alive” with the Gifts of the Spirit | January 27

The Trinity: The Church Community Reflects Our Belief in God as “Three in One” | February 3

The History of the Church 1: From House Church to Established Religion | February 10

The History of the Church 2: Reformation, Anglicanism, and the Oxford Movement | February 17

The Christian Exodus: An Introduction to Lent and Holy Week | February 24

The Holy Bible: “The Word of the Lord” | March 3

An Introduction to the Sacramental Life of the Church: Baptism and Confirmation | March 10

“They Recognized Him in the Breaking of the Bread”: The Eucharist at the Heart of Our Common Life | March 17

When Things Go Wrong: Confession and Healing | March 24

Mission and Ministry: Vocation, Ordination, and the Mission of the Church | April 14

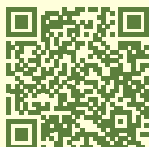
Relationships: Marriage, Commitment, and Religious Communities | April 21

Hope: Death, Eternal Life, Mary, and the Communion of Saints | April 28

Praying with All the Senses | May 5



Your generosity makes programs like these possible. As we expand our Theological Education offerings this year, your support is more important than ever. Please consider scanning the QR code below to make a donation — every gift helps sustain and grow this ministry.



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