

COMMUNICET

RIVIER UNIVERSITY CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2024

“Christ dwells in every creature.” - St. Brigid of Kildare

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 3/1, 8, 15, and 22: Stations of the Cross

Resurrection Chapel 12:20—12:45pm

Come participate in the traditional prayer of Stations of the Cross, through which we remember and reflect on Jesus’s final moments as he made the journey to Calvary carrying his cross.

Sunday 3/10, 17, and 24: Sunday Mass

Resurrection Chapel 5:00pm Attend Mass with the Rivier community!

Tuesday 3/19: Lunch & Learn with Fr. John

SGA Conference Room 12:30-1:00pm

This month, we’ll discuss quotes from various wisdom figures relating spirituality to work and stress.

Tuesday 3/19: Interfaith Spirituality Group

SGA Conference Room 5:30—6:15pm

Come discuss topics of spirituality and life in college with students of any and all faith traditions. This month’s topic is service and spirituality. Everyone is welcome!

Wednesday 3/20: Campus Ministry Club Meeting

SGA Conference Room 5:30-6:15pm

Join members of the Campus Ministry Club as they discuss plans for events and other matters related to the group.

Friday 3/22: Service Fair

Dion Reception Room 1:00-2:00pm

Meet with several local organizations and learn about opportunities to serve the Nashua community!

Tuesday 3/28: Faith Feeds Conversation

SGA Conference Room 5:30—6:30pm

Come discuss a topic of faith with your peers over dinner! This month’s topic is spiritual wellness. RSVP is required to plan for dinner.

Thursday, 3/28: Holi—Festival of Color (OGE Event)

Memorial Hall Parking Lot 11:00am—1:30pm

Join the Office of Global Engagement to celebrate Holi: The Festival of Colors. There will be dancing, music, and food! See the email from OGE to RSVP.

MARCH RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

RAMADAN BEGINS (ISLAM) March 10, 2024

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and is one of the most sacred times of the year for Muslims. Since the Islamic calendar follows the lunar cycle, it is sometimes difficult to calculate exactly when Ramadan begins. In 2023, it is likely to start at sun-down on March 22. The month of Ramadan is observed through fasting, worship, service, communal gathering, and spiritual development.

PURIM (JUDAISM) March 23-24, 2024

Purim is one of the most joyous and fun holidays on the Jewish calendar. It commemorates a time when the Jewish people living in Persia were saved from extermination. Celebratory customs include reading the Book of Ester, gathering with others to "eat, drink, and be merry", giving to charity, etc.

HOLI (HINDUISM) March 25, 2024

Holi, also known as The Festival of Colors, is an ancient Hindu tradition that celebrates the triumph of good over evil. There are multiple legends associated with this holiday, but all of them have a theme of good winning over evil. The day is celebrated all over India with colored powder, colored water, music, dancing, and food.

HOLY THURSDAY (CHRISTIANITY*) March 28, 2024

Holy Thursday begins the Easter Triduum—the three days leading up to Jesus' Resurrection. Its formal name is Mass of the Lord's Supper, which was the first celebration of the Eucharist. A notable part of the Holy Thursday service is the washing of the feet, in which the priest washes the feet of 12 parishioners. Jesus did this to demonstrate to his disciples how they are to serve others through selfless love.

GOOD FRIDAY (CHRISTIANITY*) March 29, 2024

Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, commonly known as Good Friday, is the only day in the entire year in which no Mass is celebrated. It's a solemn day that calls for fasting and abstinence. Stations of the Cross are popular on Good Friday. During the service on Good Friday, the Passion is read and the Eucharist (consecrated on Thursday) is distributed. Veneration of the Cross and solemn intercessions – a set of shared prayer intentions offered universally on this day—are other unique elements to the Good Friday service.

HOLY SATURDAY/EASTER SUNDAY (CHRISTIANITY*) March 30/31

The Mass on Holy Saturday is the Easter Vigil, a unique liturgy and perhaps the most important liturgy of the year. The Easter Vigil ends the Triduum and begins Easter celebrations (which continues on Easter Sunday). During the Easter Vigil, a fire lights the Paschal candle, and the flame is shared throughout the church to individual handheld candles. The Liturgy of the Word, which normally includes nine readings, demonstrates the connection between the Old and New Testaments and how Jesus fulfilled Scripture and achieved salvation for all humanity. Any adult becoming Catholic through the RCIA process is baptized, confirmed, and receives their first communion at this Mass.

*These dates are for the Roman Catholic and Protestant celebrations. The Greek Orthodox Church celebrates later.

Ireland's Other Patron Saint: St. Brigid of Kildare



When we think of Ireland and saints we generally think of Saint Patrick, but did you know Ireland has another patron saint? She's Saint Brigid of Kildare! Similar to Saint Patrick, there aren't many official documents about St. Brigid. Most of what we know about her comes from legends and what other people from around her time wrote.

What we do know is she was born around 450 CE and was the daughter of an enslaved woman and a wealthy chieftain from the province of Leinster. Those who have written about her say she was very generous and often gave away her father's valuable goods to those who were poor and in need. Legend says that her father was frustrated with this generosity and went to speak with the king of Leinster. While they were speaking, Brigid gave away her father's bejeweled sword to a man who could barter with it for food for his family. There are many other tales of her generosity and miracles she allegedly performed.



St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare, Ireland

Despite offers of marriage, Brigid decided to enter religious life instead. After taking religious vows, she continued to travel, show generosity to others, and perform miracles. She also built churches and monasteries. The most famous one was a convent built near the Liffey River, where an old oak tree stood. St. Brigid's Cathedral now stands where the original convent was built, in the town of Kildare, which comes from the Irish "Cill Dara" meaning "the Church of the Oak."

Some say that St. Brigid and St. Patrick were friends. However, given what we know about when they were born and when they died, it is likely that their lives only overlapped for a decade or so. So while St. Brigid may have known about St. Patrick, it is unlikely that they were friends.

St. Brigid died around 525 and her feast day is celebrated on February 1, which was the same day as the ancient Celtic festival of spring.



"St. Brigid's Cross". This type of cross is made from reeds or straw and is associated with one of the legends about St. Brigid.