

# CAMPUS MINISTRY & SERVICE LEARNING MONTHLY NEWSLETTER — FEBRUARY 2026

“What is the mark of love for your neighbor? Not to seek what is of your own benefit, but what is for the benefit of the one loved, both in body and soul.” - *Saint Augustine*

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength,  
while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” - *Lao Tzu*

## In This Edition

**For Reflection: Come Let Us Be Friends by Sarah Lee Brown Fleming**  
**Spring Mass Schedule • Upcoming Events • Heritage Week Schedule**  
**February Religious Holidays • Other Campus Events and Programs**

## SPRING 2026 MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday 2/1**                      **5:00pm**

**Wednesday 2/18**            **12:00pm**

*Ash Wednesday Mass*

**Wednesday 2/18**            **5:15pm**

*Ash Wednesday Service*

**Sunday 2/22**                      **5:00pm**

**Sunday 3/22**                      **5:00pm**

**Sunday 4/22**                      **5:00pm**

*Last Sunday Mass of the Semester*

**Friday 5/15**                      **2:00pm**

*Mass of Thanksgiving for 2026 graduates*

## COME LET US BE FRIENDS **BY SARAH LEE BROWN FLEMING**

Come, let us be friends, you and I,  
E'en though the world doth hate at this  
hour;  
Let's bask in the sunlight of a love so high  
That war cannot dim it with all its armed  
power.

Come, let us be friends, you and I,  
The world hath her surplus of hatred today;  
She needeth more love, see, she droops with  
a sigh,  
Where her axis doth slant in the sky far  
away.

Come, let us be friends, you and I,  
And love each other so deep and so well,  
That the world may grow steady and for-  
ward fly,  
Lest she wander towards chaos and drop in-  
to hell.

This poem is in the public domain. Published in Poem-a-Day on  
March 17, 2024, by the Academy of American Poets.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Monday, 2/2—Friday, 2/6: Heritage Week**

*Various times and dates—see next page for details*

Each year, we spend the week surrounding February 3rd (the Feast Day of St. Anne Marie Rivier!) celebrating the history and mission of Rivier University. There will be a different event each day—see the next page for details!

### **Thursday, 2/12: 5 Love Languages Table**

*Raider Crossing 1:00—3:00 pm*

*The Five Love Languages* by Gary Chapman explains that people express and receive love in five primary ways: Words of Affirmation, Quality Time, Receiving Gifts, Acts of Service, and Physical Touch. These are not exclusive to romantic relationships—we express love to our friends, family members, teammates, coworkers, etc. everyday in a variety of ways. Stop by to briefly learn more about these love languages, take a quick quiz to discover your primary love language, and receive a ticket for a free drink at Raider Crossing!

### **Friday 2/20 and 2/27: Stations of the Cross**

*Resurrection Chapel 3:00-3:30 pm*

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 the cross.

### **Wednesday, 2/25: Lunch & Learn**

*Dion Boardroom 12:15—1:00 pm*

Come share lunch and discuss the intersections of spirituality, culture, and daily life! This month's topic is Black History Month & Influential People of Faith. Lunch is provided, so please RSVP through campus groups to help us plan for the correct number of people.

**Have an idea for a program? Let us know!**

**Email [campusministry@rivier.edu](mailto:campusministry@rivier.edu) with your idea or request and we'll do our best to make it happen.**

*Events may be added throughout the month  
and dates/times are subject to change.*

*Please check Campus Groups regularly for updates.*

## CONNECT WITH US

We're here for you and are happy to support your journey of finding meaning and purpose in your life! Stop by the office or email us to set up a time to chat!

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# Happy Heritage Week!



## Monday - Community Art Display

Dion Center Lobby 12:15 - 1:30 pm

Come decorate a letter which will spell out one of the key words from Rivier's mission statement! This display will be kept up all week for the community to enjoy!

## Tuesday - Rivier Trivia

Dion Center Lobby 12:15 - 1:30 pm

Stop by the Dion Center to test your knowledge of Rivier history and fun facts!



## Wednesday - Faith Feeds

Dion Boardroom 5:30 - 6:30pm

Join us for dinner and discussion about Catholic Colleges and Universities! Dinner is provided; please RSVP through Campus Groups.

## Thursday - Service

Dion Boardroom 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Stop by for a few minutes to help sort, count, and bundle holiday cards for military members and veterans!



## Friday - Cupcakes

Dion Center Lobby 12:15 - 1:30pm

Come take a free cupcake, sticker, prayer card and Heritage Day poster! (while supplies last)





# FEBRUARY RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

## **TU BISHVAT (JUDAISM)**

**Feb. 2, 2026**

The 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar—celebrated this year on Monday, Feb. 2, 2026—is the day that marks the beginning of a “new year” for trees. Commonly known as Tu Bishvat, this day marks the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. On this day we remember that “man is a tree of the field” (Deuteronomy 20:19), and reflect on the lessons we can derive from our botanical analogue.

## **MAHA SHIVARATRI (HINDUISM))**

**Feb. 15, 2026**

Maha Shivaratri is a festival celebrating Lord Shiva and literally translates as “The Great Night of Shiva.” It celebrates Lord Shiva's divine power, symbolizing the triumph over darkness and ignorance, and marking auspicious events like his wedding to Parvati or the night he performed the cosmic dance (Tandava).

## **ASH WEDNESDAY (CHRISTIANITY)**

**Feb. 18, 2026**

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40-day season leading up to Easter. On Ash Wednesday, Christians typically fast, abstain from eating meat, and receive ashes in the sign of the cross on their forehead. The ash symbolizes the repentance of sins and our mortality. The cross serves as a reminder of Jesus' death on the cross in atonement for our sins.

## **LENT (CHRISTIANITY)**

**Feb. 18 - April 2 , 2026**

Lent is one of five seasons in the Catholic Church (the others are Easter, Ordinary Time, Advent, and Christmas). It begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Thursday (the Thursday before Easter Sunday). In total, it lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays. The forty-day length of Lent is rooted in the biblical usage of the number forty, which typically represents a time of testing, trial, penance, purification, and renewal. In the New Testament, forty days is the length of Jesus' time of trial in the desert in preparation for his public ministry, proclaiming the Gospel. During Lent, the focus is on recommitting to and strengthening one's faith through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many people choose to give something up (fasting) and add something (maybe a new prayer practice and/or actively doing good in their community).

## **RAMADAN (ISLAM)**

**February 17 - March 19, 2026**

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 2026, it is likely to start at sun-down on February 17th. The month of Ramadan is observed through fasting, worship, service, communal gathering, and spiritual development.



## Other Campus Events and Programs



There are so many events happening throughout the month!

Check Campus Groups for more details and to RSVP.

