

Answers to Common Questions about the Evangelization Retreat

Can you tell me more about the retreat itself?

The retreat focuses on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of our Catholic Community in two primary ways: 1) through a series of personal testimonies given to the retreat participants by lay Catholics, and 2) through small group discussions which give retreatants the opportunity to talk about the theme of the testimonies and, perhaps for the first time, say out loud who and what God means to them and how He has touched their lives. These exercises help the individual to move from the basic foundations of our Catholic faith, to actions necessary to live the Christian life: prayer and study, suffering, community, and witnessing. The retreat can also strengthen and renew in the parish a sense of community and mission grounded firmly in our Catholic faith. Christians of other denominations are welcome to attend Evangelization Retreats, but should be aware that the retreats follow Catholic teaching and involve Catholic worship, devotion, and sacraments.

How often will this retreat be offered in our parishes?

This is the first time an Evangelization Retreat is being offered in our parishes. We are very excited to share this experience with others in hopes that their faith lives will be rekindled as ours have. The retreat is designed to be held yearly or every few years, depending on the size of the parish and demand for the retreat. This being our first time hosting the retreat, we will be supported and mentored by an experienced retreat team from Sacred Heart Parish in Boise.

Is there a cost associated with this retreat?

No and Yes. We do not want cost to be a barrier to your attending the retreat. However, there will be a free-will offering taken up during the retreat to help cover the cost of food and other expenses. Up to \$60 would be an appropriate offering.

What about Holy Mass during the retreat?

Holy Mass will be celebrated for the retreatants on Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. Retreat participants will also attend the regular Sunday Mass at St. Charles Borromeo at 8:30 a.m.

What if I can't attend the full retreat?

Since a portion of the retreat takes place in small groups, it doesn't work well for people to attend only parts of the retreat. The retreat moves from one theme to the next and builds throughout the weekend. If you are unable to attend the full retreat, it would be better if you waited until another one is offered when you can attend the entire retreat.

What should I do if I'm interested in attending or have questions?

Complete the registration form and return it to your parish office. For questions, please contact Marybeth Flower (after Dec. 3) at 208-720-6990 or marybethflower@gmail.com; Bob Rubel at rubelbob6356@gmail.com or 208-309-2605; or Heather Dawson at 208-861-4949 or dawsonheather205@gmail.com.