

Why we make retreats as Christians

Throughout the church's long history
people have always made retreats.
Sometimes a retreat is half a day,
spent with others on the journey of faith.
Other times the retreat may last several days
or even a week or more.

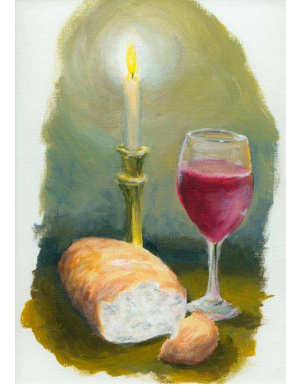
But however long we spend on retreat
the outcome we seek is clear:
deeper communion with Christ
and an ever deeper turning of one's heart
to live with Christ on a daily basis.

The bringing into one's own life,
one's relationships and household,
the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth:
forgiveness
generosity
hospitality
love for the materially poor
awareness of God's Reign
and a heart for justice and peace.

Turning to Christ in this way
is natural for us humans.

It's not so much an ideal outside of ourselves
as an inner hunger and drive,
an integral part of who we are
at our very core.

Your child is about to celebrate
First Eucharist!



Remember your child's first steps?
first tooth?
or first words?
Now your child is approaching another
very important "first" experience:
First Eucharist.

Our parish celebration(s) of First Eucharist will be:
[insert parish date(s) here]

We all know where the real work of preparation
happens: at home.

Make that process as special as you can.
Come for a day of retreat
to prepare yourself,
so you can better prepare your child.

[Insert dates, times, location, cost, phone contact,
where to RSVP, any other information specific to your
parish.]

**Even if it's been a while since you were active
in this parish,**

We welcome you!

The retreat day will include:

- background on the Eucharist
- worksheets to explore your own relationship with this sacrament
- conversations with other families also in the preparation process
- prayer services and times of quiet reflection
- concrete activities to do with your child
- a great lunch

Please bring a picture or memento of your child's baptism to the day. You will be showing it to other parents, and it will be returned to you.



Our faith is a treasure which we ourselves have received from someone in our lives.

Now we pass it on to those who come behind us.

Thank you.

The Schedule for our Retreat

9:00—Coffee, Introductions

9:15—Session 1, Memory

10:15--Break

10:45—Session 2, A Special Meal

12—Lunch

1—Session 3, Going Forth

2—Break

2:30—Closing prayer and commitment

**We welcome parents, guardians,
grandparents or friends of the family
to participate.**

Register today! Let us know you want to be part of this retreat.