

CONFIRMATION RETREAT PACKET

Igniting a Fire and Leading Teens Closer to Christ

RETREAT OVERVIEW

*The Confirmation Retreat at St. Agatha Parish is designed to give teenagers a real and intimate **ENCOUNTER** with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Candidates will experience God through witness talks, team building, prayer time, and the sacraments.*

DATES

May 3-5

LOCATION

Camp Fatima, Gilmanton Iron Works, New Hampshire

TRANSPORTATION

There will be two options for transportation: a bus or carpooling.

COST

The cost of the retreat will be \$65 for those that take the bus and \$25 for those that do not take the bus. This will cover all food, materials, and lodging for the weekend.

CONTACT

Helen Bornhorst, Youth Minister

hbornhorst@stagathaparish.org

617-696-8978

DATE & TIME DETAILS

DATES

The retreat will begin on Friday Night, May 3rd and end at 12pm on Sunday, May 5th.

DROP OFF

All Candidates that will be taking the bus to camp must arrive at the Church and meet in the Gathering Space by 5:15 pm. The bus will leave at 5:45 pm. Any Candidates carpooling to Camp should plan to arrive between 8 and 8:30 pm. All Candidates should plan to eat dinner before they come!!

PICK UP

All Candidates taking the bus will arrive back at the Church around 2 pm. If you are carpooling, please plan to pick your child up at Camp Fatima at 12 pm.

LOCATION DETAILS

CAMP FATIMA

Camp Fatima is located in the peaceful country of New Hampshire. During the summer, Camp Fatima is a Catholic Children's Camp, but they have opened up their grounds to us before the summer kicks off!

SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS

Camp Fatima has over 15 individual cabins that fit a minimum of 20 people each. Cabins for boys and girls are in separate areas of the camp and have an adult cabin separating them from the other cabin groups. Participants will be sleeping on bunk beds and should plan to bring a pillow and sleeping bag or twin sheets.

MEALS

Because there will not be a kitchen staff at the Camp yet, St. Agatha's will provide food for the weekend. Any parents that are interested in joining the Kitchen Crew for some or all of the weekend are more than welcome.

TRANSPORTATION DETAILS

BUS

St. Agatha's will be renting a bus for anyone interested to go to and from the Retreat site.

CARPOOLING

Any candidates whose parents would like to drive them to the Retreat are welcome to carpool to Camp Fatima.

PACKING ITEMS

PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING:

Snacks to share with the group
Sleeping Bag or Sheet Set (Twin)
Pillow
Flip-Flops for Showers
Towels & Washcloths
Shampoo & Conditioner, Soap
Casual, Comfy Clothes (that you can move around and sweat in)
Please see below section for dress code
Pajamas
Jackets & Sweaters
Closed-Toed Shoes & Socks
Any Medications (Inhalers, Pills, Epi-Pens, Etc.)
Toothbrush & Toothpaste
Deodorant

Bugspray
Plastic Bag for Dirty Clothes
Water Bottle
Bible
Journal
Rosary

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

ANY Spandex - yoga pants, leggings, etc.
T-Shirts with offensive/suggestive material
Short Shorts (all shorts must be fingertip length)
Bottoms with lettering on the back
T-Shirts without sleeves
Backless or strapless clothing, bare midriffs, low necklines
Drugs/Alcohol, or other Inappropriate Materials

****If your child has any medication, please bring all supplies with you including directions on how to use them if confusing, or if another might be needed to administer on behalf of the teen if they are unable to administer it themselves (ex: Epi-Pen). These medical supplies MUST be with the teen at all times! No exceptions! We recommend bringing a small back-pack or other container so it will never leave their side.*

CODE OF CONDUCT

I AGREE TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING EXPECTATIONS:

- No smoking permitted.
- No alcohol or drugs permitted. Anyone bringing these substances to the retreat will be asked to leave immediately. After Friday Night, the police will be called first.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices will remain in the cabins at all times.
- All participants must stay in the designated areas on the campus.
- Any emergency must be immediately reported to an adult.
- Respect and take care of the building and grounds. Any damage should be reported immediately. Food is permitted only in the Dining Hall.
- Participants must be on time for activities.

IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

ITEMS TO TURN IN

Transportation Decision - Google Form
Retreat Permission Slip
Medical Form
Retreat Payment

MARCH 10

Transportation Decision Due

APRIL 7

All Permission Slips & Payments Due

APRIL 24

Retreat Parent Meeting, 7 pm

MAY 3-5

Confirmation Retreat

Any retreat conflicts other than emergencies, must be brought to Helen's attention before the April 7th deadline. Make-up of any and all missed retreat time will be required as the retreat is an essential part of the Confirmation Program.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

WHAT IF MY CHILD DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO THE RETREAT?

If your child doesn't want to go to the retreat, then they are completely normal! It is hard for anyone to give up their weekend especially if it is required of them. For many participants, this retreat will be their first real encounter with God. We will be encouraging participants to keep an open mind and hope that you will do the same! In my experience, probably above 80% don't want to go on the retreat and by the time the retreat is over, no less than 80% are happy to have gone and would even choose to go again.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS A CONFLICT WITH THE RETREAT (FAMILY OBLIGATION, SPORTS, SCHOOL ACTIVITY)?

Obviously different circumstances result in different answers to this question. Depending on the conflict, I can write a letter to excuse your child from that event or make a phone call if necessary. I recognize that that is not necessarily the case for all events or activities (ex. wedding). Please contact me and I will be happy to figure out a plan for your family and walk you through your options. The sooner you contact me, the better! Any Confirmation Retreat hours missed must be made-up by other activities, events, retreats, etc.

ARE THERE CHANCES TO VOLUNTEER FOR THE RETREAT?

Yes! We have a lot of space at Camp Fatima for any parents who would like to Chaperone and help with either the retreat or the food preparation. Please let me know if you are interested.

WHAT CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS ARE REQUIRED OF ADULTS ATTENDING THE RETREAT?

Each and every adult volunteering on the Confirmation Retreat is required to submit a CORI Background Check, attend a VIRTUS (Protecting God's Children) Training Session, and read and sign a Code of Conduct.

WHAT TYPE OF SAFETY MEASURES ARE PUT IN PLACE?

The ratio of adults to youth is 1:8. Adults chaperones are classified as anyone over the age of 21. When not in the cabins sleeping, youth will always be supervised by adults. In addition, adults are never alone with a child. If an adult is talking to a child one-on-one, they are always be in a public place where they are visible to other adults and teens.

Our parish priests will possibly be joining us for part of the evening on Saturday to administer the sacraments, but will not be staying the night. During the Sacrament of Reconciliation, priests will always be visible to other adults.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH RETREATS?

I attended my first retreat in 6th grade. I didn't know hardly anyone and being the oldest, I hadn't heard anything from my siblings. We rode 2 hours to the middle of the mountains of North Georgia and slept in bunk beds. By the end of the weekend, I left with some friends, some good memories, and a decision that would change my life. At 11 years old, I had unconsciously decided to move forward into my own faith life.

Since then, I've attended over 15 retreats as a participant and volunteered on over 30 retreats. Out of those 30 plus retreats, I've volunteered on 10 Confirmation Retreats. You get the point. I know exactly what it feels like for teens to enter into a retreat. There are a lot of emotions in the room the first night - some are a little uncomfortable, some are nervous, some are a little excited, and some just flat out don't want to be there. By the end of the weekend, a group of acquaintances has bonded into becoming closer friends and an incredible number of high school teens have decided that God is someone they not only need, but want in their lives.

I believe that retreats are an irreplaceable, life changing experience. I am not only excited, but also prepared to see the blessings God pours out this weekend. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. I will be praying for your teenagers as we approach their Confirmation Retreat and hope that you will join me in doing the same.