

Why a retreat?

In our fast-paced society it is easy to lose perspective. The demands of the immediate can push the call to be a disciple of Jesus and the implications of one's Baptism into the background. A retreat, whether for a weekend or a day, can help a Catholic focus on what is important. A retreat provides the opportunity to step back, still the spirit and mind, and dedicate some time to listen to God.

God honors that setting aside of time to focus on Him. He who is faithful does work in the hearts and minds of those who seek Him.

A yearly retreat is an important part of a plan of life that includes reception of the Sacraments and daily prayer. A retreat invigorates and motivates attendees to live a better and fuller Christian life in service to our Lord.



"The laity needs retreats. . . . Do not underestimate the power and thus the spiritual need for an authentic retreat."

Bishop Robert Vasa

The principal reason [for] retreats: "In the fever and agitation of modern life, the need

of meditation and spiritual repose impresses itself on Christian souls who desire to reflect on their eternal destiny, and direct their life in this world towards God."

Catholic Encyclopedia

What retreats does Gilmary offer?

- ◆ Men's retreat for a weekend, two days, or one day
- ◆ Women's retreat for a weekend, two days, or one day
- ◆ Confirmation retreat of one day
- ◆ Altar server retreat for one day that includes two talks and plenty of time for fun including use of swimming pool, athletic facilities, and game room.

What does Gilmary provide for the retreat?

Gilmary provides the retreat director, speakers, lodging, use of facility (see the "What We Offer" section of this brochure), materials, and meals.



What must the parish or cluster provide?

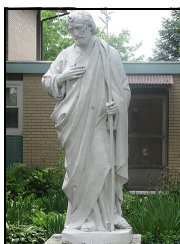


The parish is responsible for providing a priest if Mass and/or Confession will be available on the retreat. (This is recommended.) The parish also will collect all monies and provide one check made to "Maronda Foundation." An insurance certificate and blanket hold-harmless form or individual hold-harmless forms are required.

What is the price?

Price depends on length of stay and meal plan. Prices are as follows (note: Prices are for double occupancy rooms. Private rooms are at an additional charge):

- ◆ Weekend retreat (2 nights lodging, 6 meals, evening snacks, speaker, and materials) - \$132.00 per person
- ◆ Weekend retreat (2 nights lodging, 5 meals, speaker, evening snacks, and materials) - \$116.00 per person
- ◆ Weekend retreat (2 nights lodging, 4 meals, speaker, evening snacks, and materials) - \$105.00 per person
- ◆ Two-day retreat (1 night lodging, 4 meals, evening snack, speaker, and materials) - \$95.00 per person
- ◆ Two-day retreat (1 night lodging, 3 meals, evening snack, speaker, and materials) - \$79.00 per person
- ◆ Two-day retreat (1 night lodging, evening snack, breakfast, lunch, speaker, and materials) - \$74.00 per person
- ◆ One-day retreat (use of facility, 3 meals, speaker, and materials) - \$42.00 per person
- ◆ One-day retreat (use of facility, breakfast, lunch, speaker, and materials) - \$32.00 per person
- ◆ One-day retreat (use of facility, lunch, speaker, and materials) - \$27.00 per person
- ◆ Confirmation retreat (use of facility, breakfast, lunch, speaker, and materials) - \$27.00 per person
- ◆ Confirmation retreat (use of facility, lunch, speaker, and materials) - \$21.00 per person
- ◆ Altar server day at Gilmary (use of facility, breakfast, lunch, and speaker) - \$21.00 per person
- ◆ Altar server day at Gilmary (use of facility, lunch, and speaker) - \$16.00 per person



Is financial help available?

We strive to keep our pricing affordable and we do not turn anyone away because of inability to pay. So, if money is an issue, please call Lilli or Regis to discuss payment.

How do I schedule a retreat?

Call Lilli Wolfe at 412-264-8400 to schedule your retreat. It is best to call well in advance and to have several possible dates for the retreat. Also, provide an estimate of number of attendees. Scheduling is always subject to availability.



How do I advertise the retreat?

Put announcements in your bulletin well in advance. A special flyer inserted in the bulletin is effective. Ask your pastor if an announcement can be made during the time for announcements after Mass. Have a sign-up table at the exits of the Church on a given Sunday. Nothing is more effective than personally inviting individuals to attend. Gilmary can provide specific information about the retreat that you can use in promoting it.

Bio of Regis J. Flaherty, the retreat director

Regis Flaherty is Director of the Gilmary Retreat Center and a best-selling author. He has over 30 years of experience in working with Catholic organizations.



Rege's book credits include *Last Things First*; *Catholic Customs: a Fresh Look at Traditional Practices*; *The How to Book of Catholic Devotions* (co-author and co-editor with Mike Aquilina), *Catholic for a Reason III: Scripture and the Mystery of the Mass* (co-editor with Scott Hahn); *Catholic for a Reason IV: Scripture and the Mystery of Marriage and Family Life* (co-editor with Scott Hahn); and *The World's First Christmas* (co-author and co-editor with Mike Aquilina). He and his wife, Libbie, are contributing authors for *Catholic for a Reason IV: Scripture and the Mystery of Marriage and Family Life*.

His articles have appeared in national and diocesan publications including: *Lay Witness*, *New Covenant*, *Celebrate Life*, *National Catholic Register*, *The Pittsburgh Catholic*, *Catholic Vision*, and *Our Sunday Visitor*. Regis has appeared on several radio and television programs including, EWTN Bookmark, The Abundant Life with Johnnette Benkovic, and Searching the Word with Chuck Neff.

He is a frequent speaker to Catholic gatherings on the topic of lay spirituality and along with his wife, Libbie, has taught pre-marriage and marriage enrichment classes.

Regis is the father of four and grandfather of four.

Testimonial and Endorsement

Our Men's Group recently had a weekend retreat at Gilmary Center. To a man, our group was favorably impressed with our entire experience at Gilmary. Rege does a great job in being responsive to the needs of the group leadership and the group in general. His experience, overall message, and delivery style helped make the weekend memorable long beyond the short time we had together.

The accommodations were very good. The retreatant rooms were conveniently located next to the meeting areas. Retreatants with limited mobility can virtually stay on the same floor with very little walking throughout the entire retreat. The retreatant rooms were nicely furnished and very comfortable. The level of cleanliness at all of Gilmary's facilities was outstanding. Some of the ancillary facilities, such as the game rooms and the basketball court, added a good deal to the overall experience for our guys.

Our experience has always shown that the overall impression of any retreat is heavily influenced by the dining experience. This retreat proved to be no different, and the overall response was very positive. The portions were plentiful and the staff was very accommodating.

As a part of St Athanasius' Men's Retreat Leadership team, I heartily endorse Gilmary Retreat Center as a great place to have a group outing or retreat.

Bill Palamara, St. Athanasius Parish

Quotes from Guests

- ◇ Please convey my sincere thanks to everyone who helped make the Ignatian retreat one of the best I have ever attended. The room was comfortable, the food delicious, and the spiritual rewards incredible. I feel completely and wonderfully transformed. I will never forget the experience.
- ◇ This past weekend I was a retreatant. . . . I want to thank each of you, those in front and behind the scene, for serving like Our Lady. Her presence is truly there—there's no doubt about that.
- ◇ Your service to us is wonderful and your biggest asset is the staff, who do everything they can to assist.
- ◇ It [the retreat] was awesome!
- ◇ Thank you so much! The Gilmary Center was such a blessing to us. The guys are still talking about how good the food was!
- ◇ Your service and hospitality was a tremendous blessing to us. We could not ask for more.
- ◇ [Letter to the Director] Thank you and your staff for your presence at Gilmary. There is such a welcoming spirit evident.
- ◇ Thanks for making our day at Gilmary so pleasant. You can believe we'll be back!

Call Gilmary for pricing on use of our facilities for your next retreat, day of recollection, meal event, conference, or meeting.

What we offer

Meeting rooms and seating capacity:

- ⇒ Dining hall with seating for 161
- ⇒ Mary Hall meeting room (air conditioned) - 250 person capacity
- ⇒ Auditorium that seats 325
- ⇒ Chapel for 220
- ⇒ Conference rooms, meeting rooms, and classrooms that are available for use in the administration building, Mary Hall, and the dorms.

Lodging:

- ⇒ Dorm A/B - 12 rooms with sleeping for 60, 2 private bedrooms, and 1 handicap accessible bedroom
- ⇒ Dorm C/D - 12 rooms with sleeping for 60 and 2 private bedrooms
- ⇒ Mary Hall, upper floor (air conditioned) - 23 semi-private bedrooms, 2 private bedrooms, and a handicap accessible bathroom
- ⇒ Mary Hall, lower floor - 23 semi-private bedrooms

Other amenities:

- ⇒ Indoor heated swimming pool
- ⇒ Gym
- ⇒ Nature trail
- ⇒ Outdoor Stations of the Cross
- ⇒ Library with videos on Catholic topics
- ⇒ Outdoor areas for sports and recreation
- ⇒ Coffeehouse and game room
- ⇒ Speakers for day events or retreats

Call Gilmary at 412-264-8400

or

Email: info@gilmarycenter.org



GILMARY
A Catholic Retreat Center
"In the service of Mary"

GILMARY Retreats and Events for Parishes and Parish Clusters

Your Parish



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Pittsburgh Airport"

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