



Retreat Notes

St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat & Conference Center
The Passionists of Holy Cross Province

2025-2026 Season

May the Passion of Jesus Christ be Always in Our Hearts!

My Dear Friends,

Once again, our preaching team, consisting of Faith Offman, Fr. Johnson, and myself, have met and taken a good deal of time to reflect on a theme for the coming retreat season. We prayed; we carefully thought about the past years' retreat experience; and we asked the Holy Spirit to guide us into a new year that will be meaningful for all who are blessed to attend the retreat weekend at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center. One of the main questions that we pondered is, "What are our retreatants experiencing in their lives as they seek to live out their faith and walk with the Lord day by day?" Not surprisingly, once again, we recognized that there is much happening, both in our Church and in the world, itself, that may cause us to wonder where the Lord is found in all of this! There is chaos at times, and surely confusion, too. Even the most faithful may cry out, "Lord, where are you?" This question reminds us of the apostles' experience in the boat, as found in the Gospel of Mark 4: 37-40:

"A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'"

Our retreat theme this year is entitled, "Navigating Turbulent Waters." The emphasis of our retreat will not be the turbulence. Lord knows there is enough of that! But rather, we will take peaceful, quiet time to think about how to "navigate" the rough waters that we see around us, no matter where they may be found. Jesus is with us through it all and for this we rejoice and give thanks. We certainly look forward to welcoming you once again on retreat to St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center. God bless you all and all your loved ones. And may the Lord fill your hearts with his peace and joy.



Fr. Pat Brennan, CP
Director of Mission and Ministry



Mary Southard, CSJ, Fear Not

Advancing Our Mission

Thank you to our donors who continue to make a difference in the lives of our faithful retreatants and guests. Your generosity is inspiring and essential. For you, we are very grateful!

Planned Giving

At St. Paul of the Cross, we are deeply grateful to the many supporters who have included a gift to us in their will or estate plans. Their commitment reflects a shared belief in the lasting impact of the Passionist retreat ministry - one that continues to bless those who return year after year and will inspire future generations.

We invite you to consider leaving a legacy gift to St. Paul of the Cross through a bequest or by naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan (IRA, 401(k)), life insurance policy, or Donor Advised Fund.

Please consult your financial advisor to explore the planned giving options that best align with your values and goals.

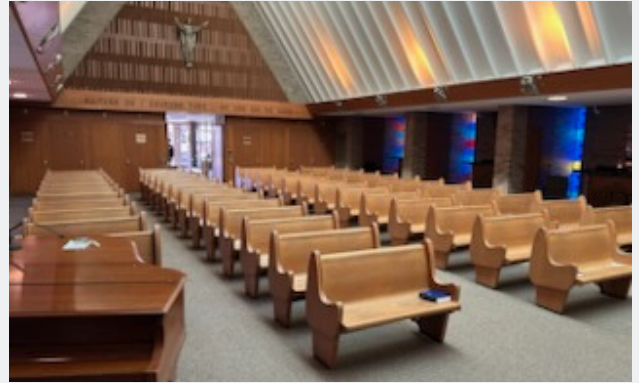


Your Donations at Work!

- We've transitioned to a new, more modern and cost-effective retreatant management system. We hope it will better support retreat captains and improve the overall registration and support experience for all retreatants.
- One of our aging rooftop heating and cooling units has been replaced. While several more are nearing the end of their lifespan, we are setting aside funds to replace them as needed - either when they fail or become too costly to maintain.
- To accommodate more retreatants, we've replaced the roof over the overflow rooms located between the Retreat Center and the Community.
- We continue working to enhance the beauty and openness of our grounds. Our goal is to create a peaceful and serene environment for all who visit.

Without you, this would not have been possible!

Easter Appeal 2025 An Overwhelming Success!



Thanks to the incredible generosity of many of our faithful donors, we have surpassed our \$60,000 renovation goal to replace the carpeting and refinish the pews in our beautiful chapel.

We are now in the planning phase for the pew restoration and carpet replacement and will keep you updated as the project moves forward.

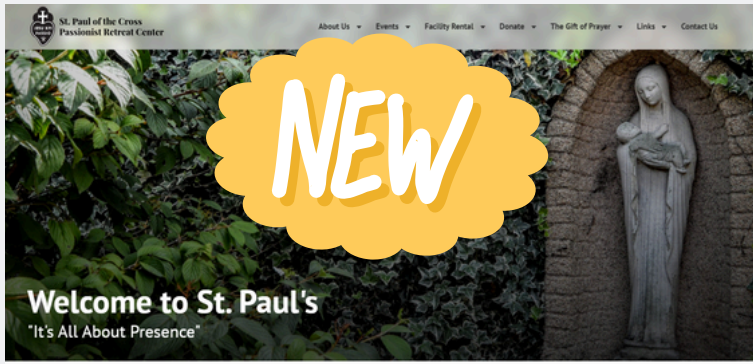
So many of you have shared heartfelt stories about what the chapel means to you and your loved ones. It's deeply moving to know that these cherished memories and connections will continue to be part of our chapel for generations to come.



Please contact Mary Moret (313) 286-2806, mmoret@stpaulretreat.org if you are considering including us in your estate plans or for more information on ways to give.

Midweek Ministries at St. Paul's

What we've been up to...



Our retreat season is well underway!

Join us as we explore the theme "It's All About Presence". To attend one of our Passionist Retreat weekends or weekday events, visit Retreats, or email Christine at ccalle@stpaulretreat.org with questions.

Come, as we explore together at this retreat, the depth and breadth of God's presence - within and among us. Come experience

We're excited to announce our new and improved website is now live! Designed with you in mind, the updated site is faster, easier to navigate, and mobile-friendly, making it simpler than ever to register for retreats, explore what's happening at St. Paul of the Cross, or make donations. Check it out at www.stpaulretreat.org and let us know what you think!

Volunteers are LOVE in Motion!

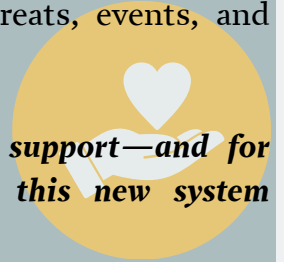
We are so grateful for the incredible volunteers who give their time and energy to keep St. Paul's running smoothly. Whether it's helping with housekeeping as we transition from a weekday group to our weekend retreats, welcoming evening guests at the front desk, or assisting retreatants in the gift shop, your presence and generosity make a real difference. Your service not only supports our day-to-day operations - it reflects the spirit of hospitality at the heart of our mission. Thank you for being such a vital part of our community!

If you're interested in volunteering, we'd love to hear from you! Contact Colleen at cgraveline@stpaulretreat.org or (313) 286-2800.

St. Paul's has made a switch over to a new donation, communication, and event management system, CharityEngine! With this upgrade, making donations and registering for events is now faster, easier, and more secure. While the online donation and event registration forms may look a little different, they're still part of St. Paul of the Cross and safe and secure to use.

In addition to a smoother giving and registration experience, our email communications have also been refreshed—you'll now receive more timely and relevant updates about retreats, events, and news from the retreat center.

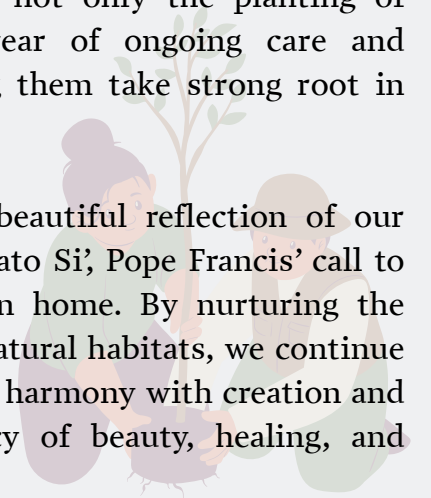
Thank you for your continued support—and for your patience as we navigate this new system together!



The Greening of St. Paul's

We're thrilled to share that The Greening of Detroit will be planting upwards of 100 trees on the grounds of St. Paul's. This exciting partnership includes not only the planting of trees, but also a year of ongoing care and maintenance, helping them take strong root in our landscape.

This initiative is a beautiful reflection of our commitment to Laudato Si', Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. By nurturing the earth and restoring natural habitats, we continue our mission to live in harmony with creation and leave a lasting legacy of beauty, healing, and hope.



Midweek Ministries at St. Paul's

Did you know?

While weekend retreats are a core part of our ministry at St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center, the spirit of hospitality and renewal continues all week long. When the retreat center isn't hosting weekend groups, our halls remain filled with life, learning, and healing.

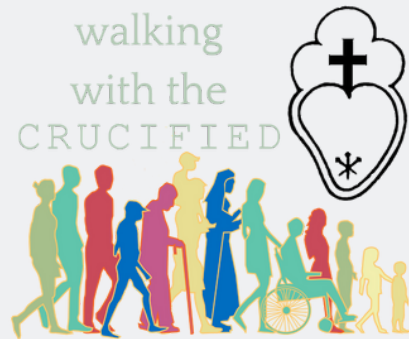
During the weekdays, we welcome a variety of groups from across the Metro Detroit area. High school students come for retreat days and Kairos experiences, encountering God in new and meaningful ways. Parish youth gather for Confirmation retreats, taking time to reflect and prepare for the next step in their faith journey.

Our space also serves the wider community—offering a peaceful environment for prayer groups, 12-step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous, and other organizations seeking a place of quiet and connection.



Whether it's a group of teens discovering their faith, a support group finding strength in community, or a parish staff enjoying a day of reflection—our mission of keeping alive the memory of the Passion is carried forward every day of the week.

You are welcome here! Stop by to browse our gift shop, pray the labyrinth, or visit the chapel.



As part of our 2024 Easter Appeal, St. Paul of the Cross has been collecting donations for members of our Migration Coalition. Thanks to your generosity, we have delivered truck loads of needed goods to area organizations. You are putting the Passionist Charism into action by helping these organizations provide people with the basic supplies they need.



If you would like to donate, whether time, items or money, to these organizations, contact Emily at eshaffer@stpaulretreat.org for more information!

If you're driving by the Center or are coming in for a weekend retreat, your donation is appreciated! It is the perfect opportunity to partake in our Passionist Charism - reaching out with compassion to the Crucified of today.

Be sure to read our emails as it will list the organization and items needed for each month!

2025-2026 Retreat Theme

NAVIGATING Turbulent Waters

Life is often unpredictable - in Scripture, the disciples knew this well: caught in storms, fearing for their lives, questioning their faith. And yet, Jesus was there - calming the sea, reaching out to Peter, inviting them to breakfast on the shore.

Join us for a reflective and restorative retreat where we will explore how to navigate the turbulent waters of our own lives. Together, we will listen deeply to the Holy Spirit's call to hope, peace, and inner stillness.



Laura James, Jesus Calms the Storm, 1995

This retreat offers space to:

- Reflect on the storms you face and where Christ meets you in them
- Discover spiritual anchors through prayer, Scripture, and community
- Cultivate the fruits of the Spirit - peace, patience, faithfulness - amid life's uncertainty
- Reconnect with God's presence and guidance when the waters rise

Come and rest in the One who speaks peace to the storm and calls you to walk by faith.

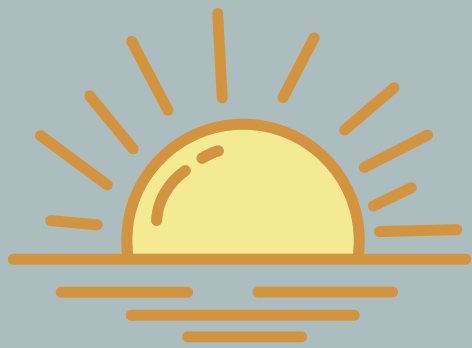
Will you step into the boat?

Retreats are available September through May

Learn more and register at stpaulretreat.org

St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat Center





on the horizon at St. Paul's

We offer more than just weekend retreats!

To register or for more information about our 2025-2026 season,
please call us at (313) 535-9563 or visit our website at stpaulretreat.org.

Encouragement & Fellowship

Mother of Sorrows Grief Retreat

Monday, September 15

Evening of Reflection for Couples

w/Candlelight Dinner

Wednesday, October 8

Ladies Day Out

Wednesday, October 15

Caregiver Appreciation Morning

Monday, November 3

Veteran's Retreat

Tuesday, November 11

Veteran's Retreat

Saturday, April 11

Parish Secretary Day

Friday, April 24

Couples' Mini Retreat & Brunch

Sunday, May 17

Special Celebrations

St. Paul of the Cross Feast Day

Monday, October 20

Solemn Commemoration of the Passion

Friday, February 13

Advent

Advent Day of Reflection

Monday, December 8

Evening of Reflection for Couples

w/Candlelight Dinner

Monday, December 8

Lent

Lenten Day of Reflection

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Evening of Reflection for Couples

w/Candlelight Dinner

Ash Wednesday, February 18

Lenten Ladies Day Out

Wednesday, March 4

Personal Retreats

Couples and individuals are welcome to spend the day, a night, or up to a week here at the Center on a private retreat. We also welcome groups who wish to host their event here at St. Paul's.

Contact Roz at (313) 286-2848 or rsalter@stpaulretreat.org for information about either opportunity.



Detailed flyers can be found in the lobby of the Center and at stpaulretreat.org.
Call us at (313) 535-9563 or find us on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.



St. Paul of the Cross Passionist

Retreat & Conference Center

23333 Schoolcraft

Detroit, MI 48223

Thank you for making a difference!

Our Mission

In the spirit of St. Paul of the Cross and through the love of Christ crucified, we provide a unique, sacred place of hospitality and compassion where all are welcome to experience hope, renewal and the loving presence of God through spiritual retreats and hosted events.

Are you receiving our monthly emails and updates?

Please take a moment and sign up on our website:
stpaulretreat.org



Keep St. Paul's Gift Shop in mind when you are celebrating life's special moments. The gift shop is open during regular business hours (9am – 4pm) and at specific times during our Passionist events. For more information please contact Colleen at cgraveline@stpaulretreat.org or call (313) 535-9563.



May we pray for you?

Visit our website for Perpetual Mass and Prayer League Cards
stpaulretreat.org

Be sure to like us on Facebook and subscribe to our YouTube channel - we post weekly reflections from the Ministry Team that follow along the Sunday readings!

