



2025 ADULT FAITH & LAY FORMATION EVENT

Holy Family

RETREATS & PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, April 12th | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | SS. Peter and Paul, Blue Earth, MN

St. Mary: Behold Your Mother

"[Jesus] said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home."

John 19:26-27

About this Retreat

On this adult faith and lay formation retreat, Catholics will have the opportunity to encounter, ponder, and grow in deeper relationship and devotion to the Most Holy Mother of God, St. Mary. Sacred Scripture reveals multiple, intimate interactions between St. Mary and her son, Jesus, but none are perhaps more so than at Jesus' crucifixion. Here, Mary is at the foot of her son's cross offering Him her motherly compassion during His excruciating passion. In His final moments of earthly life, Jesus gives His mother a directive saying, "Woman, behold your son" (John 19:26). Through this instruction, Mary is entrusted to the care of the Beloved Disciple, but her role in Salvation History is also brought to its culmination and is revealed in its fullness. Jesus has entrusted to Mary, the New Eve, the task of being the mother of all the living. Catholics today refer to her by honorary titles such as "Mother of Hope," "Mother of Mercy," and "Mother of the Church." What can we learn from St. Mary's motherhood and how can we emulate her holiness and virtues in the world through our respective vocations? May Catholics on this retreat be filled with every joy, grace, and consolation from the Lord through the Most Immaculate Heart of St. Mary!

Keynote Speaker: Fr. Jeff Dobbs




My name is Fr. Jeff Dobbs. I am originally from Pipestone, MN. My parents still live in Pipestone. I have two older brothers. I was ordained a priest in 2008. I am pastor of the parishes of St. John Vianney in Fairmont and SS. Peter and Paul in Blue Earth. My previous assignments are: Parochial Vicar at St. Mary's in Worthington; Pastor of St. Gabriel in Fulda, Immaculate Heart of Mary in Currie, and St. Anthony in Westbrook; and Director of Spiritual Life at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona.

Some of my interests are playing sports (tennis, basketball, and golf). I also like to play the drums. I enjoy going to movies and I love movie theatre popcorn. I can somehow finish the large popcorn which is at least a full meal, if not more.

Some of my favorite saints and spiritual writers are St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, and St. John of the Cross. As a priest I really enjoy celebrating Mass, giving spiritual direction and leading retreats. I have led many retreats in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. My hope for those attending this retreat focused on the Blessed Virgin Mary is that they would come to know and experience that Mary desires a personal relationship with them, and that she has been accompanying them their whole life, whether they have recognized it up to this point in time or not.



Retreat Schedule



9:00 a.m.	Mass
9:35 a.m.	Initial Gathering Breakfast Snacks Opening Prayer
9:50 a.m.	Keynote Talk I
10:30 a.m.	BREAK
10:45 a.m.	Small Group Discussion
11:30 a.m.	LUNCH
12:35 p.m.	Keynote Talk II
1:15 p.m.	BREAK
1:30 p.m.	Small Group Discussion
2:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Adoration Confession Closing Prayer
3:00 p.m.	Retreat Concludes

