



THE ART OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE: BUILDING A HOLY HOME

Join us for this free half-day retreat as we enter into the mystery of Nazareth. Encounter practical ways to transform your house into a holy home, sacred ground, a place to profoundly encounter God, a place of joyful service and loving sacrifice, a refuge and respite in the chaos of the world.

St. John Paul II saw that living a moral Christian family life in the current culture would take a heroic effort. He wrote, "The future of the world, and the Church, pass by way of the family." At Paradisus Dei, we have come to see that he did not just mean families in general, but **your** family, **my** family.

The Holy Father called Christian families to model their life on that of the Holy Family at Nazareth. Now more than ever, we need to learn the wisdom and art of authentic Catholic family life to navigate the challenges of the culture. Join us!

**Married and engaged couples:
REGISTER FOR FREE TODAY!**

<https://paradisusdei.ticketleap.com/joilet/>



**MASS WILL BE
CELEBRATED AT
8:00 AM**

SAINT PETRONILLE PARISH

420 Glenwood Ave,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

Saturday

**Date February 24
7:30 AM – 12:45 pm
Parish Life Center**

**MISSIONARIES
TO THE FAMILY**

AN INITIATIVE TO REVITALIZE THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

paradisusdei.org

Keys to Planning a Successful Retreat

Congratulations on the decision to host a half-day retreat at your parish! Our goal of the half-day retreat for married and engaged couples is to grow deeper together and learn how to build a holy household and live out the Spirit of Nazareth.

The following items will help you maximize the success of your retreat.

PREPARE

1. Invite 1-2 other Missionaries to the Family couples to help you set up and provide hospitality.
2. Secure a space that will accommodate a large group for talks and discussion time.
 - a. Inquire about the use of A/V equipment. We will have powerpoint slides and would like the use of a wireless microphone and a lapel mic if possible. (We will work with what is available.)
3. Decide whether you will provide refreshments or a meal (optional). We suggest keeping it simple! Below are some suggestions on ways to cover the cost.
 - a. Propose a good will offering.
 - b. Reach out to the other Missionaries for help providing items or covering costs.
 - c. Enlist the support of the parish.
4. Consider offering childcare. This is optional, but may encourage some couples to attend who could not otherwise attend. (Organized by parish or Missionaries)
5. Invite, Invite, Invite! Use the provided announcements, flyers, and resources.
 - a. We will set up a ticketing page with a link and a QR code for registration, and keep you informed of the registrations coming in.
 - b. Contact and send information to your diocese 6-8 weeks in advance. Ask them to post/promote the retreat every week until the week before it.
 - c. Send the provided announcements to your parish and surrounding parishes.
 - d. We will initially help you inform other missionaries in your area, but encourage all missionaries to promote via word of mouth; this is most impactful!

INVITE COUPLES

Reach out to your surrounding community. Choose a minimum of 3 parishes and invite couples of all ages to attend. Invite 3 times the number you hope to attend. Use the provided posters, flyers, bulletin and pulpit announcements to promote your retreat. Start announcements/registration 8 weeks in advance, close registration 4 days prior. (Last minute add-ons are welcome though!)

Retreat Fundamentals

FORMAT

The retreat can be as simple or complex as you like. You are welcome to have refreshments (simple beverages and food) at the beginning of the retreat. You may also provide lunch at the conclusion of the retreat. It is optional and completely up to you. We do not provide either of these.

Mass can be offered as part of the retreat if it takes place at the beginning, preferably prior to 7:30 am or after 12:45 pm. We will take care of the activities, talks that take place during the retreat, and supporting worksheets.

The retreat will consist of short talks with couple, small group, and large group discussion time. We will offer a couple of short breaks in an effort to best use our short time together.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY THE HOST

1. Adhesive name tags
2. Markers
3. Note-taking paper (optional)
4. Pens (optional)
5. A/V equipment needed for displaying a powerpoint presentation
6. Microphones: 1 lapel for speaker and 1 handheld for large group discussion
7. Refreshments (Optional and provided by the parish or Missionaries)
8. Environment: Table clothes, decorations, music

SUPPORT

Missionaries to the Family Coordinators can discuss parish-specific needs and best practices. If your parish is unique in some way, please reach to us as we may have experienced this before and can guide you through the situation. We will provide you with templates for reminders and updates for attendees.

THE ART OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE

Bulletin | Pulpit Announcements

These are suggestions to get you started. Please make them your own, speak from your heart. Use the liturgical season as a way to inspire people to attend, such as preparing for the birth of our Lord in Advent, or going deeper during a time of self reflection and preparation in Lent.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

The Art of Catholic Family Life

Join us for a transformative half-day retreat at _____ parish!

Date:

Time:

Location: [Parish Location]

Cost: [Cost per couple] (only if offering food)

Register now via [Link]

Or email: [host email]

SAMPLE TEXT OPTIONS:

This special retreat is designed for married and engaged couples, providing a unique opportunity to strengthen your bond and deepen your spiritual connection. Come together to learn how to build a holy home and live out the Spirit of Nazareth in your daily lives. Don't miss this chance to invest in your relationship and grow in faith as a couple. We look forward to seeing you there!

OR

Grow deeper in faith and unity at our half-day retreat for married and engaged couples. Learn to build a holy home and live the Spirit of Nazareth. Join us for this enriching experience!

PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENT - MISSIONARIES COUPLE TOGETHER

Good morning/afternoon, my name is _____ We are Missionaries to the Family here at [your parish name].

We are excited to invite all married and engaged couples to a special half-day retreat titled "The Art of Catholic Family Life." Join us as we delve into the depths of building a holy household and embracing the Spirit of Nazareth in our homes.

This enriching experience is hosted by the Missionaries to the Family of the _____ Diocese(s). The retreat will take place on (Month)(Day) from (start time) to (end time) at (location). The cost is ___ per couple.

Come, grow deeper in faith and unity as a couple! Learn how we can deepen our unity and love within our families, emulating the sacred way in which the Holy Family lived. We look forward to your presence at this event. Please come see us after Mass at the table (in the narthex/outside) to find out more information or to register for the retreat. Thank you.

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THE ART OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE

Preparing the Space

THE DAY BEFORE THE RETREAT

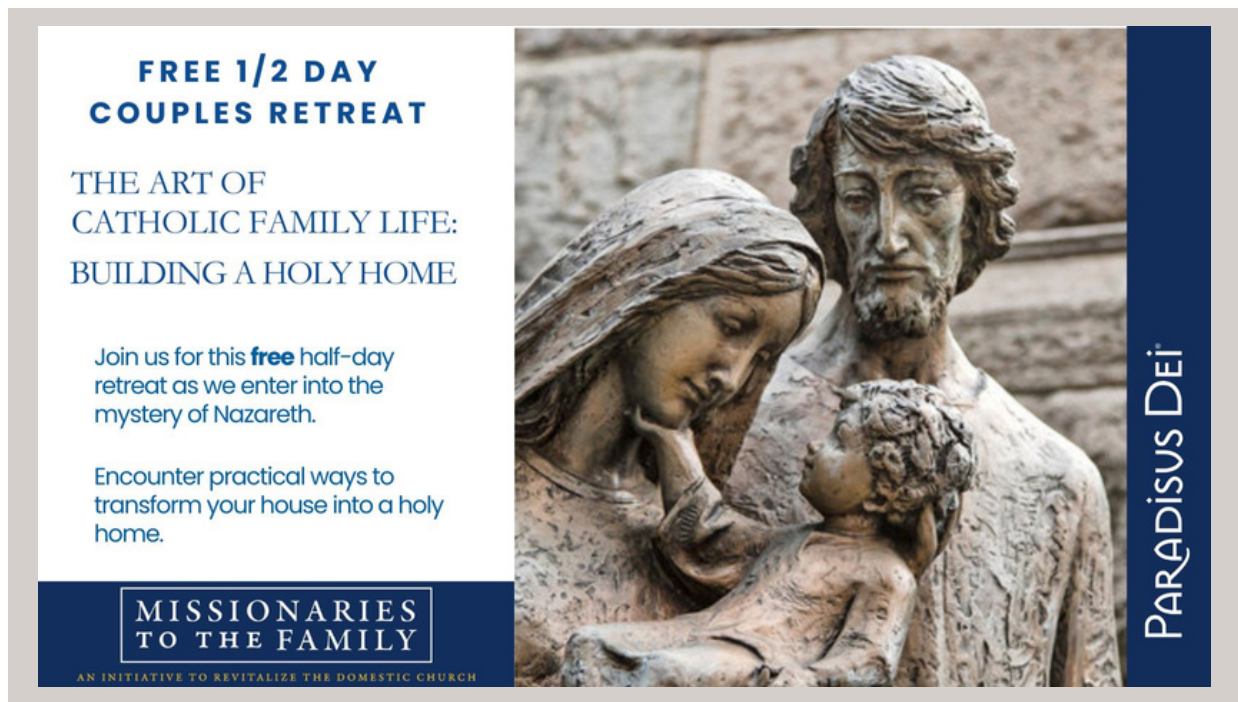
- Visit the parish the day before to set up and ready the space.
 - Get keys or access to the space for the morning.
 - Round tables or long tables with chairs facing the front of the room is best, but we can work with whatever we have.
 - Set up Environment- table clothes, table decor. etc.
 - Small table or podium at the front of the room for a laptop and notes.
 - Have a few extra chairs in the event you have last-minute attendees.
 - Ready microphones (1 lapel, 1 wireless or wired) or other necessary A/V equipment.
 - Screen/ Large TV with the capability to display a powerpoint presentation.
- Set up a registration/greeting area
 - 1 - 6 foot table (we will bring a tablecloth).
 - Roster - We will send your final roster 2 days in advance.
 - Bring adhesive name tags and markers-have the registrants make their own name tags.
 - quiet music as guests arrive

THE DAY OF THE RETREAT

- Arrive 1 hour before the start. We will arrive at this time as well.
- Prepare and set up hospitality if you are planning to provide.
- Familiarize the team with the space and A/V equipment.
- Pray as a team 30 minutes before the start of the retreat.

THE ART OF CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE

Bulletin | Social Media Graphics



**FREE 1/2 DAY
COUPLES RETREAT**

THE ART OF
CATHOLIC FAMILY LIFE:
BUILDING A HOLY HOME

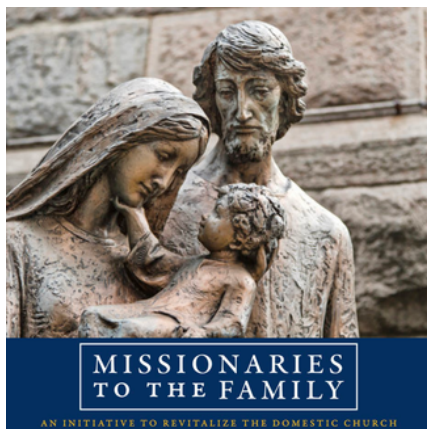
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Facebook Event Image



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Bulletin | Instagram graphic

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