

Welcoming guests and retreatants is something Conception Abbey continues as one of our primary ministries. Many guests tell us that Conception Abbey is a place where they can reconnect their relationship with God and others. We invite you to participate in our upcoming guided retreats.

We assure you that your time with us will be a valuable experience. Our retreat leaders all have powerful messages they are looking forward to sharing with you.

## GUIDED RETREAT OFFERINGS

### Our Father

November 19-21, 2021

*Retreat Leader: Fr. Martin, DeMeulenaere, OSB*

When we pray a commonly used prayer, like the Our Father, we sometimes say the words and don't give a thought to the meaning. In this retreat, we will explore more deeply the meaning of the words especially in light of the fact that it is known as "The Lord's Prayer." Jesus gave it to us as a precious gift and we need to reflect on his words and what they mean.

### Annual New Year's Retreat: Living in the Midst of a Pandemic

December 30, 2021 - January 1, 2022

*Retreat Leaders: Fr. Roger Schmit, OSB & the Abbey Guest Center Staff*

Take some time to reflect on how the COVID-19 Pandemic has affected your life and the lives of those around you. Has this experience drawn you closer to God and others? During this time together, we will look at the lives of various saints who also lived through historical accounts of pandemics. How can we model our love of neighbor and family like these men and women to leave our own historical footprint in the upcoming year?

**Weekend Retreat costs:** \$180 for a private room, \$160 per person for a shared room.

**Hybrid Retreat costs:** \$25 per person

**Calligraphy Retreat costs (includes supplies):** \$200 for 2 nights, \$265 for 3 nights, \$425 for week long.

*If you are not able to afford the costs of any of our retreats, we still invite you to come and participate in the retreat, and pay what you can afford.*

### Listening to the Voice of God

*(a silent retreat)*

January 21-23, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Fr. Paul Sheller, OSB*

Step away for the weekend from the busyness and distractions of your daily life which often can make listening to God challenging. Quiet your mind and heart in order to be attentive to the ways God is speaking to you and is at work in your life. This silent retreat is structured to assist you in deepening your prayer life and fostering an encounter with Jesus Christ. The weekend retreat schedule includes three conferences, Eucharistic Adoration and the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *(in person only)*

### St. Benedict's Repair Kit for Modern Motorists

January 28-30, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Fr. Daniel Petsche, OSB*

Life's journey requires navigation, repair and maintenance, and enough fuel to reach our intended destination. Can you use a tune up? What does the wisdom of St. Benedict have to say about dealing with life's challenges?

### Tours and Day Visits

Come and spend the day at Conception Abbey. We invite you to tour the historic Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and join the monks for Eucharist or for offices of the Liturgy of the Hours, enjoy a meal in the dining room, hike one of the trails to the Marian Grotto, visit the gift shop, or just come for some quiet time.

If you want a guided tour for a group or a meal in the dining hall, please call ahead of time to arrange this.

Contact information for retreats and day visits is listed below.



**CONCEPTION**  
*Living the Benedictine Tradition*  
**ABBAY GUEST CENTER**

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**CONCEPTION**  
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*Retreat Schedule*  
**2021-2022**

## The Old, the Sick, and those of Little Understanding in the Rule of St. Benedict

February 11-13, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Br. Thomas Sullivan, OSB*

Mahatma Gandhi once famously stated: "The true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members." This measure may be taken not only of nations but of monastic rules as well. Our study of "The Old, the Sick, and those of Little Understanding in the Rule of Benedict" provides us with a "true measure" of how any society, including contemporary societies, could and should act toward its vulnerable members.

## The Love of the Father: Our Identity as Sons and Daughters

February 18-20, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Fr. Etienne Huard, OSB*

In Jesus Christ we have been adopted as sons and daughters of a loving Father. However, our earthly experiences often damage that recognition and so we operate out of a sense of orphanhood, blind to the Father's unconditional love. We will explore together how the Father sees you, how you can learn to see the Father, and how to grow in adopted sonship and daughterhood.

## Are You Stable?

February 25-27, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Br. Cyprian Langlois, OSB*

Reflections on the Benedictine vow of stability as rootedness, steadfastness, faithfulness, and perseverance in our daily life as Christians. It's not just for Monks!

## Calligraphy: Preparatory Retreat

March 18-20, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

Preparatory retreat for weeklong advanced retreat in May. Continuation of *Lectio Divina* practice and introduction to the Italic style of lettering. Friday evening through Sunday noon. *(in person only)*

*Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat*

## Stop, Look, and Listen: Benedictine and Christian Watchwords

March 25-27, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Br. Cyprian Langlois, OSB*

Reflections on how to stop, as resting in the Lord; to look, as sharpening our faith-vision; to listen, as fine tuning our faith-hearing in our daily lives. See how to practice mindfulness and awareness of God's presence.

## Triduum Retreat: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday

April 14-17, 2022

Join our monastic and seminary community for the most sacred holy days of the year. Rich liturgies, daily retreat talks, a Seder meal, time for silence and a joyous Easter Vigil celebration will all be part of these days at the Abbey.

## Calligraphy: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat

May 27-30, 2022 (Memorial Day Weekend)

*Retreat Leader: Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

Introduction to the use of calligraphy as a means of *Lectio Divina*. Daily *Lectio* sessions. Throughout the weekend the retreatants will learn the Foundational hand (based on 10th century Carolingian script) using a felt-tipped calligraphy marker. Friday evening through Monday noon. *(in person only)*

## Calligraphy Advance: Bible Scripts (advanced)

May 30 - June 4, 2022 (Memorial Day Week)

*Retreat Leader: Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

Italic Chancery Cursive (*cancellaresca corsiva*) lettering and related illuminated letters. Daily *Lectio Divina* sessions. The week will focus on the Italic minuscules and capitals used in bibles during the Renaissance period. Monday evening through Saturday noon. *(in person only)*

*Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat, Calligraphy Preparatory Retreat*

## Hispanic Retreat: Come to the Father's House and Let Us Be Fed by Christ!

June 10-12, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Fr. Roger Schmit, OSB & Maité Rodriguez*

This retreat will focus on the Celebration of the Eucharist. We will dive into the Mystery of the Eucharist to study it as a sacrificial meal and a source of intimacy with the Risen Christ and with each other. We will have the opportunity for *Lectio Divina*, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Retiro Hispano: ¡Ven a la casa del Padre y seamos alimentados por Cristo!

10 al 12 de junio de 2021

*Lideres del Retiro: Padre Rogelio Schmit, OSB & Maité Rodriguez*

Este retiro se enfocará en la Celebración de la Eucaristía. Nos sumergiremos en el Misterio de la Eucaristía para estudiarlo como sacrificio y fuente de intimidad con Cristo Resucitado y los demás. Tendremos tiempo para practicar la *Lectio Divina*, la Adoración Eucarística y el Sacramento de la Reconciliación.

## Annual Family Retreat: Living Life with the Saints

June 25-26, 2022

*Retreat Leaders: Abbey Guest Center staff & monks*

How can we model our family life after that of the saints? Come for a fun-filled family get away with lots of family activities and time with members of the monastic community.

## Calligraphy: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat

September 2-5, 2022 (Labor Day Weekend)

*Retreat Leader: Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

Introduction to the use of calligraphy as a means of *Lectio Divina*. Daily *Lectio* sessions. Throughout the weekend the retreatants will learn the Foundational hand (based on 10th century Carolingian script) using a felt-tipped calligraphy marker. Friday evening through Monday noon. *(in person only)*

## Calligraphy: Follow-up Retreat

November 11-13, 2022

*Retreat Leader: Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

Continuation of daily *Lectio Divina* practice. Beginners are introduced to the use of ink pens. Friday evening through Sunday noon. *(in person only)*

*Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat*

### Hybrid Retreat Offerings

As the Abbey Guest Center continues to safely welcome guests to Conception, we invite you to attend one of our retreats, either in person or virtually. Many retreats in this brochure, excluding silent retreats and calligraphy retreats, will be offered in this hybrid option. Learn more by visiting [www.conceptionabbey.org/guests](http://www.conceptionabbey.org/guests) or by emailing [guests@conception.edu](mailto:guests@conception.edu).