

# Let all guests be welcomed as Christ *The Rule of St. Benedict*

Welcoming guests has long been a vital ministry of Conception Abbey. St. Benedict tells us that "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: *I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 53)*"

Nestled in the rolling hills of northwest Missouri, the Conception Abbey Guest Center welcomes guests of all faiths to our monastic setting for spiritual renewal at our full-service retreat center.

The prayerful rhythm and setting of Conception Abbey provides a perfect environment to get away and spend days in quiet prayer and reflection.

\*Our retreats highlight *Lectio Divina*, a revived ancient monastic prayer practice of reading and reflecting on sacred texts.

## FALL 2019 RETREAT OFFERINGS

### November

**November 15-17, 2019**

**Calligraphy: Follow-up Retreat**

Retreatants will continue the daily prayer practice of *Lectio Divina*\* by lettering the words of Sacred Scripture from the daily Eucharist readings. In an atmosphere of prayerful quiet, participants will learn to use ink pens to letter the basic foundational hand they learned in the beginners retreat. Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat. *Led by Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

**November 22-24, 2019**

**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

How can we experience the intimacy, joy and peace of being reconciled with God? Spend the weekend embracing the words of Jesus. Come to know that Jesus can reestablish what we might have lost in our relationship with Jesus the Christ and with others. Retreatants will have the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Led by Fr. Roger Schmit, OSB*

### December

**December 5, 2019**

**Advent Day of Reflection: He Came into the World**

Spend the day reflecting on the real reason we celebrate Christmas. The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and breakfast treats, followed by a reflective talk, private prayer time, Eucharist, lunch and a final reflection session. *Led by Fr. Roger Schmit, OSB, and Abbey Guest Center Staff.*

**December 30, 2019 — January 1, 2020**

**Annual New Year's Retreat: Making Sense of Our Crazy but Precious World**

Explore through the eyes of St. Benedict, Pope Francis and others, the many ways Jesus said he would be with us in the midst of our world. From the insights of holy women and men down through the centuries, we can gain the help to see and apply the wisdom of the Gospel to our personal and global world. The goal of the retreat will be to find practical ways of naming and celebrating the goodness of God's love in our human experience, thus making a difference for us and those around us. *Led by Fr. Daniel Petsche, OSB*



**Tours** are available. To schedule a group tour, please be sure to contact us in advance, [guests@conception.edu](mailto:guests@conception.edu) or (660) 944-2809.

**Meals:** Guests are welcome to join us for meals. Please let us know in advance if you plan to eat with us so we can be sure to provide enough food.

**Contact us** for more information or to make a reservation.

## Retreat Schedule 2019-2020



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

37174 State Hwy VV | Conception, Mo.  
(660) 944-2809 | [guests@conception.edu](mailto:guests@conception.edu)  
[conceptionabbey.org/guests](http://conceptionabbey.org/guests)



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

# 2020 Retreat Schedule

Plan your visit at [conceptionabbey.org/guests](http://conceptionabbey.org/guests)

## January

**January 10-12, 2020**

### **The Promise of Faith**

From creation to Abraham, we will explore the beginning of the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures). These books will help you navigate the complexity of its tradition, and the impact on believing in the one God. You will learn to read these books with confidence and gain new insights for personal growth. *Led by Fr. Etienne Huard, OSB*

**January 17-19, 2020**

### **Encountering God's Mercy (A Silent Retreat)**

Explore the healing power of the mercy of God as recounted in the Gospel. You will be instructed in the practices of meditation and *Lectio Divina* and encouraged to spend time in prayer reflecting on where Jesus extends his mercy. This retreat will challenge you to place yourself in an environment of silence so as to listen to God's voice. There will be the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration and celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Led by Fr. Paul Sheller, OSB*

**January 24-26, 2020**

### **Catholic Ritual: Collective, Formal, Performative, Formative, Transformative**

Reflections and analysis of the treasure of our Catholic ritual tradition as based in Community, as formal rites that teach us and form us, and ultimately transform us, in our Catholic faith. *Led by Br. Cyprian Langlois, OSB*

## February

**February 14-16, 2020**

### **The Spirituality of Imperfection**

We are born into this world completely innocent, but as we grow up we find that we are not perfect. We make mistakes; we discover we are imperfect creatures. If we can claim our imperfections, we can see that they can lead us into a deeper relationship with God, the source of all healing and hope. *Led by Fr. Martin DeMeulanaere, OSB*

**February 21-23, 2020**

### **Are You Grounded? The Benedictine Value of Humility**

Reflections on the Benedictine value of humility as a way to understand what humility and meekness really are. Humility opens the doors to the hearts of others and to the heart of God. *Led by Br. Cyprian Langlois, OSB*

## March

**March 5, 2020**

### **Lenten Day of Reflection:**

*Sacrament of Reconciliation*

How can we experience the intimacy, joy, and peace of being reconciled with God? The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with coffee and breakfast, followed by a reflective talk, private prayer time, Eucharist, lunch, a final reflection session, and an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. *Led by Fr. Roger Schmit, OSB*

**March 20-22, 2020**

### **Lenten Retreat Weekend: The Easter Vigil's Exultet**

The Exultet is one of the most evocative and poetic hymns of praise in the liturgy, giving thanks and praise for God's saving activity through both night and light. We will read this Easter Proclamation together prayerfully. *Led by Br. Thomas Sullivan, OSB*

**March 27-29, 2020**

### **Calligraphy: Preparatory Retreat**

Retreatants will continue the daily prayer practice of *Lectio Divina* by lettering the words of Sacred Scripture from the daily Eucharist readings. In an atmosphere of prayerful quiet, participants will be introduced to the Italic style of lettering. Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat. *Led by Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

## April

**April 4-5, 2020**

### **Abbey Guest Center Annual RCIA Retreat**

Over the Palm Sunday weekend, catechumens and their sponsors, along with other interested guests, will participate in a retreat centered on the foundations of a sacramental life. This includes retreat talks and a candle light service as part of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sunday morning *Lectio Divina*, a Palm Sunday procession, and Eucharist with the monks of Conception Abbey. *Led by Abbey Guest Center Staff, monks and seminarians.*

**April 9-12, 2020**

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

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.

## May

**May 22-25, 2020 (Memorial Day Weekend)**

### **Calligraphy: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat**

Introduction to the use of calligraphy as a means of *Lectio Divina* (Sacred Reading). Using the prayer practice of *Lectio Divina* participants will be lettering the words of Sacred Scripture from the daily Eucharist readings. In an atmosphere of prayerful quiet, you will learn the Foundational hand using a felt-tipped calligraphy marker. *Led by Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

**May 25-30, 2020**

### **Calligraphy Advance: Bible Scripts (advanced)**

In an atmosphere of prayerful quiet, you will learn the Italic Chancery Cursive lettering and related illuminated letters. Daily *Lectio Divina* sessions will provide time to reflect upon the Sacred Scripture text of each day by meditating on the words of the text. The week will focus on the Italic minuscules and capitals used in Bibles during the period of the Renaissance. Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat and Calligraphy Preparatory Retreat. *Led by Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

## June

**June 13-14, 2020**

### **Annual Family Retreat: Called to be Saints**

Spend 24 hours with your family in an atmosphere of faith, fun and family time. Faith-filled sessions about Catholic saints, spiritual arts and craft projects, a scavenger hunt, daily prayers with the monks, and a sing-along with the monastic band. *Led by the Abbey Guest Center Staff and the monks of Conception Abbey.*

## September

**September 4-7, 2020 (Labor Day Weekend)**

### **Calligraphy: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat**

Introduction to the use of calligraphy as a means of *Lectio Divina* (Sacred Reading). Using the prayer practice of *Lectio Divina* participants will be lettering the words of Sacred Scripture from the daily Eucharist readings. In an atmosphere of prayerful quiet, you will learn the Foundational hand using a felt-tipped calligraphy marker. *Led by Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*

## November

**November 13-15, 2020**

### **Calligraphy: Follow-up Retreat**

Retreatants will continue the daily prayer practice of *Lectio Divina* by lettering the words of Sacred Scripture from the daily Eucharist readings. In an atmosphere of prayerful quiet, participants will learn to use ink pens to letter the basic foundational hand they learned in the beginners retreat. Prerequisite: Lettering the Word Beginner's Retreat. *Led by Br. Michael Marcotte, OSB*