



Registration for the 2025 Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont is now open!

Retreat Theme: Rooted in Love – Fostering a Christian Community

[Click here](#) for the Registration Form

Dear St. Thomas' Parishioner,

We invite you to register now for the **2025 Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont** taking place **Friday, September 26 to Sunday, September 28.**

Set in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in Orkney Springs, Virginia, **Shrine Mont** is a conference center and the Cathedral Shrine for the Diocese of Virginia. Known as “a place apart” it is a special spot to gather together, relax and reconnect. If you have not attended a St. Thomas' parish retreat, we hope you will come experience Shrine Mont this fall!

Registration begins May 4 and if you **sign up by June 1**, you will automatically be enrolled in the **Early Bird Raffle**. The first name drawn wins one free adult registration fee! The second name drawn wins a \$50 gift card from the Shrine Mont Gift Shop! **SPACE IS LIMITED TO 90 PEOPLE** so please complete your registration form and send in your non-refundable deposit of \$25 per person, to confirm your spot.

Please read the rest of this letter carefully as it is chockfull of important information including details about cost, payment options, scholarships and our refund policy.

Timing & Meals

Check-in begins at 4:00 p.m. Friday, and check-out is after lunch on Sunday. Meals are included in the retreat fee starting with dinner on Friday and ending with lunch on Sunday.

Cost

The committee works hard every year to provide discounted rates to attend. Our fees for room and board are discounted from the actual costs. Despite Shrine Mont's increased rates this year for room and board, we have not increased the retreat fees:

Kids 4-13 = \$60 (actual Shrine Mont cost = \$131)

Teens 14-18 = \$110 (actual Shrine Mont cost = \$192, billed as adults)

Adults 19 and older = \$170 (actual Shrine Mont cost = \$192)

These discounts, as well as any activity fees, are funded by the St. Thomas' Shrine Mont budget - your pledge dollars at work!

Early Bird Registration Raffle

Complete your registration and submit your non-refundable per-person deposit of \$25 by June 1. For each deposit submitted, you will automatically receive one raffle entry. The first drawn winner will receive one complimentary adult registration fee! The second name drawn will receive a \$50 gift card to the Shrine Mont Gift Shop. The raffle will be drawn on June 1 at church. Get your registration and deposit submitted soon to be entered to win!

Scholarships

Scholarships are available through our **Share the Shrine Fund**. Scholarships are given in the amount of \$50 per attendee with a maximum of four per family. The scholarship deadline is **July 6**. We will let you know mid-July the amount you have been awarded. If you'd like to contribute to Share the Shrine, look for the donation line on the registration form. Every little bit helps support all who want to experience the joy of being part of the Shrine Mont retreat!

Registration and Non Refundable Deposit

There are 2 options for registration: (1) fill out the registration form and pay online or (2) you can print and fill out the form and return it with your deposit check (please include Parish Retreat on the memo line) to the Church office. The link will be on the Shrine Mont retreat website as well as listed in the weekly e comm. Don't forget to pay your **non-refundable deposit of \$25 per person** – we can't register you without it!! If, unfortunately, you have to change your plans and can't attend, your deposit is not returned, but is used to help cover our attendance commitment to Shrine Mont.

Payment and Refunds

You may pay your fees in installments by check sent to the Office or put in the offering plate (again, "Parish Retreat" on the memo line), or pay online using the "Donate Now" button on the Church website (don't forget to add Shrine Mont Retreat in the "Write a Note" section). **All fees are due by September 14th.**

If you have to cancel your plans to attend the retreat, please notify Spencer by e-mail (ballou5@verizon.net) as soon as possible after your plans change, but by no later than September 14th. Remember, we will not refund your registration deposit but *will* refund any amount paid over that amount as of that date.

We hope you will join us for this special weekend of fellowship and fun!!

Sincerely,

Anne Chamberlain

St. Thomas' Parish Retreat Committee: Spencer Ballou, Arlen Bolstad, Matt Bryant, Anne Chamberlain, Katie Cosby, Theresa Faina, Dave Gau, Herbert Jones, Kate Parthemos, and Sarah Sherman