

What people say about Covenant

It helped me understand more about God's love and now I feel I can better teach my kids about God and His Word.

I learned a lot. I loved the entire day.

The stained glass tour was great. I never took the time to look at them much less think about them in light of scripture.

I really didn't want to come, but I feel that my eyes have been opened. I want to learn more.

Covenant is a retreat geared toward parents preparing a child for a sacrament and couples preparing to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage. The retreat is open to all adults who wish to reflect on the love of the Lord and their response.



St. Francis de Sales Mission Statement

We, the people of St. Francis de Sales Church, are a pilgrim people, a people on a journey. We struggle to live out the gospel in the context of our parish and our community while we travel together the path to the kingdom of God.

We respect the beliefs and traditions of other Christian churches, and we strive to cooperate with them in serving those in our community.

We are to be a people of hospitality toward vacationers, college students and seasonal laborers, making special effort to help them feel welcome among us.

We believe the various cultures within our community are gifts from God, and rather than assimilate them, we seek to be enriched by them. We accept one another and our different backgrounds while at the same time recognizing we are indeed a common Christian family.

Whether cooperating with other Christian churches of the community of Holland, welcoming visitors and seasonal laborers, or accepting one another within our own parish community, we seek the unity that God wills, for we share "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all, and works through all, and is in all." (Ephesians 4: 5-6)

Covenant

2016-2017

*Our Relationship with God and
His Church*

*Offered multiple times a year on
Saturdays from 8:45 to 3:30 pm.
Any adult is welcome to participate.*

Contact Information

Website: www.stfrancholland.org/covenant

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Phone: 616-392-6700



St. Francis de Sales Parish
Holland, Michigan

Our diversity reflects the richness of our
Creator.

About our Covenant Retreat

Covenant is a day retreat focused on reaffirming God's love for us and exploring how we respond to His love as disciples. It's an opportunity to reflect on how you are living as a disciple of Jesus Christ and how you are being called to come to better know, love, and serve Him.

Being a disciple means living our lives for Christ. It's about talking to and being open to Christ through prayer. It's about worshiping him and being strengthened in community. It's about understanding that we need God and His Church to be truly fulfilled. It's about allowing Christ to work through our lives.

The retreat includes scripture, prayer, videos, witnesses, small & large group discussion, a scriptural tour of our stain glass windows, and a shared meal. Each attendee will be able to participate at their comfort level. We encourage attendees to be open to the presence of the Lord throughout the day.

No matter if this is the first retreat you've attended or the one of many, there's something for everyone.

Schedule Overview

8:30 a.m.	Hospitality and Sign-in
8:45 a.m.	Opening Prayer
9:00 a.m.	Sessions—God's Love for Us: Understanding the Covenant
11:45 a.m.	Lunch (provided, donations welcome)
12:30 p.m.	Sessions—Our Love for God: Responding to God's Covenant
2:30 p.m.	End

Who Can/Should Attend?

Although certain groups of parishioners are required to attend as part of their sacramental or Quinceañera preparation, all new parishioners are encouraged to attend. It is our hope that over time, this program will reach all parishioners.

Parishioners preparing for the celebrations listed below are required to attend the Covenant Program.

- * Baptism (Parents, if child is being baptized)
- * First Communion
- * Quinceañeras (Parents of teens celebrating)
- * Marriage
- * Adult Confirmation

What if I have attended the program previously?

The Covenant Program is designed to be a "one-time experience". Therefore, when parents have attended in preparation for marriage, they do not need to attend again in preparation for their first child's Baptism. Or after they have attended for their first child's First Communion, they do not need to attend again for younger children. They are welcome to do so if they wish.

The Covenant Program is unique to St. Francis therefore parishioners having attended other retreat experiences at another parish would still need to participate in this program as required by the above celebrations.



Registration

We ask that you **register one week prior** to the program by completing our registration form online at www.stfranchisholland.org/node/887 or by calling the parish office at 392-6700. Registration will help us plan for food, childcare and supplies.

Schedule for 2016-2017

Feel free to attend the one of your choice. All covenant retreats are on Saturdays from 8:45 am – 3:00 pm.

July 16, 2016

October 15, 2016

January 28, 2017

March 18, 2017

May 20, 2017

July 15, 2017

October 21, 2017

Programs will be offered in English and Spanish at the same time.

