

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.



Covenant

2018

Our Relationship with God and
His Church

*Offered multiple times a year on
Saturdays from 8:45 to 3:00 pm.
Any adult is welcome to participate.*

Contact Information

Website: www.stfrancisholland.org/covenant

Email: ealba@stfrancisholland.org

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, and supplies.

Childcare available upon request.

Schedule for 2018-19

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

March 17, 2018

May 19, 2018

July 21, 2018

October 20, 2018

March 16, 2019

May 18, 2019

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

