

GUEST INFORMATION

“Let all guests be welcomed as Christ.”
THE RULE OF ST. BENEDICT



As you begin your stay...

We extend our Christian welcome to all, Catholic or not, who seek God in a place of silence and solitude. To help provide a place of tranquility and holy order, we provide the following information for our guests.



Silence: It is in silence that the soul hears the voice of God. We live as much as possible in a spirit of seeking God in silence and in fraternal charity. In that spirit, we encourage all guests to enter into a spirit of deep silence and listening while at the retreat house and to respect the silence of others. The chapel is a place of strict silence. Also, the time following Compline (Night Prayer) until after Mass in the morning is a time of a deeper level of silence for both the staff and guests. A guestmaster will be available to help guests with information, as needed.



Mass: We have daily Mass at 8:00 a.m. in Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel in the community building. In the absence of a priest, we celebrate a weekday Liturgy of the Word and pray the Rosary in community. The Sunday Mass is celebrated at our local mission church, Our Lady of Swan Valley.

Eucharistic Adoration: Retreatants are encouraged to spend time in Eucharistic Adoration in Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel in the community building.

Liturgy of the Hours: Guests are welcome to join us to pray the Liturgy of the Hours in the chapel at 7:00 a.m. (Matins) and 5:30 p.m. (Vespers).



Transportation: The Sycamore Tree is located 66 miles from the Kalispell, Montana airport (FCA) and 132 miles from the Missoula, Montana airport (MSO). If you require ground transportation, special arrangements can be made with our volunteer staff.

Please Note: Google Mapping shows an incorrect location for The Sycamore Tree address. Please use the MAP button on the VISIT US page of the website for a PDF map and directions.

Road Conditions: The Sycamore Tree is located on a graded dirt Forest Service road. Check road conditions before traveling the road in winter.

Cell Phone Service: Please note that cell phone service is not available in most of the Swan Valley. Plan to make any necessary phone calls before you leave Bigfork (north end of valley) or Seeley Lake (south end of valley) and enter the Swan Valley.



Parking: To maintain an atmosphere of silence and solitude for all, we ask guests to park in the parking area outside the gate unless they have mobility limitations. Loading and unloading is permitted at the cabins. In winter conditions, vehicle access to the cabins may be limited.

Upon Arrival: Guests are asked to arrive between 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m., if possible. Please see the site map at the gate and come to the community building. A staff member or volunteer will welcome you with a brief orientation tour and cabin assignment.



Meals: Whenever possible, we suggest that guests bring their own food and prepare their meals in their cabins. If preferred, we are glad to accommodate those who would like their meals prepared and served in the community building. Please let us know your preference when you make your reservation.

Phone Service: The retreat cabins do not have telephones, internet service, or any electronics. If you should need to make or receive a phone call during your stay, you are welcome to use the phone in the community building kitchen. (406) 754-2429.

Internet Access: Wireless internet service is available in the community building; service can be unreliable. However, we encourage guests to “unplug” and enter into silence while on retreat.

Community Building Services: The community building houses the following:

Our Lady of the Annunciation Chapel – Available all hours.

Assembly Room – A gathering room used for small conferences, immediately adjoining the chapel.

Discipleship Bookshop - A small but well-stocked Catholic bookshop where spiritual books, icons and other religious articles can be purchased.

Library - A small library for guests’ use while at The Sycamore Tree.

Laundry - Laundry facilities are available.

Kitchen/Dining Room – Meals are available for those who have made prior arrangements.

Pets: The Sycamore Tree is not able to accommodate pets.

No Smoking, please: The Sycamore Tree is a tobacco-free facility.

Guest Information Booklets: A guest booklet with this information and more is available in each cabin.



Terrain: We are located in the foothills of the Swan Range and Mission Mountains on 32 acres of private land adjoining thousands of acres of National Forest Service land in which to roam and ponder. We are at an elevation of about 3500 feet. Note: you will not find a sycamore tree (*platanus occidentalis*) in these woods. The forest trees include fir, pine, aspen, larch, spruce, and birch sheltering beautiful native wildflowers.



Hiking: You may choose to explore the surrounding forest on miles of logging roads in the area. This is black bear and grizzly bear country so we recommend that you carry and know how to use bear spray. We have some spray available for guest’s use. This is also mosquito country, so be prepared with insect repellent, long-sleeved shirts and pants; spray is available for guests.

What to bring for a retreat: Bring your Bible, a journal, some spiritual reading and even your own pillow, if you like. Weather can be variable. Evenings may be cool, even in the summer months. So, you will want to bring a jacket, hat and clothes to layer. Sturdy shoes are recommended, especially if you plan to do any hiking. The cabins are equipped with propane heaters.



At the end of your stay...

Housekeeping: In order to keep retreat center costs low for all, before leaving please strip your bed and gather sheets and towels into a pillowcase and leave the bundle by the door. Please empty the refrigerator and gather the trash and leave it near the linens for pickup. We ask all able-bodied guests to clean and leave their cabin ready for the next guest.



Please leave your envelope in the "alms dish" on the assembly room table in the community building or on the table in your cabin. Thank you for your kind support, and please include us in your prayers.

Sign the guestbook: Please sign the guestbook located outside the door of the assembly room in the community building (under the icon of Our Lady). We would be glad to have your address, phone number, and email address. We pray for our retreatants and benefactors daily.

God bless you until we meet again!



*Peace is the tranquility of order.
St. Augustine*