

RENEWAL FAQ

.1. What is Renewal?

Renewal is a great way of becoming connected with fellow parishioners. It is a process by which one can experience “Church” through the power of scripture and commitment of fellow parishioners. Renewal is in the parish, of the parish and for the parish. It is just 36 short hours to commit to yourself.

2. What is Renewal not?

Renewal is not a silent retreat, but you will have an opportunity to reflect. Renewal is not an organization, but a dynamic faith-based program centered on Christ.

3. What happens during the weekend?

Most who have participated in the weekend experience say that “you can’t explain what happens; you have to experience it.” This is your invitation to that “experience”. It will include some prayer together, table and group discussions and reflections by team members.

4. Where does Renewal take place?

The Renewal Weekend takes place on the premises of Assumption Parish. Arrival and check in at 8:00 AM on Saturday morning in the Parish Center. Hot meals, snacks and beverages are provided throughout the day. Sleeping arrangements are in the parish center as well – we provide inflatable twin mattresses, but you are welcome to bring whatever you need to be comfortable. You are also welcome to leave to sleep at home but we strongly encourage you to be sure to come back early the next morning to finish the retreat – it gets even better as it goes on! The retreat continues Sunday ending about 4:00 PM—36 hours to give to yourself and to God.

5. When is the next Women’s or Men’s Renewal Weekend taking place?

Retreat announcements can be found in the weekly bulletin and on the Resource section of the Parish website with information on how to sign up.

6. Who conducts the weekend?

A team of around 10 participants from the previous Renewal Weekend prepare the weekend during a 12 week formation period. The experience includes special contributions that each team member makes. The combination makes a very enjoyable weekend.

7. Who may participate?

Every member of the parish is invited to attend. Men and women participate on different weekends. You must be 18 years old to attend.

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8. What about weekend mass?

There will be a special private mass for those attending the weekend.

9. What if I have special dietary needs?

Special dietary needs can be accommodated. Please tell us when you register, and a team member will contact you to make sure we accommodate your needs.

10. How do I dress for the weekend?

Casual and comfortable clothing is the norm. "Sunday best" is not expected.

11. How much does the weekend cost? Can I afford it?

Absolutely YES! The Renewal Weekend is a gift from the parish community and free to all who attend. You may, however, make a donation should you be so inspired. The average cost to the parish is approximately \$75 per participant.

12. I would like to attend, but I have a health condition.

Your health condition should be discussed with one of the retreat leaders. A recommendation will then be made.

13. I don't like to get up and talk in front of people.

No one is required to get up and speak. No pressure will be applied even if others do decide to speak.

14. How do I know I will fit in?

Don't worry about any preconceived reluctance to participate. Every participant arrives at the retreat with a different perspective and unique understanding of who God is depending on where they are on their spiritual journey. Everything is based on Sacred Scriptures, Church teaching and approved by the Church. The uniqueness of the Christ Renews His Parish renewal program is its continuation.

15. What about emergency contacts?

An emergency number will be given to you before the weekend which will be answered by one of the weekend team members. Also, you will provide the team with an emergency contact number when you register.

16. Is there an opportunity to continue building my faith with others after the retreat?

Yes, if you choose to do so. Some participants wish to continue building their faith together after the retreat and are given the chance to meet regularly every 2-3 weeks with fellow retreat participants in order to grow in their faith while sharing their lives. This is an optional extension of the Renewal retreat.