

HSM Retreat FAQs

How much is it?

\$75 plus a Case of Pop or Gatorade (not Water – that's provided) and a Dessert or Snack to Share

How do I register and pay?

You can find registration forms in the Saint Raphael Parish Office, in the Gathering Area of the Church, or online at <http://www.saintraphaelparish.com/hsm/retreat>. Forms can be filled out online or returned to Zak in person or in the office with a check or cash.

Do you accept donations?

Heck yeah! And God bless you for it! Our policy is that no one is turned away from retreats for their inability to pay, so your donations are incredibly helpful!

What does the cost include?

Three days and two nights at St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center, the official Retreat T-Shirt, meals, and all retreat materials

Can I bring snacks?

Yes! Everyone is requested/required to bring a case of pop/Gatorade and a dessert to share, plus you're welcome to bring any other snacks you want! That said, the rules of the retreat center prohibit food in the dorms and on the main floor, so they must be kept in the kitchen downstairs.

Can I bring a cell phone, iPad, iPod, laptop, beeper, kindle, or anything with an on or off button?

No. On Friday night, you will be asked to turn off and stow away any electronics (or turn them in to the Adult Team for safekeeping) for the duration of the Retreat. We wouldn't want a screen to come between you and your fellow retreatants, or between you and God! The one exception to this rule is cameras.

Will there be adult supervision?

Of course, silly. We have an excellent team of VIRTUS-trained adults who are actually volunteering to spend an entire weekend with you. Talk about a sacrifice! They are available throughout the retreat to guide and direct you, to pray for and with you, to talk with you, and to make sure that everything goes off without a (major) hitch.

Is there a packing list?

Yes! There is a packing list that was sent to you/your parents when you turned in your permission slip, and a copy of that list is available at <http://www.saintraphaelparish.com/hsm/retreat>.

Where will I be sleeping?

All retreatants and team will sleep in same-sex dormitories. These dorms sleep 32 and are equipped with bunk beds and plenty of space to store your bags and stuff throughout the retreat.

Where will I be showering?

Please shower during retreat. There are several individual shower stalls in the bathrooms attached to each dorm – no worries about privacy or awkwardness.

What is the structure of the retreat?

The shorter answer is “come and see.” To be fair though, the retreat consists of a series of witnesses (a special kind of talk) given by High School teens and Young Adults, small group time, prayer experiences, fun activities, and plenty of free time to have deeper discussions or just hang out. Plus, we highly value restful retreats, so there is plenty of time to sleep. It really is a fun, full time – but nowhere near too busy.

Why should I come?

So many reasons! Just a few responses:

- We feed you really well (both quality and quantity)
- You will have a ton of fun
- You will make great new friendships and strengthen ties with existing friends
- How often do you get a whole weekend away from your parents and siblings?
- You will have several opportunities to strengthen your faith and prayer life.
- It's a perfect way to relax and recharge for your busy life.
- Even Jesus went on retreats – they're that important!
- Come back with a renewed sense of yourself and your purpose in life.
- Because Zak, the Retreat Team, and all of HSM have already been praying for you to attend!

My Friend Isn't from Saint Raphael / isn't Catholic, can they come?

Yes, absolutely. Parish membership is not a requirement to be a part of HSM. In fact, we have quite the diversity of parish and school representation. You also do not have to be Catholic to participate in HSM or retreat. While we do have explicitly Catholic retreat elements (Mass, adoration, etc.), it can still be fruitful to have a restful weekend of good friendship and deep conversations. Plus, God works on all our hearts in His own time and fashion.

Any more questions?

Email me at zjester@saintraphaelparish.com, call my office (440) 360-7778, text me at (440) 341-1777, or just show up to the Upper Room at Saint Raphael Parish Office Sundays at 7 for Insight Night or Monday through Thursday afternoons to catch me in person. I am here for you! It's literally my job, and it's the best job in the world.