

God, Love and Marriage Retreat for Teens



The Parish of the Holy Eucharist is offering a one-day crash course on everything you need to know before you start dating including:

- Why we fall in love
- Morality
- How to go on a date
- Dealing with break ups
- The vocation of marriage

The retreat will take place from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Holy Martyrs Church in Falmouth on Saturday, January 31. Open to grades 7-12. Registration fee is \$15 and covers a light breakfast and lunch. Register by January 26.

To register and to see a full schedule visit, www.pothe.org/glm. FMI: Joe Moreshead at pothe.faithformation@portlanddiocese.org.

FAQ's

Will boys and girls be separate for the talks?

Boys and girls will be separate for all the talks except the opening talk, lunch, and the holy hour. Men will talk to the boys, women to the girls. Students will also be separated by age (grades 7-9 will be a group and grades 10-12 will be a separate group.)

Who will give the talks?

The catechists from the middle school and high school youth groups at Parish of the Holy Eucharist will give the talks. These are young adult Catholics who believe and practice the Church's teachings. These presenters cover the full spectrum from dating, to engaged, to recently married, to married with four children.

What do you teach?

We give a natural law framework for understanding why human beings fall in love. Having established that context of why God made us this way, we go through the lines we have to be careful not to cross, using the Fathers of Mercy examination of conscience as our guide. We also talk about tips for growing in chastity and dealing with temptation.

Our main source for dating advice comes from Jason Evert's book, The Dating Blueprint. We teach that dating is about discerning marriage and go through some of the mechanics on how to ask someone a date, how to graciously accept or decline, what to do and not do on a date, etc. We talk about navigating relationships, things to talk about before you propose, how the marriage process works in the church, and the joys and responsibilities of family life.

In short, our goal is to provide the teens with a big picture framework for relationships that will allow them to make sense of the teachings of the Catholic Church on love and marriage.

Why is this course important?

There are a lot of messages in our culture that run contrary to the teachings of Christ; it is precisely those topics that are most likely to lead our teens away from the Church. It is important that our teens know what the Church teaches and why.

Some of the differences between Catholics and the rest of the culture are so foundational that it is hard to understand why the Church teaches what it does without having a sense of the big picture. The Church's teaching on individual topics will only make sense if the teens understand what God made love and marriage for. Consequently, we believe it is important to see these topics in context at least once. It will give them a foundation from which they can build in the future.