

2018 Calendar

*Consider joining us
for any one of our
Silent Days with the Masters*



*All begin at the camp house
at St. John Neumann's
137 Middleboro Road
E. Freetown, MA 02717
Bring a friend!*

*All are Saturdays
from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.*



May 5th

St. Therese of Lisieux

July 21st

St. Francis of Assisi

September 29th

St. Gregory of Nyssa

*What are the
Silent Days with the
Masters??*



*The Silent Days with the
Masters are silent retreat
days that are spent outdoors
and at the camp house
reflecting on the words of one
particular saint or master in
our Catholic Tradition.*

The Silent Days with the Masters are: days of opportunities to spend some quiet time in prayer and silence while getting to know one particular saint or master in our tradition. Thus far, those Saints and masters examined have been St. Augustine, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. John of the Cross, Thomas Merton, Julian of Norwich, and St. Bernard of Clairvaux. Retreatants are invited to come away with Jesus to spend a day of silence reflecting with him on one's own journey alongside the journey of another, one who is recognized as a spiritual master. These are outdoor silent retreats, and other than starting in the camp house at St. John Neumann Church grounds with a brief introduction and opening prayer which includes a reading from the master, retreatants enter into silence for the majority of the day. Twelve readings from the particular master are posted on trees and participants can move from station to station reading and reflecting on the insights of the master. (At the end of day, all receive a booklet with all the passages.)

Everyone brings a bag lunch, but there are bottles of water in the camp house and hot water for tea, coffee or hot chocolate as well as some small pastry at the beginning of the day. Lawn chairs are scattered on the property as are picnic tables, but sometimes retreatants prefer to bring their favorite lawn chair, which is fine. One is also free to bring some small hand held crafts like knitting or crocheting or wood carving, or journals for journaling, if that helps one to meditate. The camp house and porch are available all day with icons displayed in the windows.



Lunch is eaten on one's own, but at 1 p.m., all gather to pray Mid-Day prayer

together, followed by a brief discussion of what people have learned about the master. After the discussion, all go back into silence until the end of the day. The parish library is open as is the chapel for individual reading or prayer and Confession is available at 3:00 p.m. in the main church. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m., but retreatants are free to stay for the regular parish Mass at 4:00 p.m. also in the main church. Flyers are available about how to meditate if one is not sure how to start.

The Days of Silence began at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in East Freetown, MA during the summer of 2015 following some adult education sessions on the value of silence in prayer. The first one was simply twelve stations of Sacred Scripture. When parishioners wanted more, however, the pastor, Father Gregory Mathias, suggested we pair the stations with the insights of the different saints or masters. Since these are outdoor retreats, they are held three times a year now: spring, summer and fall. Retreats are free, but an RSVP is requested. For more information or to RSVP, contact Karen Howard at klhoward@aol.com or at 508-947-0193 or call the rectory at 508-763-2240.