



Christ the King Retreat Center

A Ministry of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

"He has sent me to bring Good News to the Poor. . . The Poor have heard the Good News"

The spirit of St. Eugene is inspired by Isaiah 61:1.

St. Eugene DeMazenod, Pray for Us!

763-682-1394 • 621 First Ave S • Buffalo MN 55313-1399 • www.kingshouse.com

December 2025

Dear Friends of Christ the King,

I am one of those people who likes the tried and true. I tend to go to the same restaurants and order the same thing. The new and the uncertain are not my favorite things. That is why this time in the life of our retreat center is uncomfortable for me. We are in that in-between place. We are leaving what we know and are not clear about what is next. We do know that the first half of 2026 will be familiar. The preaching team - Fr. Hank, Sr. Carol, Deacon Steve and myself will be preaching on the theme of the Beatitudes. Our theme for 2026 is "Blessed are They Who?" Our last retreat will be a Men's and Women's retreat scheduled for the last weekend of June (June 26-28). Watch for details of this retreat and a planned closing reception in future newsletters and on our website. During the second half of 2026, you will find familiar voices with retreats from Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Fr. Charles Lachowitzer, Susan Stabile and Fr. Matt Linn.

During this time of uncertainty, I have been comforted by the reaction of people to the news of our closing. I have found that folks are saddened by the news and

yet understanding. What you are experiencing is what the local Oblate community and the entire Oblate Province are feeling. In the months ahead things will be clarified. But in the meantime, we wait in hope. My prayer is that you continue to lift us up in prayer and support the work that still needs to be done. There is a saying in the African-American Church that I always found a blessing. God may not come when you want Him but He is always on time. *"I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word. My soul waits for the Lord, more than sentinels wait for the dawn." Ps. 130.*

Our prayer ministry also continues so please send in your prayer intentions and we will put them in the prayer basket in front of the altar throughout Advent and the Christmas season.

In the Peace of Christ, the King, and Mary Immaculate,

Fr. Richard Sudlik OMI

Closing Reception – Sunday, June 28, 2026

We have scheduled our final retreat on June 26-28, 2026, and it is our SUMMER RETREAT FOR MEN AND WOMEN. We will celebrate the 74 years of retreats with the Retreatant Mass at 11 am on Sunday, June 28, 2026 with a light lunch reception to follow. There is limited space for this retreat and reception, so register early. If attending the Mass and Reception only, please RSVP by phone or complete the registration form online at www.kingshouse.com. Maximum capacity for the retreat is 60 with single occupancy. Maximum capacity for the reception is limited to 120 people.

2026 Retreats Blessed are they who? The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12



At the heart of the teaching of Jesus is the Sermon on the Mount. At the heart of the Sermon on the Mount are the Beatitudes. Jesus asks that we see the world in a new way, where weakness is strength and poverty is wealth. During our 2026 retreats, we will seek to embrace this challenging vision.

Men's Silent Weekends

Jan. 16-18 / Feb. 6-8 / Mar. 13-15

Women's Silent Weekends

Jan. 23-25 / Feb. 20-22 / Apr. 24-26 / May 15-17

Women's Silent Midweeks

Mar. 10-12 / Apr. 7-9

Married Couples Weekends (not silent)

Mar. 6-8

Silent LENTEN Midweek (Ash Wednesday) for Men & Women

Feb. 17-19

Women's 4-day Midweek

June 1-4 (value - \$350)

Summer Weekend Retreat for Men and Women

June 26-28

Registration Fee \$50.00 A non-refundable, non-transferable registration fee of \$50.00 per person is required and needs to be received in order to reserve a room.

The value of this retreat at King's House is \$275. During the retreat, we will ask each retreatant to prayerfully discern and make a donation to cover retreat costs. Any amount given above the value helps to cover the cost for those unable to contribute the full donation. If you want to attend a retreat and are hesitant due to cost, please contact our office to complete your registration.

Closing Reception – Sunday, June 28, 2026

Mass at 11 am with reception following. Registration/RSVP required so we can plan accordingly. Registration form is online at www.kingshouse.com or call the retreat center at 763-682-1394.

Weekend Retreats: Start at 8 pm; Check-in is between 4 and 8 pm

*Midweek Retreats: Start at 3 pm; Check-in is between 1 and 3 pm

Both Midweek & Weekend Retreats end at 1:00 pm on the Last Day of the Retreat

June 9-14 / Blessed Are They Who? (\$750)

Sisters' Intercommunity Retreat

Sisters of all religious communities are invited to join us for this time of pilgrimage and prayer, to be in fellowship with your sisters in Christ. This 5-night, 6-day (Tuesday – Sunday) retreat includes conferences, faith-sharing, daily Mass and rosary, confession, healing service, and opportunities for individual spiritual direction. We provide private sleeping rooms and delicious meals, outdoor walking and quiet time in our Garden Court.

2026 Retreats with Special Presenters

Registration Fee \$50.00. A non-refundable, non-transferable registration fee of \$50.00 per person is required and needs to be received in order to reserve a room.

The value of a **retreat with a special presenter** at King's House is \$325. During the retreat, we will ask each retreatant to prayerfully discern and make a donation to cover retreat costs. Any amount given above the value helps to cover the cost for those unable to contribute the full donation. If you want to attend a retreat and are hesitant due to cost, please contact our office to complete your registration.

Jul. 17-19 / Fr. Matt Linn

Silent Weekend Retreat for Men & Women

"Kindness: The Gift That Gives To The Giver"

What makes the difference between an act of kindness that fills us with abundant life physically, emotionally and spiritually or drains life (compassion fatigue with caregivers often collapsing)? This retreat applies the research on how kindness surprisingly heals the giver more than the receiver. Researchers verify that kindness lowers our blood pressure, raises immunity, accelerates the healing of wounds, slows down the aging process and can heal us more than exercise or stopping smoking. Without kindness toward ourselves and others, we suffer from compassion fatigue or are bound with the chains of depression, anxiety and addictions. This retreat will focus on the spiritual and psychological dynamics to heal our hurts and nurture our gift of kindness so we become fully alive now and forever.

Jul. 31-Aug. 2 / Fr. Ronald Rolheiser (\$375)

Silent Weekend Retreat for Men & Women

Aug. 21-23 / Fr. Charles Lachowitzer

Silent Weekend Retreat for Men & Women

Nov. 13-15 / Susan Stabile

Silent Weekend Retreat for Men & Women

"Embracing Mary"

Mary occupies a special place in our Catholic tradition. While our ultimate model for discipleship is her Son Jesus, spending time with and learning from Mary helps us deepen our growth in God and Christ. This retreat invites us to reflect on and embrace the many faces of Mary and to appreciate her in her fullness—as first disciple, as mother of God, as mother of church, as a woman of prayer, and as a real woman of faith. Doing so will help us to appreciate Mary's pre-eminent place in the communion of saints.

Nov. 21-23 / Presenter: TBD

Men & Women's Serra International Retreat

The Beginnings of the Retreat Center

1921

Joseph Lethert, founder of the prestigious St. Paul Accounting Firm, begins construction of the Lethert Family home on the property.

1951

The Oblates of Mary Immaculate complete negotiations for the purchase of the house and property for eventual use as a Retreat Center to be known as King's House.

September 24, 1952

Auxiliary Bishop James Byrne of Archdiocese of Saint Paul dedicates King's House of Retreats.
In 1966, the Archdiocese expanded their name to include Minneapolis.

September 26-28, 1952

The Charter Retreat for Men was conducted by Fr. Alphonse Simon, OMI.
Fr. Boniface L. Wittenbrink, OMI, was the director of the Retreat Center.

Retreats for men were held weekly on Friday night to Sunday night. Retreats for women were held weekly from Tuesday noon to Thursday noon. The house accommodated 28 people. There are several photo albums in the Garden Court and Lethert sitting area with pictures from this time period. At the time of the purchase only the main Tudor-style 30-room house was on the property along with a stone and brick tower that served as the water tower and was used to amplify the organ music across the lake. The three-manual organ was an extravagance by the Lethert family which was housed in what is now the Chandelier Room. Old photos show the pipes for the organ on the north wall and a fireplace on the south wall. The exterior chimney for this fireplace is still intact and can be seen in the Garden Court. At this time, a brook ran through the garden of the estate and had a small waterfall down to Buffalo Lake. The stairways down to the shore of the lake are still used today and were updated and reinforced in the 1990's. The Living Room of the Lethert house was used as the conference room for the retreats and is now part of the walkway from the reception area to the Garden Court. The Chandelier Room was used as the chapel until 1961.

1955

Construction began on the "cottages" which held dormitory sleeping rooms for retreatants with a bathroom on each floor. Two units were constructed, with 16 rooms per unit. The cottages were razed in 1996 for the construction of DeMazenod Hall, Joseph Hall guest rooms and the Oblate residence.

1956

Benedictine Sisters arrive from St. Joseph, Minnesota to manage the kitchen and meals at the retreat center.

They were housed in a small cottage at the entrance way of King's House. A small chapel was added to the cottage for the sister's use. This cottage and chapel were razed as part of one of the many construction projects.

1960

Construction begins on the Main Chapel and Garden Court. The photo has the Front Gate and the "New Chapel" which was completed in 1961. The first Mass was offered on August 15, 1961, and dedicated to Christ the King.



Christ the King Retreat Center
621 First Ave S
Buffalo MN 55313

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DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Christ The King Retreat Center 621 First Ave S; Buffalo, MN 55313 • 763-682-1394 • christtheking@kingshouse.com
Oblate Shrines & Renewal Centers d.b.a. Christ the King Retreat Center is a 501(c) charitable organization. Donations made to Christ the King are tax deductible.

Find us online at www.kingshouse.com.

Register for upcoming retreats • Information on Spiritual Direction
Private retreats and hosted group information • Picture tour of our grounds and facility

Like us! 

Have you MOVED? Please send any address changes and updates to christtheking@kingshouse.com or call us at 763-682-1394.

You can also register for Retreats online at
<https://www.kingshouse.com/events>

Donating is simple and easy!
Go to www.kingshouse.com and
click "Donate" in the top tool bar
or scan this QR code!



RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Retreat and dates you are attending _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Deposit of \$50 per person enclosed ☐

☐ **Regular meal**

☐ **Gluten free meal**

☐ **Vegetarian meal**

Emergency Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Make checks payable and send to: Christ the King Retreat Center, 621 First Ave S, Buffalo, MN 55313-1399

REGISTER ONLINE at www.kingshouse.com