



2023 SNI DAILY SCHEDULE OUTLINE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2ND THRU THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5TH, 2023

**ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS RETREAT CENTER
23333 SCHOOLCRAFT AVE., DETROIT, MI 48223**

NOTE: Please be advised that this schedule may be subject to minor change, without prior notice.

"It is 'Christmas' every time you let God love others through you."

-Mother Teresa of Calcutta

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2023

4:30-5:30 p.m. Arrive at St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center (*Check-in, registration, pay balance of enrollment stipend, assignment of private rooms*)

5:30-6:30 p.m. Supper (*Refectory*)

6:30-8:00 p.m. Welcome & Introductions (Main Conference Room)

Co-Presenters: Fr. Joseph Marquis, *director, SNI* / Fr. Patrick Lowery, *Associate Director, SNI*, Ron Wolek *Associate Director, SNI* (Main Conference Room)

"Until one feels the spirit of Christmas, there is no Christmas. It's the warmth that comes to the hearts of men when the Christmas spirit returns again." – Source Unknown

8:00- 8:15 p.m. Break...

8:15 – 9:00 p.m.: Session I: "Let There Be Light"

Staff Presenter: Fr. Joseph Marquis, *director, SNI* (Main Conference Room)

"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas when its mighty Founder was a Child Himself." – Charles Dickens

9:10 p.m. Night Prayer (Retreat Center Chapel)

9:30 p.m.- (?) Informal Evening Social (Main Conference Room)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

7:00 a.m. Rise and Shine

7:45 a.m. Morning Prayer (Retreat Center Chapel)

8:00 – 8:45 a.m. FULL Breakfast (Dining Room)

8:45 - 9:00 a.m.: "Wake-Up, You Sleepy-Heads" (Musical Warm-Up)

Staff Performer: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann, Associate Director (Main Conference Room)

9:00-9:50 a.m. Session II: "Let There Be God's Gift" (Main Conference Room) Staff

Presenter: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann, Associate Director, SNI

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." -Winston Churchill

9:50 -10:00 a.m. Musical Interlude, Staff Presenter: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Session III: "Let There Be Solace Amid Despair" (Main Conference Room) **Staff Presenter: Fr. Patrick Lowery**

"When we were children, we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?" – G.K.Chesterton

11:00 – 11:10 a.m. Musical Interlude, Staff Performer: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann

(Main Conference Room)

12 noon - 1:00 p.m.: Lunch (Dining Room)

1:00 - 2:15 p.m. After-Lunch Break (*Siesta Time / Private Prayer / Relax and/or Explore the Lovely Grounds of the Retreat Center*)

2:30- 3:20 p.m. Session IV: "Let There Be Mercy Mild; God and Sinner Reconciled"

"Special Guest Speaker: Fr. Alex Steinmiller, C.P., Saint Paul of the Cross Retreat Center Community (Main Conference Room)

"Christmas is a time to open our hearts to God and His Gifts. Just like the rest of the year."

-Eric Severeid

3:20 – 3:30 Brief Break

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. Session V: Staff Presenter: Ron Wolek, Associate Director, SNI.

Author, "Let There Be ." Professional Hair & Makeup Supervisor (1st National Tour of "War Horse;" Disneyland Training Supervisor for 50+ wig stylists; "Walt Disney World Christmas Parade", ABC TV; 2007-2010), Ron provided his make-up talents for the film, "**Santa Stole Our Dog!**", starring **Ed Asner** in the title role as Santa Claus: (Main Conference Room)

5:00 – 5:30 p.m. (*Break / Brief Siesta / Tour Retreat Center Grounds*)

6:00-6:45 p.m. Supper (Dining Room)

6:45-7:00 p.m. Musical Interlude, Staff Performer: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann

7:00-9:00 p.m. Session VI: "Let There Be Tuesday Night at the Movies" (Film & Group Discussion)

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox;
that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home." – G.K. Chesterton

9:15 p.m.: Night Prayer (Retreat Center Chapel)

9:30- (?) Informal Evening Social (Main Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

7:00 a.m.: Rise and Shine

7:45 a.m.: Morning Prayer (Retreat Center Chapel)

8:00 a.m.: FULL Breakfast (Dining Room)

8:50 a.m.: Musical Interlude "Laughin' Ho-Ho-Ho!" Staff Presenter: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann,

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old, familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good-will to men!" -Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

9:00-10:45 a.m. Session VII: "Let There Be the Wisdom to Follow His Star"
(Brief video presentation)

"Every time we love, every time we give, it's Christmas." – Dale Evans

Musical Interlude: Staff Performer: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann

11:00 a.m. - 12 noon Session VIII: "Let There Be Make-Up"

Staff Presenter: Ron Wolek, *Professional Hair & Makeup Supervisor (1st National Tour of "War Horse;" Disneyland Training Supervisor for 50+ wig stylists; "Walt Disney World Christmas Parade", ABC TV; 2007-2010).* (Main Conference Room)

"Let the children have their night of fun and laughter, let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grown-ups share to the full in their unstinted pleasures."
-Winston Churchill

12 noon - 12:50 p.m. Lunch (Dining Room)

12:50-2:00 p.m. After-Lunch Break (Siesta Time / Private Prayer / Explore Retreat Grounds)

2:30 p.m. Session IX: "Let There Be Truth" Staff Presenter: Fr. Patrick Lowery
(Main Conference Room)

**“What if Christmas doesn’t come from a store.
What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more.” – Dr. Seuss**

3:30 - 5:00 p.m. Session X: “Let There Be Jolly Old St. Nicholas,”
Special Guest Presenter: Gerry Phillips (a.k.a., “One Hand Band”, <http://www.onehandband.com/>)
Staff Presenter: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann (Main Conference Room)

“Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childish days; that can recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth; that can transport the sailor and the traveler, thousands of miles away, back to his own fireside and his quiet home!”
– Charles Dickens

5:00: 5:20 p.m. Group Photo (Staging Area of Dining Room)

5:20 – 6:00 p.m. Mini-Rest “R&R” Before Supper

6:00 - 6:50 p.m. Supper (Dining Room)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Session XI: “Let There Be A Special Presentation”
(Main Conference Room)

**“He was created of a mother whom He created.
He was carried by hands that He formed.
He cried in the manger in wordless infancy.
He, the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute.”**
– St. Augustine of Hippo

9:15 p.m.: Night Prayer (Retreat Center Chapel)

9:30- (?): Informal Evening Social (Main Conference Room)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

7:00 a.m.: Rise and Shine

7:20 - 7:40 a.m. Departure Prep Strip bed linens and gather towels in room (2 *separate laundry hampers will be available in retreat center hallways*). Pack travel bags for later departure.

7:45 – 8:00 a.m.: Morning Prayer (Retreat Center Chapel)

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.: FULL Breakfast (Dining Room)

8:45 -9:30 a.m., Session X: “Let There Be Peace on Earth, and Let It Begin with Me;”
Staff Presenter: Fr. Joseph Marquis

“Christmas is a necessity. There has to be at least one day of the year to remind us that we’re here for something else besides ourselves.” Eric Severeid

9:30 – 11: a.m.: Wrap-Up Session with: Group Sharing Facilitators: Rev. Rennie Kaufman, Fr. Patrick Lowery, Joseph Marquis and Ron Wolek (Main Conference Room)

“Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day.” – Helen Steiner Rice



11:00 a.m.: Closing Service & Blessing of All Institute Participants

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched;
they must be felt with the heart.” -Helen Keller

11:30 a.m.: Lunch (Dining Room)

Note: *If requested in advance, bag lunches "to go" will be available at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday morning.. Please inform Roz Salter (Operations Manager, St. Paul Retreat Center) by no later than 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon, if you wish to make these arrangements.*

“Let There Be Core Values!”



“...And Let Them Begin With ME!”

SAINT NICHOLAS AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

ST. NICHOLAS INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Each St. Nicholas Institute participant receives the **Certificate of Achievement**, appropriate to their respective year(s) of enrollment.

ORDER OF ST. NICHOLAS AND THE ORDER OF ST. NICHOLAS MEDAL

After completing **four years with the Saint Nicholas Institute**, each participant is received into the **Order of St. Nicholas**, by means of a formal conferral of the **Order of St. Nicholas Medal** ("Ordinis Sancti Nicolai Numisma"). See images, below.



Order of St. Nicholas Medal SNI and ribbon (above at left and center), and the **Order of St. Nicholas Flag** (above, right) are protected by Copyright 2017, St. Nicholas Institute. All Rights Reserved.

ST. NICHOLAS MEDAL OF HONOR (CONFERRED UPON 8TH YEAR)



Upon completing **eight years of participation**, and after completing all prescribed requirements for qualification, members of the Order of St. Nicholas receive the **St. Nicholas Medal of Honor**. The St. Nicholas Medal of Honor is conferred in recognition of one's personal fidelity in furthering the spiritual legacy of the outstanding 4th century Christian figure, Nicholas of Myra; in our own day.

The value of committed Christian examples are reflected
in the words of Saint Paul of Tarsus:

"Imitate me, as I imitate Christ." (1 Cor. 11:1).

Sancte Nicolaus Numisma Honoris © ("St. Nicholas Medal of Honor"): The medal will be presented in the future to all members of the St. Nicholas Institute Alumni who have completed eight years of formation.

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