

General questions

How far are you located from downtown Chicago?

We are located approximately four miles south of the Loop in the Bridgeport neighborhood.

What is the area around the monastery like?

Our section of Bridgeport is a quiet, safe, mixed-use residential neighborhood, with an elementary school, several city parks, and many coffee shops, stores, and restaurants located nearby.

Is public transportation easily accessible?

We are located across the street from stops for the #31 CTA bus; ten minutes' walking distance from stops for the #62 and #8 CTA buses; and twenty minutes' walking distance from the CTA Orange line train station.

Are Mass and prayer services at the monastery open to the public?

Yes. Please visit [this page](#) for a full schedule. The doors of the church usually open about five minutes before prayer begins.

Do you offer tours?

Schedule permitting, the Guestmaster can provide guests and other visitors with brief tours of the church and the other public areas of the monastery. Please contact him in advance.

Is there a dress code for guests?

We ask that all visitors choose attire that is appropriate for a sacred place. Please refrain from wearing shorts, t-shirts, sweatpants, or other informal clothing in church or at meals.

Do you offer spiritual direction?

No, we are unable to offer spiritual direction to guests.

Do you offer the Sacrament of Penance (Confession)?

Yes. Please contact the Guestmaster in advance of your visit to request an appointment for Confession.

Guesthouse questions

Are the Guesthouse apartments located on the ground floor? How many steps are required to enter them?

One apartment is located on the ground floor and two apartments are located on the second floor. The first-floor apartment has six steps. One second-floor apartment has twenty-two, and the other has thirty-four.

Where should I go upon arriving?

Guests may park in the lot located on Aberdeen St. To check in, they should come to the rectory building located next to the monastery church and ring the bell at the front door.

What times are available for check-in?

Afternoon check-in takes place between 3 and 4:30 PM and evening check-in between 6 and 7 PM. Retreatants may request to check in earlier in the day.

What time is check-out?

Check-out takes place any time before 11 AM.

Will I be sharing facilities with other guests?

Only retreatants share common facilities. They each have a private bedroom but share a kitchen, bathroom, dining room and living room with a maximum of two other retreatants.

Are meals provided?

We invite retreatants to join us daily for two meals, and we provide simple breakfast items for them in the Guesthouse. Other guests are responsible for providing all their own meals.

Are the kitchens equipped for cooking?

Two apartments have full kitchens equipped with a stove, microwave, cookware and refrigerator; the other has only a microwave and refrigerator. All three have plates, glassware, silverware, and serving utensils.

What items do you provide for the bedroom and bathroom?

We stock all three apartments with basic toiletries (including soap and shampoo) and plenty of fresh towels, sheets, and blankets. Two apartments also have a hairdryer and an ironing board.

I have dietary restrictions. May I request different foods for breakfast or for other meals?

We are not able to provide special items for breakfast. Retreatants with dietary restrictions who join the monks for meals can usually find one or more prepared dishes which they can eat. They may also cook their own food in the Guesthouse.

Is there a curfew?

We ask that retreatants refrain from going out after Compline, out of respect for their fellow retreatants. Other guests may come and go as they wish.

Are pets permitted in the Guesthouse?

No, we do not permit pets in the Guesthouse.

Is smoking permitted?

Smoking is not permitted in the Guesthouse or anywhere on the monastery grounds.

Retreat questions

What is a self-directed retreat?

A self-directed retreat is for those seeking to share more fully in our monastic solitude and silence. Retreatants stay in accommodations reserved for that purpose and join the monks daily for two meals. The rest of their time is available for quiet reading and prayer in the guesthouse or walks in the surrounding environs. We ask that retreatants respect one another's privacy and silence in the Guesthouse.

Do you accept women as retreatants?

Yes, we welcome both men and women.

Do you accept non-Catholics as retreatants?

Yes, we welcome Christians and all others who wish to share more fully in our way of life.

May I come for retreat on a Sunday or Monday?

The maximum length of a retreat is five nights, from Tuesday through Sunday morning. Catholic priests who have Mondays free may request to schedule a retreat on that day.