



Desert Mothers and Fathers Retreat

The Rev. Brad Karelius will be introducing a workshop to desert spirituality through the lives and teachings of **The Desert Fathers and Mothers** during a three part series **August 11 - 13**. From across the centuries, Desert Fathers and Mothers of the 4th and 5th centuries continue to speak to us about solitude and silence, death, grace, and true freedom. Their stories and sayings create an environment that invites our spirit to grow into God's deepest desires for us.

There is no fee to attend the series. Learn more by going to diowestmo.org/events or through the Spiritual Formation Commission contact information below.

EfM Fall Classes

EfM is called Education for Ministry but make no mistake - it is a reading and discussion group for lay people. EfM helps the faithful encounter the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition and bring it into conversation with their experiences of the world as they study, worship, and engage in theological reflection together. The program invites participants into small, mentored groups that provide the framework for understanding life and shaping actions as Christian faith is deepened.

Hybrid (in-person and online) and in-person seminars are forming now. Be watching for registration links through the *NewSpirit* or find more information by going to diowestmo.org/education-for-ministry---efm

Small Group Facilitator Training

Small groups give new life; small group *facilitators* provide guidance and encourage participation. Facilitator training opportunities are coming up soon to help people fill these much needed roles in our congregation. Trainings are from 6-9 pm on **Thursday, August 31**, St. Mary Magdalene in the Village of Loch Lloyd and **Saturday, September 9**, Christ Church, Springfield from 9 am-noon. Leave this experience feeling empowered and take this gift back to your congregation along with many engaging resources for small group opportunities. You can also reach out to formation@diowestmo.org for more information.

Youth News

Thank you all for an amazing summer, and for the way you've welcomed me as I've settled in as your new missioner for youth ministry. As we look ahead to the fall and another school year, we'll be focusing on building community and fostering relationships so be on the lookout for more information about upcoming events coming soon.

Curated Resources

Gear up for fall using the curated, recommended resources for children, youth, young adult, and adults that can be found on the diocesan website. Gear up for fall! Be sure to check out reflections and resources to make this fall especially meaningful by going to diowestmo.org/formation.

Formation...

Faith formation nourishes the inner experience of spiritually and faith so that we want to be "authentically Gospel - shaped people" going about doing God's work in West Missouri. In doing so we can and will become a just, peaceful, and loving community built on our shared love of God and one another - proclaiming the Good News, serving others, and promoting justice, peace, and love.

Our diocesan Spiritual Formation Commission (SFC) is here to walk with you; to help you discover the unique tools you are looking for on your journey and in your ministries. **If you are interested in serving on this commission, or would like to hear more about these SFC opportunities, please contact us** by phone at 816-471-6161 (ext 109) or by email: formation@diowestmo.org **to let us know how we can help!**

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