

To my fellow brothers in Christ:

For more than thirty years, St. Mary's has hosted Welcome weekends/retreats here at our parish. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well, he said, "If you knew the gift of God and who is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." (John 4:10) The gift of God that is offered to the Samaritan woman and to us is to share in the very life of God himself. At the "Welcome" weekend/retreat, you will have an opportunity to drink more deeply from the living waters offered by Christ. Like the Samaritan woman, you will be inspired to live more fully in the Christian life yourself. You will also help lead others to the same fountain of life. I wish to personally invite you to join us on September 20-21 for this awesome, inspirational weekend of "Welcome," renewal, and faith. I especially encourage the men who are new to our parish to come and join us. What a great way to meet other parishioners and share a common bond we call our Catholic faith! One simple "Yes" can make a tremendous difference in our lives and the lives of those dear to us. I am convinced that Christ Renews His Parish is one of the reasons for our parish's warmth, generosity, and closeness. With your presence, "Welcome" will continue to be the Spirit driven difference in your life, your family, and in our family of parishes.

**A.M.D.G.,
Fr. Tom**

This is an invitation for all men of our Parish Family who are 19 years or older. Previous Welcome participants are invited and encouraged to attend. We also welcome anyone from outside the parish.

Reflections from men who previously participated in the Welcome weekend.

"My marriage and the bond with my kids were strengthened. Christ has changed a heart of stone into a heart for love alone. Being a combat vet, I had a profound experience."

"I was totally resistant to going to this retreat. I'm not a touchy-feely guy, but this was one of the best things I've ever done for myself."

"Since I attended the weekend, I have found a renewed sense of peace, vitality, and feel less pressured by the burdens I face in my life."

"I was a new parishioner when I attended the weekend. The Christ Renews weekend was a great way to deepen my spirituality while meeting a great group of fellow parishioners."

"A complete spiritual turnaround..."

"For all these years, I said I would never make a Christ Renews weekend; that it wasn't for me. I am so glad that I changed my mind; it has been a great, uplifting experience which has brought me closer to God!"

"After I finally said 'yes' to the Christ Renews weekend after so many 'no's', I feel closer to the Catholic Church and to St. Mary's Parish."

"I made all the excuses not to go. Don't think why not...think of the positives and why you should...faith, food, fellowship, and fun. Did I mention FOOD?" (and it's FREE!)

A personal invitation to....



Come Walk with Christ

**September 20 - 21, 2025
St. Mary's Church
Swormville, New York**



So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

-1 Corinthians 10:31

Matthew 14:27-31 At once [Jesus] spoke to them, “Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.” Peter said to him in reply, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” He said, “Come.” Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But, when he saw how the wind was, he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me! Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

What is Welcome 2.0?

It’s an experience that helps you discover what’s missing in your life and what to do about it.

This experience helps those who want to work things out, but have no idea how, or even where to start. This invitation is about you. Most people are not living up to their potential and you may not know what to do about it. Welcome puts a framework around the questions and struggles we all have every day, in every way, and helps you become a better version of yourself.

It is a spiritual renewal weekend for men, designed to help an individual grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ and with others in our Faith Community. Just as all our other commitments need renewal, so does our commitment to Christ.

You will meet other parishioners facing the same life challenges – family, career, and society. The sharing of dialogue in a very liturgical, scriptural, and prayerful atmosphere will allow you to develop a closer and deeper relationship with Christ.

What else do I need to know?

-The men will meet in the Parish Center at 8:00 AM on Saturday, September 20, 2025, concluding with Mass in the Church at 3:00 pm on Sunday, September 21, 2025. Invite your family and friends to attend Mass. Afterwards we celebrate together with a reception in the Cafeteria.

-Casual comfortable clothing is appropriate

-Meals will be provided by volunteers. There are also regular breaks for beverages and snacks. Please let us know if you have any special dietary needs when you register.

-Accommodation for Saturday night is simple but adequate. Please bring a pillow, sleeping bag or bedding, towels, and toiletries. Cots are provided, and showers are available.

-Sacraments are an integral part of the weekend. There will be an opportunity for confession. The weekend will conclude on Sunday afternoon with a special Mass. Family and friends are welcome at the Mass.

-The weekend is FREE. Donations are graciously accepted and help keep the program self-sustained. There is no need to stay away for financial reasons.

Who can I contact if I have questions?

Jay Coakley	845-216-2768
Al Derby	716-932-0085
Chuck Watts	360-296-0657
Denis Bastible	716-725-8080
Garnet Lyon	716-946-1738
George Will	716-830-6630
Glenn Gawronski	716-688-3546
Rex McKeon	857-225-3717
Stan Lichwala	716-435-1737

How can I participate?

Indicate your interest by completing the information below and returning this form to the rectory. You can also register online at the link provided below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Special dietary needs? If yes list below:

Emergency Contact:

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

Please list family and friends who can keep you in their thoughts and prayers:

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____ Ph: _____

Email: _____



[Christ Renews His Parish Welcome 2.0 Retreats | St Mary's Church, Swormville \(stmaryswormville.org\)](https://www.stmaryswormville.org/retreats/welcome-2.0)