



Welcome to Mepkin Abbey!

Upon entering the grounds, take the next left AFTER the visitors' center. You will then see the parking area on your right. *We ask that you arrive between 2 and 4 pm*, unless otherwise noted for some retreats. Please call 843-761-8509, option 1 or email [mepkinguestmaster@gmail.com](mailto:mepkinguestmaster@gmail.com) to let us know if you will be late. **The gate is open between 6 am and 6pm.** A group orientation with the latest information will be held at 4:30 pm. No shorts or tank tops are permitted in the church or dining room. They can be worn in other areas of the monastery.

### **Your Retreat**

Retreats include 3 vegetarian meals a day. You will receive a schedule of the meals at check in. Coffee, tea, ice, water, and fruit are available in the center at any time. Your linens are provided, but you will need to bring toiletries. There is usually an opportunity to sign up for a 30-minute spiritual direction session or sacrament of reconciliation while you are on retreat. A sign-up sheet will be available beginning at 4:30 after check in. You are also welcome to attend the services in the church while you are on retreat.

### **Check in and check out**

Check in takes place between 2:00-4:00 pm, with an orientation at 4:30pm. You can make your donation by cash, check, or card. Cash and checks may be given at check in or be put in your key packet and returned to the basket as you check out. If you wish to make your donation by card, please let us know at check in. We can take your card during office hours. The retreat center office is closed on the weekends. *Please do not wait until check out to use a card*; someone may not be available to run your card. If you miss office hours, you can use your card at the gift shop or request a link to pay to be sent to you. A copy of your receipt from the store goes into your key packet at checkout so that we may credit your retreat.

### **The Monastery Grounds**

We wish to share with you the beauty of our property. Devoted volunteers spend many hours maintaining the gardens and beds. We hope you enjoy the natural beauty and the hard work it takes to provide this experience to you. During warm weather, be aware and careful of alligators in the ponds and embankments. Please do not feed them. We ask that you respect areas with signs marked "private." This is where the monks spend their lives in prayer and solitude. Also, please avoid going into the woods as there could be snakes and other hazards.

### **The Retreat Center Building**

The retreat center building is adjacent to the rooms and is open at all times. The following amenities are available:

- There is Wi-Fi in the center and in the rooms The passwords are available at the check in counter.
- A full-size refrigerator & freezer is available in an adjacent room. A mini fridge is in the common area, as well as an ice maker, microwave, and toaster.
- Keurig, hot water dispenser, water cooler, and coffee/tea supplies

- Books, CDs, and coloring pencils
- Although we have cups and glasses available in the kitchenette, you may wish to bring a water bottle or travel coffee cup for your personal use.
- First aid kit, hand sanitizer, & bug repellent (Cutter, Off, etc.)
- Quiet prayer chapel open 24 hours a day

### **Your Room**

- Your room and the walkway leading up to it are designated as a silent area to foster a quiet atmosphere for everyone's retreat. We kindly ask for quiet in the rooms so that the guest in the next room is not disturbed.
- Your cell phone will not work in your room. You should get a good signal in the parking lot but may also want to minimize its use while on retreat.
- All linens are provided. You will need to bring your toiletries.
- There is a flashlight in the desk drawer for safety walking after dark. Please let us know if you do not have one so that we may provide you with a replacement.
- You will need to bring your own hair dryer, but if you forget it, retreat center staff can loan you one.
- When you check out of your room, please put your sheets and towels in your pillowcase and leave them outside your door.
- Check out time is by 9:00 AM on Monday/Friday. It is perfectly fine if you need to leave early; there is no set check-out time for guests leaving before the scheduled departure day.