



Holy Apostles

College & Seminary

Commencement Exercises General Information Packet

May 4, 2024

Location:

Holy Apostles College & Seminary
33 Prospect Hill Road
Cromwell, CT 06416

Commencement Weekend Schedule

Friday, May 3, 2024

3:00 pm - Campus Tour Available for Graduating Students (Meet at St. Peter's lobby)
4:00 pm - Check-In and Mandatory Rehearsal for Graduating Students (St. John's 3 and Rec Room)

Saturday, May 4, 2024

9:00 am - Campus Tour Available for Graduating Students (Meet at St. Peter's lobby)
9:00 am - Sacrament of Reconciliation (Queen of the Apostles Chapel)
10:00 am - Baccalaureate Mass (Queen of the Apostles Chapel and live-streamed)
11:30 am - Light refreshments (Queen of the Apostles Chapel basement)
12:30 pm - Robing & Line-Up for Graduates and Faculty
(Graduates in St. John's 3 & Rec Room / Faculty in St. Andrew's Classroom)
1:00 pm - Commencement Exercises Begin (Queen of the Apostles Chapel and live-streamed)
- *Immediately following, group photo of the newly graduated students outside*
3:00-5:00 pm - Reception with Buffet for graduates and guests (St. Peter's Refectory)

Sunday, May 5, 2024

7:30 am - Sunday Mass (Queen of the Apostles Chapel)

Commencement Regalia:

You are required to purchase your own cap, gown, and tassel (and hood, if a graduate student). Please make your purchase by the beginning of April to allow time for shipping, through this link:

<https://rosetherese.com/product/holy-apostles-college-seminary/>

Airports:

If you are flying from out of state, the closest airport to Holy Apostles is Bradley International Airport (Hartford/Springfield) located in Windsor Locks, CT. It is about 40 minutes from campus.

Lodging:

The Holy Apostles campus cannot accommodate lodging for faculty and/or their guests. However, there are many hotels and accommodations (including Airbnbs) nearby.

A room block with discounted rates is reserved for Holy Apostles students and their families for bookings during any dates from Thursday 5/2 through Sunday 5/5:

Residence Inn (Hartford-Rocky Hill)

\$174 per night*

680 Cromwell Avenue
Rocky Hill, CT 06067

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1706190094577&key=GRP>

*subject to local sales and occupancy taxes

Please note that after April 2, the reserved room blocks go back to the general public for booking and you will not be able to reserve with the discounted rate.

Arrival and Parking on Friday (May 3):

When you arrive on campus on Friday, please park in the main lot in front of the chapel or in the lot across the street. Please proceed to St. Peter's to the Info & Check-in Table.

Arrival and Parking on Saturday (May 4):

When you and your guests arrive on campus on Saturday, you will be greeted by a Parking Coordinator and directed to the appropriate parking lot. There are a limited number of handicapped spaces available if you or someone in your group are in need. Please let the Parking Coordinator know so they can direct you accordingly. Important: Do not park on Prospect Hill Road as this is a traffic and safety hazard.

After you have parked, please proceed to the Info & Check-in Table to check-in and pick up your name tag, name card, and guest badge(s). Cold waters, campus maps, the day-of schedule, and other pertinent information will be available at the Info & Check-in Table.

Guests:

We welcome your guests to campus. Each graduating student is allowed up to four guests. When you check-in, guest badges will be provided which we kindly ask for each guest wear. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times, especially during the Baccalaureate Mass and the Commencement Exercises. Please stay on the Holy Apostles grounds and do not attempt to enter any of the dormitory buildings.

Queen of Apostles Chapel - Logistics:

During the Baccalaureate Mass and the Commencement Exercises certain pews will be reserved. You are welcome to sit in any of the other available pews. Please remove your belongings after the Baccalaureate Mass as the space will be prepared for the Commencement Exercises. After Mass, we invite you to proceed to the Chapel Basement for light refreshments.

The Chapel Basement will house overflow seating with the live-stream of the Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises. There are also additional restrooms available in the Chapel Basement. Additionally, a dedicated space for nursing mothers and diaper changing is available in the Chapel Basement.

Commencement Regalia:

Make sure to bring your commencement regalia with you on Saturday. You will have time to change into your cap and gown during the Robing & Line-Up at 12:30 pm. Graduates ONLY may leave their belongings in the St. John's Classroom 3 and Rec Room; Holy Apostles assumes no responsibility for belongings. Belongings must be removed by 5:30 pm to allow security to lock up.

Photography:

Students and guests are encouraged to take photos during the Commencement Exercises from their seats.

A Holy Apostles photographer will be taking photos during the Baccalaureate Mass and the Commencement Exercises. Photos will be taken as you walk across and shake hands with our President-Rector. All of these photos will be made available to alumni afterwards via an online platform for downloading. These photos will also be utilized by Holy Apostles College & Seminary for marketing and promotion purposes.

Immediately following the Commencement Exercises, please proceed outside for a group photo of the newly graduated students.

Holy Apostles photographers will also be available after the group photo at the graduation bell from 3:30-4:30 pm.

Graduation Bell Tradition:

We invite you to participate in a very special tradition here at Holy Apostles! Since the early days of the seminary (and later also the college), new alumni ring the Graduation Bell one time for each year spent as a student at Holy Apostles. This tradition signals your hard work and perseverance throughout your time as a student.

From 3:30-4:30 pm, the Holy Apostles photographer will be available to take your photo as you "ring in" your graduation by the Graduation Bell. Please note that this will take place outside during the same time as the Reception.

Buffet Reception:

After the Commencement Exercises, you and your guests are invited to attend the buffet reception in the St. Peter's Refectory for a hearty celebration. Options to fit various dietary restrictions (such as gluten-free, dairy-free, and vegetarian) will be available; however, all the foods are prepared in the same kitchen. Restrooms are also available in St. Peter's.

Campus Masking Protocols:

Please note that as of February 12, 2024, there is no mask policy on campus. If this changes, you will be made aware. You and/or your guests are welcome to wear a mask. Extra masks and sanitizers will be available from the Info & Check-In Table.

Video Streaming:

The Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Exercises will be live-streamed. Share this link with your family and friends who are not in attendance:

<https://holypostles.edu/commencement/>

Graduation Fee & Diplomas:

Please take note that academic and financial obligations must be met in order to receive your diploma and transcript. Diplomas ship in early-mid June, even if you are attending Commencement. Any questions regarding your diploma may be directed to the Registrar, Dr. Rebecca Davis, at rdavis@holypostles.edu.

All graduating students are required to pay the graduation fee of \$175 which may have been part of your comprehensive exam fee for Graduate students. The graduation fee covers the administrative costs associated with completing your graduation review, as well as printing and shipping your diploma. There is no cost to attend the Commencement Exercises, though you must purchase your own graduation regalia.

Local Attractions:

If you would like to spend more time in Connecticut, please visit www.CTvisit.com/ for tourism ideas. You may also consider visiting the following uniquely Catholic destinations:

- [Padre Pio Foundation of America](#) - Cromwell, CT (5 minutes from campus)
- [St. Mary's Church](#) - New Haven, CT; founding location of Knights of Columbus (35 minutes from campus)
- [Bl. McGivney Pilgrimage Center](#) - New Haven, CT (35 minutes from campus)
- [Monastery of Our Lady of Grace](#) - North Guilford, CT (30 minutes from campus)
- [The Shrine of Lourdes](#) - Litchfield, CT (50 minutes from campus)
- [Enders Island Retreat Center](#) - Mystic, CT (1 hour from campus)
- [National Shrine of The Divine Mercy](#) - Stockbridge, MA (1.5 hours from campus)
- [St. Patrick's Parish & Oratory](#) - Waterbury, CT; closest geographical Church to the birthplace of Bl. McGivney - ICKSP Latin Mass Parish (30 minutes from campus)

Local Dining Options:

[Amici Italian Grill](#)
Italian Cuisine - \$\$
280 Main Street
Middletown, CT

[Aroy Thai Gardens](#)
Vegan Thai Cuisine - \$\$
203 Main Street
Middletown, CT

[Puerto Vallarta](#)
Mexican Cuisine - \$\$
200 Main Metro Square
Middletown, CT

[Saybrook Fish House](#)
Seafood Cuisine - \$\$
2165 Silas Deane Hwy
Rocky Hill, CT

Local Catholic Parishes for Sunday Mass:

- **St. John Church** - 5 St. John Court, Cromwell, CT
 - 3 minutes from campus
 - Sundays at 7:30 am and 9:30 am
- **St. Sebastian Church** - 155 Washington Street, Middletown, CT
 - 10 minutes from campus
 - Sundays at 11:00 am and 5:00 pm
- **St. Mary Parish** - 5 Hillhouse Avenue, New Haven, CT
 - 35 minutes from campus
 - Sundays at 10:30 am and 5:00 pm
- **St. Patrick's Oratory** - 48 Charles Street, Waterbury, CT
 - 35 minutes from campus
 - Sundays at 8:30 am (Low Mass) and 10:30 am (High Mass)

Campus Map

