



A Flame in the Dark: the wisdom of Brigid for our time

February 2-4, 2024

Wellspring Retreat Center, Germantown, MD

*Brigid of the Mantle,
Encompass us,
Lady of the Lambs protect us,
Beneath your mantle,
Gather us,
And restore us to memory.
Mothers of our mother,
Foremothers strong,
Guide our hands in yours,
Remind us how
To kindle the hearth.
To keep it bright,
To preserve the flame...
To kindle the light,
Both day and night.*
--Celtic prayer for hearth fire

Deep in the heart of winter women gather on the feast day of St. Brigid, February 1. Also known as Imbolc, Brigid's feast day is an ancient Celtic festival midway between Solstice and Equinox, one that marks a deep turning toward the hope of spring. The women gather around a sacred fire, a flame that burned for millennia in Brigid's monastery of Kildare, rekindled now with revived interest in the figure who is both Irish saint and Celtic goddess.

Brigid encompasses healing, art, music, poetry, fertility, midwifery, cultivation, untamed nature, and more. She is the embodiment of the Sacred Feminine, inhabiting the centuries both as Fire Goddess and incandescent Celtic Saint. In this dark time when all we have known and loved seems to be unraveling, what might this wise, wild, loving, powerful and holy woman be saying to us? Who is she calling women to be today?

Join us for a weekend's immersion deep into the glowing heart of the Sacred Feminine with stories that illumine the wisdom of Brigid of Kildare. Be touched by the quiet presence of the winter landscape, the deep knowing rising from the softly breathing Earth and her resting inhabitants. Participate in guided circles of story and ceremony, dance, drumming, and council. Weave community with women drawn together into a wild and holy journey.

The fee for this retreat is based on the nature of the retreat, cost of lodging and food, and modest compensation for four leaders. We realize the fee may be beyond the ability of some and have requested and received a small grant to provide partial scholarships for those who need assistance. Scholarship applications are available at registration.

\$425 - double occupancy includes lodging, six meals, and program (register with a friend/roommate)

\$475 - single occupancy

Register at www.friendsofsilence.org

Retreat leaders
Lindsay McLaughlin,
Leah Rampy, Lisa Bardack, and
Katy Gaughan bring years of
dedicated learning, practice,
mentoring, and leadership in
retreats, dance, and drumming.