

# Our Lady of Lourdes' 8th Annual Silent Reflective Retreat



**March 15-17, 2013**

**at Ignatius House  
Jesuit Retreat Center**

***“Who is God”***

**Friday March 15 - Sunday March 17**

The retreat begins Friday evening with a reception at 6:30pm, dinner at 7pm. It concludes after Sunday Mass with lunch.

Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center  
6700 Riverside Drive, Atlanta, GA 30328

***“I learned the difference between being alone, being lonely, and finding solitude. In solitude, there is peace and a quiet awakening of the spirit.”***

***From an Our Lady of Lourdes Parishioner***

**Come experience God's presence.** Find peace and spiritual awakening, guidance and self-reflection, along the tranquil waters of the Chattahoochee River.

Hosted by **Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center**, named **“Best of Atlanta 2008”** by Atlanta Magazine as **“Best Way to Turn It All Off!”**, this weekend is a silent, reflective retreat, inviting you to slow down, take the time to listen, enjoy great food, a private room & bath and short teachings throughout the weekend.

***Find parishioners' testimonials on Our Lady of Lourdes Website:***

**<http://lourdesatlanta.org/annual-weekend-silent-retreat>**

**Register TODAY!  
SOLD OUT the  
last three years!**

**Register online at [www.ignatiushouse.org](http://www.ignatiushouse.org),  
call 404.255.0503 or  
email [smachek@ignatiushouse.org](mailto:smachek@ignatiushouse.org).**

## God is inviting you to this Holy weekend.

**What is Ignatius House?** Ignatius House is a Jesuit Retreat Center for spiritual direction and group retreats - the latter consisting of talks followed by silent reflection, meditation and prayer. Individual privately directed retreats are also given at set times throughout the year. Our retreats are open to men and women of all faiths who are sincerely seeking to “retreat” from the noise of their busy daily world in order to evaluate and improve their relationship with God and to live out God’s presence in their lives.

**Where is Ignatius House?** It is located in Sandy Springs, Georgia on 20 beautiful, heavily wooded acres off of Riverside Drive overlooking the Chattahoochee River. There are pleasant walking trails through the woods and along the banks of the river. A large deck with a high bluff looks down upon the river; gazebos, benches, a waterfall, a tower with a patio and religious icons, and beautiful trees, flowers and shrubbery grace the property.

**What are the accommodations of Ignatius House?** The building consists of 47 private rooms with individual bath and toilet facilities. Bed linens, towels and soap are provided; retreatants are asked to bring their own toiletries and personal articles. Each room has a bible, further information about the facility along with a history of the center. There is a beautiful chapel along with a smaller adoration chapel, a large dining room and a reading room / library. Coffee, tea, ice water, colas and snacks are always available. Dress is casual because the atmosphere is one of quiet, peaceful relaxation where you will hear no telephones, television, radios or human voices - unnecessary noises that would distract you during the retreat.

**Why is solitude and silence a necessary part of a retreat?** If one is to be open to God’s message and hear his “voice” during the retreat, one needs to experience solitude (even though one is part of a large group) along with external silence as well as interior silence (ridding oneself of distractions, fears, anxieties, etc.). Nevertheless, retreatants do have the opportunity to meet with the retreat director or Jesuit priests on the staff for private consultation, discussion or confession. Silence is one of the main factors of the retreat that individuals are most appreciative of, in spite of any anxieties they might have had about their ability to be silent for that length of time.

**I might not consider myself to be a very spiritual person. Will I be uncomfortable if I feel that others in the group might be further ahead of me in their spiritual growth?** One of the advantages of a silent retreat is that the retreatants are not asked to openly express themselves during the course of the retreat. There is no pressure put on anyone to disclose where you might be in your spiritual growth or to compare yourself to others attending the retreat.

**What does the retreat consist of?** It consists of 7 talks that are based on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola. These conferences usually last around 30 minutes; they focus on one’s relationship with God and God’s image, particularly as seen in the person of Jesus as his life and teachings are briefly reviewed. Retreatants then have the opportunity to reflect on what they have heard while sitting comfortably in their room, outside, or just roaming the grounds and being open to hearing God talk to them. The benefits of these talks are unique for each individual and are often intangible. However, retreatants often report that something dramatic and important had happened to their spiritual lives as a result of the retreat.

**What does it cost to attend a retreat?** Ignatius House requests a \$50 deposit at the time of registration to secure your room. At the end of the retreat, there will be an opportunity to give a heartfelt donation to help cover our operating costs. It costs Ignatius House \$250 for a 2-night retreat. We receive no financial support from the Archdiocese of Atlanta or from the Jesuit Province in New Orleans so we depend on your retreat contributions. Scholarships available upon request. No one is turned away due to lack of funds. Our ministry is here to serve you, we all belong to Ignatius House, it’s “our house” where we come to vacation with the Lord.

**Why do people attend retreats more than once - annually, for instance?** Many retreatants find spiritual value in spending time alone with God and find a retreat a good way to do this. Others believe that a retreat helps them to keep in touch with themselves, to think through their personal value systems and attempt to keep those values in perspective and balance. We sincerely hope that you will take advantage of these spiritual vacations with the Lord.

Questions? Contact parishioner Cathy Perry at [cperry@inwardboundcenter.org](mailto:cperry@inwardboundcenter.org)

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# Restoring the Church

## Building the Future

**L**ess than 100 years ago, the country of Slovenia did not exist on any map. As a new country, it fell to the harsh rule of Communism and state-sponsored atheism, from which its people suffered for many decades. Today, with help from the **Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe**, the city of Ljubljana is home to Project Bethlehem, a safe, low-cost housing center where young women are able to live while they attend college. The Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco run the center and provide programs for Catholic formation, personal growth, and leadership, all based on Church teachings.

In Romania, the Archdiocese of Bucharest is able to educate over 38 seminarians at the

inter-diocesan seminary of Iasi with support from the Collection. Romanian Catholics no longer live in the shadows and worship in secret. Instead they are looking toward a brighter future of the Church after 70 years of Soviet rule. For them, the Collection has enabled the seminarians to be a beacon of hope for the faithful in the region.

Your donation to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe provides support for basic pastoral programs, scholarships for students who will return to serve their local churches, and help to build parishes to restore the Church—and build the future of the Church—in Central and Eastern Europe.



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