



OLL Lenten Retreat
Weekend
MAR 13-15 2015

*You are cordially invited to an
encounter with God...*

Join fellow parishioners for a 2-Night Silent Retreat Weekend at Ignatius House in Atlanta, overlooking the majestic Chattahoochee River on Riverside Dr. at I-285.



- **Experience Comfort:** Begins Friday at 6:15pm with a reception & dinner and concludes Sunday following Mass and lunch. Includes amazing cuisine prepared by a professionally trained chef featuring the freshest ingredients.
- **Experience Tranquility:** Creates a nourishing atmosphere of relaxation while surrounded by the picturesque Chattahoochee River, hiking trails, and beautiful landscape.



- **Experience Clarity:** Affords you the unique opportunity, through a variety of prayer vehicles and guided meditation to quiet down and examine where God is at work in the world and their lives.
- **Experience Fellowship:** Fosters new relationships with fellow OLL parishioners as you embark on this weekend of "active listening" while connecting with God in a way daily life does not provide.

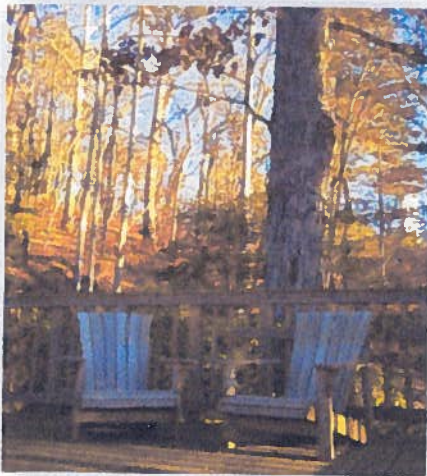
Total Retreat cost is \$250 (includes food, lodging, spiritual direction, and access to the glorious grounds of Ignatius House). *Financial Aid is available* (Contact Ignatius House 404.255.0503 and ask to speak to one of the staff).

REGISTER @ www.ignatiushouse.org for the March 13-15 Retreat and indicate that you are from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Call or email your OLL Retreat Chairs:
Terri Lewis 908-313-3508 (TAL487@gmail.com) or
Tom Sherrill 770-722-7521 (TBSHERRILL@comcast.net)
if you have questions.

**AVOID
THE
WAITING
LIST &
REGISTER
NOW!!**

**ALREADY
50%
BOOKED**



Read powerful testimonials from fellow OLL parishioners:

The young retreat master led us into silence and meditation in a delicate and sensitive way. So our experience was profoundly personal and reinvigorating. The meditations we heard in the silence of spring reminded us what is important in our lives: to let go of our own plans and go God's way in the service of others.
– Bill and Mary Moon

This is not about being silent, it's about listening! A silent retreat was new to me, but I was surprised how easily I was fully present and comfortable. I haven't walked the Stations of the Cross in decades, but I became part of the walk, not an observer or witness. Peace and insights came quickly, and I felt closer to Jesus. I'm still struggling with my relationship with God via the Catholic Church. But to my surprise, I'm returning for another retreat this summer.
– Ted Kneidl

Stop and listen... To hear God's voice was an amazing blessing. My attendance further revealed to me what I really need to do to walk and live in God's grace. The still surroundings, even with thunderstorms, created a soothing environment. I won't wait until next year to return -- I think I'll hang out with God and the Jesuit Priests this summer... in silence.
-Mizette Coakley

I learned the difference between being alone, being lonely, and finding solitude. In solitude, there is peace and a quiet awakening of the spirit. Most remarkable is that when we did begin speaking, we all shared this incredible bond having gone through the process together. – Terri

This is an opportunity to cut down on distractions and to listen for the whispering voice of God. These retreats are a good balance between silence, instruction, worship, and opportunities to enjoy nature. At a time when hurried action seems to be the norm, it is refreshing to engage in unhurried reflections. In a society that too often seems to be based on who can speak the loudest, it is refreshing to experience the power of silence. In a time when lives seem too crowded, these retreats are an opportunity to slow down and make room for God."
– Tom

At first I was miffed at the idea of having to remain silent. However, in the silence, I felt the presence of the Lord. Things were revealed to me that I might not have otherwise heard in my normal day to day routine. When I arrived back "in the real world", I was still on a natural high from the experience. Yes, the same problems that I left behind on Friday were still there. But I began to see things in a different light. Come to Ignatius House like a fast. Deprive yourself of all the distractions and anxieties of the world and come hungry to hear God speak to you. – Thomas

My husband and I found this was a way to address our family spirituality by strengthening our own personal relationships with God. It opens your heart, mind and spirit to hear, really hear, God talking to you. – Kizmet

No phone, computer, television, or talking for an entire weekend-yikes! But my concerns were unwarranted. The physical and spiritual beauty of the place allowed me to get in touch with self and communicate with God in a way I never have. In the silence, I felt closer to all of the retreat participants and most importantly I felt closer to God. – Stephanie

When I went on the retreat, I was six weeks pregnant. The pregnancy had taken me by surprise as I am young and unmarried. Even though I knew that God would provide for me and my baby, I was struggling with feelings of disappointment and resentment. I've always been one to follow the rules, and furthermore, having a child would negatively impact my graduate school plans for the fall. The retreat was perfect timing. I spent the weekend praying for the grace to accept the gift of life with joy and to let go of my anxiety over what other people would think of me. I came away from the weekend feeling refreshed and ready to accept the challenge of motherhood. On the Wednesday after the retreat, I went in for my first ultrasound, excited to see my baby and the flicker of its heartbeat. The image that came up on the screen was an empty black oval. My baby never developed- cell division ceased very soon after the egg was fertilized. I am about to miscarry, and the grief has been enormous for me and my fiancé. We will never meet our child. I credit the retreat with building my faith so that I can carry through this difficult time. I have been able, albeit reluctantly, to return the gift of my child to its Creator.
- Anonymous