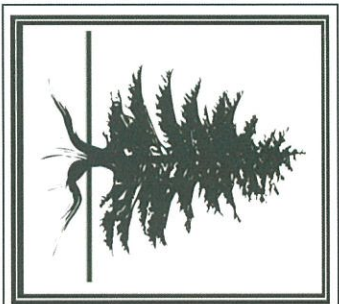




OUR LADY OF THE  
**PINES**  
 RETREAT + CENTER  
 1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420  
 419-332-6522 [olprc@pinesretreat.org](mailto:olprc@pinesretreat.org)

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Newsletter, Winter 2014

E-Mail [olprc@pinesretreat.org](mailto:olprc@pinesretreat.org)

Volume XVII

1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420

419-332-6522

[www.pinesretreat.org](http://www.pinesretreat.org)

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Dear Friends,

Although today is a beautifully clear day with blue sky and the presence of sun here at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, I am keenly aware that parts of the area are covered in snow! As I think about that, it makes me realize that the differences we each experience are because of where we are and who we are!

You could be having a wonderful day because all is right with "your" world, while I could be suffering terribly because of a death in the family, or some other sad and unfortunate circumstance. Or two people could be involved in the same situation and the assessment for one is positive while the other is negative. Perception! What a gift God has given us!

One of the graces of Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center is that we are here to welcome everyone: groups, hosted retreats, lunch and lectures, as well as business meetings for those who are seeking to gather their employees with time away on Holy Ground. Maybe you are a mom who could benefit from one complete night's sleep in order to continue God's work with your children and husband. And if you are a dad who usually works the night shift, a treat would be to enjoy the daylight hours at The Pines and an evening in the warmth of our rooms.

What will your perception be as you gather with your family and friends throughout the holiday season? Need time away? You are welcome at The Pines!



May God's great gifts be yours in Advent, throughout the Christmas season and well into our new year, 2015.

Sister Mariella Bradley, RSM

**Looking Ahead to Summer, 2015!**

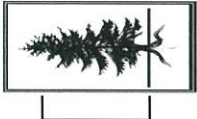
As you plan your summer retreat, please consider the following opportunities at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center.

- Week of June 8-13, 2015 Private Retreat Days
  - June 26-27, 2015 Art Retreat
  - July 6 -12, 2015 Directed Retreat
  - July 17 -18, 2015 Summer Overnight Retreat
  - July 27 – August 1, 2015 Conference Retreat

Father Anthony Gittens, CSSP

Topic for conferences is: " What on Earth is Discipleship? "

Save the  
 Date!



## Around The Center. . . .



Sisters from St. Bernardine's work on a fun activity during the Mercy Day celebration at The Pines.



A great experience was had by all who participated in a Drumming Evening on Sept. 17. Thirty drums, open air, warm fire and continual encouragement from Amy Slatters made the evening delightful. Pictured are Anne Bixler, Sister Breta and Janette Tahy.



Quilters continue to enjoy the space at Our Lady of the Pines as shown by the Sew Thankful Stitchers.

"Take off your sandals for you are on

HOLY GROUND..."

Exodus 3:5



The Fall Women's Cursillo, 2014, pause for a group picture.



A Tree of Hope Prayer Service and Lighting Ceremony

will occur on Tuesday Dec. 9

at 7:00 pm.

All are Invited!



Our Lady of the Pines hosted a Lakefront Tour Bus at the end of October. Prayer, dessert and a visit to the gift shop were included in this stop.



## Catherine's Corner...



"Catherine's Corner" offers a space to reflect on quotes from Venerable Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas who sponsor Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center. Catherine offers both practical and profound words that teach us how to be prayerful people who respond to the Gospel and action in the everyday events of our lives. Catherine McAuley's practice of hospitality, offering a "cup of tea", reflects the spirit of welcome that we offer at Our Lady of the Pines.



Call The Pines to make an appointment with a Spiritual Director. 419-332-6522

Catherine would be so thrilled with people helping people find and develop a relationship with our loving God.



Sr. Patricia Meyer, OSF:

Pat is a Franciscan Sister of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Louis, Missouri for over forty years. Raised in Clyde, Ohio, she received her religious formation in St. Louis, a Masters Degree in Religious Studies from St. Louis University, and a certificate in Spirituality and Spiritual Direction.

Breta Gorman, RSM



Breta Gorman, RSM, has been a Sister of Mercy for fifty-five years, the last eighteen as a full-time spiritual director at Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center in Fremont, Ohio she has directed retreats in Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arizona, and Florida, and Ireland, and include directed, guided, and preached types. Sr. Breta is a Myers-Briggs consultant and a Certified Karuna/Usui Reiki Master/Teacher.



Sr. Marianne Longo, RSM

Sr. Marianne is the former Director of Our Lady of the Pines for over twenty years is now involved full time in the ministry of spiritual direction.



Debbie Brenneman

Debbie is a certified spiritual director...a graduate of The Wellstreams Program in Columbus Ohio and a member of Spiritual Directors International. In addition to an on-going direction with individuals, she has extensive background in retreat ministry. Debbie brings rich, life experience to this ministry.

[Read Debbie's article on page 6.](#)



Sr. Wanda Smith, RSM is a Sister of Mercy of the South Central Community. She completed her internship in spiritual direction at the Jesuit Renewal Center in Milford, Ohio, and has years of experience in directed, guided and preached retreats. Wanda holds an MA in Theology from Xavier University in Cincinnati Ohio. She also enjoys using various aspects of art in her retreat experiences. She has been in parish pastoral work, vocation ministry and congregational leadership. Wanda lives in Fremont, Ohio doing spiritual direction and Retreat ministry.

## Mission Statement

**Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy,**

**offers a space for all seeking a deeper relationship with God, self, others, and all creation.**

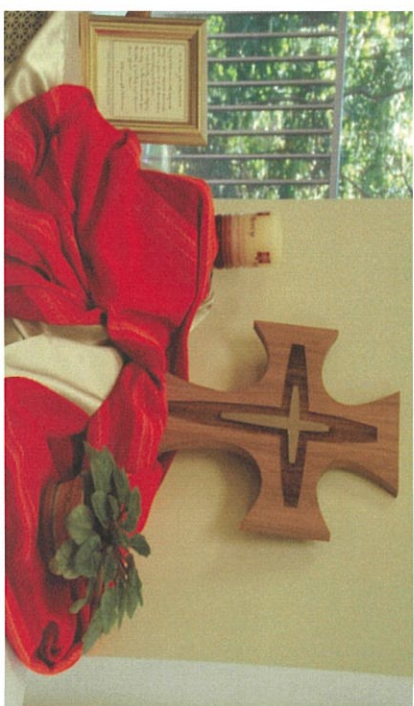
**The Spirit of Hospitality, a Mercy Charism, pervades the place, welcoming all who come.**



Mercy Alive...

### SPIRITUAL DIRECTION:

### DISCOVERING GOD'S PRESENCE



Is it growth in the spiritual life you are seeking? If so, what does that actually mean? Others speak of Spiritual Direction, would sitting with a spiritual director be for me? Nothing is quite so rewarding or so at the heart of what we are made for as the spiritual quest. But nothing we attempt is quite so daunting, either. That is where the spiritual director comes in, companion and guide on the spiritual journey.

Spiritual Direction is a prayerful, reflective experience where you come to recognize the presence and movement of God's spirit in all aspects of your life. At the heart of spiritual direction is the understanding that God longs to be in relationship with you as much as you long for God. In the midst of our busy lives, we long for a felt sense of God's love; and because of busy-ness we struggle to find it. Entering the process of spiritual direction invites you to greater awareness of the infinite ways that God is calling to you, inviting you into a deeper, more meaningful relationship. You will discover God's grace in both blessing and brokenness.

Recently, in preparing for a workshop on spiritual direction, I asked a few of the directees who sit with me, "What has being in Spiritual Direction meant to you - your spiritual journey?"

"Spiritual direction has been a primary map for me on my spiritual journey. It serves to keep me grounded, honest, humble, reflective, care-full, attentive to God as best as I can be. It helps me set the course for my spiritual journey - especially when I may be getting off track."

"It makes it possible for me to survive the work I do...and to thrive. I also believe it makes it possible for others to survive me."

"Spiritual direction has helped me become a more feeling, more vulnerable person which I know has moved me closer to God's presence in my life."

"I am so aware that, because I am committed to 'come to God' regularly in spiritual direction, my prayer has changed into a more constant presence during each day."

"I am living more in the Present Moment! I notice God's spirit moving around me. Saint Paul writes of 'the fruit of the Spirit.' That personal transformation for me is gradually taking place as I am choosing to be led by the Spirit of God in spiritual direction."

There is so much more to offer in explanation and invitation to this sacred and rich ministry. If you've a stirring for more information, Our Lady of the Pines offers a sanctuary setting and certified spiritual directors who will answer questions or concerns and hold your story in confidence....through whom, you will feel the blessing of being *heard*. You may visit the website: [www.pinesretreat.org](http://www.pinesretreat.org) (following 'Spiritual Direction' on home page) or call Our Lady of the Pines at 419-332-6522.

#### BLESSINGS ON YOUR JOURNEY,

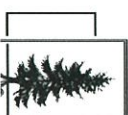
DEBBIE BRENNEMAN

CERTIFIED SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

CONTACTED WITH OUR LADY OF THE PINES

*Read more about our  
Spiritual Directors*

*on page 71*



Time, Talent, Treasure...

# Did You Know?

You can be the instrument God uses to speak to someone's heart by giving a sacred gift—a gift card for an overnight in a hermitage! For the person who would be grateful for some time alone with God; or for the gift of space to think and pray—it is the ideal gift...\$70.00 per night.



Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center is located at 1250 Tiffin Street, Fremont, OH 43420. Call 419-332-6522. for additional information on any of these items

Open 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday-Friday

e-mail [olpbc@pinesretreat.org](mailto:olpbc@pinesretreat.org)

# WOWWA

## DROP OFF SITE FOR TOYS FOR TOTS

Drop off any toy at

The Pines between 9-4 Monday –Friday!

In need of items for infants to 4 years old .

Deadline: Dec. 18, 2014

Our Lady of the Pines Gift Shop is having a **Christmas Open House**

on December 4, 2014 10:00am to 2:00pm to kick off the Christmas Season. The gift shop has a variety of stocking stuffers, gifts, advent calendars and ornaments.

### MASSAGE THERAPIST

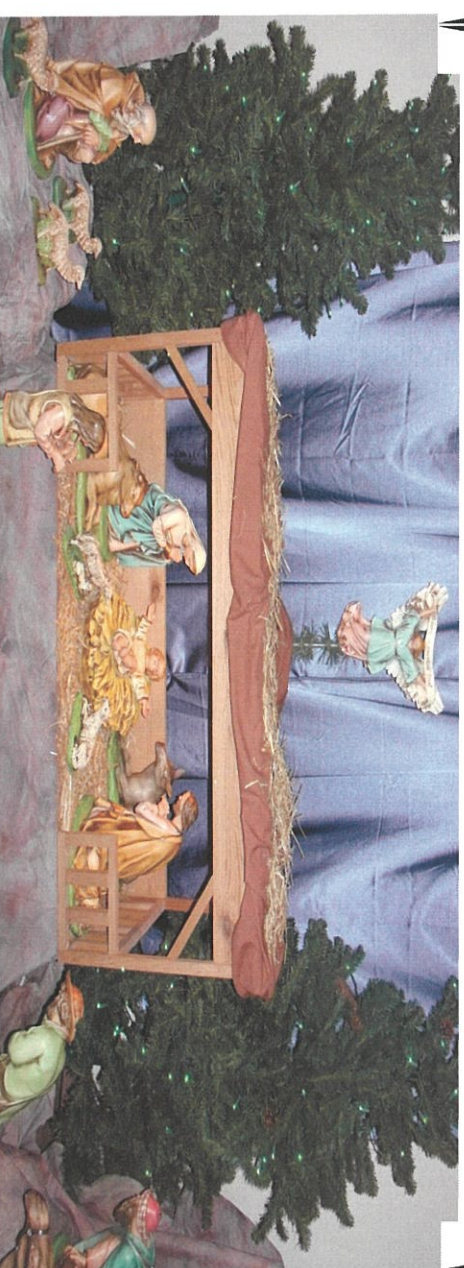
Experience a form of healing and relaxation  
A method to help deal with stresses  
of daily life.



Gift Cards available 1/2 hour \$42.00 1 hour \$61.00

A blessed and Merry Christmas from our house to your house.

*Sister Mandala Bradley, RSM and Pines' Staff*



Nativity Set displayed in the lobby at The Pines.



# EVERGREEN ELEGANCE GALA SPONSORS AND DONORS

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Enjoying listening to Sister Pat Schnapp is Sister Marie Catherine Wise and friends.

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 Bordner Paula Daniel Barney and Mary Lou Corthell Sister Eve Marie Korzym, OSF/S Father Ray Ensmann Kathleen and Ken  
 Burkin Nancy Sattler Sue and Michael Hartenstein St. Greta Schmidlin, RSM Ole Zim's Wagon Shed (John and Jill Zimmerman)  
 and our 124 dinner guests!

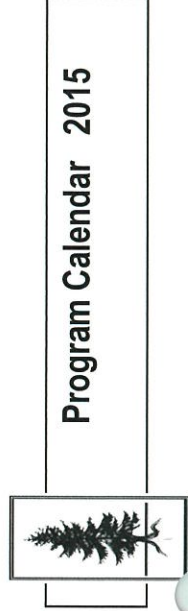
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## Program Calendar 2015

January, 2015\*\* \*\*registration is required

**Tuesday, January 6: Centering Prayer; 7:00 – 8:00 PM**  
 Centering prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer in which we experience God's presence within us. The focus on Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus. Free will offering  
 Leader: Fran Benlein

**Tuesday, January 13 Reflection with a Cup of Tea: 2015 Another Year, Another Chapter 9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
 Two weeks after New Year's Day is a good time to take a second look at our "resolutions" for the new year. We will 'tweak', prioritize, and "write them into the Chapter of 2015."  
**Presenter: Sister Eve Marie Korzym, OSF/S** is a Sylvania, Ohio Franciscan. Her professional education qualifies her to work in initial religious formation and on-going adult religious education.\*\*

**Monday, January 26 Evening Prayer: Softly Chanted; 7:00 – 8:00 PM**  
 Join in a sung evening prayer, thanking God for the graces of the day and asking for His blessings through the night.  
**Presenter: Sr. Breta Gorman, RSM** is a long time educator, retreat and spiritual director, who has served at The Pines.  
 Free will offering; refreshments to follow.\*\*

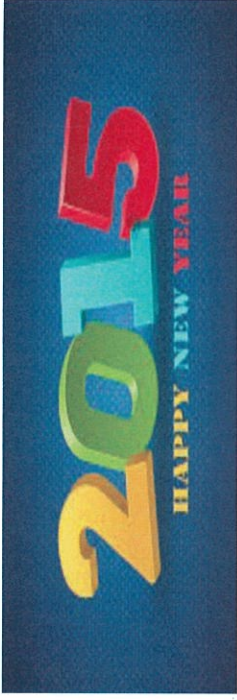
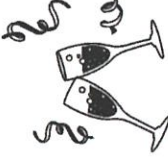


**February, 2015\*\* \*\*Registration is required**

**Tuesday, February 3: Centering Prayer 7:00 – 8:00 PM**  
 Centering Prayer adds a depth of meaning to all prayer forms. The focus of Centering Prayer is the deepening of our relationship with Jesus. Free will offering. Leader: Fran Benlein

**Wednesday, February 4 Refresh Your Spirit Day: Learning to Pray Without Words 9:00 – 3:00 PM**  
 A time to explore and enjoy a different way to be with the Lord. A time to deepen the gift and challenge of praying. Cost: \$25. \*\*  
**Presenter: Sister Marianne Longo, RSM** is the former director of Our Lady of the Pines (for over twenty years) and is now involved full time in the ministry of Spiritual Direction.

**Tuesday, February 10 Toast the Trees with Couples; 6:00 – 8:30 PM**  
 Earnie Larson, nationally known counselor, author, and lecturer once said that the most meaningful gift we can give another person in a relationship is our own growth. What are the skills needed for navigating the challenging course toward human maturity and thereby, meaningful relationships? Enjoy a marriage 'date night' while you review your own engagement with ongoing growth. Couples are invited to this evening of dining and input. Cost: \$50. per couple. \*\*  
**Presenter: Sister Edna Michel, OSF/IT** is a member of the Tiffin Franciscan Community, widely known throughout the Diocese of Toledo for her involvement in parish and retreat ministry. Sister is currently the director of the St. Francis Spirituality Center in Tiffin.



**Monday, February 16 Evening Prayer: Preparing for Lent; 7:00 – 8:00 PM**  
 St. Ambrose says that "singing is praying twice". Join in song and prayer as we anticipate the season of Lent. Free will offering; Refreshments to follow in anticipation of Mardi Gras. **Presenter: Sister Eve Marie Korzym, OSF/S** \*\*

**Tuesday, February 17, Between Santa and the Easter Bunny 9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
 Tips on how to keep your family faith life alive with prayers and family rituals appropriate to the seasons; most especially geared to families awaiting a child and parents of preschool and primary grade children. Cost \$10.00 **Presenter: Sister Eve Marie Korzym, OSF/S**\*\*

**Sunday, February 22 Lent by Candlelight Pondering the Seven Sorrows of Mary 6:00 – 8:30 PM**  
 Be present, spending time in prayer with Mary during some of the most poignant times of her life. While we identify with these situations we will draw on her strength and resilience. Cost: \$15. **Presenter: Sister Eve Marie Korzym, OSF/S**\*\*

**March, 2015\*\* \*\*Registration is required**

**Tuesday, March 3: Centering Prayer 7:00 – 8:00 PM**  
 Centering Prayer (see above)  
 Leader: Fran Benlein

**Tuesday, March 10 Reflection with a Cup of Tea: Lent and Easter Wisdom according to St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi; 9:00 – 10:30 AM**  
 The book, *Lent and Easter Wisdom* from St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, will encourage us to set aside time each day to reflect on a specific Scripture passage and take to heart the day's message and practice the suggested activity. Cost: \$20.00 (covers the cost of the book and refreshments.) **Presenter: Sister Eve Marie Korzym, OSF/S** \*\*  
**Register by February 25, 2015**

**Friday to Saturday, March 20 – 21. Enneagram Retreat with Sister Breta Gorman, RSM**  
 Retreat begins with supper at 5:30 on Friday and ends at 3:00 PM on Saturday.  
 Cost: \$110.00 overnight (includes all meals and housing)  
 Commuter Rate \$55.00 (includes Friday supper and Saturday lunch)  
 \$25.00 non-refundable deposit \*\*  
**Presenter: Sister Breta Gorman, RSM**



**Monday, March 23 Lenten Evening Prayer: Taize 7:00**  
 Come to this prayer form of light, scripture, music and quiet with live music and fellowship to follow. Free will offering  
**Presenter: Sister Noel Frey, RSM** is the musician and liturgist of St. Bernardine Home who shares herself in both music and prayer. \*\*