



Jesuit Retreat House
4800 Fahrnwald Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902

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The Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, fosters spiritual enrichment rooted in the Gospels, the Catholic tradition and the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Our ministry is dedicated to creating a rich variety of retreat experiences and providing an atmosphere of quiet, peace and prayer in which men and women of all faiths are encouraged to discover and respond generously to God's personal invitation to wholeness and holiness.

www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org

Lakeside Speaker's Series

Please join us for upcoming programs open to the community running from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in our Loyola Lounge:



Wed. March 12: Sr. Elise Cholewinski, OSF - "Original Baptism - Original Sin." Enter into Lent from a new perspective on the season: Baptism.

Wed. April 9: Fr. Jim Flaherty, SJ - "Catholic Social Teaching: The Church's Best Kept Secret." Highlighting several key principles addressing social and political issues, as well as "the seamless garment," "just war theory," and "the principle of subsidiarity."

Wed. May 14: Tanya Hielke - "The Many Stages of Grief Following Divorce." Eye-opening perspectives from a divorce recovery group facilitator.

April 1 Registration Window

Our August through December 2025 retreat registration opens on April 1. Now is the time to schedule a fall retreat. Whether your retreat is based on the Spiritual Exercises or 12-steps, you will grow in your relationship with God through the quiet, peace, and prayer of JRH. Click on this QR code for our preached retreat schedule and to register.



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4800 Fahrnwald Road
Oshkosh, WI 54902
920.231.9060
800.962.7330 (WI only)
www.JesuitRetreatHouse.org



Sustained in Hope

Pope Francis dedicated the 2025 Jubilee Year as the Year of Hope. We might often think of hope as something future-oriented, as a "desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring." But hope is also rooted in the now. We hope because God is beside us. As Pope Francis says, "to hope means the certainty of being on a journey with Christ."



In this Lenten season, let us be mindful of our journey of hope as we move towards Easter and the promise of the Risen Christ. "The [entire] Christian life," Pope Francis reminds us, "is a journey calling for moments of greater intensity to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus." For many of us whose life journeys pass through the gates at the end of Fahrnwald Road, making retreat at JRH is often a moment of greater intensity that encourages and sustains our hope and guides us towards Christ.

JRH's journey into the 2025 calendar year has started off strong. God is with us! We have many reasons to hope for good things to come! Three of our four January retreats had over 50 participants. Our new winter women's retreat in late-January was over half-full. Our February couples retreat grew this year, thanks to about one-half of the couples coming to JRH for their first time. Being part of JRH's ministry of showing people the way to God through the Spiritual Exercises fills me with gratitude. This too is part of hope according to Pope Francis: "Christian hope is expressed in praise and gratitude to God"



I am also grateful to all those who contributed to a successful Annual Appeal. In early February we met our goal. Planned and unexpected capital projects are underway. We have finished replacing the last of the original 100-year-old plumbing in the Loyola building. Soon the Jesuits will have the common areas of their residence back after being displaced for some months while these spaces are updated and made more usable. Our regular fundraising efforts continue. In the upcoming months these will focus on supporting the ongoing ministry of JRH.

In Hope!

Mark A. Carr, SJ

Fr. Mark Carr, SJ
Executive Director



Practice What You Preach

The new winter women’s retreat on the fourth weekend of January launched with great success! Fr. Jim Shea, SJ, guided the 34 women, including 14 women attending a JRH retreat for their first time, through a weekend version of the Spiritual Exercises.

Four of the retreatants were JRH staff members: Tanya, Ann, Tamara, and Kathleen. Three of them were making a weekend retreat for the first time. An annual weekend retreat is one of the benefits offered to JRH staff and allows them to encounter the same experience of quiet, peace, and prayer as the retreatants they serve.

Kathleen likened her experience to Mother’s Day, when “we are used to caring, cooking, and coordinating on a daily basis, but once a year we are blessed to step back, be taken care of and spiritually nourished rather than being the provider.”



Tamara described the healing service led by Sr. Susan on Saturday evening, “I’ve experienced the power of the Holy Spirit before in my life, but seldom as powerful and close as I did during the Healing Service. The sense of peace and prayer was so overwhelming, it moved me to tears—and I was not the only one. I truly felt the presence of Jesus among us.”

There were a few occasions when the four stepped forward in their work roles to help out the Retreat Team and ensure that the retreat ran smoothly, but as they rejoined the group at each of Fr. Jim Shea’s presentations they seamlessly returned back to reflection and prayer.

Our staff regularly hears from retreatants how powerful their experience has been. Tanya summed up her own experience, “It is both a blessing and validation to experience retreat ourselves.”

“God is Love”

Pope Francis drew special attention to the Sacred Heart of Jesus with his encyclical *Delexit Nos* promulgated last October. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus focuses our own hearts on receiving and returning Christ’s love with gratitude.

During his apparitions to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque between 1671 and 1675, Jesus made 12 promises to those who would respond to the pleading of his heart. The promise best known and most followed over the centuries has been #9, “I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart is exposed and venerated.”

Sharing their own devotion to the Sacred Heart, in 1989 a couple who faithfully makes retreats at JRH provided for the construction of a Shrine of the Sacred Heart on JRH’s grounds. They dedicated the shrine in loving memory of their fathers.

When considering an image for the sacred space, they did not want to mimic the traditional depictions of the Sacred Heart image, but rather wanted something “warm and compassionate, earthy and above all, inviting.” They commissioned Dave Wanner, a sculptor in Watertown, WI to work from this painting, titled “God is Love” by Frances Hook.



For many years, the couple and their six children gathered for bedtime prayers in front of this picture which hung above their fireplace. Given that their focus was nearly always on Bible stories about Jesus, the picture formed the perfect backdrop for their devotions.



Now, a similar image is a backdrop for retreatants prayer at JRH. Like Hook’s painting, the sculpture in the shrine depicts Jesus embracing a child—or embracing any one of us—sharing his love and inviting us to a heart-to-heart dialogue. We hope that you will enjoy this sacred space and feel God’s love on your next visit to JRH.

The Tree Knows

*The tree knows
That days are getting shorter and the nights are cooler
That it will soon see its leaves turn a different color and begin to fall to the ground
That the seasons are changing.*

*The tree knows
That soon the last pelican of summer will cross the sky
That migrating ducks are now going south
That the squirrels are becoming fat with special feeding.*

*The tree knows
That darkness will come early and stay late
That the water will turn to ice
That fisherman will cross the lake in trucks instead of boats.*

*The tree knows
That ice will break and shove its way onto the shore
That days will get longer and the nights shorter
That new leaves will sprout from its branches.*

*The tree knows
That from the death of winter new life fills the air with soft breezes
That pelicans will return and ducks will migrate north
That the squirrels will be thin again.*

*The tree knows
That God’s love and care continues through the seasons
That disaster sometimes brings blessings
That even when all things appear dead there is a spark of life.*

by Fr. Jack Treloar, S.I

Thank You for Supporting Our Ministry

In addition to retreat offerings, the Jesuit Retreat House, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, relies on donations of all sizes to continue its retreat ministry. Gifts may be given in honor or memory of a family member, loved one, retreatant or friend by indicating that in the notes field. Please prayerfully consider your support for our ministry.

Gifts can be made online at the red donate button on www.jesuitretreathouse.org, by mailing your check to JRH, or by clicking on this QR code.



Certainly Not Junk

Have you opened your email at the start of the week looking for inspiration from JRH’s “Monday Moments” and not found the reflections you needed? Unfortunately, the message may have landed in your Junk Email rather than Inbox. Take a peek there and hopefully you’ll find it. If not, please contact Kathleen at kludington@jesuitretreathouse.org to verify that we have your correct email address on file.