

# Lourdes Life



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Newsletter

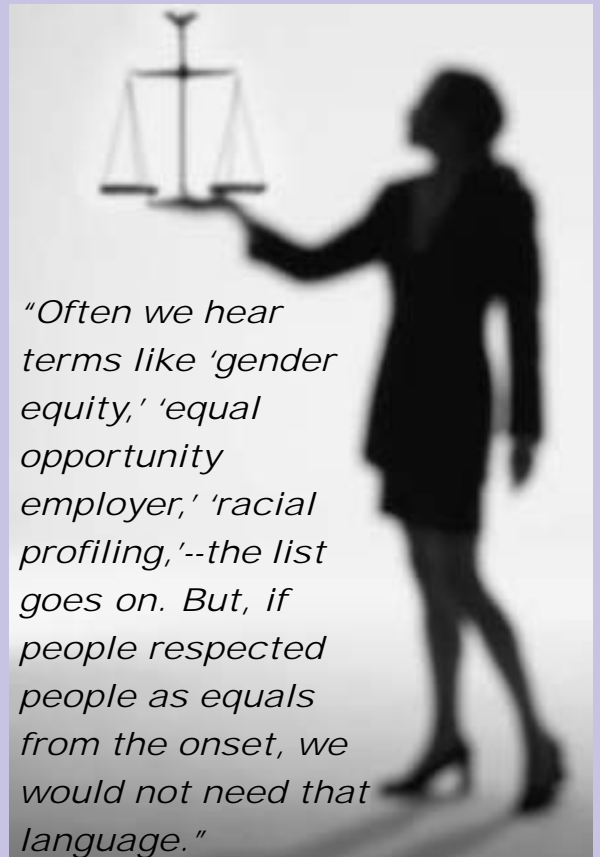
May, 2009

## Show no partiality

*By Alice Wissing*

Ask each of my five sons who is my favorite, and you will get five different answers. Favorite is defined as preferred; most wanted; much loved. Growing up, I wasn't teacher's pet, but I remember someone who was. I remember things like picking teams on the playground for kickball or in the classroom for spelling contests. It's tough being fair. As an adult, I try to be conscious about the way I treat others. But there have been occasions when it was not that easy. I have had a hard time with people that don't see things the same way I do. Call it tunnel vision, narrow mindedness or plain stubbornness. Being open to another's opinion, and nature, is trying.

Scripture reflects some specific characteristics along these lines during the weeks following Easter. Just when we think the Resurrection of Christ solved all the human crises of life, there continues to be instances when Lenten trials prevail. For example, there were plenty of people who had a hard time believing that Saul truly had a conversion experience. He wasn't anyone's favorite. It makes me think of the people I have known that haven't always been exemplary. So many times I am curt with a person who has a history of dishonesty, unfriendliness, meanness or any number of things. However, people do change their ways. It is a major breakthrough when I can open my mind to see the conversion others have to goodness. Wouldn't it be great to see a Saul/ Paul conversion in those we care about?



*"Often we hear terms like 'gender equity,' 'equal opportunity employer,' 'racial profiling,'--the list goes on. But, if people respected people as equals from the onset, we would not need that language."*

Peter says, "God shows no partiality." (Acts 10:34-35) In my humanness I'm not quite as lenient as God. Many people don't open their minds to diversity—

*--Continued on next page--*

## Turf Management Team Keeps it Green

*By Beth A. Boehm*

They are longtime parishioners and members of the Booster Club, but Mark Zurlage, Dan Gray, Bill Paulin, and Mike McMahon are also members of the "Turf Management Team." They are responsible for keeping the OLOL athletic field in playing condition, and it is no easy task.

Over 15 years ago, they took on the task of renovating the weed patch full of rocks behind Our Lady of

Lourdes, a site Dan Gray called a "nightmare." After years of trial and error and a lot of loving care, they have turned that unlikely patch of land into a field where school children can play soccer in the spring, field hockey in the summer, and football all fall. During the school year, children play kickball, jackpot, and birdy-on-the-perch during recess, and in the summer, their parents can be found playing softball on Sunday evenings. The field is in constant use, making

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## Dear Friends,

It is a common occurrence on our big family to plan a "potluck get-together." Everyone determines what he or she is to bring and usually there is a "feast fit for a king"!

Periodically, however, someone will forget to show up or to bring a key ingredient and everyone is left to run around and make up for it. It's kind of unfair, inconsiderate, and really inconvenient. A family functions well when every member does her/his part.

So it is also with a parish! When everyone who claims to be a member of "Lourdes family" does their part, we can achieve our goals together and avoid the feeling that certain family members are always expected "to pick up the slack" for the family members who do not participate.

We are all engaged in "building a church" in the Archdiocesan "Building a Future of Hope" Campaign. At this point, 428 parishioners (or 31% in our parish family) have brought a gift to the table. Can we ask you to bring your contribution now? Mail it to the Parish Center or drop it in the Sunday offering. Whatever you can offer is deeply appreciated, but offer it with a sincere heart and as a sacrificial gift to God.

Thank you and may God bless you,

*Father Nick*

## Baptisms

Leslie Beam  
Eric Bort  
Debbie Swan

Julia Barefoot  
James Dejanovic  
John Dejanovic  
Athena Hauber  
Megan Schildt  
Matthew Schildt  
Cooper Priest  
Carson Wohlleb  
Taylor Frey  
Meikala Head  
Molly Moran  
Logan Seales



## Show no partiality

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whether it be race, religion, politics, etc.—we so easily fall into the mode of "my way or the highway." Often we hear terms like "gender equity," "equal opportunity employer," "racial profiling,"--the list goes on. But, if people respected people as equals from the onset, we would not need that language.

We need to be firm in our convictions as conscientious Christians, and as such, we must be willing to open our hearts to those who are trying to change their ways. As people born and raised in a faith tradition honoring the commandments of the Old Testament and the one true law of the New Testament, we place God above all and love our neighbor as ourselves. But the reality of current times is, not every person has had the opportunity to live and learn with these ideals. We cannot assume people believe what we believe. And though evangelization seems like an intense mission, Scripture says, "let us love in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it." (1 John 3:18) Again, this is easier said than done. When we show partiality because someone is a friend, a church acquaintance, a family member or a colleague, more than likely they have a mindset that is quite like ours. But if any one of these people begins to think in a contrary manner, we may begin to question our relationship. Or, when we meet someone who is un-churched, our minds may need to allow an opportunity for growth with a different perspective.

Conversion is a process that will probably affect each one of us sometime in our life.

We are all God's favorite. God shows no partiality. It should be our goal to consider all people as preferred, most wanted and much loved.

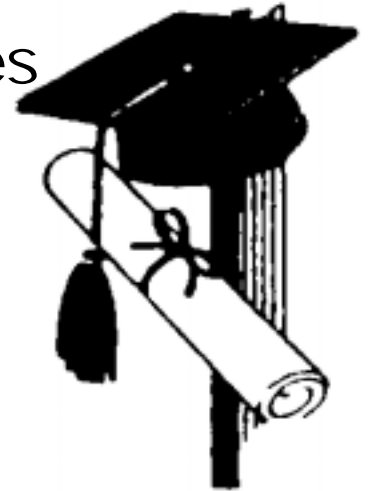
## Women's Summer Retreat 2009

This year's women's retreat will be held the weekend of May 29-31, at Knob's Haven at Loretto, Kentucky. "Good Ol' Prayer Days" will offer an opportunity to explore the traditions of Catholic prayer, to recognize the place of prayer in our life and to reflect on personal prayer style. Come share the beauty of the Loretto Motherhouse grounds, the chance to make new friends and relax in this comfortable, clean environment.

Facilitating the group is parishioner, Alice Wissing, a spiritual director and co-leader of Kentuckiana Spiritual Directors. Cost of the weekend is \$110 for two nights, \$70 for one night. Flyers are available at the church in the kiosk in the gathering space.

# Congratulations 2009 OLOL Graduates

## God Bless and Good Luck at your future schools!



<i>Marissa Albensoeder</i> Assumption	<i>Caroline Flynn</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Trevor Mason</i> Trinity	
<b>Ashley Armstrong</b> Sacred Heart	<i>Allyson Frieders</i> Ballard	<i>Emily McDaniel</i> Sacred Heart	
<i>Kelsey Bauer</i> Assumption	<i>Will Glasford</i> St. Xavier	<i>Cole McNair</i> duPont Manual	
<i>Kayla Besendorf</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Chris Guest</i> Eastern	<i>Gus Miller</i> St. Xavier	
<i>Jordan Blair</i> Trinity	<i>Alex Graehler</i> Trinity	<i>Alexandra Miozza</i> Male	<i>Caitlyn Standridge</i> Assumption
<i>Maddy Blevins</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Ben Hachten</i> St. Xavier	<i>Kirsten Nagel</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Stuart Streeter</i> Ballard
<i>Jeff Bryant</i> St. Francis	<i>Nick Hagerman</i> Trinity	<i>Bryan Noble</i> Ballard	<i>Mason Sullivan</i> Trinity
<i>Aisling Carroll</i> Assumption	<i>Madison Halloway-Brown</i> Christian Academy	<i>Dakota Pitzer</i> Atherton	<i>Michael Sutton</i> Trinity
<i>Nick Cawthon</i> Trinity	<i>Ellen Hancock</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Frank Porco</i> St. Xavier	<i>Callie Taylor</i> Sacred Heart
<i>John Cerjak</i> Trinity	<i>Paige Harpring</i> Assumption	<i>Sam Rittenberry</i> St. Xavier	<i>Chad Tevebaugh</i> duPont Manual
<i>Maura Dayton</i> Ballard	<i>Jared Hoskins</i> St. Xavier	<i>Abby Rose</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Emily Watson</i> Sacred Heart
<i>Taylor Duncan</i> Assumption	<i>Sam King</i> New Mexico Military Academy	<i>Jimmy Scott</i> St. Xavier	<i>Daniel Whipkey</i> Trinity
<i>Alex Edlin</i> Trinity	<i>MacKenzie Knabel</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Noel Slawinski</i> Sacred Heart	<i>Hope Wilding</i> Male
<i>Emily Erskine</i> Pitt Academy	<i>Matt Krawiec</i> Trinity	<i>Brice Smith</i> Atherton	<i>Mitch Wolford</i> St. Xavier
<i>Tripp Essington</i> Trinity	<i>Chris Lehn</i> Trinity	<i>Hannah Smith</i> North Oldham	<i>Jeff Young</i> Trinity
<i>Katie Fizer</i> Assumption	<i>Drew Marquardt</i> Trinity	<i>Hunter Smith</i> North Oldham	<i>John Zehnder</i> Trinity

## Deaths



Margaret Willinger  
Elsie Thompson  
Dorothy Zehnder  
Juanita Zurlage  
Jean Nichols

## Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for **June 22-26** and come take a cruise with us on the *Steward-Ship!* There are many opportunities for adults and youth to serve in story, art, snack, music, games, or nursery centers; as group leaders; and as aides. Think about where you would like to help! We always have fun! VBS is open to children age 4 through completed 4th grade; watch for registration information in mid-to-late May. Please contact Ann Pifer with questions, 896-0241.

# Confirmation Retreat Focuses on Social Justice

*By Laura Zoeller*

On March 21, over 70 people came together for the retreat this year. Materials from Catholic Relief Services were used to guide us through the day and teach us about Catholic Social Justice. We fasted together, participated in activities led by the tireless team, and prayed for those suffering in our world.

Our guest speaker for the day was Mr. Scott Holtzkenecht. He was featured in an article in "The Record" for the fasting and prayer he did to raise awareness of needs in the world. Mr. Holtzkenecht shared his experiences with fasting and prayer, and also told us about people he had met in his travels to developing countries. It was a very enlightening experience.

During one of the activities, youth were given \$5 and had to choose whether to buy food, water, shelter supplies, clothing, or medicine for the week. It simulated the real choices the majority of people in our world have to make.

We were all encouraged to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ in prayer.

The Candidates also made a big difference that day. Not only was time spent praying for others, but they also had enlisted donors to raise over \$600 for Catholic Relief Services. The money will go to help those in Kentucky and around the world struggling to make ends meet.

Please continue to pray for our Candidates as they continue their preparation for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Please continue to pray for our newly confirmed as they discover how to live this sacrament in their daily lives.



## *OLOL Turf Team*

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growing seed a major challenge.

The Turf Management Team installed a sprinkler system almost entirely with Booster club labor several years back, digging the trenches and laying the pipe themselves. That system has helped them maintain the field even during the hottest of summers, although once or twice, the automatic system has accidentally soaked a group of school children during recess. This winter's ice storm—or more accurately the trucks that allowed workers to trim the trees along the field—was hard on the sprinkler system, but Mark and Dan, Bill and Mike are on the job, repairing sprinkler heads and burst pipes.

Dan is quick to give most of the credit for maintaining the field to Mark, who organizes the grounds crew, researches the chemicals and seed used on the field, and who makes sure the tools and mowers in the "Turf Management Center" (the term they use jokingly to refer to the storage shed) are all in good shape. "If it weren't for Mark, none of this would happen."

Indeed, the crew has already spread over 700 pounds of fertilizer this spring, and they are trying out a new mix of seed in order to fight both the weeds and the heavy use of the field. Dan, who is retired, mows the field once a week, usually on Fridays in order that the kids who play in the Saturday soccer league at Lourdes are able to move the ball down the field. He uses a John Deere tractor mower that the Booster club saved for seven years to buy. Football season poses a particular challenge to the grounds crew. Place kickers have worn a bare patch in front of the field goal that is as hard as concrete, according to Dan, and attempts over the years to both sod and seed the area have never been completely successful.

One of the most remarkable things about the grounds crew is that none of them have children who currently use the field at Our Lady of Lourdes; they maintain the grounds out of a deeply rooted sense of stewardship and love for the children who play on the field every day. While the constant use makes their task a challenge, Dan noted that "It's not really about growing grass, after all, it's about making a good place for the kids to play."

# School Students Compete and Excel

*By Barbara Taylor*

The academic teams at Our Lady of Lourdes continue to excel. The MATHCOUNTS competition consists of written, cooperative team, and oral competition elements. Mr. Jeff Beavin, junior high Math teacher, coordinates this program. Several Lourdes graduates also volunteer to help coach. Eight OLOL students participated in the Louisville competition on Saturday, February 28. Several Lourdes students finished in the top half of this very competitive and talented group.

Book Bee is a program sponsored by the Archdiocese to excite students about books and reading. OLOL sponsors teams for grades 4, 5, 6 and junior high. All of Lourdes Book Bee teams advanced to the semi-finals, with two teams advancing to the finals. The 5th grade team, coached by Colleen Walker, placed second and the 4th grade team, coached by Leslye Arnett, placed third in the Archdiocesan-wide competition!

Quick Recall has a "quiz show" type of format between two school teams where students have just seconds to answer questions on a variety of topics. Both OLOL 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade teams did well this past season. The White team was coached by Suzee Smith and Angie McDermott. The Blue team, coached by Tracy Merkley and Michele McCarthy, finished second in the Catholic Schools Academic League tournament.

Seventh grade students Clare Hagan, Will Hellman, Blake Merkley, and Sydney Stansbury received state recognition for their outstanding SAT or ACT test



scores in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). These students will be honored at the state recognition ceremony in May. In addition, Clare Hagan will also be recognized at the Duke University Grand Recognition ceremony for her exceptional score.

Congratulations to all these students, teachers, and coaches for their achievements! They certainly deserve the recognition.

In addition to academics, Our Lady of Lourdes School continues to encourage service and stewardship. This year, the school has partnered with St. Matthews Area Ministries for several projects. The students have collected baby necessities, canned food, and cleaning supplies for St. MAM programs. St. MAM greatly appreciates this support from OLOL students and families.

## Stewardship: faith decisions to be renewed

### Stewardship Update:

	Last Year	This Year
Total Parish Households:	1,313	1,334
Intention Cards Returned:	866 (66%)	892(67%)
Households who have not fulfilled their 2008 treasure intention:	261 (\$158,937)	

**Your stewardship must be renewed annually AND daily!** Think about it . . . annually we ask that you review your stewardship intentions and recommit yourself to your parish but it is daily that you fulfill that intention.

It may be easy to say what you intend to do; following through with that commitment requires rededicating yourself to your commitment and why you made the intention that was made. How easy is it to sleep in on Sunday morning because you were up late the night before BUT what if you are scheduled to be an usher at the 9:30

Mass? How about skipping this week's treasure contribution because you ran short for a number of reasons ~ grocery costs are up, utilities are high, cell phone bill is due, need to buy a birthday present, etc. We can always find excuses why we didn't do what we said we were going to do but if Christ himself were asking why, what reason would you give?

Stewardship is not something new in our lives; it is not about the extraordinary; it is about finding peace of mind in the ordinary routine and struggles of every day life. Stewards are engaged in a lifestyle that starts with the basic belief that everything we have and every new day is a gift from God. We only get one chance to live each day. Let your words, actions and thoughts always be grounded in the knowing that each new day is a gift from God and how you live that day is your gift back to God. Re-commit yourself daily to a lifestyle of stewardship!

# Reflection from an RCIA Experience . . .

*By Eric Bort*

I know I was asked to write this piece because of my humor and inability to stop talking in class, or maybe it was an exercise in busy-work to keep me distracted, but in all honesty I'm honored to write about my experience in RCIA over the last year, hopefully doing it justice for the other candidates and catechumens.

I can't help but think back and reflect on the noticeable improvement in my life, my relationships, and the large number of people I now know by name at Lourdes over the last year.

Faith and religion aside, I became a member with my family seeking nothing more than a community we could grow with, giving and gaining support. What I found through RCIA though, was a deep interest in Catholicism: the morals, friendships, understandings and overall love and acceptance of humans that Catholics have. Growing up in a non-religious family, my only exposure tended to be through the eyes of skewed media. Lucky for me I took a neutral open position rather than assume every church had a poisonous snake room, or a minister with so many rhinestones on his robe it outshone the Sun.

Religion ended up being one of those things I had to dive into head first to really understand, and what I experienced through RCIA was a group of the most wonderful, intelligent and uplifting people leading our spiritual growth. It was made apparent that I was always in control of my faith journey. No ultimatums or point of no return. I was free to digest what I had learned each Wednesday night at my own pace and interpret it through my own understanding. Besides, no one learns very well under pressure.

If you're considering RCIA you might think three months to a year is a little too long to handle, but you won't

be alone in the process as your assigned sponsor will be there every step of the way, teaching and learning alike. You really do end up with a great friend who knows their way around Lourdes, introducing you to the rest of the community.

Once you take RCIA a night at a time and really get into the growth and learning aspect of it all, it's that much easier to show up at the next session. After a while you find yourself looking forward to it, and then end up like myself where you're sorry to see it go. The good news is that it's not the end but the beginning. The beginning of immersing yourself completely into a great community, choosing your path through stewardship and finding ways to make life for your family and those around you more meaningful through the teachings of Christ.

I had the immense pleasure of being baptized and confirmed this Easter weekend, and have to say it was a great and deeply significant experience. Thanks to everyone for making it such a memorable entrance into the Catholic faith.

I had asked the class to write a little about their experience in RCIA. The following quote is from sponsor Beth Angeline, which struck me as the most impactful way to end this article:

*"It is impossible to lead an examination without seeing the course of study with new eyes.*

*"It is impossible to guide someone to the light without experiencing its brilliance afresh.*

*"It is impossible to watch God's love change someone's life and not be changed oneself.*

*"Following in Christ's footsteps is possible, RCIA reminds me how."*

## Festival/Homecoming Preparations in Full Swing

*By Ann Russo*

It won't be long before it's Parish picnic season again. The 2009 Festival-Homecoming is Friday, June 19. There's so much that happens before that fun night; here's a look at some of the "behind the scenes" preparations.

The Booster Club lays the groundwork as soon as each year's is over. They visit other church picnics to check out the different types of games, booths, prizes and food to see if there's anything new and exciting to bring back. Restaurants are solicited for donations for the Dining Out raffle, and the quilting ladies start thinking about patterns and fabrics for the beautiful quilt they spend many hours putting together for the raffle.

In April, the \$5 Capital Prize, \$1 Dine Out and \$1

Quilt raffle tickets are put together in packets by the Boosters to send out to each Parish family.

Set-up will begin on Monday, June 15 at 6 p.m., and continue on both Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. If you'd like to volunteer to work in a booth on Friday evening, send an e-mail to Chairman Greg Lile at [gtlile@bellsouth.net](mailto:gtlile@bellsouth.net) and he'll get you placed.

Thursday evening will again be ride night from 6-9 p.m. and the "Sunset Grill" will be open, serving up hamburgers and hot dogs, along with their usual snack bar treats and drinks. On Friday, OLOL's 2009 Festival/Homecoming full lot of booths and gaming, including Texas Hold 'Em, Beat the Dealer, MiniBingo and Big 6 will kick off at 5:30 pm and wind up at midnight. See you there!

# From the Health Committee: *Attitude is Everything!*

*By Kathy Bryant, R.N.*

*"If you are cheerful, you feel good; if you are sad, you hurt all over."*

—Proverbs 17:22

I'll admit it – I can be a pessimist. When faced with challenging situations, I often find myself focused on the negative. My husband, however, is an eternal optimist – always expecting things to work out well. I also have to admit he usually is right. Secretly, I wish I were more like him. I intend to try by practicing optimism.

My family and I moved here from another city recently. Moving is a stressful transition—selling a home, buying a home, new schools, new church, new jobs and more. Despite these challenges, we have tried to focus on the positives. We now live closer to family, the new jobs are exciting, everyone has been incredibly kind and helpful, and those are just a few examples. Does that mean everything has gone smoothly? No, but our positive focus has made the rough patches easier to navigate. Regardless of the ups and downs of life, how we handle circumstances makes a big difference in the outcome and how we feel along the journey.

A positive attitude improves physical health as well as mental health. Numerous studies have noted the connection between outlook and outcome in health matters. While not fully understood, it has been shown that optimism can reduce blood pressure, boost immunity, decrease pain, speed recovery following surgery and prolong life.

How do we develop a more positive attitude? Here are some suggestions on how to incorporate positive thinking into your everyday routine:

·Acknowledge your blessings. Whether through prayer, journaling, meditation or quiet time, remind yourself of the gifts God has given you. Every day reveals at least one blessing—some large, some small. Thanking God shifts your focus from the negative to the positive.

·Make time for the things that connect you to God. Maybe it's a quiet nature walk to enjoy God's creation, daily devotional time, enjoying praise music in your car or doing volunteer or mission work. Whatever feeds your soul will improve your attitude.

·Take good care of yourself! When we get regular exercise, eat a healthy diet and get plenty of rest, we feel better physically and mentally.

·Find something to smile about. Don't take yourself too seriously. Humor is great medicine to give to yourself and to share with others.

Pass it on! Share your smile and bright outlook. A simple smile, nod or warm greeting to another will brighten

both your days. Kind words are like honey – they cheer you up and make you feel strong (Proverbs 16:24).

Despite challenges, we can all benefit by practicing optimism. It takes some effort, but the rewards are great. God gave us the gift of joy, and it's our responsibility to nurture and share it with others.

## Welcome! New Parishioners

Aaron & Lindsey Abell and Hannah  
Melissa Bauer  
Elizabeth Bowling  
Eric & Kristen Dolle and Macy  
Joe & Sally Farris  
Brenna Finkbeiner  
Wanda Francis  
Phaedra Jeffries and Corrine & Noah  
Eric & Ashley Keener and Gabriel  
Patrick Lincoln  
Colleen Casey  
Thomas & Stacey Pritchard  
Patrick Stetson  
Jennifer Jones  
Lissa Wathen  
Scott & Heather Wells  
and Warren, Emmy, & Anna Jo  
Linda Wolf  
Robert & Rowena Wolf  
Martin & Maria Zena and Martin

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**Lourdes Life** is the bi-monthly newsletter for parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 508 Breckinridge Lane, Louisville KY 40207. It is published in January, March, May, July, September and November.



**Our Lady of Lourdes Church**  
508 Breckinridge Lane  
Louisville KY 40207

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## Coming Attractions . . .

**May 26**

Eighth Grade Graduation

**May 29-31**

Women's Retreat at Nerinx, KY, Sisters of Loretto Motherhouse. (arrive Friday night or Sat. Morning)  
Carpools will form.

**May 31**

Pentecost celebration at 9:30 a.m. Mass. Wear red.

**June 19**

Festival Homecoming .

**June 22-26**

Vacation Bible School, 9 am to noon.  
Ages: 4 years to completed fourth grade.



# Lourdes Life

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

*May, 2009*