

I would like to say a few words about Loyola House of Retreats in Morristown where I have made 5 retreats over the past several years. It has been a wonderful faith experience for me and the men with whom I have made retreat.

- Loyola is located on 33 acres of wooded land in Morristown NJ (about ____ from here).
- The house is an old mansion with 89 rooms; each retreatants gets their own room.
- The retreat begins on Friday evening with dinner and runs through Sunday lunch.
- There are four or five talks given by the Jesuit priests are not sermons or lectures, but meditative “prayer orientations.” Each meditation ends with a handout to help you to pray on the theme of the talk with Scripture. The overall theme for the one I am going on is *God’s Word in my Life*. It will be held on Feb. 12th to 14th.
- The retreats are meditative so quiet and silent. That is often the biggest obstacle to people coming to Loyola; you mean I can’t talk for a whole weekend? Believe me, you will be listening to God and conversing with God. That’s the silence of the retreat. It is deep and enriching and the retreat team shows us how and helps us to be in it. They’ve been doing it for 82 years at Loyola. This quiet listening is also the biggest draw once one has had the experience of its power.
- There are two Masses during the retreat: one on Saturday – a healing Mass at which there is anointing of those who are sick; and one on Sunday morning, the regular Sunday Mass.
- There is also the Sacrament of Reconciliation and time to sign up to see one of the retreat team (there are four) for spiritual direction should you desire it.
- The three things that people (or I and those who make the retreat) get out of the Loyola retreat are these: a.) deep rest in the Lord; not like the rest of a spa but deeper; rest in the Lord who is with us in a special way for the forty hours of the weekend. b.) a strengthening and deepening in faith, hope and love; those three greatest gifts of God; 3.) a re energizing – a readiness to go back into the family, workplace, parish to try to live once again that Christian life God wants of all of us.

I will be in the back of the Church with _____ with brochures if you have any questions. Loyola gives women’s retreats as well. If you have questions about those please pick up a brochure.