

Autumn 2025

Believe, Serve, Grow

Newsletter of the Maria Stein Retreat Center

Inside this issue:

Spotlight artist Marcie Stammen

Marcie is a local, Catholic artist who has created a workshop titled "Sacred Art, Healing & Prayer" that helps people pray through art. Marcie was a big part of this year's Gala held in August.

Facility Renovations

Significant renovations at both our Maria Stein and Montezuma locations continue. These improvements, which are ongoing year-round, are not merely about maintenance; they reflect our commitment to continuously enhancing the facilities.

Holiday events

Check out all of the exciting holiday happenings scheduled at both locations through the end of the year.

Gala photos

A few extra photos from the big event at the Lake in Montezuma.

MARIA STEIN
Retreat Center



Feature story

2025 Retreat Center Gala: A Night to Remember!

On August 26th, the Retreat Center hosted its second annual fundraiser Gala, a fun-filled evening that attracted nearly 200 enthusiastic guests. The event was a resounding success, filled with engaging activities including exciting raffle baskets, numerous silent and live auctions, and a variety of scrumptious dishes expertly prepared by our talented kitchen staff. Attendees enjoyed an atmosphere of fellowship, entertainment, and purpose, all while supporting a cause close to our hearts.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made this event possible, from our committed board members, generous donors, online and in-person bidders, and all supporters of the Maria Stein Retreat Center. Your passion and support are what drive us forward!

Our Mission:

The Retreat Center is dedicated to providing a peaceful sanctuary where individuals can step away from daily chaos to engage in heartfelt prayer and deep reflection with God. As we look ahead to an inspiring new school year, we are excited by an ever-expanding schedule of retreats at both of our beautiful locations. These retreats provide teenagers opportunities to strengthen their faith and find renewal amid busy modern lives, and offer adults sacred time to explore life's paths and reconnect with their spiritual journey.

Join us as we continue to foster spiritual growth, build community, and make a lasting impact. Your support makes all these blessings possible, and we look forward to welcoming you to our upcoming events and to next year's Gala!



Holidays at the Retreat Center



Christmas Concert

Prepare for the Christmas season by joining us for a Christmas concert featuring the incredibly talented Nashville based recording artists, **Caleb+Kelsey!**

December 13 at 7:00 pm

"at the Lake" in Montezuma

Tickets are \$40. For questions, call Kayla at 419-852-9707

Gift Shop open house

The Gift Shop in Maria Stein is excited to partner with the "Pilgrim Gift Shop" at the Shrine of the Holy Relics by bringing you an irresistible selection of Christmas decorations and gifts that are sure to make your holiday season shine brightly!

November 6-9 / 9:00am-4:00pm

Pick a tag for a discount of **up to 50% off!**

Be sure to register for the chance to win a delightful gift basket brimming with holiday cheer!

Christmas Light Display

Experience the enchanting Christmas light display at the Maria Stein Retreat Center! As you stroll through our beautifully illuminated grounds, you'll be captivated by the twinkling lights that create a magical atmosphere.

Open from **Thanksgiving through the Epiphany**

Be sure to plan your visit and don't miss out on the new additions that the team creates every year!



Building Renovations continue

We are deeply grateful for the unwavering support and generosity of our donors, which has enabled The Retreat Center to undertake meaningful renovations at both our Maria Stein and Montezuma locations. These improvements, ongoing throughout the year, are not just about maintenance; they demonstrate our commitment to continually enhancing the facilities to ensure our guests experience the most peaceful and relaxing environment possible.

Maria Stein "at the Woods" Our dedicated maintenance team recently renovated the dining room, kitchen, and Chapel lounge by installing new flooring and applying fresh paint, greatly brightening the environment. Moreover, nearly half of our guest rooms have been upgraded to provide a modern, serene retreat for all our visitors.

Montezuma "at the Lake" The public restrooms and two dormitory shower rooms have recently undergone significant remodeling. The facilities now offer a much more inviting and comfortable experience for our guests.

We warmly invite you to visit and experience these newly remodeled spaces, where you can reconnect with your faith and the vibrant community at The Retreat Center.

Spotlight: local artist Marcie Stammen

For this issue, we chose to feature local artist Marcie Stammen, who played a significant role in this year's Gala. Marcie is a local Catholic artist who has created a workshop called "Sacred Art, Healing & Prayer" that helps people pray through art. Recently, we sat down with Marcie to discuss her background and why she founded this wonderful ministry.

Marcie, why don't we start with you sharing a bit about yourself and your background?

I studied art & design in college, worked in the field for a few years afterward, then spent 25 years to raise our eight kids. It was full-time and messy, yet beautiful - and those years taught me about patience, creativity and what it means to grow as a Christian woman. Eventually, I returned to painting, not because I had it all figured out, but because art felt like a place that I could connect with God, myself and others.

What inspired you to pursue Sacred Art, Healing, and Prayer?

I can't pinpoint a single moment, but rather a series of nudges from the Holy Spirit: being moved by hymns, scripture, saints, and inspired moments. Moments when painting with the help God opened a heart and moved the viewer to tears; co-creating with God. The Gala was one of those moments, painting live in front of people pushed me out of my comfort zone, but also taught me that vulnerability often opens the door to connection and healing.

Who are your painting workshops designed for? Can someone with little artistic experience take part?

Absolutely! Sacred Art Workshops are for anyone who is curious, seeking a place to rest, reflect, and find God in colors and texture. You don't need fancy skills. I design them so people of all levels feel welcome. The goal isn't perfect technique; the goal is progress, peace, and encountering God through the creative process.

Finding my way to God through art

For me, Sacred Art is less about the outcomes and more about finding God in the messy, beautiful spaces in between. When I offered to paint live at the Gala, I won't lie, I was kicking myself and wondering what I was thinking! "I can't do a live painting!" I thought, "Marcie, you have never created a painting in front of a crowd before!" So I practiced twice ahead of time to be sure I could finish it in under three hours, but I was still extremely nervous. The turning point came when I remembered my own advice: **invite God into the process**. Once I prayed and surrendered to Him, the anxiety lifted. I was able to relax, enjoy the moment, and let the painting unfold as a form of prayer. What felt like a leap of faith became a beautiful success and a reminder that God works through our weakness. It wasn't just about painting the image of Christ; it was about surrender, trust, and stepping forward even when I felt like I didn't have what it takes.



to think He prefers it that way. Painting has become a way of lifting my heart to God, and I've seen how that same process can bless others. Through Sacred Art, Sacred Art Workshops and live painting events, I've had the joy of watching people encounter Christ in a new way.

Contact & Free Guide

Want to learn more or join a workshop? Contact Marcie at: [website: www.artbymarcie.com](http://www.artbymarcie.com) [email: marcie@artbymarcie.com](mailto:marcie@artbymarcie.com)

Free Download:

"Art & Anxiety: How Sacred Art Heals the Heart and Mind"



<https://mailchi.mp/artbymarcie/opt-in>
or
scan the QR code

Sacred Painting Workshop December 1st

The Maria Stein Retreat Center is a place of spiritual renewal, and I'm grateful for the chance to weave sacred art into that mission. I am pleased to announce that we will be holding an Advent Painting Workshop in Maria Stein this year! It will be held on **December 1st**. All supplies, brushes, and paints will be provided! The cost is **\$70 per person**, and seats will be limited. More information will follow via social media and email from the Retreat Center.

My art is inspired by nature, beauty, scripture, hymns, and the saints - and by the truth that God meets us where we are, even when we're not polished or practiced. In fact, I like



More Photographs from the Gala



Marcie's live art painting that was auctioned at the Gala



Setting up the tables and auction items



Robin shared that meals served in 2025 will grow by 38%!



Sacred Art workshop held at the Retreat Center last spring



A full house of guests made for a successful Gala!



Live Auction resulted in spirited bidding for Marcie's work!

MARIA STEIN Retreat Center



I believe in the mission of the **Maria Stein Retreat Center!**

I want to support this ministry.
Enclosed is my donation of...

- ☐ \$10,000 "Lifetime Patron with room name plaque"
- ☐ \$5,000
- ☐ \$2,500 "Sponsor a guest room renovation"
- ☐ \$500
- ☐ \$250
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ Other amount _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please charge my credit card:

Card # _____

Exp: _____ / _____ security code: _____

Name on card: _____

Thank You! Please send this card & donation to:
Maria Stein Retreat Center
2365 St. Johns Road, Maria Stein, OH 45860

All donations are tax deductible
The Retreat Center is a 501-c3 Non-profit Organization

Our Mission...

We are Christians dedicated to serving the Lord, each other, families, parishes, and communities. We believe in God the Creator, His Son Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, who guides us through the magisterium of the Catholic Church with its scripture and traditions and through the intercessions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through the Maria Stein Retreat Center, we provide opportunity for spiritual growth, social development and community service. We will do this through facilities, staff, and programs.

EVENTS

Upcoming events

Montezuma - at the Lake

Christmas Worship Concert

Caleb + Kelsey from Nashville

Dec 13, 7:00pm

Tickets are \$40 - contact Kayla at 419-852-9707

Al-Anon Meetings

Every Thursday at 7:30pm

Healing Masses

For the remainder of 2025: October 14 and November 11
7:00 p.m. in the Chapel

Pickle-ball

On most Tuesdays & Thursdays

9:00 - 11:30 am

\$3.00/person

Contact the Mercer Co. Council on Aging
for more information

Maria Stein - at the Woods

Advent Sacred Painting Workshop

December 1, sign up beginning soon

Volunteer Christmas Brunch

December 2, at 10:30am

in the Maria Stein dining room
enjoy music, games and friendship!

Gift Shop Open House

November 6-9 / 9:00am-4:00pm

Pick a tag for a discount of up to 50% off!

Christmas Light display

From November 29 through January 4



Donate now



***Giving is now
easier than ever!***

***Simply scan the QR
code to make an
Online Donation!***

"at the Woods"

2365 St. Johns Road
Maria Stein, OH 45860

"at the Lake"

6731 State Route 219
Celina, OH 45822

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:00pm

419-925-7625

email: robin@spiritualcenter.net

website: www.spiritualcenter.net



Follow on
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Join our
email list

Calling all Volunteers...

Join us for the annual

"Thank You Christmas Brunch"

at the Maria Stein Retreat Center
2365 St Johns Road
Maria Stein, OH

Tuesday, December 2 at 10:30 am

There will be a delicious holiday brunch,
cheerful music, games, and the company of friends!



Thinking of becoming a Retreat Center volunteer?

Reach out to us at **419-925-7625** or



Scan the **QR code** to visit our website:
<https://www.spiritualcenter.net/contact-us/>
and share your information and areas of interest

We hope that you prayerfully consider joining our amazing team of volunteers!

