

## SERVANT OF THE WEEK—

### DOUG WEISS



Doug Weiss has been at OLV all of his 18 years with parents Chuck and Kathy, sister Claire, and brother Ray. Doug just graduated from Tallmadge HS, and is already following in many family footsteps related to medicine and pharmacy by attending the University of Akron in NEOMED's BSMD Medical Doctor program. After this 2-year accelerated program, Doug will be on to medical school, probably pursuing a surgical specialty. Doug enjoys biking and running and spending time with family and friends. For the past 3 years, Doug has been active in Relay for Life. He said this community cause became near and dear to his heart, "When I saw the hardships that people go through with cancer. I appreciated the efforts of Relay for Life giving funds for cancer research." Doug wanted to help get

the word out at OLV about the program. "I put ads in the Bulletin, and wrote letters to people asking for donations. I got a good response." It was family examples and friends who helped influence his parish life: "Many of my friends were active at OLV, and I decided it would be fun to join them." Doug first became an Altar Server for a year, but moved on to 4 years as an Usher at 9:00 Mass where he will soon retire to concentrate on school. Doug's experience of OLV is, "The community is close knit, and the parish puts a lot of effort into youth activities." Doug became active in 2 OLV Living on a Prayer Retreat teams, and has attended 3 Search weekends—1 as a participant, and 2 as a member of the team. Being on a retreat team requires weeks of preparation, but Doug felt the retreats were worth it. "They built up my faith in God and I learned a lot about myself. I wanted to go back to help others get the same. Those who are having a tough time can talk to their peers, and it helps them get through the mental blocks and insecurities in their life. They can open up about family problems, or with friends and relationships." But along the way to serious good, Doug has enjoyed the time, and the great groups of people. "They were a blast; lots of fun!"