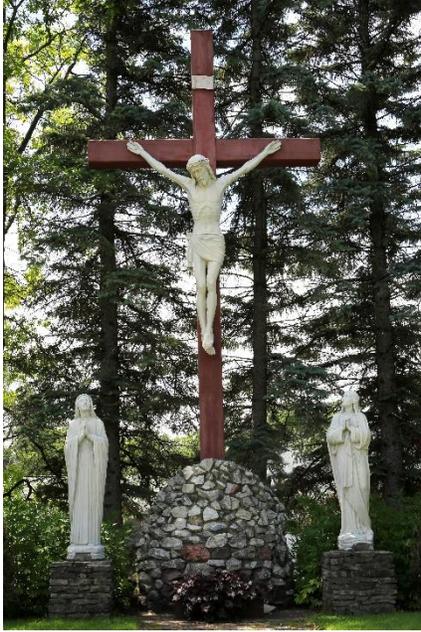


Our Lady of the Woods Shrine Fall 2021



Triumph of the Cross

October 1, 2021

Our Blessed Jesus Christ in His Passion and Final Hours

We as a parish are blessed with this wonderful scene of our lord's crucifixion. We sometimes forget just how horrific our saviors scourging and death truly was, only being reminded of it at Easter. The victim, Our Lord Jesus Christ, freely suffering and giving his life for our salvation with his mother looking on in horror with St John at her side. She understood the reason, but we still cannot fathom the depths of her suffering. While we look on this scene with wonder and awe, only imagining but never utterly understanding the depths of the pain He, Our Lord undertook for us.

Sometimes we let our life and work as well as our everyday living overwhelm us. We forget to put Jesus first in our lives and let trivial things take priority. We must never forget to put Jesus first in everything we do. Calling upon him to guide us in every aspect of life.

We must not forget that this life is only a passing thing and is not our true goal. That goal is heaven and leading others to that ultimate end. Our purpose in this life is to achieve treasures in the next. May God keep us on this path to remember the life and death of his son and the reason for his suffering. We are that reason; Jesus suffered so that heaven is now open for us. Just imagine the relief of the poor souls who until Jesus came and died could only look on from afar at the glory of God in his splendor but never being able to enter his kingdom.

His Triumph is our salvation.

Shrine Update



The fall weather is upon us. Restoration activities on the front of the Shrine started later this year than planned.

Last year saw the completion of activities on the back of the grotto with the replacement of stone on the deteriorated wall between the entrances of the Holy Family Grotto. With the cooling temperatures we cannot



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Our Lady of the Woods Shrine Fall 2021

be sure how much they will be able to finish on the front before they will have to stop. They are doing a beautiful job.

This year as of late September our goal of \$100,000 is almost complete. The pilgrims and visitors who come to our beloved shrine have been very generous, may God bless them and their families. Donations no matter how small add up.

While going through these challenging times we have also kept our parish going strong.

Gift Shop



Did you know that gift shop sales help to support Shrine maintenance? The gift shop has done very well this year with volunteers keeping it open from 10 am until 4 pm everyday throughout the summer to better serve our visitors.

Pilgrims

We have had pilgrims from all over the United States and the World. They have included Sisters of Mercy from Germany and Scotland; Chaldean's from Detroit and Ohio areas. Some are first time visitors; others have been here many times. Our parish as small as we are, so caring and giving of ourselves, ensure that everyone who takes time to pray as this beloved shrine is welcomed with open arms.

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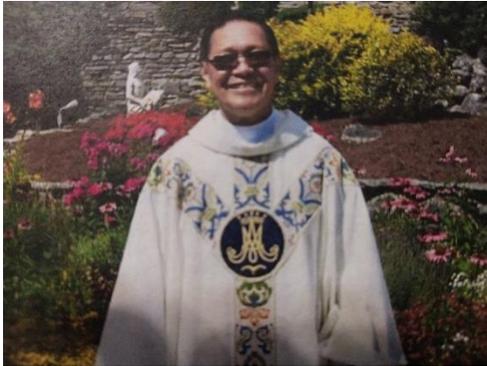
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Our Lady of the Woods Shrine Fall 2021

With the lifting of CoVid restrictions earlier this year we have seen the buses return. Six buses on the 16th of September and two on the 17th. Groups and tours have been scheduled into November this year. If you are interested in a tour they can be scheduled through the office.

Outdoor Masses at the Shrine

For the second summer in a row, outdoor masses were held at 6 PM on Saturdays to take advantage of the longer days and received compliments from parish members and pilgrims alike.



Our Blessed Mother's Assumption on Aug 15th attended by two hundred souls and their guardian angels was a beautiful sight to behold, with lunch following the Eucharistic Celebration. The hall and outdoor seating filled, with Fr San Officiating the Celebration of the Eucharist.

We had two beautiful gift baskets that were donated, and the winners of the baskets were pleasantly surprised.

Members of our parish stepped into the breach to fill the various roles in making all the events of this summer truly blessed. A special thank you goes out to everyone who took part in and planned the extraordinary events this summer. The generosity of their time and resources shows their love of their parish, the Shrine and Our Blessed Mother.

Legacy Pavers

Some refer to them as bricks of remembrance because they are a permanent brick that will remain on the shrine grounds in the company of Our Blessed Mother. Over thirty-five pavers were added this year. Richard once again has taken time to place them around the front of the shrine and in front of Our Lady



of Guadalupe. Another shipment is anticipated to be received yet this year if enough are ordered.

If you would like to donate to the Shrine restoration project, consider purchasing a paver, the proceeds go directly for the restoration of the shrine which began in 2015 and continues to move forward as funding for proposed phases of work are reached.

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Our Lady of the Woods Shrine Fall 2021

Paver pricing as follows

4" x 8" ----- \$ 100 This will accommodate three lines of text

8" x 8" ----- \$ 200 This size will allow up to six lines of text

Make check out to: Our Lady of the Woods Shrine

Memo line: Legacy Paver

Mailing Address: St Mary Church

PO Box 189, Mio, 48647

Please visit our website - olwshrine.org All the information and forms are located there. As well as information on others ways to support the Shrine.

Adopt a Statue Update



Visitors to the Shrine can't help but to admire the beautiful marble statues that adorn the grounds. The adopt a statue program was set up to allow for donations toward the cleaning and restoration of the existing statues. The first phase of work was conducted 2016.

Since that time, we have been blessed by many individuals and groups donating toward the adopt a statue program, including our local Knights of Columbus who have adopted Our Lady of Lourdes. Donations to date for the program are approximately twenty-two thousand dollars, and the second phase of work is anticipated to begin in Spring 2022 for the ground placed statues.

The upper statues (Our Lady of Lourdes, Assumption of Our Lady, and the Corpus of the Crucifixion) will need to be either taken down to ground level to be worked on, or we may need to locate someone who can perform in-place restoration.

If you are interested in the adopt a statue program please call the office and ask for a flier, visit the Shrine, or our website for more information.

May Our Blessed Mother keep you in her Imaculate Heart.



St Mary Catholic Church and Our Lady of the Woods Shrine.

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Our Lady of the Woods Shrine Fall 2021

Saint Dominic



Saint Dominic (Feast day August 8) was born in Spain in 1170 to a noble family. Initially joining the Benedictine order in 1194, he was granted to form his own order in 1215. That order is known as the Dominican order.

In 1218 Our Lady presented St. Dominic with the Rosary during a period of prayer. Since that time she has appeared multiple times to remind us to pray the rosary.

Take a moment out of your busy schedule to pray the rosary and offer your intentions for those poor souls who suffer in purgatory.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is another easy way to pray using your rosary. Look for it online; it only takes about five to ten minutes to complete.

(St. Dominic receiving the Holy Rosary from Mary, artist unknown)

Upcoming Events

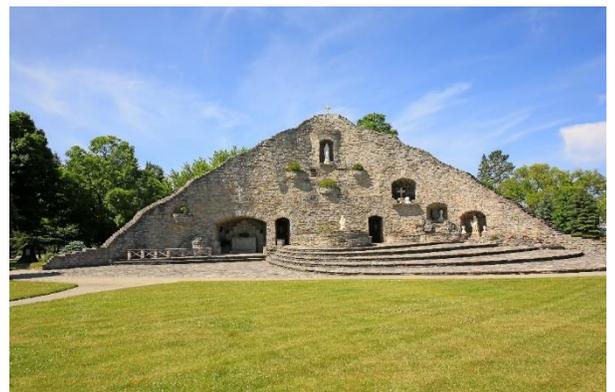
As 2021 winds down, plans are in the works for a "Movie Day" on December 12th focused on Our Blessed Mother Apparition of OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE starting at 12 noon with hotdogs, chips, popcorn, and various drinks what a wonderful time to spend with friends and family. Check the website for changes.



In 2022 we will focus on Our Lady of LaSalette. Who appeared to two young children in the Pyrenees Mountains of France in 1846.

Invitation

St Mary Catholic Church – Mio Michigan, and our pastor Fr San invite you to visit Our Lady of the Woods Shrine. Our Shrine was dedicated 66 years ago, and has been a symbol of Faith for our community and the Pilgrims that have visited. Come enjoy the beauty of Our Lady of the Woods in person. Pick up a shrine booklet to enhance your journey thru the various apparition sites and grottos. Afterward take a moment to wander through the gift shop and pick up that special item for your home or friend.



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