

VISIT THE SHRINE

Upcoming Events—2022 - 2023

The Gift Shop is open before and after Sunday Masses through December (or by appointment), and will be opening again on a daily schedule come May 2023. Saturday Masses have moved indoors and are now at 4 PM to allow for the shorter days. 6 PM outdoor Masses will begin again Memorial Day Weekend.

Please feel free to join us on **December 11th** for a special devotional to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe (Feast Day December 12th). We hope to fill the altar with roses December 9-12th for her Feast Day. If you are interested in donating towards the event, please call the Parish Office; (989-826-5509)

We have a number of events in the works for this next season including:

- **February 12th**, A Day at the Movies—Showing *Going My Way*
- **March 12th**, A Day at the Movies—Showing *The Bells of St. Mary's*
- **May 14th**, May Crowning— Our Lady of Fatima
- **July 16th**: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Devotional.
- **August 15th**: Feast of the Assumption Celebration.
- **September 17th**: Our Lady of LaSalette Devotional

DONATE HERE



Please visit the Shrine website - www.olwshrine.org - to check on the calendar and schedule of events.



VISIT HERE



Supporting Shrine Restoration

There are many ways to Support Shrine Restoration
Be they big or small. Below are just a few ways :

- Donate your Family Fare receipts: the Shrine receives \$1,000.00 for every \$150,000 worth of receipts turned in. A third check was received in Mid-August 2022 and are closing in on receiving a 4th.
- Commemorate a special event or person with a Legacy Paver.
- Identify the Shrine as a recipient when you purchase through Amazon Smile, it adds up!
- Bequeath Our Lady of the Woods Shrine in your will or trust. We are a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Set up an automatic donation or make a one-time donation using the QR code above.
- Donate time or resources to Shrine events.

St. Mary Catholic Church and Our Lady of the Woods Shrine
100 Deyarmond Street, PO Box 189, Mio, MI 48647 Phone: 989-826-5509



FALL 2022 SHRINE NEWSLETTER

Shrine Update

It has been a busy summer here at OLWS. We have been blessed with good weather and a fantastic flower show throughout the summer in the various beds. Visitors came by car and bus from early spring to late fall. The frosts did not really do any damage to the floral display till the end of September.

In May artisans from Restoration Plus were at the Shrine cleaning and repairing 17 of the 21 adopted marble statues. Only one marble statue, St. John of the Crucifixion remains to be adopted. Following completion of the marble statues, we will look at an adoption program for the plaques for the Stations of the Cross. Work done on one of the plaques this past winter indicated that they are a molded concrete with a resin coating, that had been painted over multiple times over the years. The detail visible once the paint was removed was stunning.

Restoration activities on the Shrine face by Meridian were ongoing from June to early September. Our stone supply and budget did not allow for completion of the Shrine face, which is now anticipated to be completed Summer of 2023. Restoration of the patio stones is now scheduled for Summer 2024. At the time of preparation of this document, we are still waiting on the final invoice for this summer. We anticipate that this summer's work on the Shrine will total a little over \$100,000.00 and was paid for by generous donations big and small.

We are in the process of obtaining more stone from the quarry in Cheboygan. The quarry owner has been a very generous source of the "Onaway Stone" the shrine was constructed of that is being used in the restoration. We are thankful for all that he has done for us.

This summer we added two devotional events to our calendar. They included a devotional event to our Lady of Mt. Carmel in mid-July and one to Our Lady of LaSalette in mid-September. They were very well received and we hope to see you at one or all of our events this next summer. (see our schedule on page 4)

The Gift Shop is in the process of expanding our offerings of OLWS merchandise. We also offer two very special books, *Mary's Miracles: A Travelers Guide to Catholic America* by Marion Amberg highlighting 50 Marian Shrines and *See How She Loves Us* by Joan Carroll Cruz on 50 approved apparitions of Our Lady.

(continued on Page 3)



*Our Lady of
Mt. Carmel
—
Pray For Us*

OBSERVATIONS

2023 Our Lady of Mount Carmel

For the last four years, *Our Lady of the Woods Shrine* has focused on one of the major Marian apparitions presented at the Shrine. This year we will transition from Our Lady of LaSalette, who protected the world from her Son's wrath, to Our Lady of Mt Carmel who offers a symbol of her protection.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (AKA the Virgin of Carmel), appeared to the English Carmelite St. Simon Stock in the 13th Century. She gave him a brown scapular to be worn over the neck and shoulders like an apron by the Carmelites as a "sign of her protection". It is a Marian devotional that has spread around the world and has spread to many different religious groups. A quick Google search identified 17 different approved scapulars with colors ranging from brown, to green, black, blue, red and white each associated with a religious order. Many are the result of visions, in which Our Holy Mother offers her protection to her children.

The statue of Our Lady of Mt Carmel is located to the west of the Shrine in front of Madonna Hall. OWLS added a devotional to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Feast day July 16th) to our summer events. In addition to an outdoor rosary procession, the event also includes a scapular enrollment for attendees.

The following prayer is from St. Simon Stock and for the past 7 centuries is reported to have never failed to gain Our Lady's aid.

Flos Carmeli

*O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful Vine,
Splendor of Heaven, holy and singular, who
brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining
a Pure Virgin, assist me in this necessity.*

*O Star of the Sea, help and protect me!
Show me that thou art my Mother.*

*O Mary, Conceived without sin,
Pray for us who have recourse to thee!*

*Mother and Ornament of Carmel, Pray for us!
Virgin, Flower of Carmel, Pray for us!
Patroness of all who wear the Scapular, Pray for us!
Hope of all who die wearing the Scapular, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Friend of the Sacred Heart, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Chaste Spouse of Mary, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Our Patron, Pray for us!
O sweet Heart of Mary, be my Salvation!*



(Shrine Update (continued from page 1)

Our Devotional Candle Program this summer resulted in requests from 26 donors for a total of 85 six-day candles being lit for their special intentions. It will be returning again next summer.

Our summer raffle drew in another \$1075. We have already had a fantastic quilt donated as a prize for this next summer.

The annual indoor garage sale was a huge success bringing in \$3,278.80. This year we also had a \$7K pledge match the month of July and a "Fill the Jug" drive in September. We did not quite get it filled, but we had fun trying and the efforts brought in another \$4,410.87 towards Shrine Restoration.

Mid-September another 18 Legacy Pavers were ordered, and have been received. Despite some snow in mid-October, we hope to have them installed before you receive this newsletter. For those of you who have purchased pavers and have problems locating them on your next visit, the Gift Shop contains a location table and map.

This fall OLWS was visited by 18 tour buses and tour groups, the latest arriving into mid-October. Some of our visitors remember coming to see the Shrine as a child. Some bring their stories of blessings received big and small. There is no doubt that Our Lady smiles upon her children who honor her with their faith and prayers.

As a special thank you to all of our donors and supporters of OLWS, a monthly Mass will be offered for the intentions of Shrine Restoration donors. These Masses have been scheduled for the second Saturday of each month, beginning on December 10, 2022.

With Advent on the horizon, on behalf of Father San, the parishioners of St. Mary—Mio, and the Shrine Committees, may you and yours have a *Happy Thanksgiving, a Happy Advent and*

a most Blessed Christmas

