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

100 South Deyarmond Street PO Box 189 Mio, MI 48647

Phone: 989-826-5509

Church email: parishoffice@stmarymio.org

Shrine email: info@olwshrine.org

www.olwshrine.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Pastor

Rev. Santiago M. Hoyumpa

Secretary

Maryanne Ladensack

Maintenance

Lynn Cournyer and Nick Lashley

Weekly Mass Schedule

Sunday—Rosary 8:25am

Mass 9:00 am

Tues, Thurs, Fri—Rosary 8:25 am

Mass 9:00 am followed by

Eucharistic Adoration on Fridays

Wednesday—Rosary 4:25 pm

Mass 5:00 pm

Saturday—Rosary 3:25 pm

4:00 pm Mass

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 8am—3:30 pm

Faith Formation

Sundays after Mass

Sacraments

Preparation classes with Pastor

Marriage

6 months prior to setting date

Reconciliation By appointment or:

Weds: 4:00—4:25 pm

Saturday: 3:00—3:25 pm

Sunday: 8:00—8:25 am

Bulletin Deadline: Monday

Behold, the virgin shall conceive
and bear a son, and shall call his
name Immanuel.



Knights of Columbus

Council 7329

MADONNA HALL

Rosary at 7:30 pm
3rd Degree meetings
1st Monday of month 8:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday—December 23

8:25 am Rosary
9:00 am Mass
Karam Yousif (The Family)

Wednesday—December 24 Christmas Eve

No Reconciliation
3:25 pm Rosary
4:00 pm Mass
*+Fr. Hubert Rakowski
(John Roberts)*

Thursday—December 25 Christmas Day

8:25 am Rosary
9:00 am Mass
*Our Parish Family
(Jim & Lanna Lemerand)*

Friday—December 26

NO MASS AS FR. SAN WILL
BE DOWNSTATE CELEBRATING
WITH FAMILY

Saturday—December 27

3:00-3:25 pm Reconciliation
3:25 pm Rosary
4:00 pm Mass
*+Ron Nickerson
(The Nickerson Family & Friends)*

Sunday—December 28

8:00-8:25 am Reconciliation
8:25 am Rosary
9:00 am Mass
*Thomas Carr
(Dan & Marcia Carr)*

PRAYER LIST

NAMES STAY ON FOR UP TO ONE YEAR AND ARE THEN
MOVED TO THE CHURCH PRAYER BOOK

Brian Urbanski, Kerri Pennington, Greg Pennington, Wally Cox, Cynthia Vanvleck, Rich Valley, Jude Brammel, Marianne Roddy, Jim, Sharon LeBlanc, Marilyn Hood, Alan Osterling, Marty Landman, Natalie Davidson, Donna Nicolay, Robert Stevens, Pete Freel, Chris Horger, Joe Regnier, Bob Beale, Chris DeMoines, Sophia Camaj, Irene Bryske, Connie Cook, Gary Babcock, Marcia Botkin, Buck Bradley

Sun: Very Rev. Daniel Moll

Mon: Vocations Tues: Rev. Joe Muszkiewicz

Wed: Rev. Robert Nalley Thurs: Rev. Bradley Nursey

Fri: Rev. Gerald Okoli Sat: Seminarians

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWS

LAST CHANCE—Cleaning Needs Drive

Bring any type of cleaning product and place by the Christmas tree to go along with the gifts (by 12/21/25).

Note: We do not have the bags as in past years—just bring items in grocery bags.

Christmas concert will be next Sunday, 12/21/25 at 3:00 pm right before the combination Parish and K of C Christmas Party Potluck at 4:00 pm.

Meats will be donated by the K of C. You may still join us—even last minute!

Last Chance to Help CCW Christmas Flower Collection
Please place monetary donations in the jar in the narthex to help us buy beautiful poinsettias—\$183.00 so far!

Parish Staff will be on holiday beginning with a half-day on Christmas Eve and closed on Christmas.

ABSOLUTE CATHOLIC Women's CONFERENCE JANUARY 10, 2026

Christ the King--Acme www.absolutecatholic.com

Stewardship Report			
Average Monthly Operating Budget:	\$	19,000.00	
Loose, Envelopes & Misc.	\$	3,863.00	
Coffee and Donuts	\$	41.00	
Candles	\$	6.00	
Mass Intentions	\$	-0-	
Rental Income	\$	525.00	
December Income to Date	\$	8,594.01	
Religious Retirement Fund	\$	1,716.00	

Up to \$10,000 will be matched dollar-for-dollar now through 01/31/26!



Help us finish our Shrine Restoration....
to date we have \$4,365.25 of our \$10,000.00 Match.

You are so awesome for helping us reach our goal!

Gift Shop open before and after Sunday Mass during Advent.



SHRINE CORNER

We have \$167,602.31 of our final goal of \$210,000.00.

Many people don't consider the choir part of the Shrine, but I disagree. The choir is an integral part of every parish event and every Mass that is held outside. So, I am going to give my thoughts on the choir for the last 17 years.

Two members— Michele Horger and Mary Schrock— sung at Mass as well as Elizabeth (Shea) Kachiros (before the birth of the children) and Tena Troyer. Basically, it was a small contingent of a few parishioners and never a large ensemble of musicians.

In the beginning, the organ was played by a lady from Lewiston, then from a non-Catholic lady who only came on Sundays. Later, Luke Farhat played the guitar. Then we had parishioner Marge Beale play part-time and, eventually, the organ stopped. No organists were found in or out of the parish.

Then things changed. Michele Horger took the bull by-the-horns and gradually the choir started to grow. We went from one to sometimes ten singers at Mass. We searched for an organist and there was none to be found. Here is where God amazed us! Luke and Marisa Farhat also sang in the choir in Grayling. Ellen Thompson, the organist there, had some old floppy discs with recorded music on them. Marisa knew here in Mio that we had the same organ—so they were donated to us. Ellen just couldn't throw them away, thank the Lord! This is where Delores McArdle stepped up to the plate and learned how to play the discs so that music accompanied the singers. Kris Babcock has also jumped in when needed.

Michele has not only upgraded our choir but she allows other choir members to come to the forefront and take leadership roles by doing some of the solo pieces such as the Responsorial Psalms. I can't imagine how difficult that would be to put yourself at center stage.

I have told Michele several times that my favorite song is the AVE MARIA, without accompaniment. When she sings this song, you can hear a pin drop in the Church. Michele deserves a lot of credit for the recruitment of quality parishioners who have joined the choir. The best part is that she is developing young people.

I know Michele has an upcoming 2nd annual Christmas Concert coming up on the 21st for the parish at 3pm and I thought it was an appropriate time for this piece. When I told Michele I was going to do an insert, she said don't forget to give credit to Delores McArdle because she is an important part of the success of our choir.

So many people do so many things here at St. Mary/OLWS. This is another reason why I am proud to be a member in this Parish Family. I have seen God work here and He does good work!

Don't forget to take a look and make a donation to the MATCH that is in place for the Restoration.

God Bless, Jim L.

For the bulletin online, go to the Shrine website—olwshrine.org—and click on "Our Parish."
You can also access it at: dioceseofgaylord.org, 'Find a Parish', then find us on the map or list—click on our website.