

Rejoicing in Faith

A Pilgrimage with Mary



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Holy Week Masses for St. Mary's Parish

- Holy Thursday
7pm in Lewiston
- Good Friday
3pm in Lewiston
- Easter Vigil
9pm in Lewiston
- Easter Sunday
8:30am in Mio
11am in Lewiston

Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1531, Our Lady appeared four times to Juan Diego. He was a 57 yr old Aztec farmer at Tepeyac Hill, in Mexico City.

On his way to church, 8 miles from his home, he heard music and saw an apparition of a woman, who began talking to him in his native tongue. She introduced herself as the Perpetual Virgin Mary, the Mother of the True God through whom everything lives. She told him to go tell the bishop that she wanted a temple built at the site of the apparition where she could offer help and protection.

Upon hearing Our Lady's wish, the Bishop requested a sign before he would accept the validity of the apparition and the request.

Juan Diego returned to Our Lady with the Bishop's demand. She then told him to go to the top of Tepeyac Hill and collect the flowers growing there. At the top of the hill, Juan found Castellan roses (AKA Damask roses). He gathered the roses and carried them down to Our Lady.

The Virgin then arranged the roses in his tilma, a poncho made of cactus fiber. He was told to take the tilma to the Bishop. He was not to open it until he was with the Bishop, and that when they opened it, a sign from heaven would appear. She indicated that she was to be called Our Lady of Guadalupe. The native tongue had a similar word, Guadalupe, which means



“the crusher of the serpent.”

When Juan and the Bishop opened the tilma, there was not only the roses; but also an imprinted image of the Virgin.

In the next two weeks a small shrine was built to serve the people until a larger shrine could be built.

Upcoming Events

- May 21st-Youth Day at the Shrine
- June 24th-Fundraising Dinner
- August 7th-Marian Speaker and Breakfast
- August 15th-Assumption of Mary Outdoor Mass
- October 9th--Year of Mercy Mass with Most Reverend Bishop Raica

The Unthinkable Will Never Happen to Us

That is exactly what Bob and June Slusarski believed! On January 29, 2016, as Bob and June finished breakfast and went about their day, a fire broke out in their kitchen. They ran out of the house, with nothing but the clothes they were wearing and jumped in their car. Driving out of the driveway, they watched the unthinkable happen: **Their house exploded!!**

Bob and June have been married since 1976 and have lived in that house for about 6 1/2 years. They have been very involved in the church, as Eucharistic and Liturgical Ministers, ushers, and the Knights of Columbus for over 40 years.

The fire began as a grease fire in the kitchen and spread throughout the house. The explosion was caused by the fire reaching the oxygen tanks

used by Bob, due to an illness. Bob and June are fully insured and are looking for a new permanent home.

Not all people involved in disasters, such as the Slusarski's, have insurance and need assistance. Because of this, St. Mary's parish has started a Disaster Fund to help those who need financial help when the unthinkable happens.

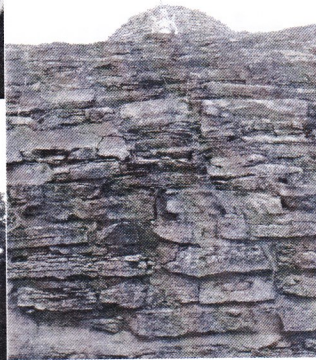
Restoration Project 1 Completed!!!!



New waterproofing membrane



Volunteer church parishioners removing dirt



Damaged stones before repairs.

On August 17, 2015 work began on the first project of the Shrine restoration, waterproofing the living roof area on the backside of the monument.

Once church volunteers removed the dirt, an exact estimate was able to be given for the waterproofing.

On October 17th, Gary Hanson and Don Darilek, the stone masons, began replacing some damaged stones over the Family Grotto. This portion of the repair took two weeks.

Next step was to waterproof the roofs over the Family Grotto and Our Lady of Czestochowa. Repairs began on November 15th by D.C. Byers Contractors. New drainage pipes, stone, and waterproofing membrane

were installed to keep these two grottos dry.

The dirt removed in August was filtered and replaced by volunteer church parishioners. The waterproofing project was completed on December 4th.

The cost of this first step in restoring our Shrine was greatly reduced, from an expected \$140,000 to \$28,000, by the many donations of materials and time. We would like to say a very large **THANK YOU** to the following people for their donations:

Marty Galbraith, Morse Excavating, Frank Werner, Marlene Kaminski, Jim Lemeraud, Tim LeBlanc, Ben Galbraith, Tom Galbraith, Gaylord Verellen, Randy Lanski, Richard Troyer, Sharon LeBlanc, Thomas Clark, Dana LeBlanc, Joe Gibala, and Tim Galbraith.

Wish to Help?

Our beautiful Shrine is over 60 years old. Many years of harsh northern Michigan winters have greatly damaged the stones and statues.

We are striving to totally restore the Shrine to it's original glory within the next 3 years. No loans will be sought to complete the repairs. Father Hubert Rakowski built the Shrine on the donations of time, energy, and materials. We are planning on doing the same for the restoration.

If you would like to help us in our mission, there are a couple ways. You may fill out the pledge card to the right, and return it with a check. You may also visit our Go Fund Me page at www.gofundme.com/restoreshrinemio.

We greatly appreciate all donations.

Yes, I want to help in the Shine Restoration!

I am interested in volunteer my time and energy.

I am committing to an annual pledge of:

\$150 \$600 \$1200 Other _____

I am making a one time gift.

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 Other _____

NAME: _____ CONTACT: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____

Phone: 989 826-5509 website: www.ourladyofthewoodshrine.org

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**OUR LADY OF THE WOODS SHRINE
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Our Lady of the Woods Shrine

St. Mary Catholic Church

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Mio MI 48647

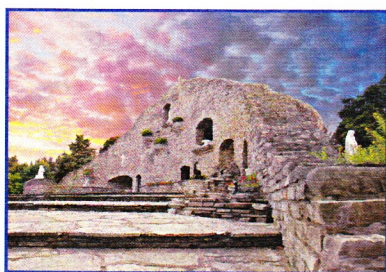
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Pope Francis's Year of Mercy Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman; "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world; its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever, Amen.



**Diocese of Gaylord
Holy Doors**

For those wishing to make a pilgrimage to the other Holy Doors located in the Diocese of Gaylord, here is a list. Please contact the parish or visit the Diocese website, www.dioceseofgaylord.org, for directions and times of operation.

- ▶ St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord
- ▶ Holy Cross in Cross Village
- ▶ Mother Teresa Shrine in Hale
- ▶ St. Francis Solanus Shrine in Petoskey
- ▶ Holy Cross in Beaver Island
- ▶ St. Bernard Church on Alpena
- ▶ Cross in the Woods in Indian River



**Our Lady of the Woods Shrine
Holy Door in Mio**