

Rejoicing in Faith

A Pilgrimage with Mary

Do You Know The Meaning of The Front Window?

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The window above the main or front entrance of the church is deserving of special attention because it depicts the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, venerated under this title as patroness of our parish. The reason why the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary was chosen as the Parish patron feast is because St. Mary Parish, Mio, which was established as a separate and independent parish on July 13, 1951, by the Most Reverend Stephen S. Woznicki, Bishop of Saginaw, Michigan. Bishop Woznicki was formerly entrusted with the spiritual care of the Franciscans of the Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Province on August 25, 1951. Also, the feast of the Assumption is the major feast of Our Blessed Mother closest to this date.

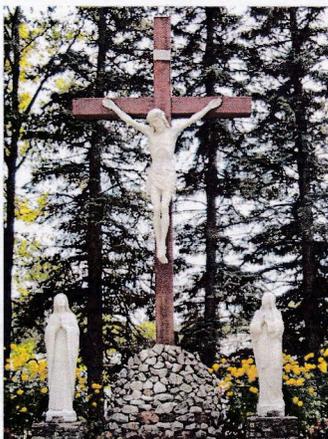
In accordance with this theme, the window represents Our Lady with arms raised upwards being assumed into heaven. Above her head is a star, a symbol of the

name, Mary. St. Bernard gives us this meaningful explanation of this symbol: "The venerable name of the Virgin Mary, which is said to mean "Star of the Sea", is applied very appropriately to the Virgin Mother. She is most aptly compared to a star because, just as a star sends forth its rays without any change in itself, so the Virgin Mary brought forth her son without the loss of her virginity." He continues, "...Whoever you are, when you find yourself tossed by storms and tempests upon the worlds raging waters, rather than walking upon land, never turn your eyes from the brightness of this star. Think of Mary, call upon Mary, Invoke Mary! Look up at the star, call upon Mary!"

The window further depicts the Blessed Virgin Mary with a heart pierced by a sword, reminiscent of the prophetic words of Simeon during Our Lord's presentation in the temple; "This child is destined to be the downfall and

the rise of many...a sign will be opposed. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart." (Luke 2:34-35) The heart also recalls the prophetic words of Our Lady when she appeared at Fatima in 1917: "Russia will spread her errors throughout the world, fomenting wars, persecution of the Church...In the end, My Immaculate Heart will triumph."

Lastly, some lilies are depicted at the bottom as a symbol of our Blessed Mother's virginity; "All this happened to fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet: "The virgin shall be with child and give Birth to a son, and they shall call him Emmanuel." (Mt. 1:22-23, Isaiah 7:14)



It Can Never Hurt to Visit the Shrine and Say a Prayer

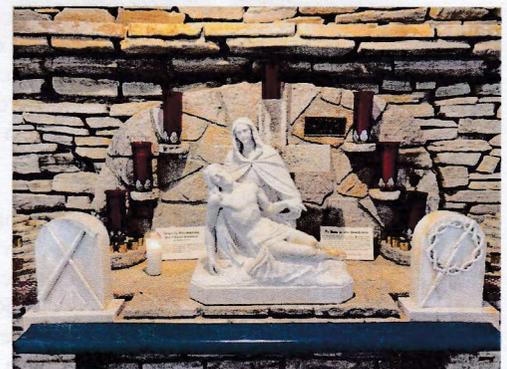
At 7:51pm on Monday, August 5, 2019, we received the following message through the contact area of our website. It was from a woman who visited our Shrine and said a special prayer.

"I visited the shrine on July 28, 2019. I was in awe and couldn't see more fast enough. When I came to the Pieta Grotto, I was compelled to light a candle and say a prayer for my ex-brother in-law's sister, Renee, who was just diagnosed with lung cancer. I

made a small donation, said my prayer and lit the candle while admiring the beauty all around me. I then walked out and around the back of the shrine and felt a strange tingling throughout my entire body. We finished looking at everything then we headed home. I called my sister and told her I had said a prayer and lit a candle for Renee. She thanked me and said she would really like to come and see the shrine. Well tonight, 8/5/2019 she called and told me that Renee is fine. The

doctors said whatever it was completely gone!!! Praise GOD!!!!!!"

This shows that no matter where you are or what you are doing, the Lord can give you signs. If you ever get the urge to say a prayer, do something, or help someone, please do it!!! It might be a sign for God!!!!!!

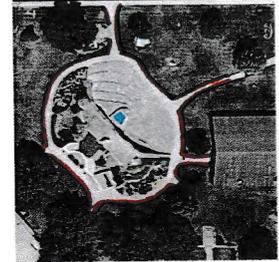


Legacy Pavers

The Legacy Pavers are one way to help fund the Our Lady of the Woods Shrine restoration. The pavers are also a way to commemorate those who have contributed financially, those we love, or parishioners whose care and support of the shrine has spanned decades.

Your Legacy Paver can be engraved with any of the following:

- Your name or your family's name
- A dedication to a loved one
- A favorite scripture
- An inspirational quote
- In memory of a special person
- A special date



The engraved pavers will be placed along the sidewalks surrounding the shrine. The red lines in the picture represent where the pavers will be located.

Prices for the pavers are:

4" x 8" — \$ 100 This will accommodate up to 3 lines and 21 characters of text in each line.

8" x 8" — \$ 200 This size will allow up to 6 lines and 21 characters of text in each line.

Please complete the form to the right as you would like your paver to read and mail it to the parish office along with your payment.

Please fill out the spaces below, as you would like it to read. A letter or character for each space.

A comma, dash, period or other symbol or punctuation is considered one space and goes in its own box.

Marion Apparitions

Dying on the cross, Jesus bequeathed to us his own Mother. As he gazed upon Mary on the beloved disciple who represents all followers of Christ, he proclaimed for all generations to hear: "Behold your Mother" (John 19:27). Throughout the ages, Mary has exercised a maternal role. One of the many ways by which Mary fulfills her role as Mother of all is by lovingly manifesting herself to chosen witnesses. Her purpose is always to lead us to her son, the "one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5). Through these appearances of our loving Mother, we are led to imitate her, the first disciple, and "hear the word of God and keep it" (Luke 11:28). Her universal love for all the children of her Son is manifested in these apparitions, which are not limited to one nation or one age. They have taken place throughout history of the church and in diverse areas. Mary is truly the Mother of us all, calling every generation to prayer and penance so that we may turn more fully to her Divine Son.

Our Lady of the Woods Shrine is blessed to have seven depictions of Vatican approved Marian apparitions. The Marian depictions represent apparitions from France, Portugal, England, Canada, Mexico and Poland. These are all on display with marble statues, niches and grottos.

Apparitions of the Blessed Mother have occurred during all ages of the Church beginning in 39 AD where she appeared to St. James the Great in Zaragoza Spain. Over the years, hundreds of reported visions have been reported, but only a few have been recognized by the Vatican. In most cases, apparitions were witnessed by humble folk, shepherds, simple village people, children and mostly uneducated people.

The apparitions have produced the conversion of millions, the construction of some of the largest Roman Catholic Churches in the world, the creation of Marian Movements

and Societies, the spread of Marian devotions, especially the Rosary, and the increased participation in many Marian pilgrimages.

It is proven to be true by these apparitions, Our Heavenly Mother has come down to earth to heal, console, instruct, advise, encourage, warn against diseases and physical dangers, to protect against plagues, famines, droughts and for many other reasons. Our Lady has also left us healing springs of water as a memorial, such as the spring at Our Lady of Lourdes, which is the yearlong focus in 2019 at Our Lady of the Woods Shrine.

The most visited shrine of the Blessed Mother in the world is that of Our Lady of Lourdes in Southern France. It has been reported that more than a million people visit this shrine every year. Every day in Lourdes the wishes of the Lady are realized, with thousands participating in candlelight processions. Many of these are the sick and lame

praying for the motherly consideration of the Blessed Virgin. They not only drink of the miraculous water, but also dip themselves into tubs of water, praying for a cure,

Our Lady of the Woods Shrine in Mio has made Lourdes its centerpiece in the front and in a niche high on the stone monument. Bernadette kneeling behind a pool of water, is located at ground level, staring up at the Blessed Mother. A prayer has been placed near Bernadette for all visitors to stop and take time for a short prayer honoring this Marian apparition. In February, this prayer was done in a Novena that lasted nine days and can be repeated anywhere, anytime for 9 consecutive days. White banners will be on display near the Lourdes depiction and also the entrance of the church. Please take the time to come and visit the Shrine.

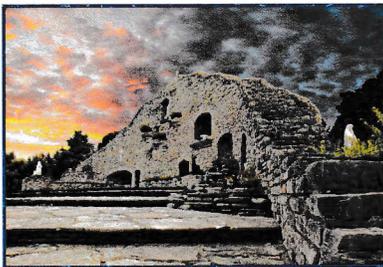


**OUR LADY OF THE WOODS SHRINE
ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Special Events & Liturgies

September

- 7th: Saturday Mass moves to 4pm
- 8th: Rosary of the Seven Sorrows of Mary at the Shrine—8:30am
- 14th: Triumph of the Cross 9am-4pm—For more info please contact Barb Selecky-(217) 637-1236

October

- 26th: Lewiston CCW—9am-4pm For more info and registration please contact Ruth Munger-(989) 786-4534

November

- 1st: All Saints Day—9am
Vigil Mass on 10/31 at 6pm
- 28th: Thanksgiving—9am

December

- 9th: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary—9am
- 24th: Christmas Eve Mass—6pm
- 25th: Christmas—9am

January

- 1st: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God—9am
Vigil Mass on 12/31 at 6pm

Regular Mass Schedule

Sunday

9am

Monday

No Mass

Tuesday

9am

Wednesday

6pm

Thursday

9am

Friday

9am—Followed by Adoration

Saturday

January thru Memorial Day—4pm
Memorial Day thru Labor Day—6pm
Labor Day thru December—4pm

Rosary

1/2 Hour before each Mass

Reconciliation

Wednesdays—5:30pm-5:45pm
Saturdays—3:30pm-3:45pm
Sundays—8:30am-8:45am
Or by calling office
For appointment