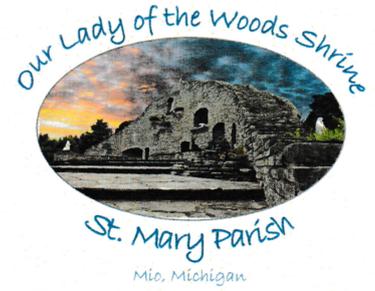


SPRING 2025

SHRINE NEWSLETTER

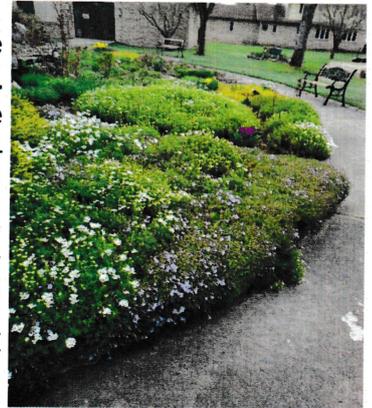


Shrine-Parish Update

New Year and Change– In mid-late December **OLWS** was notified that it was selected to be one of three year around Jubilee sites in the Diocese of Gaylord for the 2025 Jubilee Year.



The Shrine Restoration activities anticipated to be completed this summer have been put on hold. Some have expressed disappointment in the decision, as we were to have completed the restoration on the main structure in time for the 70th anniversary later this year. Others are taking this as a gift of time. The Restoration Committee found that there was no longer a subcontractor available for 2025, and that the soonest would be 2026. The time will allow for additional evaluation of the work required, and the costs associated. Not to mention additional time for fundraising. Estimates to date for just the stone are at almost \$60,000.00. The costs for removal of the existing stone, and installation of the new stone will be on top of that. Previous estimates for the entire job have been approximately \$150,000.00.



The National Shrine Application was presented to Bishop Walsh on February 4th, 2025 for review and comment. The Parish has received notice from the Bishop that at this time he feels he cannot endorse the application and present it for approval by the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. One notable concern for the Bishop was being able to adequately staff **OLWS** with an additional priest to meet the needs anticipated for a national shrine. As many of you are aware, the diocese has experienced a shortage of priests. This seems to have alleviated in the past few years, but long term it is unclear. Other concerns included not only financial sustainability but impact on the Parish. Father San has expressed that this decision was based on present conditions, and with prayer and time the Parish will again be able to present the application to the Bishop.



Pilgrimage 2025– Tours to **OLWS** are already being scheduled. By the time you read this document we will have had our first tour group (April 5th, 2025). Guided tours can be scheduled through the **OLWS** website. But for those making a private pilgrimage or discovering **OLWS** in their travels we have self-guided tours, historical media and Stations of the Cross in not only English but also Arabic available to access electronically from our website. Unfenced, **OLWS** is accessible year around, with the grottos open each day from May through October from 9 AM to 7 PM.



Interested in Leaving your mark? Legacy Pavers are the way to go—a perfect way to express your thanks and support continued Shrine Restoration. Check the **OLWS** website for an order form.



OBSERVATIONS



2025– Anniversary Year

In addition to 2025 being a Jubilee year, we here at St. Mary will be celebrating the following anniversaries. Please check our Website for events.

- **July 2025**—80th anniversary of St. Mary—Mio



In July of 1945, Reverend Hubert Rakowski, O.F.M. a Franciscan was appointed to St. Mary and a permanent Catholic church became a reality. That year marked the first-time regular Sunday services and Holy Days of Obligation were celebrated.

- **September 5, 2025** , 70th anniversary of Dedication of **OLWS**
- **October, 2025**, 50th anniversary of the dedication of the present Church.



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

8:30—10:30 AM—Reconciliation (2 Priests available)

9:00 AM — Outdoor Rosary at the Shrine

9:30 AM — Outdoor Stations of the Cross of the Shrine headed by Bishop Walsh

11:00 AM— Outdoor Mass concelebrated by Bishop Walsh and Father San

Luncheon by donation to Follow

1:30—2:30 PM Reconciliation (2 Priests available)



Visit Us at Our Website — www.olwshrine.org —to confirm events— see Mass times
read our bulletin and more !



Parish Ice Cream Socials return again this year after the Saturday 6 PM Masses on Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day weekends— Hope to see you there!

OBSERVATIONS

2025 JUBILEE YEAR - Pilgrims of Hope

The tradition of jubilee years goes back to biblical times, when God instructed the children of Israel through Moses to count every fiftieth year as sacred (Lev 25:10).

In 1470, Pope Paul II established the practice of celebrating jubilees every 25 years, instead of 50, in order to allow more people to experience a Holy Year within their lifetimes. The last ordinary jubilee took place in 2000, when Pope St. John Paul II led the Church into the new millennium during the Great Jubilee.

Jubilee years in the Church are characterized by their extraordinary focus on God's mercy, especially through the expanded availability of the sacrament of confession and the offering of indulgences. Jubilees also frequently take on the character of a pilgrimage — either physical or spiritual — offering opportunities for the faithful to undertake a journey rooted in faith.



Often, these pilgrimages included passing through a Holy Door — a special door opened by the pope or bishop in recognition of the jubilee — during Jubilee 2025, the Holy Doors in Rome will be the only such doors throughout the world.

Part of the deep logic of the Jubilee Year Indulgence is the opening of the heart to the Lord to receive His Gifts. The Church has designated certain elements as necessary for this opening of the heart. In order to obtain any of the plenary indulgences for the Jubilee Year, the following conditions must be fulfilled:

1. Detachment from all sin, even venial.
2. Sacramental confession,
3. Holy Communion, and
4. Prayer for the intentions of the pope.

These conditions can be fulfilled a few days before or after performing the works to gain the indulgence, but it is appropriate that the reception of Holy Communion and the prayer take place on the same day that the work is completed. A single sacramental confession within 20 days is sufficient for several plenary indulgences, but frequent sacramental confession is encouraged in order to obtain the grace of deeper conversion and purity of heart. For each plenary indulgence that is sought, however, a separate holy Communion and a separate prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father are required. The prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father is left up to the choice of the individual, but an Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.

Pilgrims can receive a plenary indulgence by making a pilgrimage to any of the sites during the jubilee year, as well as by performing **certain works of devotion, mercy or penance,**

Designated Sites for Jubilee Year

The Decree on the Granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 states that ***“The faithful pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage”*** which may be accomplished by ***“visiting the Cathedral or other church or sacred place designated by the local ordinary.”***

Bishop Walsh, in his decree, designated **OLWS** among three holy places in the **Diocese of Gaylord**. The other two locations include Cross in the Woods National Shrine, Indian River and St. Mary, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, Gaylord.

Other Jubilee Pilgrimage sites around the State of Michigan-

In the **Diocese of Marquette**, Bishop John Doerfler designated the following as pilgrimage churches:

- St. Peter Cathedral, Marquette
- Our Lady of Peace, Ironwood
- St. Mary Queen of Peace, Kingsford
- Holy Spirit, Menominee
- All Saints, Gladstone
- Holy Name of Mary, Sault Ste. Marie
- St. Paul the Apostle, Calumet

Bishop Lohse of the **Diocese of Kalamazoo** designated the following as pilgrimage churches:

- St. Augustine Cathedral, Kalamazoo
- St. Mary Parish, Marshall
- St. Therese of Lisieux, Wayland
- Sacred Heart of Mary, Dowagiac (Silver Creek)
- St. Joseph Parish, St. Joseph

Archbishop Vigneron of the **Archdiocese of Detroit** designated the following 12 pilgrimage sites:

- Basilica of Ste. Anne, Detroit
- Blessed Solanus Casey Center, Detroit
- Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Detroit
- Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield
- National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak
- Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Riverview
- Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Brownstown Township
- Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel (Madonna University), Livonia
- Shrine of Jesus the Divine Mercy, Clinton Township
- Shrine of St. John Paul II, Orchard Lake
- St. Joseph Shrine, Detroit
- Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pontiac

Bishop Boyea of the **Diocese of Lansing** designated the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Lansing, Michigan as the sacred Jubilee Site for pilgrimage in the Diocese.

Bishop Gruss of the **Diocese of Saginaw** is visiting two parishes each month of the Jubilee year and pilgrims who wish to make a confession and attend Mass to receive the Plenary Indulgence are encouraged to join him as he offers a Holy Hour for Vocations. For locations please see their website.

SUPPORTING SHRINE RESTORATION

There are many ways to support Shrine Restoration. Be they big or small.

Below are just a few :

- Commemorate a special event or person with a **Legacy Paver**. (forms available on line and in Gift Shop)
- 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**.
- Donate **time or resources** to Shrine events.
- **Pray** for the continued success of the Shrine Restoration Activities.
- **Tell a friend** about the Shrine and events.
- Make a donation using the **Blue Envelopes** in the church pews, gift shop and grottos.

Donate Here



To those of you who have donated to past and present **OLWS** Restoration activities, and those of you who will give in the future, know that we are grateful and that through your donations **OLWS** remains a symbol of our Christian faith and a place of prayer for us all. A Mass for our supporters and their intentions is given the Second Saturday of every month.

The Gift Shop is restocked and will be open for visitors May first! We have been working to expand our offering of items, and look forward to seeing you in the spring!



2025 DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Intention: _____

Sponsor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone Number : _____ - _____ - _____

_____ X _____ = \$ _____

(donation) (Number of Candles)

Date requested: _____

Alternate Date: _____

May through October 2025-

For a minimum \$10 donation a 6-day candle will be placed in the Shrine's Holy Family Grotto for your specified intention.

Please COMPLETE THE FORM and RETURN with a CHECK PAYABLE to:

ST. MARY PARISH and return by mail, or drop off in the office, or in weekly offering.

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT

SHRINE RESTORATION FUND

Thank you for your continued support.

VISIT THE SHRINE



Upcoming Events—2025

We have a number of events in the works for the 2025 season including:

- **May 10-11th**, Silver Rose—Our Lady of Guadalupe Devotional
- **May 18th**, May Crowning— Our Lady of Fatima
- **May 24th**: Blessing of outdoor Altar by Bishop Walsh
- **June 14th**, Annual 5K Walk/Run
- **June 19-22nd**, Annual Rummage Sale
- **July 20th**, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Devotional.
- **August 15th**, Feast of the Assumption Celebration.
- **September 21st**, Our Lady of LaSalette Devotional



Tour groups are always welcome—Please visit our website to schedule your group large or small for 2025.



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

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Donate Here



VISIT HERE

