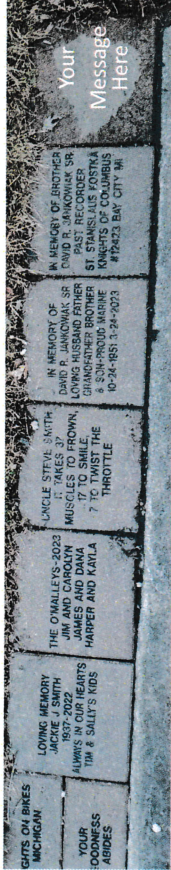


# SHRINE NEWSLETTER



## SUPPORTING SHRINE RESTORATION

As you walk around the Shrine you will see that the side walk is edged in pavers about half way around. Some are tributes to the living or deceased. Some are the names of parishioners, visitors or organizations. Some are important dates, biblical quotes, there is even a "plig" for a business. Ever wonder how many pavers we presently have? The short answer is 326 in the ground, with 10 to be placed when the ground thaws sufficiently. That is an average of 48 pavers per year. Have you put off purchasing a paver for someone special? Is there an upcoming graduation or wedding in 2024? Have you picked up a paver request form, and it has been buried somewhere in the stack of papers to get to on your desk? Have you got questions? Please give us a call. We are hoping to order again soon.



**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@stmymio.org](mailto:parishoffice@stmymio.org)  
 Visit us at [www.olwshrine.org](http://www.olwshrine.org)

**St. Mary Catholic Church**  
**and Our Lady of the Woods Shrine**  
 PO Box 189, 100 Deyarmond Street, Mio, MI 48647

Donate Here



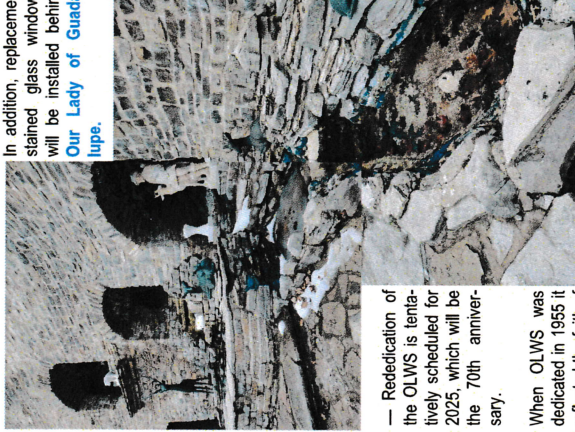
VISIT HERE



## Shrine-Parish Update

The bids came in this winter, and it was clear that restoration work is not cheap. With much prayerful thought, evaluation of donations to date and where we felt we would be at the end of the 2024 season it was agreed that come May 2024, our contractor will begin restoration of the existing water fall, ponds and St. Bernadette pool. We will then be at a point to seal coat the structure itself. Additional donations above the cost for those activities will go towards purchase of the Idaho quartz for work on the patio/plaza in 2025.

In addition, replacement stained glass windows will be installed behind Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Rededication of the OLWS is tentatively scheduled for 2025, which will be the 70th anniversary.

When OLWS was dedicated in 1955 it reflected the faith of Catholics all over the State. The restoration of OLWS is a symbol of the faith and generosity of the many donors who have supported the ongoing restoration activities. We have been blessed, and Our Lady continues to bless us.

**Thinking pilgrimage — We already have tour groups scheduling with us for 2024. Call the Office to Schedule Yours!**



### — COMING SOON —

The weekend of May 11th & 12th, The K of C and Knights on Bikes will again be sponsoring the **Silver Rose Devotional** event highlighting **Our Lady of Guadalupe** at St. Mary-Mio and OLWS.

May 19th, we will be celebrating **May Crowning**, with youth of our Parish crowning **Our Lady of Fatima**. Though the winter has been mild, we are eager to enjoy the beautiful beds surrounding the Shrine.

The Parishioners of St. Mary-Mio will be constructing a floating platform and outdoor altar for use during our summer outdoor Masses. Please join us for Saturday outdoor Masses (6 PM) starting Memorial Day weekend. We hope to have it in place by then!

The Month of June will have two fundraisers: The 2nd Annual 5K Walk/Run, (June 15th) and our Annual indoor yard sale (June 28th-29th) Both events to support Shrine Restoration.

We have had a generous donor step forward who will match donations made during the month of June. We may also have matching donors for the month of August and/or September. We are working on details, please consider helping us meet those matches.

July 16th we will celebrate **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** with an outdoor rosary, scapular enrollment for attendees, followed by Mass and a breakfast, by our K of C to support their activities and the emergency food pantry.

Bishop Walsh has indicated that he will be joining us again this year for our **Feast of the Assumption** celebration on August 15th. Always a well attended event.

For Autumn we highlight **Our Lady of LaSalette** with a devotional on September 15th. A perfect time to enjoy the fall colors.

# OBSERVATIONS

## 2024 Our Lady of Czestochowa



Mother of God,  
 Mother of the only-begotten Son  
 who gave us as the principle of  
 life,  
 The new commandment of love,  
 Help us to become builders of a  
 united world,  
 In which peace triumphs over  
 war, and the civilization of death  
 is replaced by love for life.  
 Saint Pope John Paul II

Visit Us at Our Website — [www.olwshrine.org](http://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!



Proclaimed Queen and Protectress of Poland in 1656 by King John II Casimir Vasa. The **Black Madonna of Czestochowa** is a venerated icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary housed at the Jasna Góra Monastery in Czestochowa, Poland. It is also known as **Our Lady of Czestochowa**. This painting of the Mother of God holding the Child Jesus in her arms, bears the title, **Our Lady of the Bright Hill (Jasna Gora)**. The Feast Day is August 26th.

Tradition holds that this picture of Mary was done by St. Luke the Evangelist on a piece of wood cut from the table of the Last Supper. It was the Christians of Jerusalem who presented this picture to St. Helen, the mother of Constantine. She in turn gave it to her son. The image at OLWS is a beautiful mosaic located in the southern grotto (AKA Polish Grotto) of the Shrine. The image was donated in 1957 by "The Americans of Polish Extraction."

### FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

We have received word that Bishop Walsh will be joining us for our annual Feast of the Assumption Celebration. Our present schedule for the day is as follows:

8:30 AM—Reconciliation

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 — Outdoor Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Walsh and Father San will concelebrate

Luncheon by donation to Follow



# 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!



## 2024 DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Intention: \_\_\_\_\_ May through October 2024 -

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Please **COMPLETE THE FORM** and

City: \_\_\_\_\_ **RETURN with a CHECK PAYABLE to:**

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ **ST. MARY PARISH** and return by mail, or drop off in the office, or in weekly offering.

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ X \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT**

(donation) (Number of Candles) **SHRINE RESTORATION FUND**

Date requested: \_\_\_\_\_ Thank you for your continued support.

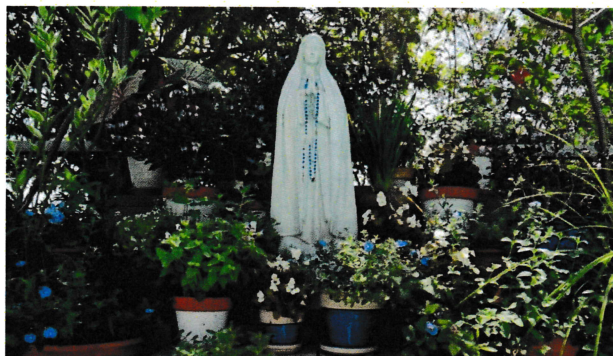
Alternate Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mary Gardens** - The first historical reference to a **Mary garden** dates back to the 7th century, when Saint Fiacre of Breuil emigrated from Ireland to France to build an hermitage there. During his time in the monastery where he was raised and became a monk, Fiacre "imbibed knowledge of herbal medicine." When he arrived in France, he built his hermitage with a personal dwelling, a vegetable & herb garden, a hospice to care for strangers, and a garden oratory to the **Virgin Mary** - the first historical example of a **Mary garden**. Fiacre was known for his life of devotion to prayer, fasting, vigils, and tending to his garden, earning himself the patronage of gardeners and herbalists.



The second historical example of a Marian connection to flowers is found in a 1373 English recipe for a potion to ward off the plague, featuring the *seint mary gouldes*, otherwise known as **Saint Mary's Gold** or the Marigold.

Today you will find **Mary Gardens** as small as a table-top planter, or a backyard retreat complete with water attractions and rock walls. They are focal points for meditation and tools to educate our children. OLWS makes use of the space surrounding the shrine structure to create **Mary gardens** around each of the apparitions. All you need for your own **Mary garden** is a statue of **Mary**, and a space to place her.



Over time, flowers in **Mary gardens** developed symbolism to the events in **Mary's** life. Here are a few and their meanings.

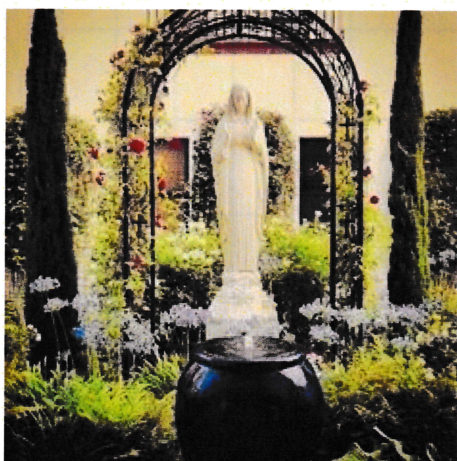
**Lily** — **Mary** was associated with this passage from the Song of Songs: "I am the Rose of Sharon, the lily of the valleys." (2:1) A legend from the second century says that when **Mary's** tomb was opened to show Thomas that her body had been assumed into heaven, it was filled with roses and lilies.

**Columbine** - Also known as "Our Lady's Shoes," Columbine is said to have sprung up wherever **Mary's** foot touched the ground on her way to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

**Lavender** — Known as "**Mary's** Drying Plant," lavender was said to have received its scent after **Mary** laid Jesus' clothes on it to dry.

**Madonna Lily** — The angel Gabriel is said to have been holding a lily, representing purity, when he appeared to **Mary** to announce she would bear a child - lilies are often included in artistic renditions of the annunciation.

**Marigold** — The marigold was called "**Mary's** Gold" by early Christians who placed the flowers around statues of **Mary**, offering the blossoms in place of coins. A legend says that during the flight into Egypt the Holy Family was accosted by a band of thieves. They took **Mary's** purse and when they opened it, marigolds fell out.



**Violet** — The violet is associated with humility and became known as "**Our Lady's** Modesty." It was said to have blossomed when **Mary** replied to the Angel Gabriel, "I am the handmaid of the Lord."

**Irises** — Irises were used in **Mary Gardens**. The blade-shaped foliage denotes the sorrows which 'pierced her heart.'

Source: [Did You Know? The History Behind Mary Gardens | uCatholic](#) - by George Ryan

