



THE GOOD NEWS

News and Events from the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

Spring 2023 Issue #67



championshrine.org



RECTOR'S WINDOW

Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

A New Solemnity in Champion

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ever since beginning my assignment here at the National Shrine of our Lady of Good Help, I am in awe of the wonders God works in those devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary!

Since we know true devotion to Mary always leads us to Jesus, countless pilgrims have had the chance to experience God's healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation as well as receive the True Presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Receiving these two sacraments is the greatest miracle one can experience in one's life. Along with the daily Rosary, the Shrine also has Eucharistic Adoration (ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament) and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy recited at the three o'clock Hour of Mercy. Since the Blessed Virgin Mary asked Adele Brise to pray for the conversion of sinners (especially by receiving communion and going to Confession), the vital importance of the Sacramental life has been emphasized among the many visitors at the Shrine.

With that being said, the Anniversary of the Apparition of our Lady to Adele, which happened on October 9, 1859, is now being celebrated as a Liturgical

Solemnity on Shrine grounds! This is truly a blessing from God, because the Mass is the source and summit of our Faith, and receiving Holy Communion was the first request our Lady had for Adele when she conveyed her Heavenly wishes.

Along with the Mass being elevated to a Solemnity, we are now pleased to refer to this Apparition Site as the National Shrine of our Lady of Champion. Doing this helps us stay consistent with the other approved Marian Apparition sites around the world, such as Our Lady of Fatima and Our Lady of Lourdes. Interesting to note, Adele Brise herself, wished the town where Our Lady appeared to be named Champion, to remind her more of what she promised to God while in Belgium - that is, to serve Him as a religious sister in Champion, Belgium.

Overall, with all of these new changes, our mission of making Jesus Christ more known and loved through our Lady, stays the same.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Champion, help us to remain faithful and preserve to the end so that we may become the saints that God is calling us to be!

Sincerely in Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM



COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

A Steady Change to Our Lady of Champion

By Chelsey Hare, Director of Communications

Earlier this year, we received news from the Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments confirming the National Shrine's ability to celebrate an annual Solemnity Mass on our grounds under the title "Our Lady of Champion" every October 9.

I'd like to invite you all to join us in celebrating our inaugural Solemnity Mass of Our Lady of Champion this October 9, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. CST. It will be an opportunity to be a part of the National Shrine's history!

While the new Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion will only be celebrated on the grounds of the Shrine and will not, at this time, be included in the Diocese of Green Bay liturgical calendar, it will be a day of highest honor on these sacred grounds – a day to remember the profound and beautiful presence of our Blessed Mother in the United States.

Along with this new Solemnity under the title of "Our Lady of Champion," we will embark on a steady transition to change the name of the Shrine to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. As you pilgrimage to the Shrine this year or follow us on social media, you may see this change in and around the grounds and across our various communication platforms. This change will culminate as we near the new Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion on October 9.

It is important to note that we, at the Shrine, will always carry a deep love for the history and title of Our Lady of Good Help. For many pilgrims, volunteers, and staff, this title recalls the abundance of graces that have been received through prayer to Our Blessed Mother. It brings peace to my heart in remembering that all of the Blessed Mother's titles – whether through particular devotion or apparition – refer to the same Blessed Virgin Mary,

whose only desire is to bring souls to her son, Jesus.

With this change to Our Lady of Champion, we are hoping to further identify Our Blessed Mother to the location and community in which she appeared. This step will also help the Shrine align more closely with other Marian Apparition sites around the world (such as Lourdes, Fatima and Knock) and address any confusion that has existed in the past related to Our Lady's title in reference to the National Shrine - including titles such as Our Lady of Good Health, Our Lady of Good Hope, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

Please keep the Shrine in your prayers as we embark on this transition, and please know of our prayers for you!

*Our Lady of Champion,
Pray for Us!*



SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Mary, Star of the Sea

By Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

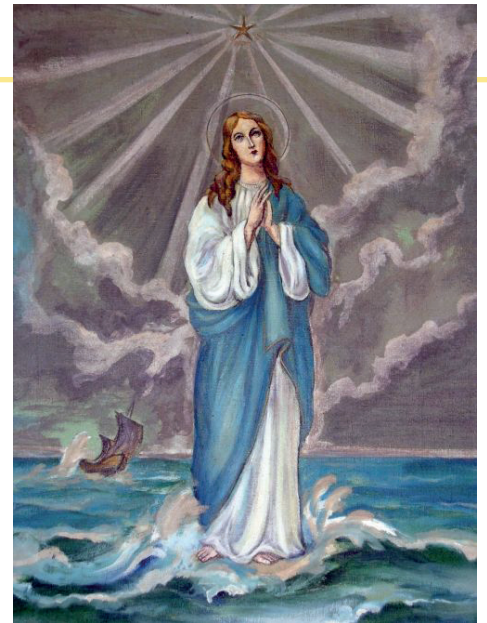
Many times throughout the New Testament, an image of a boat is present. Jesus called his first disciples from a boat; the disciples were sinking in a boat while Jesus was asleep; after the Resurrection, the disciples hauled 153 fish into their boats. Many Church fathers even mention the image of a boat as an image of the Church. For example, St. John Bosco had a dream of the Pope steering a boat through turbulent waters with the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of Mary on each side.

The reason why I bring this up now, is because it seems like we (as a Church, as a nation, and the world in general) are being attacked by “fierce storms and mighty winds” as our boats are in danger of capsizing and sinking. And although this is just an analogy, we know from Sacred Scripture, that the “devil is like a prowling lion looking for someone to

devour (1 Peter 5:9).” So, either way you look at it, there will always be attacks on the Church, with the secular world trying to destroy it.

Realizing this, I am reminded of a title of the Blessed Virgin Mary that is appropriate for our times: **Mary, Star of the Sea**. This title is said to have been originally thought of by St. Jerome, a Doctor of the Church. As trusting children of God, regardless of how bad the world and the Church seem to be externally, why should we worry? Is not God, our Father? Is not Mary, our Mother?

The Church has survived over 2,000 years, and a study of Church history will tell us that the current world crises (externally speaking) is not as bad as the previous times of martyrdom (we hope it won't come to that). Either way, our Lord is providing us with all the means we need to get through it. Along with



the sacraments and fervent prayer, the Blessed Virgin Mary will always be at our side, *praying that we may reach the safe harbor of Heaven*. May we ask her to not necessarily “take away our problems” (unless God wills it), but instead give us the grace and strength to persevere through them.

May Mother Mary, Star of the Sea, keep us steadfast amidst the trials and tribulations of life, knowing that where sin abounds, *grace abounds all the more!*

GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ

New Name... New products in our Gift Shop!

By Andy Herson, Gift Shop and Operations Manager

With the Shrine's change to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, we will be updating some of our favorite items in the Gift Shop with the new name and adding some new items as well! We will be updating products as we order them and as our current inventory is depleted.

Some of the new items that we already have in stock are mugs, sweatshirts, t-shirts, holy water bottles and buttons. The proceeds from the Shrine Gift shop help with the operating costs of the Shrine.



HOURS

Mon.-Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sundays 12:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

PILGRIMAGE CORNER

Walk To Mary Event

by Kathy Ciha, Pilgrimage Coordinator

May 6, 2023, marks the 10th anniversary of the Walk To Mary! Praise God!

This year we are expecting over 6,000 pilgrims of all ages and nationalities to walk the 21 miles. This has more than doubled from last year. Approximately 45 States will be represented during the walk and approximately 65% of the pilgrims are from outside the state of Wisconsin.

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary this year, Relevant Radio is sponsoring a sold-out dinner the night before the walk for the first 1000 people who register. It will be a time to reflect on past experiences and share blessings received.

The next day, pilgrims will unite for this blessed event -some in groups to share the experience, and some who walk in reflective silence. Everyone has their own purpose for completing the pilgrimage. The annual pilgrimage has impacted lives and filled hearts with many graces from the Holy Family. The 21-mile walk spiritually prepares everyone prior to their destination – the United States' first and only approved Marian Apparition site.

The walk starts at 7:00 am Saturday morning at the National Shrine of St. Joseph and leads to the grounds where

the Blessed Mother appeared to Adele Brise in 1859. There are 2 additional starting points—a 14-mile walk at SS Peter & Paul in Green Bay, and a 7 mile walk at Holy Cross Church in Bay Settlement where there is a light lunch served to all who walk. Then begins the final stretch to Mary's Shrine. Walkers begin arriving at the National Shrine in Champion around 2:00 pm.

For children and those who can only do a short distance, the Walk with the Children is a "smaller version" of the 22+ mile Walk to Mary pilgrimage. It stands alone as its own shorter pilgrimage route that gracefully merges into the last ½ mile of the longer Walk to Mary route.

Pilgrims start with Mass at 12:30 pm in Mother of Mercy Hall at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help. At the conclusion of Mass, the walk begins at the St. Joseph Grotto on the Shrine grounds, exits the Shrine's grounds and joins the last 1/2 mile segment of the larger Walk to Mary route and ultimately ends at the Apparition Grotto back on the Shrine's grounds.

For those walking the 21, 14 or 7-mile walk, Masses will be offered in the afternoon

for participants arriving to the Shrine. Both the 3:30 pm and 5:15 pm Masses will be held in Mother of Mercy Hall, with Bishop Ricken celebrating the 5:15 PM Mass. Additional tents will be set up outside where there is a full view of the altar inside Mother of Mercy Hall. Over 100 Shrine volunteers come to help with this event - from parking cars, ushering at mass, working in the gift shop and café, and organizing the loading of buses. It is such a gift!

If you are interested in participating in the walk or day's activities, please visit walktomary.com or look on our website at championshrine.org/events. If you would like to volunteer at the Shrine for this day, visit championshrine.org/volunteer!



Looking Back

Shrine Lenten Mission with Fr. Joseph Aytona | Feb. 26-Mar. 1

Pilgrims took time away from their busy schedules to join the Shrine for its Lenten Mission hosted by Rector Fr. Joseph Aytona CPM. Each Day during the mission, Fr. Joseph gave powerful reflections based on the Blessed Mother's message to Adele Brise in 1859.

Eucharistic Miracles of the World Exhibit | March 11-19

The National Shrine had an incredible week sharing the Eucharistic Miracles of the World, designed by Blessed Carlo Acutis. Each day, the exhibit saw a steady flow of pilgrims - all coming to see the 150+ panels documenting the Eucharistic Miracles. There was also an informational video about Bl. Carlo Acutis that visitors were able to watch.



Solemnity of the Annunciation of Our Lord Novena | March 17-25

Thank you to all who participated in our March novena for the Annunciation of Our Lord! We had thousands participate in sending in petitions and praying throughout the nine days. Our next novena will start on June 8 for the Feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Holy Week at Champion Shrine | April 2-9

This year's holy week was filled with solemn remembrance of the passion of Christ, and the joyful celebration of His resurrection on Easter Sunday. Many pilgrims joined the Shrine in honoring the holiest week of the Liturgical Calendar.

Divine Mercy Sunday | April 16

A day of great mercy at the National Shrine! Confessions were heard all day with a special talk given by the Shrine's Rector, Fr. Joseph Aytona, on Divine Mercy.

UPCOMING EVENT

Last Saturday of Each Month

Eucharistic Healing Service

At the conclusion of the 11 a.m. Mass on every last Saturday of the Month, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and processed among the faithful. This is then followed by the Anointing of the Sick for those needing the Sacrament. The upcoming Eucharistic Healing Services will be held on May 27, June 24, and July 29.

The 9th of Every Month

Anniversary Day of the Apparition

Every 9th of the Month, the Shrine celebrates the day that Mary appeared to Adele with an Anointing of the Sick blessing after Mass for those who need it. Mass begins at 11 a.m.

May 6, 2023

Walk To Mary

The Walk to Mary is a pilgrimage like no other in the world. Beginning at The National Shrine of St. Joseph and ending at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, this 21-mile prayerful walk has spiritually impacted lives and brought them closer to the Holy Family. Those unable to participate in the full journey can join at other points with shorter distances. Registration is open at walktomary.com.



May 7, 2023

May Crowning and Celebration

Help us celebrate the month of our Mother with Champion Shrine's annual May Crowning. The celebration will begin following 11 a.m. Mass that Sunday with the crowning of Mary and the Shrine's traditional procession around its grounds.

May 12-13, 2023

Spiritual Motherhood Conference

On the weekend leading up to Mother's Day, Champion Shrine will host a special event centered around the Spiritual Motherhood of Mary. This event brings women together to equip them in the teaching of sharing in Mary's motherhood for souls, especially Priests. With Mary's motherhood intimately united with the Church and her Priests, this conference inspires women to live out a type of maternity that nurtures divine life in others by doing God's will. For more information, visit championshrine.org/events.



May 19-20, 2023

Champion Shrine Marian Conference

Join hundreds of pilgrims from around the world at the second-annual Champion Shrine Marian Conference. Focused on Mary as the Mother of Mercy, attendees will be able to develop a deeper understanding of the healing power of forgiveness through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God. Speakers include Bishop David Ricken, Fr. Wade Menezes - CPM, Sr. Philomena - Daughter of Mary, and Fr. Joseph Aytona - CPM. For more information on the weekend conference, visit championshrine.org/marian-conference.

May 28, 2023

Pentecost Sunday and Veneration of Apostle Relics

Did you know that Champion Shrine is home to all the Apostle's relics? On Pentecost Sunday, the Shrine will display their relics in the Chapel and allow pilgrims to venerate and reflect on what it may have been like to be with the Apostles as the Holy Spirit descended upon them.

June 8-16, 2023

Novena for the Feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus & Immaculate Heart of Mary

Join the Shrine in praying its annual Novena for the Feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Enclosed in this newsletter you will find the prayers and a card in which you can include your prayer intentions for this Novena. For those interested in receiving a daily novena prayer reminder via email, visit championshrine.org/novenas.

June 11, 2023

Honoring His Presence - A Corpus Christi Celebration

To honor the Most Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord, Champion Shrine will hold Mass at 11 a.m. with a Corpus Christi Procession immediately following. In addition, a special devotion will be presented at the Shrine in the afternoon focused on Jesus King of All Nations. For more information, visit championshrine.org/events.

June 16, 2023

Global Rosary For Priests

Unite in prayer around the country and world through the Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay for the Sanctification of Priests. As one of the prayer locations, Champion Shrine will be leading the Sorrowful Mysteries of a special rosary for all priests in the world at 6:30 p.m. and invites all the faithful to join in. For more information on the Global Rosary Relay or to find a participating location, visit worldpriest.com.

July 5, 2023

Anniversary of Adele's Death

Adele Brise, the visionary who saw our Blessed Mother, passed away peacefully on the Shrine's grounds in 1896. In honor of her death, Champion Shrine holds an Anointing of the Sick blessing for all those in need after its 11 a.m. Mass.



Before making any plans to visit, please check the "Latest News" Section of our website at www.championshrine.org for the most up-to-date schedule and current guidelines.

August 12, 2023

Truly Alive -

A Blessed Carlo High School Youth Day

This event is open to high school students from around the country. Truly Alive is focused on connecting youth to their faith following the footsteps of Blessed Carlo Acutis, a millennial Saint for our generation! This day-long event offers young people the opportunity to make new friendships and rediscover the beauty, truth, and goodness of the Catholic Faith. A relic of Blessed Carlo Acutis will be available for veneration the full day! For more information, visit championshrine.org/youth-day.

August 15, 2023

Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

One of Champion Shrine's longest-standing traditions! Pilgrims from all over the country come to celebrate the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother. Join the Shrine as it continues its historic Mass and rosary procession led by a statue of our Blessed Mother. Confessions and enrollment in the Brown Scapular are included in the day's events as well. Spend time in prayer with your loved ones, encountering the presence of Our Lady of Champion.





MAY 19-20, 2023

CHAMPION SHRINE MARIAN CONFERENCE

MARY, MOTHER OF MERCY

Join hundreds of pilgrims around the country for The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help's second-annual Marian Conference. Focused on Mary as the Mother of Mercy, attendees will be able to develop a deeper understanding of the healing power of forgiveness through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God.

SPEAKERS



BISHOP DAVID RICKEN



FR. WADE MENEZES, CPM



SR. PHILOMENA,
DAUGHTER OF MARY,
QUEENSHIP OF MARY



FR. JOSEPH AYTONA, CPM



REGISTER TODAY!

CHAMPIONSHRINE.ORG/
MARIAN-CONFERENCE

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Hearing From Our Volunteers

By Debbie Mercier, Pilgrimage/Volunteer Coordinator

It truly is in giving and serving others that we experience a deeper sense of faith, a deeper sense of peace, and a deeper sense of joy. As we look forward to the summer season, we would like to extend an invitation for anyone looking to find peace and grow in faith, to join the volunteers and staff at the Shrine. The Shrine is a peaceful, prayerful place which offers a variety of opportunities to serve Jesus and His Mother.

Volunteering at the Shrine can range from a weekly or monthly commitment on a day that works best for you or yearly at an annual event. Volunteer areas include working in the gift shop and cafe, groundskeeping the flower gardens and grottos, parking cars for events, being a visitor guide, and ushering.

We would also like to invite anyone looking to strengthen their spiritual growth, to join us for an hour of Adoration. Eucharistic Adoration is the most beautiful act of worship and the greatest act of holiness we have on Earth. It is a quiet, prayerful time to express and deepen your love for our Lord. The Shrine offers Eucharistic Adoration from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm daily.

*As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards
of God's varied grace*

1 Peter 4:10



Learn how you can support the Shrine and its mission through volunteering at championshrine.org/volunteer

Or contact our Volunteer Coordinator at 920-866-2571x123 or via email at volunteer@championshrine.org



One of our generous Volunteers at the Gift Shop and Café

JOIN US IN PRAYER THIS SEASON:

✝ For our country's bishops included in Champion Shrine's Shepherd Project. May our Church's leaders receive the grace needed to heroically guide our communities to the truth and love of Jesus Christ.

To join in Champion Shrine's Shepherd Project, beginning May 1, please visit championshrine.org/shepherd-project

✝ For all pilgrims encountering our Blessed Mother on the grounds of Champion Shrine this year. May they be called to a deeper conversion of heart, mind, and prayer.

✝ For the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, who will gather in Rome from October 4 - October 29, 2023. May we place the Synod under the protection of our Blessed Mother.



If you are interested in learning how you can use your gifts to help the Shrine, please visit www.championshrine.org

You can also join the many generous supporters by donating online. Any level of support is greatly appreciated and has a lasting impact here at the Shrine. May we all be good stewards of God's precious gifts!



FUND DEVELOPMENT

Making an Impact One Gift at a Time

By: Kelsey Dorner, Development Director

There have been countless stories of last-minute prayers answered throughout the years here on the Shrine grounds, all to help further Adele's mission. These prayers were answered by many generous individuals who also believed in the mission and wanted to help by providing what they could at the time. No matter how small the gift was, it had a large impact on Adele and the children she cared for.

In the spirit of that faith and trust, the Shrine continues to humbly put forward "Adele's Wish List" for the items currently needed. While the needs today may look a little different from those of Adele's, each gift to Adele's Wish List continues to help the mission she was given all those years ago - to foster conversion, teach the children, and minister to the sick and old.

We would like to thank the 300+ generous donors who have helped fund

the 327 items and projects needed since the current day list began in 2019. Various items and projects have been funded, like a set of bells and vestments for Mass, the Monstrance we currently use during daily Adoration, and the Oratory Renovation Project, just to name a few.

Currently on the list are six new candle stands for the oratory. Many pilgrims who come to the Shrine light a candle; this is a meaningful way for them to connect with the powerful presence of our Blessed Mother and seek her intercession for their intentions. Whether they seek comfort or guidance or simply want to offer a prayer of gratitude, lighting a candle in the oratory can express their deepest thoughts and feelings. By helping fund these new candle stands, you are helping countless pilgrims connect with our Blessed Mother.





Adele's Wish List

Adele Brise was a visionary who had an unwavering faith in Jesus to help her carry out the mission entrusted to her by the Queen of Heaven here at Champion.

Nowhere is this more evident than in the countless stories of miraculous last-minute wishes for help and assistance granted to Adele. Be it food for the orphaned children, money to keep the school open for classes or to ensure the Chapel could be kept open and running, Adele would express her wish in the form of a prayer and put her faith in Jesus and His Mother to enlist foot soldiers in faith here on earth to provide.

In the spirit of that faith and trust, we humbly put forward "Adele's Wish List" for those items most needed by the Shrine at this time. To sponsor an item through a donation, simply send your check to our mailing address or go to our website and click "Make a Gift". If you would like to donate anonymously, please call (920) 866-2571 ext. 125.

Thank you and may God bless you!

Items Needed

- Liturgical Items for Mass - \$100
- Gift Table for Apparition Chapel - \$530
- Two Informational Literature Wall Racks for Mother of Mercy Hall - \$900
- Refrigerator for Schoolhouse Café - \$4,000
- Six Candle Stands for the Oratory - \$6,400
- Stations of the Cross Restoration, Landscaping Phase - \$25,000

All donations made to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion are tax deductible, as permitted by law. Donations will be used, at the discretion of the organization, to further the purpose indicated by the donor.



DONATION FORM

Please fill out the following form and mail along with your check to:

The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion
4047 Chapel Drive
New Franken, WI 54229

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Phone Number

Email

Donation Amount \$

☐ General Donation

☐ Adele's Wish List

☐ Please contact me about including
The Shrine in my will or estate plan,
listing the Shrine as a life insurance
beneficiary or the sale of stock

How do you want to be acknowledged?

The Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Inc.
4047 Chapel Drive, New Franken, WI 54229

This newsletter is published by the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion to provide updates and news on the Shrine, continue the mission given to Sister Adele by Our Lady, and share the Catholic faith!

HOURS FOR SHRINE SPIRITUAL LIFE, GIFT SHOP, CAFE AND GROUNDS

Apparition Chapel, Apparition Oratory, and the Shrine Grounds

Daily 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Mass

Daily & Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday & Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday 5:45 p.m.

Sunday (May-Oct) 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Daily 10:00 a.m., 12:00 and 2:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:15 a.m.

Devotional Prayer

Rosary Daily 10:30 a.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Daily 3:00 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Daily Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Fatima Devotions First Saturday after 8:30 a.m. Mass

Healing Service with Anointing of the Sick Last Saturday after 11:00 a.m. Mass

Eucharistic Rosary Procession Sundays (May-Oct.) 12:00 p.m.

Family Holy Hour with Guided Lectio Divina .. Sundays (Nov.-Apr.) 12:00 p.m.

Adele Brise Day - Ninth of Each Month

Anointing of the Sick Immediately after 11:00 a.m. Mass

Gift Shop and Schoolhouse Café

Monday – Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Welcome Center

May – October 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

November – April 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Check our website for Holiday Schedules*