

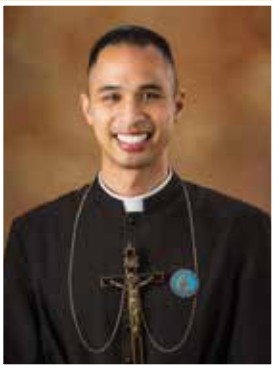


THE GOOD NEWS

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

Summer 2023 Issue #68





RECTOR'S WINDOW

Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

Ave Maria!

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since the Easter season has ended, one of the daily devotions I recommend is praying the Angelus. By praying the Angelus, we especially look to the Blessed Virgin Mary to help us cherish the Incarnation. After all, Jesus is not only the Son of God, but He is also the Son of Mary. It was by the fidelity and obedience of our Lady, we are able to adore the Christ Child. But with that in mind, we too have to see Mary as our Mother. I personally like to meditate on our Lady's Assumption and glorified body; how her physical heart may still beat for her children while she sits at the right hand of her Son in Heaven. The Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium* clearly stated:

Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into their blessed home. [62]

With that being said, I would like to emphasize Our Lady of Guadalupe. After much research and hearing talks on her appearances to St. Juan Diego, I never realized the extraordinary outcome of those

events. Because of Our Lady's concern for us, especially for those in the Americas, an astonishing 9+ million people were converted to the Catholic Church! This by far, has been the largest number of conversions for one event in all of Church history. In other words, her Spiritual Maternity back then (and still to this day) is very much alive!

Pray for us O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the Promises of Christ!

Sincerely in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM



SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

The Blessed Virgin Mary Leads us to the Eucharist

By Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

The first public miracle Christ performed was at the Wedding Feast of Cana. While Jesus and Mary were at the Wedding Feast, the wedding party ran out of wine, and Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, turned the water into wine: "When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' [...] 'Do whatever He tells you' (John 2:3 & 5)

This event prefigures the Last Supper, where ultimately Jesus would change wine into his Sacred Blood. As the Gospel of John states, the disciples *started to believe in Jesus*, after the miracle of the



wedding Feast was done: "Jesus did this as the beginning of His signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him." (John 2:11) Thus, through Mary's intercession, the disciples were more disposed to receive the gifts God had planned for them at the Institution of the Eucharist.

Moreover, the Blessed Virgin Mary was at the Foot of the Cross. And since we know the Eucharist which was instituted at the Last Supper cannot be separated from our Lord's Crucifixion on Good Friday, Mary helps prepare her children to share and participate in the Sacrifice of her Son, that is, the Eucharistic Sacrifice when Mass is celebrated.

St. John Paul II elaborates on this subject: "Mary's presence at the cross shows her commitment to total participation in her Son's redemptive sacrifice." Christ's Mother, "forever remains the perfect model of all who would accept to associate without reserve with the redemptive offer." Thus, Marian devotion ultimately leads us to Eucharistic Devotion; one who is truly devoted to our Lady, will automatically be devoted to her Son, and His Real Presence in the Eucharist. That is why it is a praiseworthy practice to pray the Rosary, especially before Mass begins.

Lastly, since the Blessed Virgin Mary was full of grace during her whole life,



she possessed perfect faith. Faith is the theological virtue that is especially connected to belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We, as Catholics, believe that after the words of Consecration, there is no more bread; there is no more wine, only the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the *appearances* of bread and wine. Thus, it is fitting to ask the Blessed Virgin Mary, especially as the model of a perfect Eucharistic Adorer, to help us increase in faith. St. Mother Teresa would say this prayer to Our Lady every time before receiving Holy Communion: "Give me your heart, so pure and Immaculate."

*One who is truly devoted to our Lady,
will automatically be devoted to her Son,
and His Real Presence in the Eucharist*

COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

Bringing Champion Shrine's Story to Life through Hallow

By Chelsey Hare, Director of Communications

These past few months, we been working closely with **Hallow** - the #1 Catholic prayer app - to develop an audio pilgrimage tour for the grounds of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion! The tour is now available on the popular app and can be found by searching "Our Lady of Champion."

Recorded by Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay - who approved the Marian Apparitions, the tour guides listeners around the grounds, sharing the beautiful story of the Blessed Virgin Mary's apparitions to Adele and the humble history of the Shrine. His Excellency shares insightful meditations along the tour as well, inviting pilgrims to ponder the message of Our Lady and how it can apply to our lives today.

In addition to the guided tour, Bishop Ricken leads an audio meditation for all four mysteries of the rosary that can be listened to along the Shrine's rosary path, a timeless treasure that will be well loved by pilgrims in the present and future!

We encourage you to download the Hallow app and listen today! If listening to the tour on the grounds of the Shrine, we just ask that you bring your own ear buds to respect the peace of other pilgrims around you. Otherwise, it's a great way to hear the story ahead of your pilgrimage to Champion!



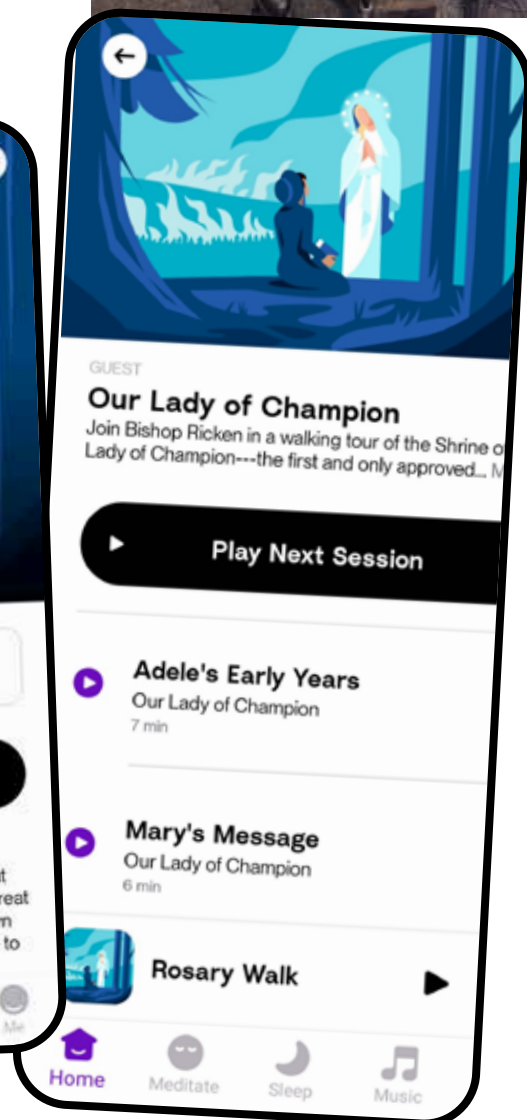
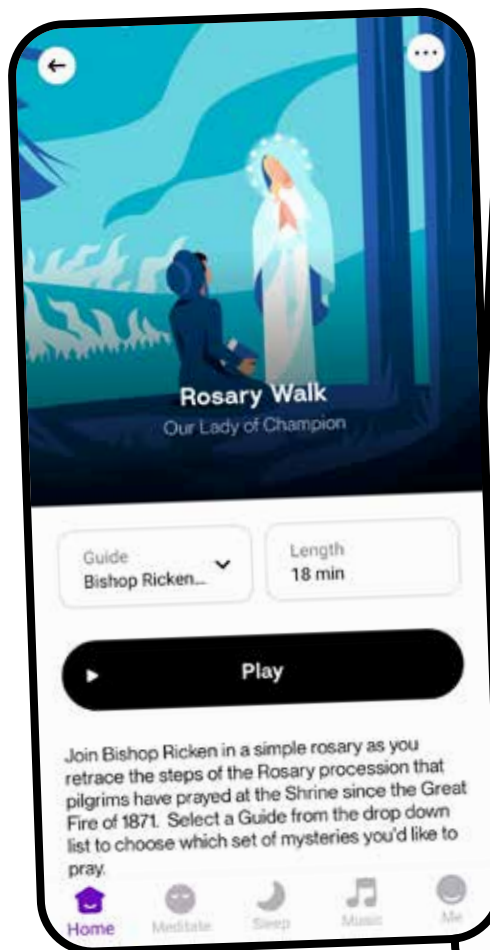
Hallow



Download on the
App Store



Get it on
Google Play



PILGRIMAGE CORNER

Walk To Mary Event

by Kathy Ciha, Pilgrimage Coordinator

It's been a busy Spring at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. April and May brought back many children and students who visit the Shrine on their yearly field trip, and the Spiritual Motherhood Conference and Marian Conference brought in over 300 souls seeking a closer relationship with the Blessed Mother Mary. Our Marian Conference speakers consisted of Bishop Ricken, Father Wade Menezes, Father Joseph Aytona, and Sister Philomena - who all did a wonderful job of conveying the theme "Mary - Mother of Mercy".

As we look to Summer and Fall, many opportunities are available for you as a pilgrim to visit Champion Shrine, especially through events centered around the Blessed Mother.

August 15th, the feast day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, always brings many pilgrims to the Shrine to celebrate Mass and participate in the holy rosary procession. It's a tradition for many pilgrims to come to Mass and re-live their experiences at the Shrine, whether as a child or young adult visiting with their parents. It's also an opportunity for new pilgrims to participate in the time-honored occasion as well! Mass takes place at 11:00 am with the traditional rosary procession after. Following the procession, a picnic lunch is available featuring hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks and a drink.

Our National Novena for Our Lady of Champion starts on Oct. 1st and ends with the Inaugural Solemnity Mass for Our Lady of Champion at 11:00 am on Oct. 9th. Events are planned for the special days leading up to the 9th as well, including the Feast Day of the Most Holy Rosary on the Saturday (Oct. 7th) and the Anniversary of the Miracle of the Fire on Sunday evening (Oct. 8th).

Monday, Oct. 9th, will mark the 164th anniversary of the second and third Apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Adele Brice and the celebration of the inaugural Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion on the grounds of the Shrine. The Solemnity Mass at 11:00 a.m. will be



If interested in bringing a bus of pilgrims, be sure to connect with the pilgrimage office to arrange your visit.

You can reach us by emailing kciha@championshrine.org or calling 920-866-2571 ext 113.

celebrated by Bishop Ricken who will be joined by fellow Wisconsin Bishops and priests. Over 3,000 pilgrims are anticipated to attend. Bring your own chair and take part in this special event!



A group of pilgrims from Minnesota joined the National Shrine for its Marian Conference.



INTERESTED IN STAYING UP TO DATE ON UPCOMING EVENTS AND NEWS AT THE SHRINE?

Sign up for **"Under Her Mantle"** The Shrine's new monthly email update!

To sign up, scan this QR Code or visit championshrine.org/stay-in-touch

Looking Back

May 6-7, 2023 | Walk to Mary and May Crowning Celebration

The first weekend of May was filled with blessings! Over 7,500 pilgrims were on the grounds of the National Shrine for Saturday's Walk to Mary with thousands returning the next day for Sunday's May Crowning Celebration!



May 12-13, 2023 | Spiritual Motherhood Conference

Champion Shrine hosted a special conference centered around the Spiritual Motherhood of Mary. Pilgrims - both local and out of state - traveled to hear Fr. Joseph's powerful talks on the feminine genius and Mary's role as Mother of the Church and the priesthood.

May 19-20, 2023 | Champion Shrine Marian Conference

The second-annual Marian Conference took place this past May. Over 250 pilgrims attended the conference to hear speakers such as Bishop David Ricken, Fr. Wade Menezes, Sr. Philomena - Daughter of Mary, and Fr. Joseph Aytona. Save the date for next year's Marian Conference on May 17-18, 2024!

"Such a great opportunity to be with such wonderful speakers, just totally awed at how much I learned, and was at peace for the first time in a long time."

— 2023 Marian Conference Attendee



June 11, 2023 | Honoring His Presence - A Corpus Christi Celebration

On the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the National Shrine held a traditional Corpus Christi Procession and Adoration for pilgrims to spend personal time with Our Lord in the Eucharist. In Addition to this, the Shrine hosted a group that brought awareness to the Jesus King of All Nations Devotion. Pilgrims were able to hear about the devotion, and spend private devotional time with the image.



The Shrine is again offering a special
MIRACLE OF THE FIRE CANDLE
that will be placed on the Rosary Pathway
to help light the way for those joining us
throughout the night to pray the rosary on October 8.

We are now accepting orders for Miracle of the Fire Candles along with your prayer intentions. For background information please see the next page (*Upcoming Events October 8 and 9*). Each candle will be placed along the Rosary Pathway for the evening of October 8. Your intentions will be remembered throughout the night of prayer.

We invite you to visit our website,

championshrine.org/light-a-candle

to order your special Miracle of the Fire candle and submit your prayer intention, which will be prayed for throughout the night.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

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 rediscover the beauty, truth, and goodness of the Catholic faith and to make new friendships! 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.



September 16, 2023

Belgian Harvest Festival

Join the Shrine and the Belgian Heritage Center as we welcome in the fall season! The Belgian Harvest Festival celebrates the history of Champion Shrine and the surrounding Belgian community. The festival includes special blessings of the fall harvest crops and local farming tractors. Pilgrims will also be able to enjoy traditional Belgian chicken booyah and desserts!

October 7-8, 2023

Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary and Anniversary of the Great Fire

On the weekend leading up to the Inaugural Solemnity on Oct. 9, join us as we celebrate our Blessed Mother's aid in Champion and the power of the Rosary. Oct. 7 will allow pilgrims to be enrolled in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary and participate in a rosary procession around the grounds of the Shrine. On Oct. 8, join the Shrine in the evening as it celebrates the anniversary of the miracle of the great fire of 1871. A historical account of what happened that fateful night will be read at 7:00 p.m. with all night Adoration and rosary processions on the hour leading up to Oct. 9.

PLEASE NOTE

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.



October 9, 2023

The Inaugural Solemnity Mass of Our Lady of Champion

Earlier this year, the National Shrine received word from the Holy See's Dicastery for Divine Worship, granting us the ability to celebrate the anniversary of the Blessed Mother's 2nd and 3rd Apparitions to Adele as a Solemnity on the grounds of the Shrine. The Inaugural Solemnity Mass of Our Lady of Champion will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Oct. 9. Bishop David L. Ricken will celebrate the Mass and be joined by fellow Wisconsin Bishops, priests, and religious communities. It will be a historic moment for the Shrine and all are invited to attend!

GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ

Planting and Harvesting the Seeds off Faith!

By Andy Herson, Gift Shop and Operations Managerf

When visiting the National Shrine in early summer, you will find the fields being plowed and tilled and see nothing but fresh dirt. It will not be until late fall that the farmers will reap the benefits of what they sowed.

Our faith is similar for many people. There are many ways to cultivate the growth of our interior life. Maybe it is a visit to the Shrine's Apparition Oratory that begins a process of developing a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. Or maybe it is a conversation with a friend that sparks a deeper conversion of heart.

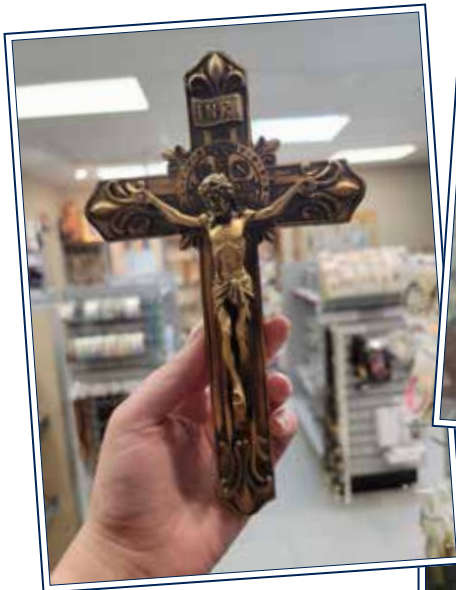
It could be through a simple gesture of hanging a crucifix on a prominent wall in your home, or placing a small statue of the Blessed Mother as a reminder of all the blessings that we receive through her intercession.

You could hang a small auto magnet in your car as a reminder to ask for safe travels for you and all the people that you will encounter on the road.

These small gestures can grow into bigger devotions, such as praying the rosary, attending Mass on a regular basis, praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet or receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Before you know it, you will be reaping the benefits from sowing the seeds of your faith.

So, when you visit The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, look around and see all the opportunities that Mary gives you to deepen your faith and your relationship with Jesus!



THE GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ HOURS

Mon.-Sat. 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sundays 12:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Hearing From Our Volunteers

By Debbie Mercier, Pilgrimage/Volunteer Coordinator

As we begin the summer season, we give thanks!

The month of May has been a beautiful start to the summer season here at the Shrine. We began the month with the Walk to Mary, with over 7,000 people from all over the Country journeying to these holy grounds. The Shrine was staffed with over 90 volunteers who helped to provide a safe, comfortable, and spiritual visit for the many pilgrims who attended. The day could not have gone as smoothly as it did without the assistance of our remarkable volunteers.

Staff and volunteers continued to provide hospitality to the many pilgrims during the month of May, especially with the May Crowning and Celebration, the Spiritual Motherhood and Marian Conferences, the monthly Healing Service and the Pentecost Sunday veneration of the relics.

We look forward to the summer season and give thanks, as we pray,

Heavenly Father, we pray in thanksgiving for the many talents and gifts that You have given to each one of us, as we dedicate our time, talent and treasure to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion!



Learn how you can support the Shrine and its mission through volunteering.

Visit our website at championshrine.org/volunteer

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

*Give, and it shall be
given unto you.* — Luke 6:38



Marian Conference 2023



Walk to Mary 2023



FUND DEVELOPMENT

General Giving – Making an Impact Today

By: Kelsey Dorner, Development Director


As more pilgrims visit the Shrine each year, general gifts are essential to ensuring the Shrine continues to be ready to welcome them. General gifts are vital and make a big impact here on the Shrine grounds every day. When you give a general gift, you not only help fund the day-to-day operational expenses, but you are helping to sustain the peaceful experience for the next pilgrim.

The Shrine serves as a beacon of faith, hope, and healing for all who seek solace through Our Blessed Mother's love and embrace. It is a sacred place where the power of prayer is palpable. Whether you walk the Rosary Pathway for quiet prayer and reflection or visit the Oratory to pray

before Our Blessed Mother to ask for her intercession, these are just some of the spaces that are maintained through general giving funds.

General giving not only supports maintaining the Shrine's beautiful grounds and buildings, but these crucial gifts also provide the funds needed to sponsor the three Fathers of Mercy Priests assigned to the Shrine. The Fathers of Mercy provide hundreds of hours of Confession each year to pilgrims who seek the opportunity to receive God's love and forgiveness. They also continue to offer daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration to deepen pilgrims' connection with God through the Most Holy Eucharist.

To those generous individuals who have given general gifts, thank you! You are an integral part of our mission and help us touch the lives of countless pilgrims seeking spiritual nourishment. I humbly invite everyone to open their hearts to Our Lady's call and consider making a meaningful gift to the Shrine. Your gift, no matter the amount, will significantly impact our mission to foster conversion, teach the children, and minister to the sick and old. Together, we can ensure the Shrine continues to be the refuge where people can gather from all walks of life, fostering unity through our faith and providing a sense of belonging in a divided world.



May Our Lady of Champion shower you with her boundless love and protection. May she guide your steps and grant you the strength to face life's challenges with faith and hope!



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
- Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary Certificate Mailing - \$250
- Prayer Petition Cards for the Apparition Oratory - \$350
- Two Informational Literature Wall Racks for Mother of Mercy Hall - \$900
- Apparition Oratory Door Replacement - \$8,000
- Main Restroom Remodel Project - \$76,000

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?

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*