



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

Summer 2024 Issue #72





## RECTOR'S WINDOW

Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

Dear Friends in Christ,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

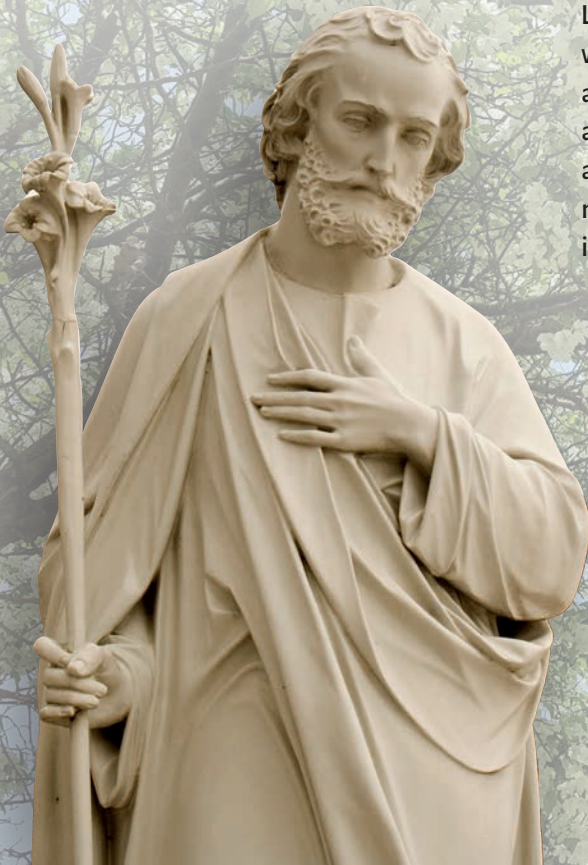
This past May during our Marian Conference, we were blessed to have Fr. Donald Calloway be one of our speakers. He wrote a book entitled: "Consecration to St. Joseph: The Wonders of Our Spiritual Father." Also, this past May, we had our annual Walk to Mary, which formally starts at the National Shrine of St. Joseph in De Pere, WI. Thus, even though we are a Shrine dedicated to Our Lady, I don't think our Blessed Mother would mind us mentioning her most chaste spouse. I think it is fitting that we dedicate some time to the foster father of Jesus since he is also a Patron of the Universal Church. I am always encouraged when I hear this famous quote from St. Teresa of Avila about St. Joseph:

"I cannot call to mind that I have ever asked him at any time for anything which he has not granted, and I am filled with amazement when I consider the great favors which God hath given me through this blessed Saint; the dangers from which he hath delivered me, both of body and of soul."  
— *St. Teresa of Avila, Autobiography*

Thus, I tell people, "If you need a miracle, ite ad Joseph (go to Joseph)". If Our Lord and Our Lady entrusted themselves to St. Joseph, it is appropriate that we do the same. Currently, fatherhood and masculine virtues are under attack. We should commend ourselves to this holy patriarch, knowing he always leads us to his Son. Although he was a "quiet saint" (he didn't say a word in the Gospels), his actions speak louder than words. May the just man, St. Joseph, be our protector, guide, and especially our spiritual father in such dark times.

*Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM*

Fr. Joseph Aytona, CPM  
Rector of the National Shrine  
of Our Lady of Champion



# SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

## Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope

By Fr. Joseph Aytona, C.P.M

### What is hope?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church in section 1817 states this: Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit. "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful." (Hebrews 10:23)

### How do you live in hope?

Hopeful people trust in God's Providence. Knowing that we are His adopted children gives us a sense of peace and hope; He will never put us in a situation we can't handle without His grace. Hope-filled people rarely give in

to discouragement knowing that "All things work for the good of those who love God." (Romans 8:28)

### How do you primarily receive hope?

Hope is a theological virtue that is primarily received through prayer. After the sacraments, prayers such as the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy can increase our hope. In addition, making a formal Act of Hope is recommended every day. Here is a popular Act of Hope:

*O my God, relying on Your almighty power and infinite mercy and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer. Amen.*



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.

We invite you to visit our website, to order your special Miracle of the Fire candle and submit your prayer intention, which will be prayed for throughout the night.

[championshrine.org/light-a-candle](http://championshrine.org/light-a-candle)



# COMMUNICATIONS CORNER

## US Bishops Decide Whether to Affirm Opening the Cause for Adele Brise

By Chelsey Hare, Director of Communications

During the June 2024 Plenary Meeting for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay will hold a consultation with his fellow Bishops on opening the cause for beatification and canonization of Adele Brise, Marian Visionary of Our Lady of Champion.

Within this consultation, he will present on the life of Adele, her virtues, and the story of Our Lady's apparitions to her in 1859. The Bishops will then hold a vote on whether to affirm Bishop Ricken in opening the cause for Adele. By the time you are reading this, a vote will have taken place, and we ask for your prayers - that God's will is done.

While this meeting with the US Bishops to affirm opening the Cause for Adele Brise does not mean the cause is officially opened, it does mean that steps are being considered and taken to one day open her cause for beatification and canonization, God willing. As Bishop Ricken stated in a recent OSV News article, "There is no set timeline; it's on God's time."

All we can do is pray that heaven and the Church will reveal God's will for Adele's cause. Join me in praying this prayer for Adele:



**Eternal Father, your servant, Adele Brise, offered her life as a sacrifice of love. With great devotion to the Mother of God, she sought to instruct the ignorant and pray for the conversion of sinners. She was a servant of your grace and an advocate for spreading the True faith. Teach us to imitate her love for you and her heroic devotion to your service.**

**If it is your will that she should be venerated among the Saints of your Church, make known by miracles and favors the glory she enjoys in your presence. Trusting in your merciful goodness, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, graciously grant me the grace of (Your Intention). I ask these things in the Name of Jesus the Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be**

*With Ecclesiastical Approval of Bishop David L. Ricken, Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin*



For more information on the life of Adele and to keep informed with the happenings of a potential cause, please visit [AdeleBrise.org](http://AdeleBrise.org)

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](http://championshrine.org/stay-in-touch)



# PILGRIMAGE CORNER

## Spiritual Opportunities at Champion

by Kathy Ciha, Pilgrimage Coordinator

It's been an abundant spring for pilgrimages at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion!

Walk to Mary registered 5,895 walkers, with an additional 2,000 visitors at the Shrine on Saturday, May 4th. We celebrated four Masses that day with 3,650 in attendance. Our third-annual, sold-out Marian Conference brought in over 430 people seeking a closer relationship with our Blessed Mother. The conference speakers included Father Don Calloway-MIC, Father Bill Casey-CPM, and Mother Mary Catherine of the Missionaries of the Word, who all did a wonderful job of illuminating the theme "Mary – Virgin Most Powerful."

As we look toward the Summer and Fall at the Shrine, there are many opportunities for you as a pilgrim to visit the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion:

On August 15th, the Solemnity 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. Many generations of pilgrims enjoy attending Mass and reliving their past experiences at the Shrine, whether as a child or young adult visiting with their parents. It is also an opportunity for those new to the Shrine to experience these traditions as well. This

year, we are honored to welcome Cardinal James Michael Harvey, Archpriest of the Papal Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls in Rome, as he celebrates the 11 am Holy Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption at the Shrine alongside Bishop David Ricken.

Jumping to the fall season, the National Shrine's Novena to Our Lady of Champion starts on October 1st and ends with the 165th anniversary of the last apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Adele Brise on October 9th. The Solemnity Mass of Our Lady of Champion on the Shrine's grounds will be celebrated by Bishop David L. Ricken at 11:00 am. If interested in bringing a bus of pilgrims, be sure to connect with the pilgrimage office to arrange your visit!

Leading up to this day, The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (Oct. 7th) and the Miracle of the Great 1871 Fire (Oct. 8th) will also be commemorated at the Shrine.

Monday, Oct. 7th, is the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Rosary, instituted by Pope Pius V after the miraculous victory of the Battle of Lepanto on Oct. 7, 1571. We will honor this Feast by celebrating Mass at 11:00 am. This is followed by a Rosary procession around the grounds and a special enrollment in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary for visiting pilgrims.



To schedule a pilgrimage, please visit [championshrine.org/visit](http://championshrine.org/visit)

Or contact us at [kciha@championshrine.org](mailto:kciha@championshrine.org)  
920-866-2571 ext 113.

On Tuesday, October 8th, we will commemorate the anniversary of the Miracle of the Great 1871 Fire. During the day, visitors can explore the rich heritage of the Belgian people who settled in the Northeast Wisconsin area. Partnering alongside the Belgian Heritage Center, exhibits will be displayed with pictures, news articles, and presentations depicting the lives of the Belgian people in the area. Traditional, homemade Booyah (a chicken-based vegetable soup), Belgian Pies, and other Belgian delights will be available for lunch for a small fee. In the evening, the account of the Miracle of the Fire is proclaimed in the Apparition Chapel, with all-night Adoration and rosary processions on the hour around the grounds. Votive candles will line the paths around the grounds that evening, representing prayer intentions of the faithful.



# Looking Back

## May 4, 2024 | Walk To Mary

The 11th annual Walk to Mary was a beautiful day with just under 6,000 walkers coming to Champion from the various route join-in points. An additional 2,000 people came to the grounds of the Shrine to experience the energy and joy of the event and to witness the walking pilgrims who traveled from across the world to be there. 43 States were represented as well as a few countries. Thousands of prayer requests were received at the Shrine that single day, and we will continue to pray for them for the rest of the year! To learn more about Walk to Mary and next year's event, visit [walktomary.com](http://walktomary.com).



## May 17-18, 2024

### Champion Shrine Marian Conference | Mary, Virgin Most Powerful

Champion Shrine's Marian Conference was another beautiful gift to Our Lady in May! But don't just take our word for it, hear from a couple of our conference attendees:

*"I can see why attendees traveled from at least 30 states to attend this year's conference. This was a world-class lineup of speakers. The Shrine's Rector, Fr. Joseph, is also world-class. I brought three of my kids from ages 13 to 23, and they all loved it!" – Greg*



*"It has increased my appreciation for Our Blessed Mother and her role in my faith journey. I am grateful and humbled by the faith of so many people in one place. The conference was like stepping into another world; a more heavenly one. I can just imagine all of us worshipping the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with Our Mother, the Saints & Angels together in heaven." – Laurel*

Save the date for next year's Marian Conference, May 16-17, 2025! Registration opens in February 2025 at [championshrine.org/marian-conference](http://championshrine.org/marian-conference)

## June 16, 2024 | National Eucharistic Pilgrimage Stop at Champion Shrine

Champion Shrine was honored to be a featured stop along the Northern Marian Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage! Mass was celebrated with hundreds of pilgrims from across the Midwest and by those with a love for Our Blessed Mother. The Eucharistic Procession was led by Bishop Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay, and the perpetual pilgrims who have walked the entire Marian Route were, in attendance, walking amongst the gathered faithful. Eucharistic Revival is here and present through these pilgrimage stops across the country! We will continue our prayers for safe travels to the National Congress in Indianapolis on July 17.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 5, 2024**

## **Anniversary of Adele's Death**

Adele Brise, the visionary who saw our Blessed Mother in present-day Champion, passed away peacefully on the Shrine's grounds in 1896. In honor of her death, Champion Shrine will hold a moment of prayer at her grave-site after its 11 a.m. Mass.

**August 15, 2024**

## **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 on the grounds where she appeared in 1859. Join the Shrine as it continues its historic Mass and rosary procession led by a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David Ricken and Cardinal James Michael Harvey, Archpriest of the Papal Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls in Rome and past prefect of the papal household for St. Pope John Paul II. Confessions, Enrollment in the Brown Scapular and a family picnic lunch are included in the day's events. Spend time in prayer with your loved ones, encountering the presence of Our Lady of Champion.



**October 7 – 8, 2024**

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

Join us as we celebrate our Blessed Mother's work in Champion and the power of the Rosary! October 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 October 8, the Shrine in partnership with the Belgian Heritage Center, will host a day for pilgrims to learn more about Adele's heritage and that of the surrounding community. Exhibits, presentations, and Belgian food will be shared! On the evening of October 8, we commemorate 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 October 9.

**October 9, 2024**

## **The Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion at Champion Shrine**

Celebrate the anniversary of the Blessed Virgin Mary's 2nd and 3rd Apparitions to Adele as a Solemnity on the grounds of the Shrine. The Mass will take place at 11:00 a.m. on October 9, celebrated by Bishop Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay.



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



**October 12, 2024**

## **Highway to Holiness - A Blessed Carlo High School Youth Day**

The call to holiness is for everyone, and God is inviting each of us to live a vibrant and full life in Christ - to be a Saint for our generation! This day-long youth day inspires and equips high school students to go from idleness to holiness. Are you ready for the young people in your life to hit the road? Blessed Carlo Youth Day is open to High School Students from around the country! To learn more and register, visit [championshrine.org/youth-day](http://championshrine.org/youth-day).

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

By Debbie Mercier, Pilgrimage/Volunteer Coordinator

The story of Adele and her mission speaks of her characteristic confidence in the intercessory power of the Blessed Virgin. All the adverse conditions she faced did not discourage or hinder Adele in her determination to fulfill her duty to the Blessed Mother's request.

When I think of Adele's unwavering faith and steadfast determination, I am reminded of the strong faith, dedication, and commitment many of our wonderful volunteers display, who give their time to continue the beautiful mission given to Adele.

Sister Adele has touched the lives of so many local people, below is just one of the many stories of grace received from one of our wonderful volunteers.

*There was a grace received for a very dear friend! She realized, after 18 years, that she needed to get an annulment and be married in the Catholic Church!*

*Thank you, Adele and Most Blessed Mother, for opening her heart to God's love, mercy, and commandments!*

*This all happened in Holy Confession at Champion Shrine!*

As we look forward to the many upcoming events, the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Anniversary of the Miracle of the Fire, and Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion, we recognize the importance of our volunteers. The Shrine welcomes new volunteers to help with these events, as well as the day-to-day operations of the Shrine. There continues to be a need for help in the Gift Shop and Café, volunteers to usher for Saturday and Sunday 11 am Masses, assistance in set-up and take-down for events, assistance with the maintenance of the grounds, and various other projects.

*“Remember this,  
whoever sows sparingly  
will also reap sparingly.*

*And whoever sows  
generously will also  
reap generously.”*

2 Corinthians 9:6



We are called, like Adele, to serve others and help them encounter our Lord through Our Lady. Please consider becoming part of our shrine volunteer team!

Visit the Shrine's website at [championshrine.org/volunteer](http://championshrine.org/volunteer) for more information on becoming a volunteer at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.



**Highway to HOLINESS**

ON THE ROAD TO BEING AN EVERYDAY SAINT

BL. CARLO ACUTIS DAY @ CHAMPION SHRINE



# GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ

## Eucharistic Congress Art Collaboration

By Andy Herson, Champion Shrine Operations Manager

What began as a concept in the summer of 2023 with the National Eucharistic Congress, has turned into a shining movement to celebrate sacred art and Our Lady for the National Eucharistic Revival!

The team at the National Eucharistic Congress reached out to The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, sharing their desire to have artwork from churches, Shrines, and sacred sites at the National Congress in July. The Shrine was then paired with a well-known artist from St. Louis, Gwyneth Thompson-Briggs, to paint the beautiful scene of Our Lady of Champion's appearances to Adele Brise in 1859.

Gwyneth describes the painting through her lens:

*This painting highlights the Eucharistic element of Our Lady of Champion by uniting the three apparitions to Adele Brise into a single image. As in each apparition, the Queen of Heaven is depicted robed in dazzling white, standing between two trees—a maple and a hemlock—in the midst of an ancient forest in early October 1859. She appears to dissolve into a cloud of mist, as she did after the second apparition. As Adele noticed in the third apparition, a yellow sash surrounds Our Lady's waist, a crown of stars surrounds her head, and her long, wavy golden hair falls over her shoulders. Adele could hardly look at her face because of the bright light shining around her. In the painting, a sheer veil communicates this not-quite-blinding light. The right half of Adele's face, clearly lit to the viewer, reveals what must have most distinguished her in the eyes of the world: the prominent*



*scars from a childhood accident with lye. The left half of her face, with her eye fixed on the Queen of Heaven, is veiled in shadow from the viewer. Adele is dressed in workday clothes, as she was at the time of the first apparition, when she was on her way to the gristmill with a sack of wheat. The wheat also alludes to the second and third apparitions, when Adele was on her way to and from the reception of Holy Communion. As during the third apparition, she has fallen to her knees to receive her mission from the Queen of Heaven:*

*Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation . . . their catechism, how to sign themselves with the Sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments.*

*Our Lady's raised right hand at once suggests the mission to go out and gather the children of the country, and the blessing she seemed to impart before disappearing. Adele's acceptance of this mission is symbolized by her embrace of the wheat, which becomes the interpretive key of the painting. Cultivated in the midst of the wilderness by the children of the country, the wheat is called - like them - to be transformed through the Cross and the Sacraments; and with Adele's cooperation—into a pure sacrifice to the Lord.*

The final work of art will be on display in a chapel at the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis from July 17-21, it will then travel to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion to be displayed for pilgrims to see and pray with.

**Champion Shrine's gift shop will have several items featuring this art, including prayer cards and various-sized prints.**

**They will be available beginning this summer, 2024.**

**We are very grateful that Champion Shrine was invited to participate with the Eucharistic Congress in this program and look forward to sharing the wonderful piece of artwork with our visitors to the Shrine!**

# FUND DEVELOPMENT

## Welcoming Pilgrims Tomorrow Because of the Support Given Today

By: Kelsey Dorner, Development Director

As we welcome pilgrims to the National Shrine, we do so with hearts filled with gratitude. The generous support of so many allows the Shrine to remain the peaceful refuge in which pilgrims can experience Jesus' love and healing through the Sacraments.

In an increasingly stressful world, the need for such a refuge is more important than ever. The National Shrine provides a sanctuary of spiritual renewal and a serene atmosphere for prayer and reflection. When you support the National Shrine, you are taking an active

role in helping maintain this refuge and allowing even more pilgrims to benefit from the spiritual nourishment that can be received from Jesus through Mary.

We want to thank our generous supporters. You play a crucial role in preserving the National Shrine and ensuring it remains a sanctuary for future pilgrims. Your contribution is not just a donation; you are taking an active part in our mission and helping touch countless lives of pilgrims who journey to Champion from around the world.

**If you would like to join our mission and help welcome tomorrow's pilgrims, please consider donating today.**

Your gift, no matter the amount, will significantly impact the Shrine's role in fostering conversion to Jesus through Our Lady, teaching the children, and ministering to the sick and old. Together, we can ensure the National Shrine continues to be the refuge of peace for all pilgrims seeking help and healing through their encounter with Jesus.





# 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)
- Music Stands for the Apparition Chapel (\$387)
- Tree for the Shrine Grounds (\$400)
- Fathers of Mercy Living Quarters Bathroom Repairs (\$2,400)
- Art Partnership with National Eucharistic Congress (\$8,500)
- Retention Pond Fencing (\$5,700)
- New Duel Heating & AC Unit for the Schoolhouse Café (\$11,800)
- Chapel Renovation Project (\$30,000)
- Generators for the Shrine Grounds (\$100,000)

*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?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# HOURS AND INFORMATION

4047 Chapel Drive, Champion, WI 54229

920-866-2571 | [www.championshrine.org](http://www.championshrine.org)

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## Apparition Chapel, Apparition Oratory, and the Shrine Grounds

Daily from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### Mass

Daily & Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday & Saturday at 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday at 5:45 p.m.

Sunday (May-October) at 8:30 a.m.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Daily at 10:00 a.m., after 11:00 a.m. Mass, and 2:00 p.m.

Saturday at 9:15 a.m.

### Devotional Prayer

Rosary ..... Daily at 10:30 a.m.

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

Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament . . . Daily from Noon – 3:15 p.m.

Sacred Heart Devotions ..... First Friday after 11:00 a.m. Mass

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

Outdoor Rosary Walk ..... Sundays (May-Oct) after 11:00 a.m. Mass

Family Holy Hour with Guided Lectio Divina. .... Sundays (Nov-Apr) after 11:00 a.m. Mass

### Adele Brise Day - Anointing of the Sick

Ninth of Each Month, Immediately after 11:00 a.m. Mass

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## Gift Shop and Schoolhouse Café

920-866-2571 ext 101

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

Sunday from 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## Welcome Center

May-October from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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