

THE GOOD NEWS

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

Winter 2025 Issue #74



championshrine.org



RECTOR'S WINDOW

Dear Friends in Christ,

God's peace to you in this New Year! Passing from 2024 into the new year of 2025, many exciting things have happened in recent months. The Catholic Church in the United States continues to celebrate the third and final year of the Eucharistic Revival. The emphasis on this phase of the Eucharistic Revival is the "Year of the National Eucharistic Congress and Missionary Sending." The National Eucharistic Congress proved to be a marvelous opportunity for Catholics to grow in their love of the Sacrament of Unity. Here at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, we continue to have daily Eucharistic Adoration. It has been edifying to see pilgrims and regular Shrine patrons adoring the Eucharistic Lord daily.

If you have not yet perused the National Eucharistic Revival website, it is worth your time to look at the variety of resources offered at www.eucharisticrevival.org. Provided there are articles, prayers and access to videos to educate and stir your faith in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

In order to aid the faithful in growing one's devotion to Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament, there will be a Lenten Mission preached at the Shrine March 23-26, 2025. The title of the mission is "Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion." You can find each day's talks listed to the side of this article.

As we open our hearts to what the Lord has planned in this new year, may you always know that the National Shrine is here for you as a refuge and place of peace within your life. Come, visit Our Lady of Champion – she deeply desires you to bring you to her Son in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Fr. anthony H. Dtephens, CRM

Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM



SHRINE LENTEN MISSION:
Deepening Our Eucharistic
Devotion

March 23-26, 2025

SUNDAY, MARCH 23
"Wasting Time with the Lord"

A talk on Eucharistic adoration

MONDAY, MARCH 24
"The Eucharist Aiding
Family Holiness"
A talk on family life

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

"Mary the Mother of the Eucharist"

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
"Breathing Fire Like Lions"

A talk on receiving

Holy Communion

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

How to Receive an Indulgence During the Jubilee Year of Hope

By Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM

Earlier in 2024, Our Holy Father Pope Francis declared that December 24, 2024, would begin a Jubilee Year of Hope. This declaration certainly comes at a fortunate time when the world appears to have grown less peaceful and hopeful. Statistics from Open Doors International show that 1 in 7 Christians across the world experiences some level of persecution for their faith. However, the Lord foretold that such things would happen: "And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet" (Matt. 24:6). The Holy Father sees the need to invite the Church and the world to focus on hope. He opens the document declaring the jubilee year with the passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans: "Hope does not disappoint" (Spes non confundit, #1),

What is hope?

A simple definition of hope is "waiting well." We can hope for a variety of things in life, but we should begin with a hope for God's Mercy. An excellent way for the faithful to receive the Mercy of God is by preparing to receive a special indulgence during the Jubilee Year of Hope.

What is an indulgence?

The Glossary of the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that an indulgence is "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven. In other words, we can receive from God a partial or complete canceling of our "purgatory time" by gaining an indulgence.

A plenary indulgence can be gained only once daily, but partials are unlimited. In order to obtain any indulgence, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

1. Perform the work of the indulgence

- 2. Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin
- 3. Have sacramentally confessed their sins (confession once every 20 days is adequate for receiving daily indulgences)
- 4.Receive the Holy Eucharist (either at Mass or outside of it)
- Pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff (one Our Father and one Hail Mary)

Living as a faithful Catholic is an intense way of life that orients us towards striving to love God above all things and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Living to receive indulgences is already "waiting well" and living in hope.

The Gift of Indulgences

The marvelous thing about fulfilling the requirements to receive an indulgence is that we trust that the Lord will draw from His infinite merits, won by His passion, death, and resurrection, special graces for the person who is asking for them. Christ has given the Catholic Church the power to forgive sins (John 20:21-23) and the power to bind and loose (Matt. 18:18). Building a habit of receiving indulgences eliminates the temporal punishment due to sin (purgatory time) and cooperates with God's grace to be in deeper communion with Him.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here's a question many people ask: How do we know if we have received the plenary or partial indulgence we asked for? God knows, and that is Who matters. The act of fulfilling these requirements hopefully helps us begin forming new habits and breaking old bad habits that lead to sinful behavior. The hardest

requirement to fulfill may be the first one listed: to have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin. That means a person needs to hate all their sins and be willing to renounce their attachment to them. If a person is unwilling to at least try to amend their situation, they may be attached to that sin. This is distinct from human weakness when a person might repeatedly fall to a sin. A daily self-examination of conscience helps an individual discern what their particular sins and attachments might

Misconceptions about Indulgences

A caveat: fulfilling the requirements for an indulgence is not a method of buying your way into Heaven. Some non-Catholic Christians have criticized Catholics for the teaching of indulgences. The unfortunate sale of indulgences is a sad part of our Catholic history in the 1400s and 1500s. This practice is forbidden and was never approved of by the Catholic Church. Salvation is a free gift given to us by God. Do we perform a "work" to fulfill the requirements listed above? Yes, but it is a "work" that is already a response to a grace that God has given to a soul who desires to do His will. St. James reminds us, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (James 2:17).

A Pilgrimage Destination for Hope

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion is one of the sites in the Diocese of Green Bay that pilgrims can visit to receive a Jubilee Year indulgence. We hope you can join us often, and especially for the Shrine's Jubilee Mass at 11 am on July 20, 2025, celebrated by Bishop David Ricken. It will be a perfect time to receive these special graces.

PILGRIMAGE CORNER

Dedication of Green Bay Diocese Catholic Schools to Our Lady of Champion

By Kathy Ciha, Pilgrimage Coordinator

Our Blessed Mother Mary was our Savior Jesus Christ's first teacher. Who better to know what it took to teach and form children in their faith?

By appearing to Adele, The Blessed Mother knew Adele's perseverance and fortitude would be a model for all teachers in carrying out the critical task of Catholic education. Adele did what the Blessed Virgin Mary asked of her: "Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, the sign of the cross, and how to approach the sacraments." She did this by traveling up to 25 miles a day performing tasks at the homesteads to teach the children their catechism at the end of the day.

This vital task is now entrusted to families, and to the dedicated men and women who teach our children in Catholic Schools. These schools teach

As we look forward to promoting Adele for sainthood, keep the Catholic School students and teachers in your prayers!

more than just with books. Children attend Mass, pray together throughout the day, and learn scripture to equip them for everyday life.

This past January 30 – the anniversary of Adele's 194th birthday – Bishop Ricken dedicated all the Catholic Schools in the Green Bay Diocese to Our Lady of Champion.

On that day, dedication Masses were celebrated at each Catholic school in the Green Bay Diocese, with a special dedication prayer recited to the Blessed Mother and Adele at the end of Mass.

As the story of Adele and Our Lady of Champion continues to be shared, other schools have entrusted their teachers and students to the Blessed Mother under her title of "Our Lady of Champion."

St. Ambrose Academy in Madison, Wisconsin, places its mission in the loving hands of Our Lady of Champion.

Our Lady of Champion Academy in Front Royal, Virginia, opened in the Fall of 2024. They are committed to teaching in the time-honored tradition of Catholic, classical education to form their students' hearts and minds.







GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ

By Andy Herson, Champion Shrine Operations Manager

Proud to Announce the Opening of Our Online Store

Exciting News! We are pleased to announce that pilgrims will be able to purchase a limited supply of Our Lady of Champion Shrine items online.

The online store, found at ChampionShirne.org, will offer a very limited supply of Shrine items to help you remember your pilgrimage and share Our Lady of Champion with others. It is not meant to replace visiting the Shrine grounds and encountering Mary and her Son on the site where the Queen of Heaven appeared to Adele.

With the implementation of the online store, we will be discontinuing our phone order program. Now, you can easily order from your smartphone, tablet, or computer.

One of the items that is exclusive to the Shrine Gift Shop, is an acrylic replica of the beautiful stained-glass apparition window on the grounds of the National Shrine. You can order this item by using the link below.

We hope this new store option aids you in sharing the mission of Our Lady of Champion with others!



On-Site Books at Champion Shrine

As we head into the season of Lent, we are reminded that it is a time of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. We offer several books in the Shrine's Gift Shop that will help with your Lenten prayer life. Some of our favorites include:

- · Lenten Reflections, by Cardinal Zen
- · Aquinas's Lenten Meditations, offered by Sophia Press
- The Lenten Cookbook, by David Geisser
 A unique perspective on fasting and Lenten traditions along with recipes that will help fulfill those obligations.
- Imagine the Passion, by Barb Alger
 Takes one through an hour-by-hour account of our Lord's Passion; it is a great source of inspiration as we walk alongside Jesus on his journey of love and sacrifice.

Find these and many other great titles on-site in the Gift Shop.

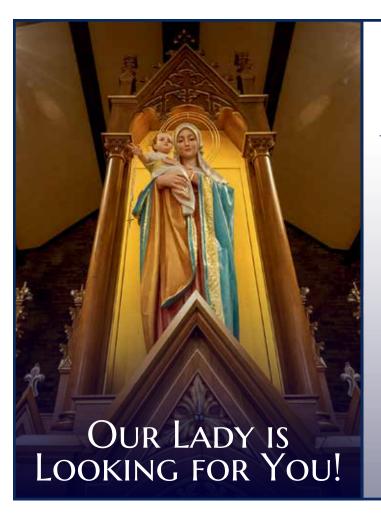


THE GIFT SHOP AND CAFÉ HOURS

Monday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Sundays 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Shop Online at ChampionShrine.org/products





CHAMPION SHRINE IS HIRING!

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Do you have an eye for design and a love for sharing the faith through social media? This job may be for you!

- Part-time, 25-hour per week
- Responsible for creating, updating, and maintaining digital content across the National Shrine's website and social media channels.
- Deliver excellent digital resources and meaningful digital communication that both fosters and builds upon the Shrine's faithful and fast-growing community!

VISIT CHAMPION SHRINE EMPLOYMENT TO LEARN MORE TODAY! ChampionShrine.org/Employment

Looking Back



December 14, 2024 Rorate Caeli Mass – Advent Candlelit Mass and Breakfast

Champion Shrine was happy to host its third-annual Rorate Caeli Candlelit Mass & Breakfast this past December. Over 250 people were able to join for a beautiful morning Mass and hot breakfast. While some attended as individuals, there were many who hosted a table for 10 of their friends. They decorated their table with a theme and began a new Advent tradition for their loved ones. Save the date for this year's Rorate Caeli on December 13, 2025!

February 1-9, 2025 Our Lady of Champion: Queen of Families Novena

Thank you to all who participated in our February novena to Our Lady of Champion: Queen of Families! Thanks to a generous donor, our Family Novena Booklets were given to every family with a child in a Green Bay Diocesan Catholic School!

Our next novena will be the Annunciation of Our Lord Novena, starting on March 17, 2025. Visit **championshrine.org/novenas** to sign up for daily reminders with the prayers!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15-26, 2025

Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit

Experience the True Presence of Christ in a unique way this Lent. The National Shrine will display the Eucharistic Miracles of the World, an international exhibit designed and created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, for pilgrims and parish groups to draw into a deeper encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. The exhibit includes 153 panels that present photographs and historical descriptions of the Eucharistic Miracles that took place throughout the ages around the world.

March 23-26, 2025

Shrine Lenten Mission:

Deepening Our Eucharistic Devotion

During the season of Lent, the National Shrine will host a Lenten Mission presented by Fr. Tony Stephens, CPM, Rector of the National Shrine. The fourday Lenten Mission, focused on theme of the Eucharist, will devote itself to fostering a deeper understanding of the Eucharist and the power of Eucharistic Adoration in our lives. All talks will take place in the evening at Champion Shrine.

May 3, 2025

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 pilgrimage 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. Over 6,000 people joined in the walk last year! We hope to see you there this Jubilee Year. Registration is now open at walktomary.com.

May 4, 2025

May Crowning

Honor Our Lady during the month of May by attending Champion Shrine's annual May Crowning Mass and Procession. Mass begins at 11 am!

May 16-17, 2025

Champion Shrine Marian Conference Mary, Mother of Hope

Join pilgrims from around the country for The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion's fourth-annual Marian Conference! Focused on Mary as "Mother of Hope," attendees will embrace the Marian themes of the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope, in addition to finding time for prayer, spiritual growth, and peace on Our Lady's grounds. For more information on the weekend conference, visit championshrine.org/marian-conference.

July 20, 2025

Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee Mass at **Champion Shrine**

2025 has been officially recognized by the Catholic Church as a year of Jubilee - a time of special grace - and Champion Shrine has been officially designated as a Jubilee Site. The 2025 Jubilee theme, Pilgrims of Hope, calls on us all to renew our Hope in Christ through prayer and pilgrimage. On July 20, Champion Shrine will host a special Jubilee Mass with Bishop David Ricken at 11 am, welcoming





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.

Last Saturday of Each Month

Eucharistic Healing Service

After 11 am Mass every last Saturday of the Month, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and presented among the faithful. This is followed by the Anointing of the Sick for those needing the Sacrament.

The 9th of Each Month

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



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Lifetime with Mary at Champion Shrine

By Katie Rice, Champion Shrine Communications

Mary Rose Verdegan is no stranger to Champion Shrine—far from it! Though every pilgrim who finds their way to these sacred grounds has a special story, not many can claim they've been here since before their birth! Mary Rose first visited The National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion—then simply known to locals as "the Chapel"—eighty-three years ago, still within her mother's womb!

"My parents had a very strong devotion to Mary and to the Rosary," recalls Mary Rose. "I can remember being a little girl and kneeling beside the kitchen furniture or my parents' bed every night while we all prayed the Rosary together."

This loving example of honoring the Blessed Mother, given to her by her parents, stayed with Mary Rose throughout her life and was deepened by her visits to Champion Shrine.

"August 15th was just a given. Families from all over the county would come to the Chapel on that day."

Mary Rose grew up on a farm not far from Alaska, WI, in Kewaunee County. All through her childhood, families from all over the state would gather at the Shrine out of love for Mary.

"I can still remember the excitement we'd feel with the anticipation of coming to the Shrine. My dad would always say, 'We better get there early,' because back then, everyone had to park alongside the road, and it would be very busy. You might have to walk a long while!"

When Mary Rose was young, the Shrine had not yet been given its formal recognition as an approved Marian Apparition site, so it was somewhat of a secret. The locals saw it as their special

shrine for Mary where they'd come to love her and grow closer to her, in the hope of getting closer to Jesus. "There was always Jesus in the Tabernacle, but here was Mary too—and Joseph!"

According to Mary Rose, back then, August 15 meant an outdoor Mass followed by a Rosary procession.

"What I remember most was that we'd start the Rosary on our knees around the altar—which was so special, to be that close—

and then usually after the second decade, we'd stand and finish the procession."

Mary Rose recalls many local families over the years honoring Our Lady together, while also using it as an opportunity to gather family members. On the Feast of the Assumption, people would come dressed in their best.

"There were always two tents set up, one with hamburgers and one with religious items."

People would enjoy celebrating Mary all day, not knowing then what the place would come to mean to future faithful everywhere!

Mary Rose married her husband, Donald, in 1959 and started a family of her own, two girls and twin boys! Now grown, Mary Rose would meet her parents with her children at Champion Shrine, continuing the local practice of using the Shrine as a generational tradition. As life brought joys and sorrows, Mary Rose had the Shrine to see her through it all.



"I want people to know that this place is here for them, and Our Lady is here for them..."

One sorrow came without warning. Tragically, Mary Rose lost one of her twin sons when he was just twenty-one years old. This brought tremendous grief to her family, but Mary Rose continued her devotion to Mary.

"One day, I was praying the Stations of the Cross, and I stopped; I was at station four, and I remember thinking Mary lost her Son too, in a very tragic way, and that drew me even closer to her."

As Mary Rose's life progressed, so did Champion Shrine, and she was here to witness it! When her kids were older, she returned to work, and that led her and her husband to start visiting Champion Shrine on weekends instead of August 15. Additions were made to the grounds, beautiful statues and grottos, even new buildings entirely, as well as an established gift shop. Also, the miracle of the apparition and the story of Adele Brise and her life were beginning to spread.

"I often wondered why this place was not more on the level with places like Fatima or Lourdes, because I believed it was, but



it didn't have the proper dedication yet, so what could you do?"

Finally, in December of 2010, well after Mary Rose's children had grown and she and her husband had retired, she received an invitation. "Bishop Ricken was to give a special Mass at the Shrine. My husband and I attended, and that's when the announcement was made: The apparitions that took place here are worthy of belief."

This long-awaited approval was a blessing from God, but it also meant things were going to start to change, and that meant they would need more help. "After the announcement, they asked for volunteers."

Mary Rose and her husband became part of the first group of volunteers at Champion Shrine, the newly approved Marian Apparition site in the United States. Mary Rose and her husband both served Champion Shrine until Donald's passing in September 2020. He is greatly missed, but Mary Rose continues to volunteer at the Champion Shrine Café today.

"I want people to know that this place is here for them, and Our Lady is here for them, no matter what is going on in their lives, whether there is sorrow or a reason to celebrate. My husband and I came to Champion Shrine to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2009!"

Throughout her eighty-three years of life, Mary Rose has felt the presence of Our Blessed Mother Mary at Champion Shrine. "There is such peace here, and healing, both physically and emotionally—and spiritually! No matter what a person is going through, they can come here and let go—let it all go into the arms of Mary!"

We are grateful for such faithful and beautiful witnesses, like Mary Rose, who play such a pivotal role at Champion Shrine, as our volunteers and as our dear brothers and sisters in Christ.



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 for more information on becoming a volunteer at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Estate Planning – Planning for Your Future and Securing Your Legacy

By: Kelsey Dorner, Development Director

As we welcome the new year, many of us are taking the time to reflect on our lives and consider what the future will hold for us. This reflection often extends to the legacy we wish to leave behind, our values, our love for family, and our commitment to the causes we hold dear. One meaningful way we can ensure our values live on is through estate planning.

What is Estate Planning?

Estate planning is an essential step for everyone, regardless of age or wealth, and is about making intentional decisions that reflect your values and beliefs. For Catholics, it's an opportunity to plan for the care of loved ones, as well as to ensure that charitable causes, like the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, are supported according to your wishes.

At the Shrine, we are blessed to have generous, faithful supporters committed to the Shrine's mission. In keeping with this spirit of faith and stewardship, we are excited to continue our partnership with MyCatholicWill.com, an online platform designed to help individuals create a comprehensive, Catholic-centered estate plan.

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To learn how you can financially support the Shrine and its mission, please visit championshrine.org/give

Or contact our Development Director at 920-866-2571 x125

Faith and Legacy for Years to Come

With MyCatholicWill.com, you can create an estate plan that aligns with your Catholic faith. This FREE online service helps you draft a legally valid will with guidance based on Catholic teachings. Whether you want to designate your family, your church, or the Shrine, as beneficiaries, MyCatholicWill.com provides a simple and secure way to make your wishes known.

Through the generous support of so many, the Shrine continues to be the refuge where everyone can foster a deeper relationship with Jesus through Our Lady. The Shrine is grateful for every form of support. Your gift, whether through a bequest in your will or another planned gift, can make a lasting impact on the future of the Shrine. Your donation helps

us maintain the Shrine and welcome pilgrims seeking solace, peace, and faith.

As we look to the future, estate planning is a powerful way to express your faith while creating a legacy that encompasses your values. If you are interested in learning more about estate planning or how to include the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in your will, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. We are happy to assist you in taking this important step in securing your legacy.

For any questions or assistance, please contact Kelsey Dorner, Development Director, at (920) 866-2571 ext. 125 or at kdorner@championshrine.org. You can also visit our website at www.championshrine.org.





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)
- Adele Brise Prayer Cards (\$100)
- · Chasuble (\$150)
- · Additional Cash Register for the Gift Shop (\$1,234)
- New Holy Water Font (\$2,850)
- New Floor Cleaner for the Apparition Chapel (\$3,888)
- New Signage for the Shrine Grounds (\$75,000)
- 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 Champion, WI 54229 Name Street Address City State Zip Phone Number 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

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

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

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.

History Center

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

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