

# Lourdes Legacy

**Assumption Grotto Church**  
13770 Gratiot Avenue • Detroit, MI 48205  
(313) 372-0762



July 2009

Volume XXV

Number 2

## From the Pastor...

Every year our parish puts out a huge effort for the Assumption Day Festival August 15. This year is no exception. Preparations were begun months ago. This year our parish workers were given an extra encouragement to work hard for the event by the happy news that His Excellency, **Allen H. Vigneron**, the new Archbishop of Detroit, will be the celebrant for the 7:00 p.m. Mass here. This will mark his first visit to our parish since assuming his position as spiritual leader of the Church in the Archdiocese.

While the focus of our attention this day is always on the Holy Virgin Mary and the richly graced events that shape the day's celebration, the presence of the Archbishop will further enhance our celebration and highlight the special place the Blessed Mother holds in the souls of the Catholic people all over the archdiocese. The Archbishop himself is well acquainted with Marian piety. He recognizes the special place given Holy Mary in

the Church by the Providence of God. He himself has dedicated his apostolic leadership of the Archdiocese of Detroit to Her care. He also leads a weekly devotion on a local archdiocesan television program to Her under the title, *Our Mother of Perpetual Help*. I also suspect that he has a strong personal devotion to the Mother of Christ, a devotion which is a sign—according to many spiritual writers and saints—of divine predilection. Setting one's attention on the Blessed Mother is therefore a smart practice. For a priest, this dedication to Mary is indispensable (especially today, given the peculiarly strong demonic attacks that priests encounter). Yet it was always right—even in more serene times—that priests should turn to Mary for their pastoral work and for their own spiritual needs since She is the Mother of the Great High Priest from whom every ordained priest takes his priestly character.

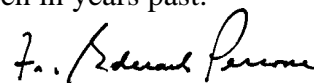
At the Second Vatican Council there was an affirmation that the Blessed Mother belonged to *all* the members of the Church when the assembled Fathers honored Her by the title *Mother of the Church*. While some were disappointed by this title, thinking that it aimed too low, others who comprehended its significance were pleased by its affirmation of the Maternity of Mary over *each and every Christian*. There is something yet more to be gained by an *explicit* acceptance of Her over one's life, in being especially consecrated to Her. It is always possible to deepen a personal relationship with anyone, our Lord Himself and His saints included. Those who take the Virgin Mary's spiritual maternity over them in a conscious and lovingly specific way become thereby more responsive to Her influences and more receptive to the graces She obtains from God to them.

You may recall or have heard that my predecessor Monsignor Sawher succeeded in welcoming both Cardinals Szoka and Maida to our Grotto on the August 15 of their first year as Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Detroit. Seems now that Monsignor's successor is blest with a like good fortune in the upcoming visit of Archbishop Vigneron.

I find it wholly appropriate that as the Archbishop of Detroit begins his first year in his 'See,' that our parish which is historically so involved in the honoring of Mary should welcome him for his first Assumption Day as the Archbishop of Detroit. Not only will this be a grace for us, but—if I may be so bold to opine—it may be a special strengthening for him from Her for the weighty tasks he must undertake everyday in his apostolic work.

There are a whole day's worth of reasons to be here on August 15<sup>th</sup> this year. A glance at the activities for the day, found within, will specify some of them. The greatest reason of all for coming, however, will be to renew that bond of filial affection that joins you to the Mother of the Christ.

May She be as gracious and generous in graces to us this year as She has always been in years past.

  
Fr. Perrone

## ON THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

UPCOMING NOVENAS in preparation for the following major feast days will be recited after all Masses: Feast of SS. Joachim & Anne (July 17-25), and Feast of the Assumption (August 6-14). Graveside Prayers for Msgr. Sawher. Sunday, July 26, the Feast of SS. Joachim & Anne, marks the eleventh anniversary of the death of Msgr. Clifford Sawher, former pastor of Assumption Grotto Church. As pastor here for 27 years, he is still well remembered as a great priest. Following the 12:00 noon Mass there will be prayers for Msgr. Sawher at his graveside and a social to follow in the lounge. This will also be a grace-filled opportunity to ask for his intercessory prayers for our spiritual and temporal needs. *May he rest in peace.*

Fatima Devotions - **13th of the Month Club Updates.** Join us Thursday, August 13, and Sunday, September 13, 2009. August 13th will form part of the *Passio* following the 7:00 p.m. Mass and will continue until 9:00 p.m.. On September 13th Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour at 6:00 p.m. will be in the church. Mass will follow at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to go to the Grotto after Mass, weather permitting, to recite the rosary and listen to a reading from Sister Lucia's account of the apparitions of Our Lady in September. A study session is planned in the Grotto Café for those interested. Bring your Fatima books. Those who do not have a copy of the Memoirs of Sister Lucia can purchase them in advance at the Grotto Gift Shop.

Call to Holiness Conference Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 10th, 2009. The Call to Holiness Conference will be held at the beautiful National Shrine of the Little Flower Church in Royal Oak, Michigan. The conference will be on the *Treasures of the Mass*. It will be a most interesting conference that will explain the rubrics of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and what each movement of the Mass represents. The explanation of the Mass will take us into the history of the Apostolic tradition under the guidance of the Holy Spirit when the Mass of the Roman Rite was developed and how it came to be as we know it today. Find out more about this highest form of *Catholic Prayer*. See the insert for details of the Conference and a registration form.

A Play! Following the success of two highly entertaining Musicals, Assumption Grotto will present another original Musical entitled *McGivney*. It will feature drama, music and dance. Please consult the Assumption Grotto website in the fall for confirmed information.

## ON THE TEMPORAL SIDE

Feast of the Assumption Be sure not to miss the Solemnity of the Assumption, Saturday, August 15th 2008. Among the day-long events that honor our Blessed Mother, this year's 7:00 p.m. Mass will welcome *Archbishop Vigneron* in his first pastoral visit to the parish.

Assumption Grotto Parish Picture Directory -Celebrate your Faith! Once again it is time to let our families and friends see what we look like. Our new church Pictorial Directory will be designed and photographed by Busson Portrait Directories. It is fun and interesting to see how we change through the years. A family of faith is what we are. Let us become more than a congregation, let us become a church family and community. The dates for family or individual portrait sittings are August 18 – 22. Watch the Assumption Grotto paper for details and information on the Church Pictorial Directory.

Knights of Columbus - Parish Picnic. Our Assumption Grotto Knights of Columbus Council will be hosting our annual parish picnic September 20th, 2009 on the parish grounds. Come and join the fun! All are welcome.

Wine Tasting Festival – La Festa Del'uva, Saturday, September 26, 2009. This year our parish is hosting a festive evening of *tasting* a variety of delicious wines, and a spaghetti dinner. Do come to be with us and do not forget to invite a friend.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Be sure to keep the calendar of events so that you can be a vital part of our *Grotto Family* and share in the spiritual bouquet of graces that is given at the Grotto.**

July 17-25 (Friday) **Novena to SS. Joachim & Ann** at all Masses

July 26 (Saturday) **Feast of SS. Joachim & Anne.** The usual daily Mass schedule. The 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Msgr. Clifford Sawher. Prayers at his graveside after the 12:00 noon Mass. Social follows in the lounge.

Aug 6-14 (Thursday) **Novena for the Feast of the Assumption.**

Aug 9 (Sunday) Pancake Breakfast after the 9:30 & 12:00 noon Masses.

Aug 13 (Thursday) **Fatima Devotions** will form part of the *Passio* after the 7:00 Mass. (See *On The Spiritual Side* in this issue).

**Aug. 15** (Saturday) **Feast of the Assumption. See the special flier in this issue.**

Aug 18-22 (Tuesday – Saturday) Begins the picture taking for the Assumption Grotto Parish Picture Directory. (See the Grotto Bulletin for further information).

Sept 8 (Tuesday) **The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Sept 13 (Sunday) **Fatima Devotions.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 p.m. Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by the rosary and a study session on the Memoirs of Sister Lucia.

Sept 20 (Sunday) **Parish Picnic** – A day of relaxing, food and parish fun!

Sept 26 (Saturday) **Wine Tasting Festival *Festa del Vino (Feast of the Wine)*** (See Grotto News paper soon for the flier on this event.)

Oct. \_\_\_ (Saturday & Sunday) **St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive** for the under privileged. Please be generous and give your used but still usable clothing.

**Oct. 10** (Saturday) **The Call to Holiness Conference.** (See the flier inserted in this issue.)

Oct. 13 (Tuesday) **Fatima Devotions.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 p.m. Mass at 7:00 p.m. followed by the rosary and a study session on the Memoirs of Sister Lucia.

Oct 18 (Sunday) **Annual Benefit Dinner.**

Nov 7 1<sup>st</sup> Play Performance (tentative)

Nov 10 2<sup>nd</sup> Play Performance (tentative)

Nov 13 3<sup>rd</sup> Play Performance (tentative)

Nov 15 4<sup>th</sup> Play Performance (tentative)

Dec. 13 (Sunday) **Fatima Devotions**

**Dec 25** (Friday) **Christmas Midnight Orchestral Mass (to be announced)**

Dec 27 (Sunday) Knights of Columbus Christmas Party for Children

Listing of the Orchestral Masses may be found on the Assumption Grotto website [www.assumptiongrotto.com](http://www.assumptiongrotto.com)

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## *Let's Keep In Touch. . . . .*

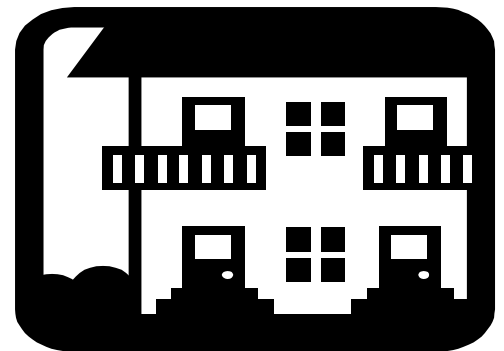
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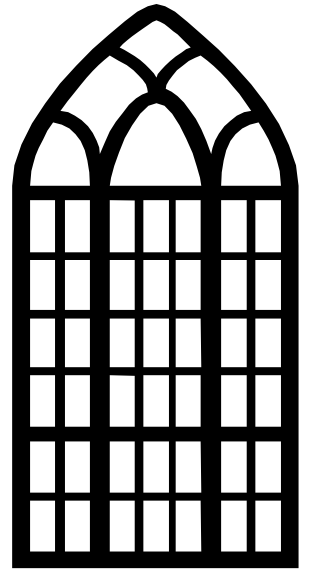
# MASSES

**Weekdays:** 7:30, 8:30 a.m. (Tridentine Masses) & 7:00 p.m. evening Mass.

**Saturdays:** 7:30 (Tridentine Mass) & 4:00 p.m.

**Sundays:** 6:30, 9:30 a.m. (Tridentine Mass) & 12:00 Noon Mass

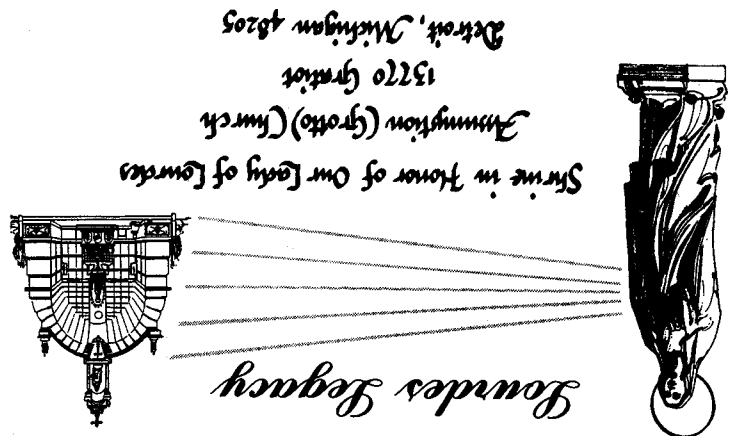
**Holy Days:** 6:30, 9:30 (Tridentine Mass) Noon & 7:00 p.m.



# CONFESSIONS

**Saturdays:** 2:30-3:30 p.m.

**Sundays:** 45 minutes before 9:30 & 12:00 noon Masses until the Gospel.



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