

Lourdes Legacy

Assumption Grotto Church

13770 Gratiot Avenue • Detroit, MI 48205
(313) 372-0762



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FROM THE PASTOR

Detroiters familiar with the eastside will know the name *Greiner* from the street just west of the church, named for the Greiner family who lived in this area and who were not only early parishioners of Assumption Church but who in 1844 donated the land where the first permanent church came to be built to replace the original log cabin chapel. The reason for relating this historical curiosity is to inform you that Mrs. Catherine Griener had a priest cousin in France, Augustin Schoeffler, who would come to be a canonized saint of the Church in 1988. We have then some connection, albeit somewhat tenuous, to this holy man and missionary martyr. When this historical relationship was uncovered during the time of our 175th Jubilee year in 2007, I tried to obtain a relic of him for our parish, thinking that having a sympathetic intercessor for our parish a good idea. The process of obtaining this was somewhat protracted, however. The Church in recent times has tightened the procedures for obtaining relics to make sure they fall into reliable hands. Observing due ecclesiastical protocol through the Archdiocese of Detroit and Cardinal Maida, and after a long period of waiting, a carefully wrapped package from France arrived recently containing a reliquary with a relic taken from the body of Saint Augustin Schoeffler.

I'd like to offer a brief synopsis of this Saint's life. Born in 1822 in the Lorraine region of France, Augustin Schoeffler became a priest for the diocese of Nancy thereafter entering the Paris *Foreign Mission Society* on account of his great zeal for spreading the faith to the pagans in foreign lands. From the time of his youth Augustin had heard about the persecutions that missionaries had suffered in Indo-China. His imagination was stirred by a holy desire to be among the courageous missionaries. When his assignment was given, he learned that he was to be sent to Tonkin in what is today Vietnam. Fr. Schoeffler already knew that mandarins had crucified other missionaries there. He later wrote, "The prospect of death did not frighten me, and if martyrdom was to be the end of my apostolate I considered it to be the most beautiful testimony of love that I could give to Jesus Christ and my brothers." After mastering the difficult Annamite language, the young priest generously spent his energies in caring for the Christians of that locality, hearing confessions day and night and celebrating Mass for large gatherings of people. In one year alone there were 12,000 children baptized and 700 adults. This prodigious activity was not to pass unnoticed by the opposing governmental authorities. On March 1, 1851 Father Schoeffler was arrested, in accordance with the royal decree against priests, and offered release if only he would trample upon a crucifix and renounce his faith, a proposal he absolutely refused. He was subsequently thrown into a filthy jail and his head was secured in a stock. He prayed for needed courage to accept the inevitable baptism of blood. The king's decree for Fr. Augustin was pronounced: "Mr. Augustin is to be decapitated and his head thrown into the river as an example to the people, and to keep them from taking up this new doctrine." Kneeling before his executioner he removed his tunic. With the sounding of a cymbal the sword fell on Augustin's neck. Three strokes were needed to sever his neck from his torso successfully. His head was then cast in the river and never recovered but his body was later buried by some devout Christians. In 1988 Pope John Paul II canonized Saint Augustin in Rome.

I am holding the relic of this Saint in my possession until I can display it properly in the church for the veneration of the people. He may prove to be for us a powerful intercessor in meeting the difficulties of our time. I also hope that he will be a reminder for us priests who were ordained for service to the Church. You may wish to invoke this enthusiastic lover of souls to intercede for your intentions. *Saint Augustin Schoeffler, pray for us.*

Fr. Perrone

ON THE SPIRITUAL SIDE

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES. The feast of Our Lady of Lourdes falls on Wednesday, February 11, 2009. The relic of Saint Bernadette will repose in the church from Wednesday, February 11th through February 18th, the feast of St. Bernadette. On Wednesday, February 18th, a blessing with the holy relic will take place after all the Masses.

OUR ADORATION CHAPEL. “*The Influence of Jesus, present in the Most Blessed Sacrament - Our Pathway to Holiness.*” Did you know that our *Eucharist Chapel* here at Assumption Grotto, in the convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, is open daily from 9:00 to 6:30 p.m. Day after day as we pay reverence, adoring His divine presence in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Jesus applies grace to each of us and He causes it to increase and develop in us, so that we live continually under His influence. Just as the vine sends its sap through all its branches, so does Jesus nourish us by His *holy* presence in the Eucharist. O what riches we possess through Him in us. Christ is then in the fullest sense, in the most actual sense, the source of all our life. Christ in the Eucharist is our life. “*Come and spend one hour with Him.*” There are hours that yet need to be filled. Please call the rectory or convent to sign up for an hour.

HOLY WEEK. Be sure to view the Holy Week Calendar that will be available in the *Grotto News* soon. It is also on the mailing page of this issue of the *Lourdes Legacy*. Let us be spiritually prepared this year to take part in the events of this season of prayer and penance before Easter. Its purpose is to better prepare the faithful for the feast of the Resurrection and dispose them for a more fruitful reception of the graces that Christ merited by his passion and death.

MARY’S MONTH. The month of May is dedicated to honor our Blessed Mother. Each year we decorate the side altar of Mary with flowers. It is a beautiful time to spend in prayer; a few moments kneeling and praying to our Most Holy Mother. Please feel free to bring a bouquet of flowers to Her, and to pray for your intentions.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/MAY CROWNING. On Sunday, **May 10th** the First Communicants will participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by the outdoor May Crowning, weather permitting. Mother’s Day Flower sale will be held after all Masses.

TRIDUUM OF MASSES FOR EASTER. Remember your loved ones and friends this year with the beautiful Easter Mass Cards. There will be a Mass offered on three consecutive Sundays: Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19th, April 26th, and May 3rd. For information or to order these Mass cards, call the Shrine Office.

ON THE TEMPORAL SIDE

ASSUMPTION GROTTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL will host its *Fish Fry & Bake Sale* Friday, **February 27th**, and on all remaining Fridays of Lent. The Fish Fry dinner will begin at 3:00 p.m. and continue until 6:00 p.m. in the evening. Everyone is welcome. Dinner proceeds will go to the parish.

ASSUMPTION GROTTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February, 22, and March 22nd after the 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon Mass. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the *delicious* pancakes.

ASSUMPTION GROTTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BINGO. Monday 6-9 p.m. at JP’s on Schoenherr, north of 14 mile. Proceeds benefit Assumption Grotto. \$8.00 to play and win. Come join the fun.

ST. JOSEPH DINNER, Sunday, March 15th. The Romano family will again host the annual dinner to honor the foster father of our Lord, good St. Joseph, as is their Italian custom. The dinner, which consists of fish, spaghetti, vegetables, breads and pastries, will be held after the noon Mass in the gym. Reservations for the dinner are not necessary; everyone is welcome. While there will be no dinner tickets sold, everyone is asked to be generous in giving a donation for the dinner. Proceeds will be given to Assumption Grotto Church for upkeep of the parish. If you would like to donate food items or can volunteer to help, please call the rector and ask for Phyllis (313) 372-0762.

USHERS’ PANCAKE BREAKFAST. Sunday **April 19th**, the ushers will host their annual Pancake Breakfast after the 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon Mass. Come and enjoy the *scrumptious* pancakes.

MEMORIAL DAY. The Catholic War Veterans, Andrew R. Strable, Post No 318, invites everyone to attend a commemorative Mass for all veterans on Monday, 25th at 9:15 a.m. The flag raising ceremony will precede the Mass. Following the Mass (outside weather permitting) there will be a short service in the cemetery which will include taps and a gun salute. At the conclusion, the Post will provide refreshments in the Shrine Lounge.

THE COTILLION. On *Fat Tuesday* **February 24th** once again we will have a festive celebration with lots to eat as we end Ordinary Time and enter the six weeks of mortification, *Lent*. Everyone may join in on this fun time beginning in the evening in the gym. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., dancing begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets may be obtained at the gym door.

THE GIFT SHOP now has a new phone number (313-332-4432). The new gift shop hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-10:30, Saturday by request, Sunday after all the Masses. Our e-mail address is shrinegiftshop@hotmail.com. We hope to go online with the gift shop soon. Meanwhile you may place orders by phone or through e-mail. Extra charges may apply for shipping.

CALL TO HOLINESS CONFERENCE OCTOBER 10, 2009 - This year's Call to Holiness conference will be held at the *Shrine of the Little Flower* in Royal Oak. The theme of the Conference will be the sacred Liturgy. The guest speakers are Bishop Athanasius Schneider who will speak on the Holy Eucharist, Nourishment from Jesus, Father John Zuhlsdorf, Dr. Michael W. Foley and Fr. Eduard Perrone. This year the conference will focus on the understanding of the Mass in both forms, the *New Rite* and the *Tridentine Rite*. It will unfold a profound and truthful meaning of the mystery of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPAGHETTI DINNER. Our Assumption Grotto Knights of Columbus Council will have a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, March 8th after the 12:00 noon Mass in the gym. Special guest speaker will be Michael Voris of St. Michael's Media. Further information will follow in our Grotto News or be given by phone from the rectory.

COFFER HOUSE – Musical entertainment will “*spring*” your way on Saturday, May 16th. Lots of fun and music will entertain you. More information will follow in our Grotto News.

ASSUMPTION GROTTO ALUMNI Class Reunion – Assumption Grotto Grade School Reunion will be held at Dodge Park in Sterling Heights on August 8th 2009. Open to **ALL** classes, rain or shine. The reunion is scheduled to start at Noon. For information please call Ron. 586-939-4584

13TH OF THE MONTH CLUB. This is a great opportunity for the entire family to come together at the feet of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament to be formed by Our Lady in the spirituality of the Fatima Message. Mark your calendar for Friday March 13: the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed in the church from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for private prayer. A volunteer may lead the rosary during this time. Holy Mass begins at 7:00 p.m. with a homily on some aspect of the Fatima Message. After Mass another period of exposition with public prayers of reparation to ask God's mercy on our country and our families during these times of uncertainty the prayers will conclude with Benediction. All are invited to the shrine lounge for a brief planning session and opportunity to obtain materials for further study of the Fatima Message and its applications in our present time.

Reminders:

All Masses for Sunday, April 19th are of Divine Mercy. Confessions will be heard a half hour before the 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon Mass, and will resume after the 12:00 noon Mass until 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy prayers will be said with the closing Benediction at 3:00 p.m.

Remember your loved ones and friends this Easter with a Triduum of (3) Masses offered at Assumption Grotto during the Easter season. On the front of the card is a full color photo of the Risen Christ statue located in the church.

If there is a change in your address please send it to the Assumption Grotto Rectory, attention Phyllis.



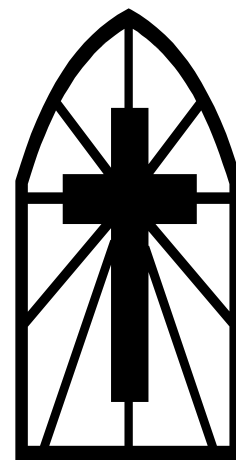
OUR REGULAR PARISH SCHEDULE

MASSES:

Weekdays: 6:30, 7:30, a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Saturdays: 7:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
Sundays: 6:30, 9:30 a.m. (Latin) and Noon
Holy Days: 6:30, 9:30 a.m., Noon & 7:00 p.m.
First Fridays Feb, 6, March 6, April 3, May 1, June 5, July 3, Aug 7
First Saturdays Feb. 7, March 6, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 4, Aug. 1
Petition Masses 3rd Sunday of every month for living & dead

CONFESSIONS: Saturdays: 2:30-3:30 & 7:30-8:00 p.m.
Sundays: 45 minutes before all Masses, until the Gospel

Tridentine Masses are weekdays at 7:30 a.m. and on Sunday at the 9:30 Mass.



**You are cordially invited to attend
the Traditional Complimentary
Italian Buffet Dinner**



St. Joseph's Table

**In honor of St. Joseph,
Dear Foster Father of Our Blessed Lord**

When: Sunday, March 15, 2009

Time: Following the Noon Holy Mass

**Place: Assumption Grotto Church
13770 Gratiot Ave. at McNichols
Detroit, MI 48205**

Hosted by: The Romano Family

**For more information
please call Phyllis at 313-372-0762**

We look forward to honoring St. Joseph
on his Feast Day with you.

Number of persons attending: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

A donation for the event will be appreciated and will go toward the restoration of the church \$ _____

LOURDES LEGACY CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY – AUGUST 2009

- Feb. 2-10 **Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes** after all Masses
Feb 2 (Monday) **Candlemas Day.** Blessed candles will be offered for a donation in the front vestibule of the Church after all Masses. *Special Thanksgiving for Mothers and a special blessing for the children.*
- Feb. 3 (Tuesday) **Feast of St. Blase.** Blessing of Throats after all the Masses
Feb. 11 (Wednesday) **Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.** Rosary follows all Masses.
Feb. 14 (Saturday) **Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass** for couples married twenty-five years or more celebrated at 4:00 p.m. Mass. Reception to follow in the Shrine Lounge. Call parish office to register.
Feb. 18 (Wednesday) **Feast of St. Bernadette.** Blessing with the relic of St. Bernadette at all the Masses.
Feb. 24 (Tuesday) **Cotillion Dance. Mardi Gras Tuesday –Winter Cotillion Dance** 7:00 p.m. in the Gym.
Feb. 25 (Wednesday) **Ash Wednesday.** Masses are scheduled as follows: 6:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 12:00 noon & 7:00 p.m. See the back page of the Lourdes Legacy for Lenten Schedule and Devotions.
Feb. 27 (Friday) **Knights of Columbus Fish Fry.** This will continue every Friday during Lent. Fish Fry dinners will begin at 3:00 p.m. and continue until 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 10-18 (Tuesday) **Novena to St. Joseph** after all Masses
Mar. 15 (Sunday) **Annual Dinner in Honor of St. Joseph** follows the Noon Mass in the gym.
Mar. 19 (Thursday) **Feast of St. Joseph**
- Apr. 5 (Sunday) **Palm Sunday.** Holy week begins. *See schedule on back of this issue.*
Apr. 9 (Thursday) **Holy Thursday**
Apr. 10 (Friday) **Good Friday; Novena to the Divine Mercy** begins. Books for private prayer are available in church & gift shop.
Apr. 11 (Saturday) **Holy Saturday – See Holy Week schedule on the back of this issue.**
Apr. 12 (Sunday) **Easter Sunday – Orchestral Mass by E. Paladilhe** and other music by **Mozart**
Apr. 19 (Sunday) **Easter Triduum Mass.** Three Masses, April 19th April 26th May 3 to be offered. Easter cards are available at the rectory. **Ushers will host their annual Pancake Breakfast come and enjoy!**
- May 1-31 (Friday) Mary's **Altar** flowers may be brought to Our Blessed Mother's Altar throughout the month of May.
May 9-10 (Saturday/Sunday) **Mother's Day Flower** sale after all the Masses.
May 10 (Sunday) **First Holy Communion** – Mass at 12:00 Noon followed by **May Crowning** at 11:30 weather permitting.
May 27 (Sunday) **Feast of Pentecost.** Orchestral Mass to be announced.
May 25 (Monday) **Memorial Day Service.** Flag raising on Gratiot at 9:00 a.m.; Outdoor Mass at 9:15. Short service in the cemetery after Mass. Refreshments in the Shrine Lounge following.
- June 10 (Wednesday) **Novena to the Sacred Heart**
June 14 (Sunday) **Feast of Corpus Christi**
June 19 (Friday) **Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.**
June 21 (Sunday) **Fathers Day**
- July 17-25 (Tuesday) **Novena to Saints, Joachim & Ann**
July 26 (Sunday) Prayer Service at the grave site for Monsignor Sawher following the 12:00 Noon Mass.
- Listing of all the Orchestral Masses can be found on the Assumption Grotto website www.assumptiongrotto.com.
One may also call the parish office for this information (313) 372-0762

Devotion to St. Joseph

To you, O blessed **Joseph**, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ;

O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence;

O our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

LENTEN & HOLY WEEK DEVOTIONS

February 25

Ash Wednesday - Distribution of ashes at all the Masses and at Noon.
***Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast and complete abstinence.**
Lenten Fridays are days of obligatory abstinence also.

Stations of the Cross Every Friday after the 7:00 p.m. Mass

April 9

Holy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. Mass (No morning Masses are permitted.)
Confessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

April 10

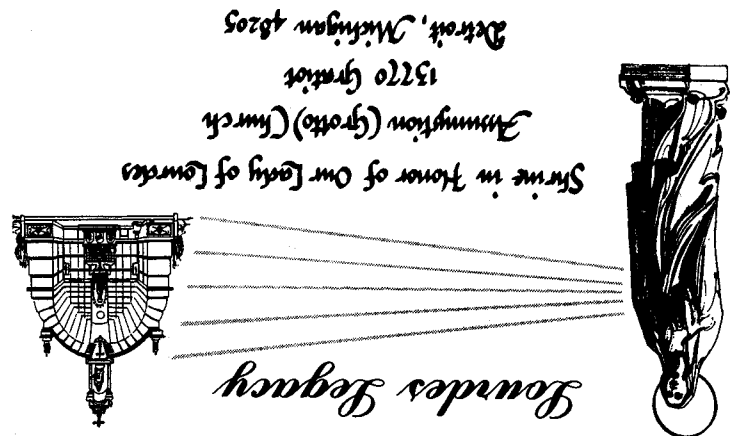
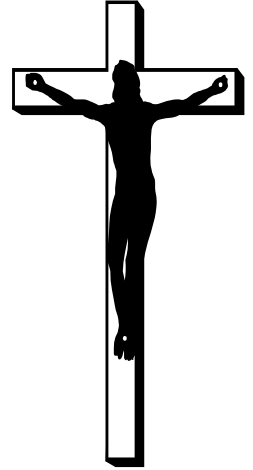
Good Friday: Services from Noon until 3:00 p.m.
Confessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 3:30- 4:30 & 7:30-8:30 p.m.

April 11

Holy Saturday: Blessing of food at 1:00 p.m. (No morning Masses are permitted.)
Confessions: 10:30-11:30 a.m.; 3:30- 4:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass: 8:00 p.m. (Note: There is no Mass at 4:00 p.m.)

April 12

Easter Sunday Masses: 6:30, 9:30 a.m. Orchestral Mass 12:00 Noon Mass
(No confessions)



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