

# Lourdes Legacy

**Assumption Grotto Church**  
13770 Gratiot Avenue • Detroit, MI 48205  
(313) 372-0762 or (313) 839-8626



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This year our feast day, August 15 falls on a Sunday. This is both a blessing for us and somewhat of a concern. The blessing is that nearly everybody can be with us since the day does not find them in the midst of the work week. The alignment of Assumption Day with the Sunday obligation means that the Virgin Mary can be viewed the more readily in Her divine maternity, since Sunday is the day habitually set aside for Her Son. The only aspect of this happy coincidence of feasts that a little worry is that people who are not from our parish may be content to attend their regular parishes that day and not join with us on the day when we expend so much effort to make this a true Marian festival. Those of you who regularly follow the events of our Lourdes Shrine will certainly not want to miss the celebration here on the great day. While the Holy Virgin Mary will be honored all over the Catholic world that day, there are certain places where the devotion reaches a particular pitch, our parish being one of them.

The schedule of events for Assumption Day is included in this edition of the *Lourdes Legacy*. Please keep it as a reference for the many activities that will be prepared for your participation.

Today I want to make a brief reflection on the central place the Blessed Mother has in our Catholic lives. Having just listened, for the first time, to the opera *La Gioconda* by Italian composer Ponchielli, I was struck by the pivotal importance of the rosary in the plot of the opera's story. The details of this musical work need not concern us here. What's striking is the fact that the Blessed Mother occupies such a prominent place in the life of the true Catholic that it can't be mistaken by any onlooker. The great number of churches (such as ours) built to honor Her; the innumerable religious images of Madonna and Child and paintings of the nativity and the crucifixion; the glorious music of Magnificats and hymns to the Virgin Mary; the poetry, folklore, books and the short stories: the presence of the Mother of God towers over the Catholic world.

I sometimes reflect on the impression this must have on Christians who do not share our Catholic faith, on someone, for example, who may happen to step into my parish office to accompany a parishioner, or who may chance upon one of our children whose scapular is dangling from his neck, or who may glance through an art book on a coffee table. While some may be dismayed to see the prominence of Mary in our life, they could only rightly conclude that this Woman must be very dear to the heart of Catholics and that their faith in Christ as the true Son of God must be intimately tied to a lively devotion to His Mother. If no one had ever raised an objection to the Marian devotion by Christians I suspect that it would have been regarded as the most naturally human thing for a Christian to do. The Church after all is not only about Christ but also about the people joined to Him, who share His divine life. The Church is rightly regarded as a huge spiritual family whose head is Christ. After God Himself, the only person in the whole experience of human awareness that has a place so near to God for Her perfection is Holy Mary, the very one who gave Him life in the flesh and the only one who lived His teachings without any deviation.

The reason why the Blessed Mother is so prominent in our life is that She is the one after God most loved. She is most loved by God Himself and, as the most lovable of creatures, the one we love the most. Love is a key word in the teaching of Christ. No other religion has made love its central doctrine, and none indeed would do so. God is Love and Christ is God become man, Love made visible. Mary (literally) embodied Christ and is inseparable from that Love.

On our part, when we have love for someone we cannot help but to show it by exterior signs. Our love for the Virgin Mary seeks also to be expressed, as a natural consequence, in the many outward signs of fondness we have for Her. Love seeking expression cannot be held back. The Church cannot hide Holy Mary from the world, nor would the Church ever desire to do so. We're proud, not ashamed of Her.

Our parish has for many years been outstanding in going public about our devotion to the Mother of Christ. When you join with us in honoring Her at this Shrine, you form part of a long chain of faith, devotion and love that reaches back to the first days when Michigan lands were settled. Come with us and freely express your Catholic piety in honoring the Virgin Mary on August 15.

*Fr. Perrone*

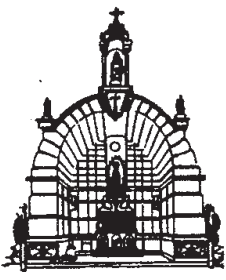
Fr. Perrone

## † Important Information †

The Gift Shop's new phone number is (313) 332-4432.

If you have a change of address please let us know so *we can keep in touch.*





# Assumption Grotto Church

## Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

### *Feast of the Assumption*

## Schedule of Events

**MASSES**

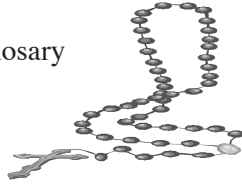
6:30 a.m. in church  
 9:30 a.m. in church  
 12:00 Noon at the Grotto  
 7:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass, Fr. Eduard Perrone & Concelebrants, Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, Lourdes Candlelight Procession after the Mass.

**ROSARIES**

9:00, 11:00 a.m., 3:00 p.m. Living Rosary & 6:15 Shrine

**CONFESSIONS**

11:00 a.m., 1:30 & 4:15 p.m.



**MIRACULOUS MEDAL & enrolment** after the noon Mass at the Grotto.



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – 2:00 p.m.

**LIVING ROSARY & BLESSING OF THE SICK**

3:00 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Living Rosary, Blessing of the Sick and Benediction at the Grotto

**BLESSING OF HERBS** – 4:00 p.m. at the Grotto

**CONSECRATION TO MARY** at 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**REFRESHMENTS**

**Italian Dinner** - Mostaccioli with Meatball, salad, bread, butter and beverage served in the gym from 1:00-5:30 p.m. Adults: \$7.00- Children 12 and under \$5.00.

**Lunch Bar** - Fast food and beverages served in the gym until 5:30 p.m.

**Bake Sale** - Delicious home-baked goods to enjoy here or take home available in the gym. If you want to bring some delicious bake goods, please bring them to the school gym on August 14<sup>th</sup>.

**GIFT SHOP AND SHRINE BOOTHS**

The Gift Shop is open throughout the day and offers a selection of religious literature, rosaries, etc. On the Shrine grounds are booths that offer candles to be lit at the Grotto, Shrine Patron enrollment cards and Lourdes Water. Both Gift Shop & Shrine booths will close at 7:00 p.m.

**USED RELIGIOUS ITEMS FOR THE RUMMAGE SALE WILL BE IN THE LOUNGE**

If you have any religious items that you would like to donate for August 15<sup>th</sup>, please bring them to the school before Wednesday, August 11<sup>th</sup>.

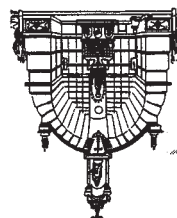
**FREE SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE FROM ST. VERONICA'S THROUGHOUT THE DAY.**

Buses will run every 20 minutes on the hour from St. Veronica's parking lot. See the Assumption Grotto web-site for a map to St. Veronica's Church.

**PILGRIMAGE BUSES**

**Please contact the Shrine Office on (313) 332-4432 to make arrangements for bus parking.**

Shrine in Honor of Our Lady of Lourdes  
 Assumption (Grotto) Church  
 13770 Grotto  
 Detroit, Michigan 48205



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