

NATIONAL SHRINE GROTTO MONTHLY BULLETIN | July 2017



### **Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

August 15, 2017

**Reconciliation,** 11 a.m. in the Confessional near St. Mary's Chapel Mass, 12 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel

During the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we lift up our hearts in a time of repose. We contemplate Mary's beauty and recognize a time of consolation where we reflect on the reward that Mary enjoys. In the Assumption we look forward to sharing what Mary already possesses, the final glory marked out for her by God.

### Ask for the intercession of Our Mother Mary

Light a candle to light your way to compassion! Visit www.NSGrotto.org



# 2017 Rome and Lourdes Europe Pilgrimage

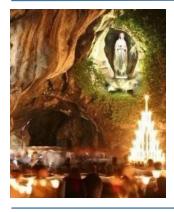
~ 12 Days, November 6-17, 2017~ ALMOST FULL, CALL NOW!

**Application deadline July 17** 

\$3599 PER PERSON

Visit Rome, Assisi, Florence, Genoa, Nice, Avignon, Carcassone and Lourdes!

To book your space, contact Ms. Jessica Root (301) 447-5484 OR go to <a href="www.NSGrotto.org/romelourdes.html">www.NSGrotto.org/romelourdes.html</a> to see full agenda.



# 2018 France Europe Pilgrimage ~ 12 Days, March 5-16, 2018 ~

\$3699 PER PERSON

INCLUDES: Roundtrip Air from Washington, D.C., Visit Paris, Lisieux, Caen, Normandy, Mont St. Michel, Tours, Nevers, Paray le Monial, Ars, and Lourdes!
To book your space, contact Ms. Jessica Root
(301) 447-5484 OR go to <a href="www.NSGrotto.org/2017-pilgrimage.html">www.NSGrotto.org/2017-pilgrimage.html</a> to see full agenda.



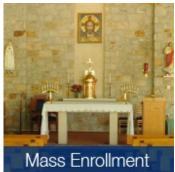
# Celebration of Independence

July 2, 2017

12 p.m. **Mass** at Grotto Cave Eternal God, stir our minds and stimulate our hearts with a high sense of patriotism on this Fourth of July. May all that this day symbolizes renew our faith in freedom. Amen.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily (gates close at 5 p.m.) | Mass: Saturday and Sunday 12 p.m. | Reconciliation: Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. Shuttle: Transportation is available from the parking lot to the Miller Family Visitors Center. Call (301) 447-5318 for reservations.









## Request during your visit, online at NSGrotto.org or call (301) 447-5318

#### Practice Makes Perfect Reflections by Fr. Mike Messaro, M.SS.CC.

Schooling is a fact of life. We all probably wish we had applied ourselves better and leaned more. Being taught is not enough, though. Real learning comes with practicing and applying what we have been taught. That is not only true in regard to strictly human things but also in regard to the spiritual. Jesus teaches us how to combine both. He teaches us how to be mature humans and at the same time become saints. Our everyday treatment of the world and one another leads us up the

ladder of maturity in both the human and spiritual order - or down it. Listen to what Jesus teaches.

"Love your enemies. Pray for your persecutors. If you love those who love you, what merit is there in that? If you greet your brothers and sisters only, what is so praiseworthy about that? You must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect."

We have all been taught the teachings of Christ, and his Church never lets us

forget them. But it is not knowing them that is more important. It is in practicing them that we grow to become the people and saints we are meant to be. Let us learn much, but let us not neglect practicing what we have learned. Will we ever reach perfection? Let us at least die trying.

# Upcoming Spiritual Activities

More activities listed on nsgrotto.org/spiritual-activities.html

First Saturday Devotions	July I
Grotto Cave Mass	July 2
Lourdes Rosary Crusade	July 8
Bilingual Mass	July 8



## **Holy Water Font**

# at St. Bernadette's Shoppe (301) 447-5444

Make more opportunities for blessings at home or work by installing a holy water font on the wall. Bottles are available for purchase that can be filled with blessed spring water from our mountain spring.



## A Final Resting Place

Consider Mount St. Mary's Cemetery as a final resting place for yourself or someone close to you. Located on Saint Mary's Mountain and near the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Mount Saint Mary's Cemetery offers columbariums for cremation remains. Contact Jessica Root (301) 447-5484 or jroot@msmary.edu, or visit www.NSGrotto.com/cemetery.html



#### Schedule a Retreat

We offer areas throughout the holy grounds that you may reserve on an hourly basis for your group's pilgrimage. Lunch options available. Contact Jessica Root (301) 447-5484 or jroot@msmary.edu, or visit www.NSGrotto.com/plan-your-visit.html

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