

# The National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



MONTHLY BULLETIN DECEMBER 2018



## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8, 2018 – HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**Adoration**, 10:45 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel  
**Reconciliation**, 10:45 a.m. in the Confessional  
near St. Mary's Chapel  
**Mass**, 12 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel



## Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12, 2018

## Christmas Day, December 25

Grounds **ONLY** will be opened from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
(Visitors Center and Gift Shop will be closed.)

**Adoration**, 10:45 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel  
**Reconciliation**, 10:45 a.m. in the Confessional  
near St. Mary's Chapel  
**Mass**, 12 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel

Enroll a loved one in our Christmas Masses  
December 24 through January 6  
Enroll at [www.NSGrotto.org/events.html](http://www.NSGrotto.org/events.html)



## Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God

January 1, 2019

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

**Adoration**, 10:45 a.m.  
**Reconciliation**, 10:45 a.m.  
**Mass**, 12 p.m.

## St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

January 4, 2019

**Mass**, 12 p.m.

Come celebrate the feast of America's  
first native-born saint here at the  
National Shrine Grotto, where she  
herself would frequent to pray and teach.



**Hours** 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily (gates close at 5 p.m.) **Mass** Every Day at 12 p.m. **Adoration and Confession** Saturday and Sunday 10:45 a.m.

**Shuttle:** Transportation is available from the parking lot to the Miller Family Visitors Center. Call (301) 447-5318.

**Address** 16330 Grotto Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727 . (301) 447-5318 . [www.NSGrotto.org](http://www.NSGrotto.org)

## Poland & Eastern Europe Pilgrimage

12 days: November 4 – 15, 2019

Only \$2,999

Includes roundtrip airfare and most meals

[www.NSGrotto.org/poland.html](http://www.NSGrotto.org/poland.html)

Call Dawn Walsh at (301) 447-5606



### Share Your Blessings

“The Blessed Mother had invited me to visit the Grotto. She told me what rosaries to bring. These were a pair that were given to me as a gift and I had never used them. When I took them out of my drawer and I was looking at them, I saw that the beads were shaped into hearts. I suffer from Parkinson’s disease and I believe that she wanted me to come to renew my faith with Jesus, which I have done. What beautiful blessings!” — Elizabeth Toms

Please send blessing testimonies to [NSGrotto@msmary.edu](mailto:NSGrotto@msmary.edu)

### God Delivers on His Promises

Reflections by Fr. Mike Messaro, M.SS.CC.

God delivers on his promises. His angel told Zechariah that Elizabeth would have a baby and that his ability to speak would return when she did. And it happened. John the Baptist was born, Zechariah was able to talk. God delivers on his promises.

It won’t be long now and we will be celebrating his delivering on the oldest of his promises. “I will put enmity between you and the woman,” God told the serpent in the Garden of Eden, “between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.” In those words is contained the promise of a Messiah. A redeemer would be born of woman and end the reign of the devil. God delivers on his promises. Let us never doubt it.

When we celebrate Christmas, let us realize we are celebrating the delivery of a promise made by God. And as he has kept that promise, he keeps all his promises. God has promised that for those who love him and believe in him, all things will work out for their good. That means that no matter what happens in our lives, no matter how sinful we have been, if we stay near God, if we keep returning to him when we stray from him, there is nothing that will really be able to hurt us. A place in heaven is being reserved for us and we will have it. The birth of the Son of God is just the beginning. He is born into our world so that we can be born again into his. Celebrate Christmas. It is not only His birthday—it is ours. Isn’t that why we receive presents? Have a Blessed Christmas and New Year!



### March for Life

January 18, 2019

Adoration, 10:45 a.m.

Reconciliation, 10:45 a.m.

Holy Mass, 12 p.m.

Dignity of Life Sermon, 12:30 p.m.

at St. Mary’s Chapel

Rosary, 12:45 p.m. St. Mary’s Chapel

### Alpine Europe Pilgrimage



Only \$3,369

Includes roundtrip airfare and most meals

11 Days: September 3 – 14, 2020

[www.NSGrotto.org/oberammergau.html](http://www.NSGrotto.org/oberammergau.html)

Call Dawn Walsh at (301) 447-5606



### Grotto Wish List

Dear Grotto family,

We are excited to share with you our hopes for improvements in our Blessed Shrine. Below is a list of our needs, please prayerfully consider how you may help. Please contact [Grotto@MSMary.edu](mailto:Grotto@MSMary.edu) or call (301) 447-5318 if you would like to help donate. Thank you!

**Sacred Heart & St. Francis Statues** **\$5,000**  
(to be refurbished)

**Rhododendron Plants** **\$500**  
(to replace the over-20-years-old, dying rhododendrons throughout the grounds)

**Grotto Bridge Repair** **\$7,000**  
(to fix the bridge crossing the mountain stream which has become damaged due to years of heavy flooding)