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

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.
**Alpine Europe Pilgrimage**

11 Days: September 3 – 14, 2020

www.NSGrotto.org/oberammergau.html

Only $3,369
Includes roundtrip airfare and most meals

Call Dawn Walsh at (301) 447-5606

---

**Poland & Eastern Europe Pilgrimage**

12 days: November 4 – 15, 2019

www.NSGrotto.org/poland.html

Only $2,999
Includes roundtrip airfare and most meals

Call Dawn Walsh at (301) 447-5606

---

**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

---

**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!

---

**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 or call (301) 447-5318 if you would like to help donate. Thank you!

- Sacred Heart & St. Francis Statues (to be refurbished) $5,000
- Rhododendron Plants (to replace the over-20-years-old, dying rhododendrons throughout the grounds) $500
- Grotto Bridge Repair (to fix the bridge crossing the mountain stream which has become damaged due to years of heavy flooding) $7,000

Please send blessing testimonies to NSGrotto@msmary.edu

---

**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