Spanish Mass
Starting January 7, 2018

Mass, 2 p.m. in St. Mary’s Chapel

Starting on January 7th, the National Shrine Grotto will be celebrating Spanish Mass at 2 p.m. every Sunday.

Blessing of the Throats
February 3, 2018

The Blessing of the Throats is a sacramental of the church, celebrated on February 3, the feast day of Saint Blaise of Sebaste. The blessing will occur during 12 p.m. Saturday Mass.

Ash Wednesday
February 14, 2018

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

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Join us on February 14 to receive the ashes.

March for Life
January 19, 2018

Reconciliation, 11 a.m.
Mass, 12 p.m., St. Mary’s Chapel
Dignity of Human Life Sermon, 12:30 p.m., St. Mary’s Chapel
Sorrowful Mysteries Rosary, 12:45 p.m. St. Mary’s Chapel

Our Lady of Lourdes
February 11, 2018

Reconciliation, 11 a.m.
Mass, 12 p.m. in St. Mary’s Chapel

Ask for the intercession of the Immaculate Conception, light a candle by visiting our website at www.NSGrotto.org

Adoration

The National Shrine Grotto is very happy to announce we will now be having Eucharistic adoration on weekends year round: 10:45 – 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. We hope to see you there!
**The Final Hour** *Reflections by Fr. Mike Messaro, M.SS.CC.*

“Children, it is the final hour.” writes St. John in his first letter, and it is a good thought as we come to the end of another year. How well have we used this year in which we are living? Probably not as well as we would if we could do it all over again, with the knowledge we have now, of course.

Knowledge that sticks in us usually comes through experience, the experience of making both the right and the wrong choices. We might like to go back and do our lives all over again because now we think that with the knowledge we gained from making wrong decisions, we would better prepare for making the right ones. Maybe, maybe not. Some of us have been known to make the same mistakes over and over and even a third time, haven’t we?

But the hard fact is: We are not going back in time, we are not going to get the opportunity to do our lives over again. But we are going ahead. And if we are serious about shaping ourselves up and proving how wise we have become, then let us enter the New Year with all the wisdom of the ages – **AND USE IT!**

“Children,” writes St. John, “this is the final hour.” He’s talking about the final hour of the devil. Let us hope our final hour isn’t upon us. For we still have a lot of making up to do, many wrongs to correct, a large number of mistakes not to repeat. Let us use our New Year well. I suspect it is the last some of us is going to get so live it in the spirit of Christmas, that is in the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. Have a happy and successful New Year! One in which you grow even more in goodness.

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**2018 Pilgrimage**

**To Ireland and Northern Ireland**

~ 12 Days, November 5-16, 2018 ~

Dublin, Downpatrick, Belfast, Sligo, Knock, Galway, Connemara, Cliffs of Moher, Killarney, Glendalough

$3399 PER PERSON

To book your space, contact Ms. Jessica Root (301) 447-5484 OR go to www.NSGrotto.org/europe-pilgrimages.html to see full agenda.

Registration deadline: June 20, 2018

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**Upcoming Spiritual Activities**

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

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Mary led Bernadette to the Spring of merciful Love that washes, purifies, consoles and heals. By restoring and growing the National Shrine Grotto, you enable these holy grounds to welcome more pilgrimages, more sick people, more young people and families, so that the largest number may come to the Grotto where Mary is waiting for them. To this end, we are appealing to your generosity. Without you, it will not be possible.

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$462,400 of $5,000,000 raised

**Restore Mount St. Mary’s Grotto**

We need your help to ensure that these holy grounds will live on for you and many others for years to come.

Call to learn more at (301) 447-6725

Or stewart@mssmary.edu

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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.