



Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

St. Laurent, Saskatchewan
Diocese of Prince Albert

2018 marks the 139th Annual Pilgrimage

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Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine



- Nestled on the banks of the South Saskatchewan River
- This area was an active part of the Fur Trade in the old North-West hundreds of years before Saskatchewan became a province (1905)
- In 1821 the Hudson's Bay Company was conceded the monopoly of the fur trade at Carlton House
- Historic Area part of the early history of the region
 - Riel Uprising
 - Fort Carlton
 - Batoche

- Home to a Buffalo Jump and Pit
- Burial Site of those who died at the Battle of Duck Lake on March 26, 1885
- Present day Meditation Site on the Banks of the Saskatchewan River
- Where pilgrims come to meditate on the beauty of creation and mysteries of salvation
- It is holy ground – a place that is all time, and yet no time, an inspiration, and a touchstone for all who visit



I Am The Immaculate Conception

Proclamation of the Immaculate Conception by Pius IX on December 8, 1854

The Lourdes Apparition 1857 where Our Lady declared, "I AM the Immaculate Conception"

- **Nested in the rolling hills along the South Saskatchewan river the Shrine Site sits high on the riverbank overlooking a natural spectrum that could have been created by a Divine Craftsman and Architect**
- **This area has remained untouched by agricultural and industrial development through the generosity of neighbours**
- **It is as if this Natural Spiritual Oasis by Unspoken Law has been designated to remain a Sanctuary**
 - **Varied wild berry bushes and groves of aspen whisper their daily prayers**
 - **Multitudes of wild birds sing their praises, often echoed by the Canada geese that meet on the perpetually flowing river**
 - **Thousands of Metis, First Nations, to worship French, and a rainbow spectrum of the Family of Man come on pilgrimage each year to worship as one body in one faith**
 - **Many pilgrims walk from Duck Lake to the Shrine**



Our Roots



- In the Fur Trading Era, priests regularly camped at St. Laurent on their way to Fort Carlton
- A number of Metis settlements participated in the establishment of the Shrine site
- The land was purchased in 1972
- Thousands of faithful pilgrims have journey to St. Laurent over the past 139 years; pilgrims have been coming to this site since 1879
- Yearly pilgrimages have been held since 1905, the year Saskatchewan became a province
- The Oblates of Mary Immaculate provided clergy for the Shrine from 1870 (Petite Ville) until 1965 when Fr. Roland Gaudet was appointed from the Diocese of Prince Albert
- When Fr. Gilles Doucette became Shrine Director in 1973, the Shrine entered a period of renewal with the aid of many volunteers
- In 2003 The Senate of the Diocese voted to make the Pastor at Duck Lake the Shrine Director
- Over 30 priests have served at the Shrine and, literally thousands of volunteers have given of their time, talents, and treasure



First Recorded Miracle



- In December 1884
 - Mrs. Nolin was healed
 - Mr. Nolin prayer for his wife's blessing
 - He vowed that if she was healed of her incurable, chronic wasting disease (some report it was long term hemorrhaging), he would build a Shrine in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes
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- Mrs. Nolan enjoyed good health thereafter, until her death in 1927 at the age of 79
 - She is buried at St. Laurent Cemetery
 - Mr. Nolan erected this shrine which is found on the path to the Grotto in 1885

Batoche in the 1885 Uprising



- This area is steeped in the History of the North-West
- In 1870 a group of Metis from the Red River settlement established a winter camp on the west bank of the South Saskatchewan River 10 miles south of St. Laurent; this settlement was named *Petite Ville*

- A plan for a permanent settlement was made for St. Laurent established in the summer of 1873. This area was often referred to as The New Eden
- Diminishing buffalo herds and dissatisfaction with the Red River settlement resulted in an increasing number of Métis migrating and settling in the Western Plains
- The Métis site of *Petite Ville* (near present day Batoche) demonstrates the Metis adaptation to the plains/parkland environment in the frontier in the 19th century
- *Petite Ville* has storage depressions, access trails as well as Rebellion period rifle pits (Grainger & Ross, 1980)



The Shadow of the Cross



- In 1890, during the Octave of the Feast of Corpus Christi in June
- In the attic of the Convent of the Sisters of the Faithful Companions of Jesus
- In the attic on the partition to the right of the staircase
- The Shadow of a large cross appeared, showing a clear outline of Our Crucified Lord
- It appeared to be projected by light which shone in through the open window
- It appeared for a number of consecutive days
- It was first observed by Miss Odile Pelletier and her students

- When Fr. Fourmond was called in to observe the phenomenon, his prayer was “It is mysterious; let us pray together.”
- The monument and Cross were erected on the site of the former convent of the Faithful Companions of Jesus
- Our Candle Light Procession from the Grotto below, culminates at this Cross where it is still illuminated by light, only now by electric light.



The Shadow of the Cross



- This large cross dominates the whole area
- In 1879 Brother Piquet who knew Bernadette Soubirous from Lourdes in France noticed the striking resemblance
- He decided to erect a grotto near the spring in the hillside to honour the one who stood below the foot of the cross of her Son
- His divine inspiration was confirmed when in 1893, crippled in one leg, he decided to make a pilgrimage. His prayer was rewarded with healing
- In front of the Cross, the four mysteries of the Rosary - Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, Glorious - are carved on plaques with benches for meditation in midst of the flower garden for the many pilgrims who come to pray in The Shadow of the Cross
- The Cross reminds us that He is still with us
- His Mother continues to draw us to this place and lead us to her Son
- The Cross marks the site of the first convent in the Diocese of Prince Albert - The Faithful Companions of Jesus - and their Boarding School



The Little Log Church - The Jewel

The Church is a house with a hundred gates and no two men enter at exactly the same angle (G. K. Chesterton)

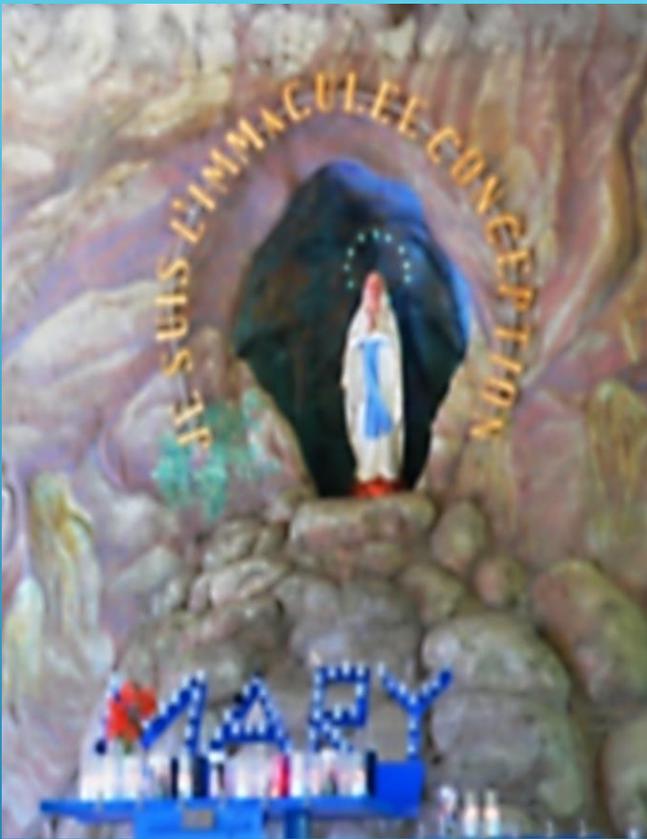
- Built in 1938 by Parishioners of St. Laurent Parish
- Renovations in 1986 -1988 after much fundraising
- Inspired by Divinity, built by Man, and dedicated to Mary
- The Cross on the steeple is lit at night to proclaim Christ to the World

Jean Vanier reflects on the challenge of becoming community: "Community life brings a painful revelation of our limitations, weaknesses and darkness...within us I find hard to accept."

- In 1990 the Little Log Church was razed by fire through arson
- The cross on the steeple was charred but remains inside the new church
- The enlarged replica was built in 1994-95 and blessed on July 14, 1996. Each log was hand-shaped - created and molded to give strength to the whole, while retaining its own distinctiveness; repaired in 2018
- The Steeple houses a beautiful statue of Mary is lit and rotates each hour; Mary seems to be paying respect to the Native Spirituality which adheres to the creed that the four directions and four seasons are given by the Almighty and that one must live in harmony with all of God's creation.



Our History Continues...



- Bishop Albert Pascal, the first Bishop of Prince Albert Diocese, the oldest in the province, came to bless the Statue and the Grotto on July 16, 1909
- He inaugurated the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament; there were about 2,000 in the assembly, a practice continued to this day
- In 1916 Fr. Delmas built a nave which gave cover for three thousand persons seated
- In 1922 the new Bishop of Prince Albert, Joseph Prud'homme visited the Shrine - some 8,000 attended

- Many continue to report healing, relief, and answers to prayers either at the occasion of the pilgrimage at St. Laurent, or during a novena of prayers at home
- In 2000, the Millennial Gate was constructed to “Open wide the door to all pilgrims”
- In the extra ordinary Year of Mercy (2016), Holy Doors were blessed and opened at the July Pilgrimage and closed at the September Pilgrimage





The Information Centre

- Serves as our Information Hub and the Knowledge Exchange Centre for the Shrine
- Houses historical documents and contains a written and pictorial chronicle of the Shrine's beginnings, development, and legacy
- Staffed by Faithful Volunteers who also provide tours of the Shrine Grounds
- Open most weekdays in the summer, during the Novena and some Sundays
- In recent years we were able to employ students to man the centre
- Also provides some religious articles for sale when the Religious Articles booth is not open
- Most years our Maintenance Supervisor takes 1 - 2 Federal Inmates from the Healing Lodge at Duck Lake to work at the Shrine who find it a source of inspiration and closeness to God in nature

Roses for Our Lady on Her Birthday - September 8





Our Entrance to the Shrine

- Welcomes Pilgrims
- Provides basic information about the Schedule
- Locked after hours and when staff is not on site

The Roadside Statue

- When the new divided Highway was constructed we took the opportunity to create a new Roadside Statue
- In collaboration with the Department of Highways, the RM, and the Shrine Board
- Statue and Bench were kindly donated as was all the labour
- The Statue is lit year round and through the night to serve as a beacon of faith and call to prayer
- You'll find many long distance truckers tooting to salute Our Lady as they pass by





Our Lady of the Rosary

October 7

- The Rosary is recited throughout the Novena and regularly throughout the Pilgrimages
- Rosaries are usually accompanied by meditations and litanies
- We sell both rosaries and meditation books to accompany them in our Religious Articles Booth

Altar at the Grotto

- Each Year a new theme is selected
- 2018 Theme - *Mary, Hand of God in the Redemption of Humankind*



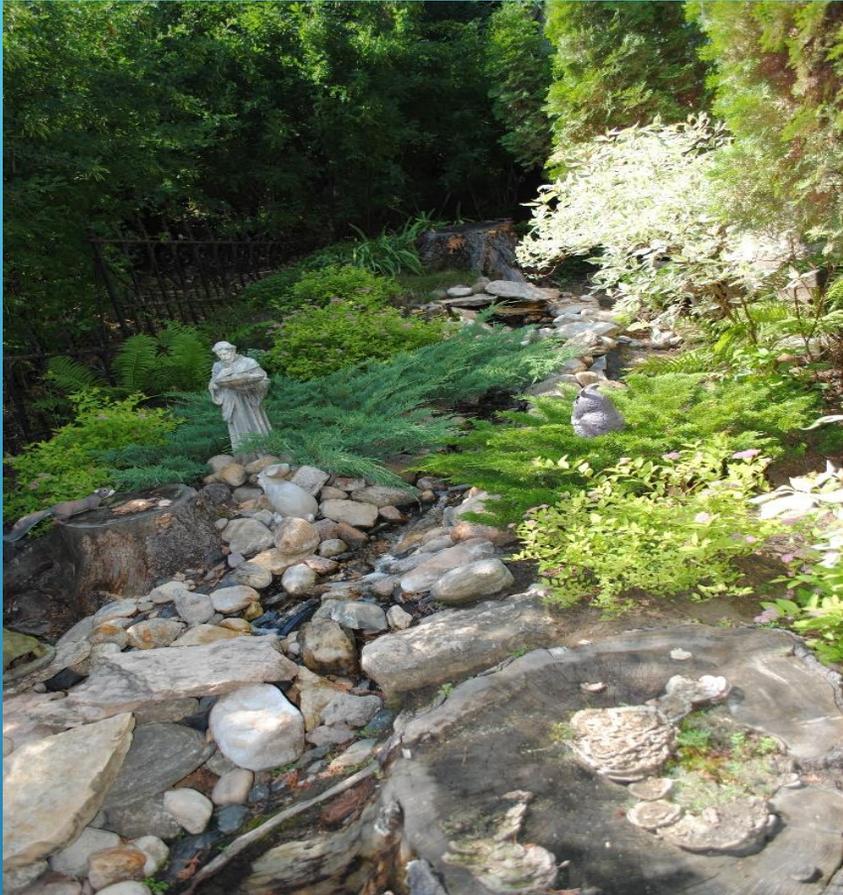
Statue donated by Charles Nolin. At the request of brother Piquet, Nolin promised to place a statue honouring Our Lady of Lourdes if his wife were cured from a long suffering illness which doctors were unable to cure. On December 16th, 1884 a religious Novena began. Waters of Lourdes, brought by brother Piquet, were applied to the ailing body of Mrs. Nolin. Nine days later, Mrs. Nolin was cured and lived until May 29th, 1927. Statue was erected at this Pilgrimage Site, November 1, 1885.

The 1885 Statue today



St. Francis of Assisi

- A special garden dedicated to all of God's creatures, especially those most vulnerable
- Erected in the 1990s
- Contains water from the natural spring
- It is so fitting in this natural setting



We pray....

- St. Francis, help us to honour all of creation, all creatures great and small
- St. Francis, teach us how to be *rich* in the things that matter
- St. Francis, make us instruments and channels of Christ's peace in this troubled world



Our 8th Annual Fundraiser - 2018

- Our Shrine requires almost \$80,000 to operate
- Operates almost entirely on Volunteer Time
- Only paid staff is our Maintenance Supervisor
- Torrential rain and smoke from the Forest Fires can limit the number who attend
- There are many other fundraising initiatives throughout the year

Many prizes are donated to raise funds for our beloved Shrine



Our Bishop joins us when he can



Faithful gather in Our Lady's Name





Fr. Maurice grew up in Duck Lake and was Shrine Director for 15 years from 1992 - 2007

Our Lady Draws the Generations

- Great Grandparents
- Grandparents
- Parents
- Youth
- Children
- Single people
- Religious



Web Site Developer & Board Member

Most Recent Board Members Called Home



Leo



Bill



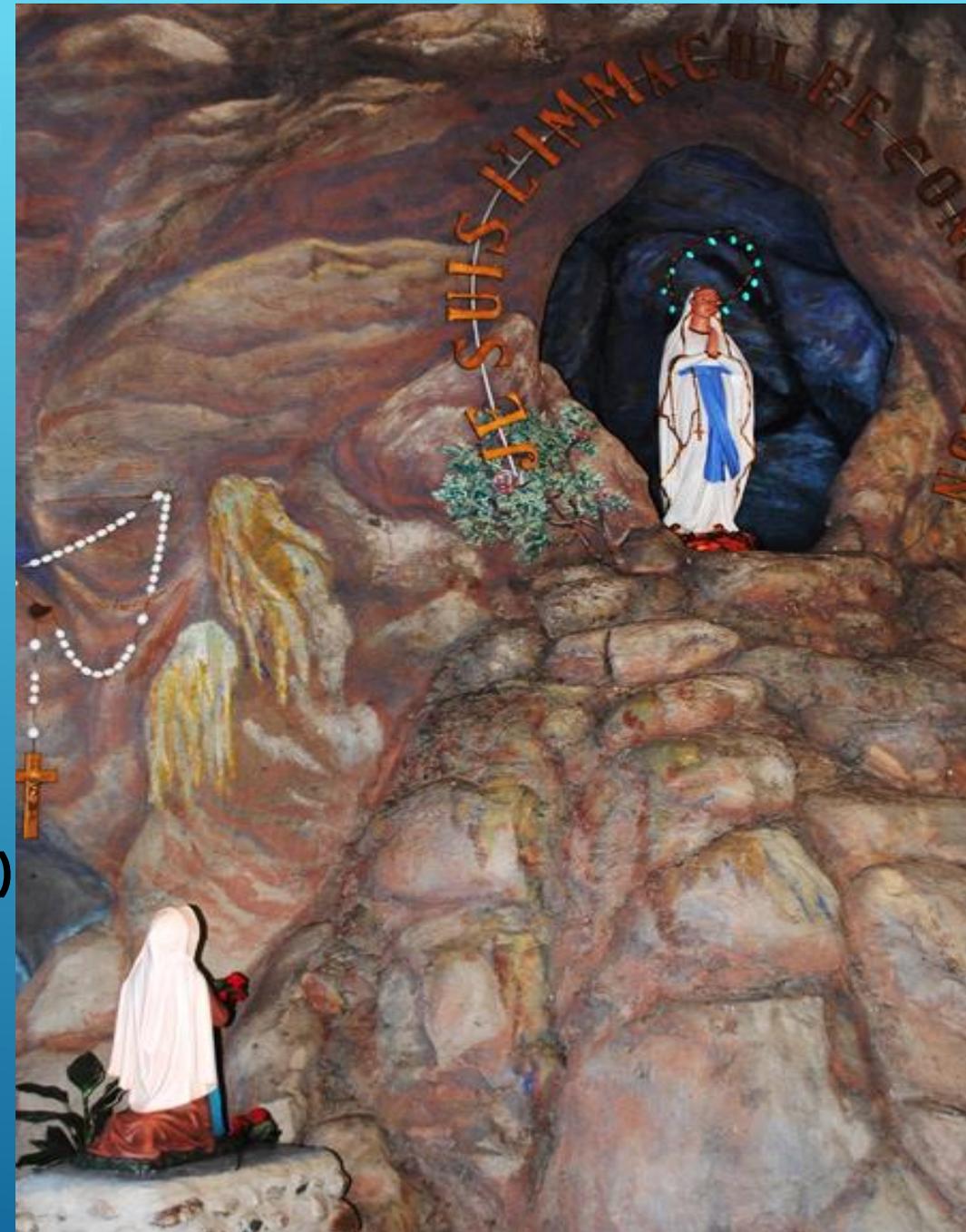
Cecile

We come as individuals, as families, as parish communities, and as a diocese to seek Our Blessed Mother's

- Healing of mind, body, family, and community
- Wisdom
- Guidance
- Ability to lead us to her Son
- Peace in this timeless place which is Holy Ground

We come together in our 139th year

- July 15-16 with a Novena preceding (July 8 – 15) this our major pilgrimage of the year,
- August 14-15 for the Feast of the Assumption
- September 8 to celebrate Our Lady's Birthday



Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine

at St. Laurent is a place...

- To honour the *Mother of God*
- To celebrate Family tradition and Church tradition as a community
- To celebrate diversity in the unity of faith
- Of History - religious and secular
- That is a timeless place - a place of peace, rooted in faith, ritual and ceremony
- Of refuge and prayer
- Of sustenance
- That brings together the Diocesan Church
- That gives us a sense of Pilgrimage
- Where people witness to each other as they walk, pray, celebrate, and share faith



“Hearing the Word of God with Reverence”

Let us pray that, like Mary:

- The **Church** will be a **humble hand maid** of the **Divine Word**
- The **Church** will **always proclaim it with firm trust**, so that
 - “The whole world...through hearing it may believe,
 - Through belief...may hope,
 - Through hope... may come to love” *(Dei Verbum, no. 1)*

Mary

- Speaks **with** us,
- Speaks **to** us,
- **Invites** us to **know** the Word of God,
- To **love** the Word of God,
- To **live with** the Word of God
- To **think with** the Word of God.

- Pope Benedict, 2005



Pope Benedict reminded us we could do so in many different ways:

- **By reading Sacred Scripture,**
- **By participating especially in the Liturgy in which Holy Church throughout the year opens thy entire book of Sacred Scriptures us.**
- **The Church opens Sacred Scripture to our lives and makes it present in our lives** (Homily at Mass for the Feast of the Assumption, August 15, 2005)

And Mary is there, inviting us to get to know the Word of God through scripture and through meditation on the Mysteries of His Holy Life through the Rosary.



The *Pilgrim's Way* reminds us:

- Pilgrimage is a **meaningful journey** to a sacred place.
- It provides the opportunity to step out of the non-stop busyness of our lives, to **seek a time of quiet and reflection**.
- It gives us the chance to **'walk through'** those issues that we have on our minds, whatever they might be.
- It is a time **of simply 'being'** rather than always 'doing'.
- Pilgrimage can also be a **highly sociable activity**, allowing us to enjoy the company of others we meet on the road.
- It gives us the chance **re-energise mentally, physically, and spiritually**.
- And it allows us to **reconnect** with our **cultural heritage** and the **heritage and the natural world** - as well as to **refresh our faith** or **seek spiritual direction**.



Why Go On Pilgrimage?

- Often, people go on pilgrimage when they are at a **crossroads** in their lives, when undergoing a **change** in their life's direction or relationships.
- Others may be in search of a deeper spirituality, healing and forgiveness.
- Or it may be that pilgrimage marks a **special birthday, retirement or other occasion** for giving thanks.
- It's also a **great adventure** with the chance to meet new people and see new places.
- For Christians, the reasons for going on pilgrimage might be:
 - To **set aside time for God** and feel closer to him
 - To **discern his will and guidance** at times of transition or difficulty
 - To be **strengthened in faith**
 - To feel inspired by the **communion of saints** who have gone before us



The Message has been the same:

- **To pray for the conversion of the world to her Son, Jesus. In other words, the Blessed Mother repeats the message she first gave at the wedding at Cana, “do whatever he tells you.”**
- **To do this by praying the Rosary and meditating on the salvific events in the life of Christ.**

The first apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to the 14 year old girl named Bernadette Soubarou on this day, February 11, in 1858. Bernadette reported seeing a young woman dressed in white, with a rosary in her hand, and a yellow rose on each foot.



In one of the early apparitions, the Lady in White instructed Bernadette to go to a nearby spring,

- Drink from it
- Wash herself in it
- Not long after that, a number of people who bathed in that same water reported remarkable cures

In 1992, Pope John Paul II, designated the February 11 as a World Day of Prayer for the Sick:

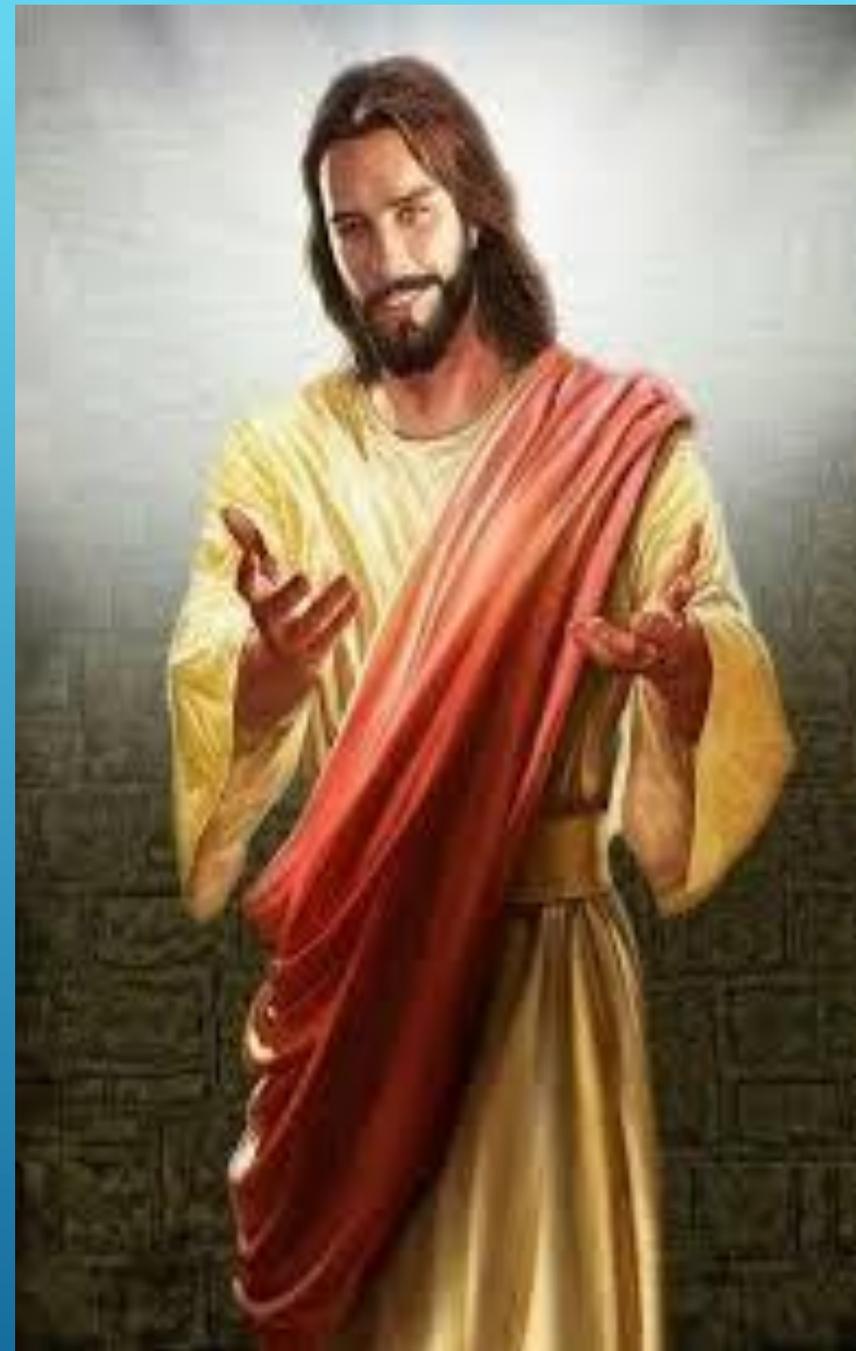
- A special time of prayer and sharing, of offering one's suffering for the good of the Church, and
- Reminding us to see in our sick brother and sister the face of Christ who, by suffering, dying, and rising, achieved the salvation of mankind."

- Fr. Kevin Estabrook





**Father,
Source of Light in every age,
The Virgin conceived and
Bore Your Son,
Who is called Wonderful
God, Prince of Peace.
May her prayer,
The gift of a Mother's love,
Be Your People's joy
Through all ages.
May her response,
Born of a humble heart.
Draw Your Spirit
To rest on Your people.
Grant this through
Christ Our Lord.
Amen.**





We **invite** you to

- Pray the Rosary with us
- Celebrate Eucharist with us on Sundays at 4pm throughout the summer
- Join us for our Pilgrimages
 - July 15-16 with a Novena prior to this Major Celebration
 - August 15 to celebrate Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven
 - September 8 to celebrate Our Lady's Birthday

We **pray** that Our Lady shower you with a Mother's Love and draw you to Her Son



Hail Mary ...

- Gentle Woman
- Quiet Light
- Morning Star so strong and bright
- Gentle Mother
- Peaceful Dove teach us wisdom, teach us love
- You were chosen for the Son
- Chosen from all women
- For Woman Shining One
- Blessed are you among women
- Blest in turn all women too
- Blessed they with peaceful Spirits
- Blessed they with gentle hearts

Magnificat

My souls magnifies the Lord

And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour

For He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant.

From now on all generations will call be blessed

For the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is His name.

