

# THE COVA

# May 2026 Fatima Shrine Newsletter



Directed by the Barnabite Fathers

Visit the Fatima Shrine online: [www.fatimashrine.com](http://www.fatimashrine.com)

## Welcome to *The Cova*

*The Newsletter of the National Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima - Lewiston, New York*

Welcome to the first edition of *The Cova*. I'm Jim Dacey Jr, and I'm very grateful that you are here. This may look like a Brand New newsletter, and you are correct, but at its heart, it's something so much more: We hope that it brings you even closer to Our Lord and Our Lady.

I love The Fatima Shrine deeply, and while words never ever seem to be enough, I trust that the Holy Spirit will be guiding each Issue. Through each edition, there will be stories, reflections, and many images, we hope that something here touches your heart and draws you nearer to our Lord and our Lady in a wonderful way.

Whether The Fatima Shrine is already home to you or you are just discovering it for the first time, our prayers are the same: that *The Cova* leads you to a closer deeper relationship with our Lady of Fatima.

We begin in May, Our Lady's month, with reflections on her titles, her shrines, and her miracles, all true, all hers, every single day in May.

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

In Christ always,  
James Dacey Jr, OFS  
Communications Director

Our Lady of La Vang Shrine Altar is ready for Vietnamese Day on September 7, 2026.



## May 2 - 1st Saturday Devotions

Knights of Columbus collect nonperishable food items and donations for local food pantries.

9:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

with Speaker: Deacon Thomas LaBelle

**Topic: Invisible Invitations:**

**How Evil Seeks Entry into Ordinary Lives**

11:00 AM - Rosary & Confession

11:30 AM - MASS

12:15 PM Adoration & Benediction

3:30 PM Rosary Procession

3:45 PM Confession

4:00 PM MASS

## May 1 - Our Lady Queen of the May

She is the most beautiful  
flower of a flower-filled month,  
and every crown of blossoms  
placed upon her image is a  
heart saying yes to its Queen.



More Marian Days of May - Cont. on Page 8



# THE COVA

*"The grace of God will be your comfort." Our Lady of Fatima*



## UPCOMING SHRINE CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS

### May 2026

(Dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary)

**Sat. May 2 - 1st Saturday Devotions**  
Confessions: 30 minutes before Mass - Rosary Procession  
Mass 8am & 11:30am & 4:00pm - 12:15 Adoration & Benediction

**Sat. May 2 - Knights of Columbus Food Collection**  
Collecting food before and after the 11:30am & 4:00pm Mass.

**Sat. May 2 - Men's Breakfast**  
9am Breakfast in the Cafeteria then from 9:30 to 10:30  
**Guest Speaker**, Deacon Thomas LaBelle - Topic: **How Evil Seeks Entry into Ordinary Lives** followed by Rosary in the Basilica, then 11:30am Mass 12:15 Adoration & Benediction.

**Sun. May 3 - Mary's Day**  
Special Rosary Procession, Benediction and Crowning of the Blessed Mother Statue that will be in the Rosary Procession.

**Sun. May 3 - Healing Mass at 6:30 pm in the Basilica with Fr. Daniel Ogbeifun**

**Sun. May 10 - Mother's Day Brunch (10:00 am to 3:00 pm)**

**Wed. May 13 - Anniversary of the 1st Apparition of Our Lady of Fatima**  
7:00 Rosary followed by a 7:30 Mass

**Sun. May 24 - Tagalog Mass at 1:30 in the Basilica**  
(followed by a social in Fatima Hall.)

### June 2026

(Dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus)

**Sat. June 6 - 1st Saturday Devotions (Same as above.)**

**Sun. June 7 - Healing Mass at 6:30 in the Basilica with Fr. Albino Vecina, CRSP**

### 2026 Healing Mass Schedule (May-Nov)



**May 3 - 6:30pm**  
Fr. Daniel Ogbeifun



**June 7 - 6:30pm**  
Fr. Albino Vecina



**July 5 - 6:30pm**  
To Be Determined

### OUR REGULAR HOURS

**OFFICE & GIFT SHOP**  
Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm  
Friday 9am-7pm  
Saturday & Sunday 9am-5pm

**CAFETERIA**  
Fridays 11am-7pm  
1st Saturdays 9am-3pm  
Sundays 10am - 4pm

### Why do we have 1st Saturday Devotions?

**First Saturday Devotions** is Our Lady of Fatima's personal request, on five consecutive first Saturdays: We are to go to Confession, receive Communion, Pray the Rosary, and spend 15 minutes meditating on the mysteries, this is to console and make reparation to her Immaculate Heart.



*In return, she promised her assistance at the hour of your death.*

### Our Lady of Fatima Shrine Invites You to our Special Mothers & Grandmothers Day Breakfast Brunch Sun. May 10, 2026 (10 am - 3 pm)

★ **This is an all-inclusive no extra cost event** ★



Includes: Drinks  
Breakfast Buffet

Soups and Salad Bar  
3 Main Entrée Choices

Vegetable Choices / Soups

**\$35.00 per person**  
**\$20.00 - Youth ages 5-15**  
**Free - Children under 5**

★ Tickets go on sale April 24th ★

### Did You Know - May 13, 1917

It was an ordinary spring afternoon in the Cova da Iria. The children were tending their sheep when a sudden flash of light cut across the clear sky, what Lucia later described as lightning without a storm. Instinctively they moved toward a small holm oak tree at the center of the hollow.

And there she was. A Lady more brilliant than the sun, standing above the branches, clothed in white with a rosary draped over her hands. She was young and beautiful and completely calm. The children were not terrified, they were transfixed. She told them not to be afraid. She asked if they were willing to offer themselves to God and bear the sufferings He would send them. She asked them to pray the Rosary every day to bring peace to the world and an end to the war then ravaging Europe.



Photo created with Co-Pilot.

Then she asked them to come back on the thirteenth of each month for six months. And just like that, on an ordinary afternoon in an ordinary field, the most significant series of Marian apparitions in modern history had begun.



# THE COVA

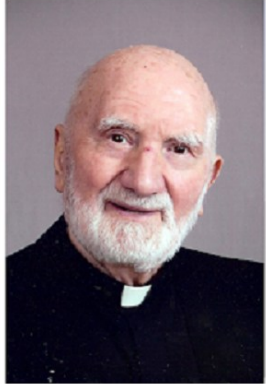
*"I am the Lady of the Rosary. Continue to pray the Rosary every day."  
Our Lady of Fatima*



## A BARNABITE MOMENT

### *Remembering Father Joseph Gariolo, CRSP*

*Born Giuseppe Gariuolo - Stigliano, Italy - March 6, 1924, died April 7, 2019*



There are people you meet in life whose presence alone teaches you something. Father Joseph Gariolo was one of those people for me.

During my year of discernment at the Barnabite seminary in 2018, I had the privilege of being in the same space as Father Joe on several occasions. I sat through some of his talks in the seminary chapel. I cannot tell you every word he said, I was new to all of it, still finding my footing in that season of my life, but I can tell you that his presence was unmistakable. There was a joy about him that filled a room without effort. A man that alive in his faith at his age was something I had not seen up close before. Looking back now, the life that had brought him to that chapel was nothing short of extraordinary.

He was born Giuseppe Gariuolo in Stigliano, a small village in southern Italy, the only boy among eight children. At thirteen years old he entered the Barnabite minor seminary. His novitiate began in 1942, but World War II bombings forced his class to relocate and finish in Monza. He was ordained a priest on April 8th, 1950, and shortly after was sent to Argentina as a missionary, where he became a teacher, earned a Master's Degree in Spanish Literature, and eventually moved into high school teaching.

In 1969 the Barnabites sent him to North America. He studied at the University of Buffalo and earned a double PhD in Spanish and Italian Literature. He went on to teach at Canisius College for thirty years. He ran the Spanish Apostolate in Buffalo. When Sts. Columba-Brigid Parish faced closure he stepped in as Administrator for four years and kept it alive almost by himself. He published scholarly and devotional works. He brought food to the poor. He had coffee and conversation with anyone who needed it.

He was officially assigned to our Shrine community here in Lewiston, and he is buried in the Barnabite Cemetery on these grounds.

His obituary contains a line that says everything: *Father Joe loved life*. You could feel that. Even sitting in a seminary chapel as a seminarian still figuring out which direction God was pointing me, I could feel that. A priest who entered religious life at thirteen and was still preaching and teaching and laughing and serving in the final weeks of his ninety-fifth year, that is not duty. That is love.

The Cova will be celebrating Barnabite priests who have gone before us in each issue. Father Joe is the first. He deserves to be.

*Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.*

## Little Chapel of Fatima



We are continuing the project we began last Fall, the complete restoration of our Little Chapel, a replica of the one in Fatima, Portugal. This work has been both a spiritual and practical undertaking, and we are deeply grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of everyone who has contributed to its success.



# THE COVA

*"Pray, pray much, and sacrifice for sinners, for many souls go to hell because there is no one to sacrifice and pray for them." Our Lady*



## ✠ PRAYER INTENTIONS ✠

Please remember in your prayers:

**The Barnabite Fathers**

Especially for the health and well-being of

**Frs. Richard Delzingaro,**

**Peter Calabrese and Albino Vecina**

and for the men around the world in **Barnabite Formation**, and  
the **Barnabite monthly intentions:**

**May:** That through the intercession of St. Joseph, the Lord may grant that His provident blessing may always shine upon the world of human work, troubled by so many uncertainties and difficulties, so that everyone may obtain and retain honest dignified work, and through it each person may find fulfilment, families may be supported with dignity, and society may become increasingly humane.

**Let Us Pray For**

**All those who asked the shrine for prayers.**

For an end of abortion and for world peace  
and for solidarity and victims of war.

Craig Allan	Dr. Megan Johnson	Elaine & Bob Pagani
Debbie Baldwin	Barbara Johnson	Joanne Robbins
Mary Bucciarelli	Peggy Johnson	Anne Sauvageau
Sue Campbell	Kathy Kean	Jackie, Kathy &
Tim Sledziewski	Camille Kiedrowski	Jeremy Slattery
Julie O'Connor-	Barbara Krueger	Abigail Schuster
Colvin	Ron Lester	Anthony Villa
Carmela Esposto	Jarod Lombardi	Jim Kirkpatrick
Kathy Gallagher	Gabriella Markle	Lisa Sfrangio
Dr. Talitha Arndt	Bill McKrell	Jacob Beanblossom
Pat Morreale	Paul Moran	JoAnn Sniatecki
Dorothy Janicki	Edward Grant	Jackie Jones
Wendy Sullivan	Anne Forrestel	Doug & Paula Grant
James W. Kirkpatrick Sr.		



For the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV and his Monthly Intentions:

<http://www.apostleshipofprayer.org/>

The Barnabite Fathers remember all visitors & Shrine supporters  
in their daily Community prayers, and thank you for yours.

### MASSES SCHEDULE

Monday-Friday 11:30 am & 4:00 pm  
Saturdays 8:00 am, 11:30 am & 4:00 pm  
Sundays 9:00 am, 12:00 Noon & 5:00 pm

Confessions 15 minutes before each Mass.

## BIBLE REFLECTION GROUP

**Mondays at 7:30pm in Fatima Hall**

Discussion to focus on the Readings  
for the upcoming Sunday Liturgy.

**PLEASE BRING A BIBLE**

**For info call:**

**Fr. Peter Calabrese at 754-7489**

**Would you like to JOIN US  
You can Remotely? on ZOOM**

**Meeting ID: 936 8091 2873**

**Password: 863876**

## To Jesus Through Mary

Saturdays Evenings  
@ 5:30 pm in the Basilica.



## The Legion of Mary at The Fatima Shrine

Our Praesidium -  
**Our Lady Mother  
of Divine Providence,**  
meets at 1:15 pm in Fatima  
Hall every Sunday, with the  
exception of the 4th  
Sunday when there's a  
Filipino Mass - on those days  
we meet at 10:00 am. We  
pray the rosary and  
structured prayer.  
**JOIN US!!**



## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

**Wed. & Fri. 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm**  
In the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Adorers are always needed... inquire at  
the shrine office or call 716-754-7489

St. Padre Pio had an extraordinary  
devotion to Eucharistic Adoration.



## Fatima Shrine Council #14622



...for information on membership to join,  
Call Fr. Peter Calabrese at 754-7489 .  
or you can e-mail the Council through .  
the Shrine: [office@fatimashrine.com](mailto:office@fatimashrine.com)



# THE COVA

*"I promise salvation to those who embrace devotion to my Immaculate Heart." Our Lady*



## Legion of Mary

**Praesidium: Our Lady Mother of Divine Providence**  
**... here at The Fatima Shrine**

### ***A Brief Introduction***

The Legion of Mary is one of the largest and most beloved lay Catholic organizations in the world. Founded in Dublin, Ireland in 1921 by the Servant of God Frank Duff, the Legion unites ordinary Catholics in an extraordinary mission, to sanctify themselves and bring others to Christ through Mary. Members meet weekly, pray together, and go out into the world in active apostolic service. Their spirituality is rooted in total consecration to Our Lady, and their works are as varied as the needs of the Church itself, visiting the sick, evangelizing, supporting parishes, and so much more.

The Legion has two forms of membership. Active members commit to weekly meetings and assigned apostolic works. Auxiliary members, equally valued and essential, commit to praying the daily Legion prayers, providing vital spiritual support from wherever they are. Both paths are a beautiful way to live out a deeper love for Our Lady and service to the Church.



Here at the Fatima Shrine, we are blessed to have a Legion of Mary chapter within our shrine family. My wife and I and my Mom, are Auxiliary members and we can tell you firsthand, our 6:00 pm Legion prayers are a powerful anchor of our daily prayer life. If you feel called to serve Our Lady in this structured and spirit-filled way, we warmly encourage you to explore membership. Whether active or auxiliary, there is a place for you.

**Are you interested in learning more? Please speak with us, we would love to connect with you.**  
[\*\*legionofmaryfatimashrine@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:legionofmaryfatimashrine@gmail.com)

### **Did You Know? - The Three Children**

Lucia dos Santos was ten years old. Her cousin Francisco Marto was nine and Jacinta Marto was just seven. They lived in a small village called Aljustrel near Fatima in central Portugal, and their daily jobs was simple, to take the sheep out, bring them home safely.

These are the three children Our Lady chose.

Not a bishop, or a priest, or a scholar. Three shepherd children who knew how to Pray the Rosary and how to be still in the fields while the world moved noisily around them.

Francisco and Jacinta were later beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and canonized by Pope Francis in 2017, the youngest non-martyred saints in the history of the Church. Lucia lived until 2005, spending her life as a Carmelite nun faithfully sharing everything Our Lady asked her to share.

God rarely chooses who we expect. He chooses who is ready.



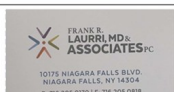
**\*\* As a Special THANK YOU for running ads for our Palm Sunday Brunch, we are sharing your ads in our Newsletter.**

#### Niagara Falls

Dr. Frank Laurri  
Dr. Annemarie Bannister  
Dr. Jamel Zohar  
Karnaell Macoretta, NP  
Sean Hailey, NP  
Stuart Nocera, PA  
Alexis Gill, PA

#### Clarence

Dr. Ryan Weber  
Elizabeth Sindlak, PA  
Stuart Nocera, PA (Wed only)



**Dr. Frank & Mrs. Mia Laurri**

With great love & gratitude to Our Lady of Fatima and the Barnabite Fathers!



Retail/Wholesale Garden Center  
Lawn Maintenance • Landscaping  
Hydro Seeding • Snow Plowing  
Top Soil • Stone • Mulch

Fully Insured

Retail/Wholesale

1527 Ridge Road  
Lewiston, NY 14092

716-754-4999 / 754-2622 Fax

Jason A. Lombardi  
President



#### **DR. RICHARD L. SAWICKI**

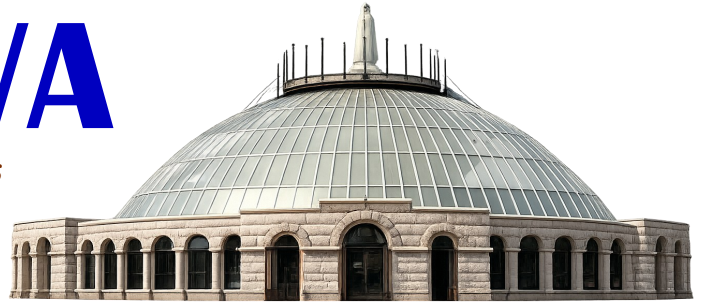
Diplomate American Board Podiatric Surgery- Fellow American College Foot & Ankle Surgery  
Board Certified Foot Surgeon  
8657 Buffalo Ave., Niagara Falls, NY  
Phone: 716-283-3338  
Fax: 716-283-3452

PODIATRIC MEDICINE & FOOT SURGERY  
Medicare & Most Insurance/HMOs Accepted.  
"Put Your Feet in Dr. Sawicki's Hands."



# THE COVA

*"The time for doubting Fatima has passed. The time for action is now." Pope Pius XII*



## Fatima Shrine Gift Shop

### A Treasure Worth Exploring

Serving customers since our earliest days here at the Shrine. Our Gift Shop carries tens of thousands of Catholic items including: Rosaries, Statues, Books, Prayer Cards and so much more. If you haven't visited us in person yet, time to plan a Road-Trip. Donna has done an absolute wonderful job stocking the gift shop with so many beautiful, wonderful and unique items.

The Gift Shop is open 7 days a week.

Sat - Thurs.: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Friday's 9:00 am - 7:00 pm.

## Come Visit The Gift Shop



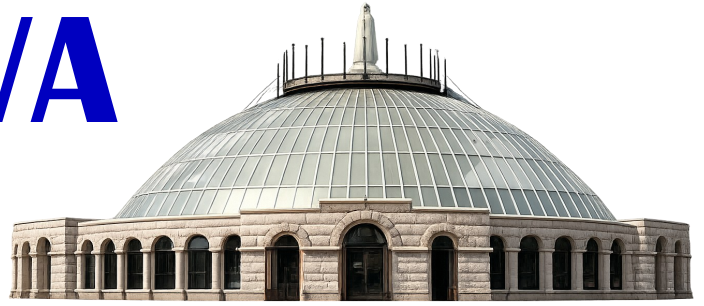
Bill Quinlivan  
I think I can see books and CDs by... myself there!!! 😊  
4w Love Reply Hide 1





# THE COVA

*"Pray the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." Our Lady*



## Our Lady's Rosary Makers of The Fatima Shrine

Established June 20, 2023

### ***Something Beautiful Is Happening Here***

On June 20, 2023, a small and faith-filled group gathered at the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima with cord, beads, ready and a whole lot of love for Our Lady. What has grown from that beginning is nothing short of breathtaking. Today, Our Lady's Rosary Makers of the Fatima Shrine is a flourishing, multi-location ministry. Here at the Shrine, our home base and the heart of everything, we have grown to over 53 members and counting. Beyond Lewiston, our family now extends to what we call "Annexes" to Bemus Point, New York; Branch, Arkansas; Albany, New York; and a remarkable and vibrant community of 40 to 60 members in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, we even have an Annex in Bukidnon, Mindanao, Philippines. In less than three years together, our hands have produced close to 30,000+ rosaries, and every single one of them was freely given away.

### ***Where Do the Rosaries Go?***

Our rosaries travel. They go to Mount St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston and to Roswell Park Cancer Institute, one of the nation's foremost cancer care facilities, where they are distributed to patients and staff across multiple locations throughout Western New York. They go to many Catholic schools for First Communion and Confirmation students. They go to visiting pilgrims, mission territories, and anyone who reaches out with a need while visiting the shrine. We never charge. We never ask for anything in return. Every box of rosaries leaves our hands with a letter that says simply: Let us know if you need more. We also have one Rosary Maker who travels the world, India, Vietnam, etc., distributing rosaries to many people and organizations Shanthi knows personally.

Our ministry is funded entirely through fundraisers and the generosity of our supporters, so that every rosary we place in someone's hands is a pure and unconditional gift.

### ***Why Cord Rosaries?***

Every rosary we make is hand-knotted with cord and built to last a lifetime and beyond. The oldest rosary in our ministry was made in 1989 and is still worn and prayed with every single day. Thirty-seven years later, not a bead out of place. That is the testimony we carry into every training session, and it never fails to inspire.

### ***Come Join Us***

Our ministry is growing, month by month, bead by bead, and we would love for you to be part of it. No experience is needed. We fully train you; we welcome you, and we promise: this will change your life. Whether you join us at the Shrine or connect with one of our growing groups, there is a place for you at this table.

Our ministry is also featured twice daily on EWTN Radio every single day, inviting listeners across the region, (Western and Central and Northern NY, Northern PA, a huge portion of Massachusetts, and southern Ontario.) to discover the joy of rosary making. The response has been wonderful, and it is creating a huge growth in our ministry.

**For more information, contact us at:**  
[RosaryManJim@yahoo.com](mailto:RosaryManJim@yahoo.com)



Fr Larry Richards Church will also be joining us.





# THE COVA

*"The message of Fatima is more relevant and more urgent than ever." Pope St. John Paul II*



**Celebrating our Love for Mary throughout May.**

## Our Lady of Czestochowa



Original picture made with Co-Pilot.

There is a hill in Poland called Jasna Gora, the Bright Hill, and on that hill stands a monastery that has become the beating heart of an entire nation. Inside its chapel hangs a painting of the Mother of God that tradition traces all the way back to Saint Luke the Evangelist, painted on wood cut from the table of the Last Supper. Whether that tradition can be proven matters very little to the Polish people. What matters is what that image has meant to them through a thousand years of invasion, persecution, partition, and suffering.

The painting has scars. During the Hussite raids of the fifteenth century, a soldier drew his sword and struck Our Lady's cheek twice. When he raised his arm for a third blow he fell dead on the spot. Artists were later commissioned to restore the image but no human skill could remove those sword strokes. They are still there today. Poland decided to leave them. Some wounds, it turns out, tell the truth better than any restoration could.

Through Swedish invasions, Prussian sieges, Russian occupation, the Nazi terror of 1939, and decades of Communism, the Polish people did the same thing every single time, they turned to her. Not as a last resort. As a first response. She is not merely a patroness to them. She is their Queen, their identity, the reason they survived when every earthly reason for survival was gone.

When a million Polish pilgrims gathered at Jasna Gora in 1956 they made a vow, nine years of prayer to prepare for the thousandth anniversary of Poland's conversion to Christianity. They called it the Great Novena. A Communist government tried to stop it. Our Lady of Czestochowa was not impressed.

She is still there on the Bright Hill. The sword scars are still on her cheek. And Poland is still Catholic.

## Mary, Queen of the Apostles



Original picture made with Co-Pilot.

Our Blessed Mother was in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit descended. She had walked with the Apostles, prayed with them, and possessed in perfection every virtue they were blessed to acquire.

*Mary, Queen of the Apostles, pray for us.*

**\*\* As a Special THANK YOU for running ads for our Palm Sunday Brunch, we are sharing your ads in our Newsletter.**



**THE STATION OF THE CROSS**  
CATHOLIC MEDIA NETWORK  
101.7 FM Buffalo - New York

**LEWISTON EYECARE**  
**DR. JOSEPH S. HARGRAVE**  
Adult and Pediatric Exams  
Designer Eyewear Contact Lenses  
225 Portage Road  
Lewiston, New York 14092 (716) 754-8816

"Dedicated to Service" - Since 1938  
**Rhoney Funeral Home, Inc.**  
Cayuga & S. 9th Sts. Lewiston, NY (716) 754-2526  
1124 Ontario Ave. Niagara Falls, NY (716) 285-3436  
5893 Hoover Rd. Sanborn, NY (716) 731-9350  
[www.rhoneyfuneralhome.com](http://www.rhoneyfuneralhome.com)



# THE COVA

*"Fatima is without doubt the most prophetic of modern apparitions."  
Pope St. Paul VI*



## Marian Saints of May

### St. Joseph the Worker

*May 1*

The very first day of May belongs to the foster father of Our Lord and the devoted husband of Our Lady. St. Joseph the Worker reminds us that holiness lives in ordinary daily labor offered to God. He who protected Mary and Jesus on earth protects us still from his place in Heaven.

***St. Joseph, pray for us.***



### St. Bernardine of Siena

*May 20*

A beloved Franciscan preacher of 15th century Italy, St. Bernardine was renowned for his passionate devotion to both the Holy Name of Jesus and the Blessed Mother. He traveled tirelessly across Italy drawing enormous crowds with his fiery and joyful preaching, and his deep love for Our Lady infused everything he said and did.

***St. Bernardine of Siena, pray for us.***



### St. Philip Neri

*May 26*

Known as the Apostle of Rome and one of the most joyful saints in the Church's history, St. Philip Neri had a particular tenderness for Our Lady that marked his entire spiritual life. He founded the Oratory movement and drew countless souls back to God through humor, warmth, and deep prayer, a reminder that holiness and joy were never meant to be separated.

***St. Philip Neri, pray for us.***



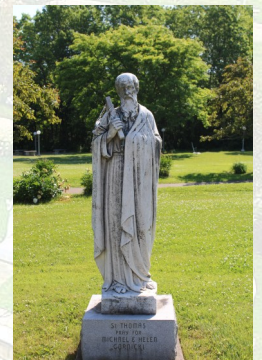
### St. Pius V

*May 30*

This fierce and holy Dominican pope is the man behind one of the greatest Marian miracles in history. When the Christian fleet faced overwhelming odds at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, Pope Pius V called all of Europe to pray the Rosary. The victory that followed was so stunning and so unexpected that he credited it entirely to Our Lady. He immediately established the feast of Our Lady of Victory, later renamed Our Lady of the Rosary, celebrated every October 7th. Every time you pick up your rosary beads, St. Pius V is somewhere smiling.

*St. Pius V was a powerful friend to the Barnabite Fathers, granting them papal confirmation and entrusting them with key reform missions during the Church's renewal after the Council of Trent.*

***St. Pius V, pray for us.***



It would help us greatly if we could email you the Newsletter, it will save postage for the shrine. If you would like The Fatima Shrine Newsletter emailed to you.

Let us know by emailing us at: [fatimashrinecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fatimashrinecommunications@gmail.com)

**The QR Code simplifies the email direct to our offices. Thank You.**



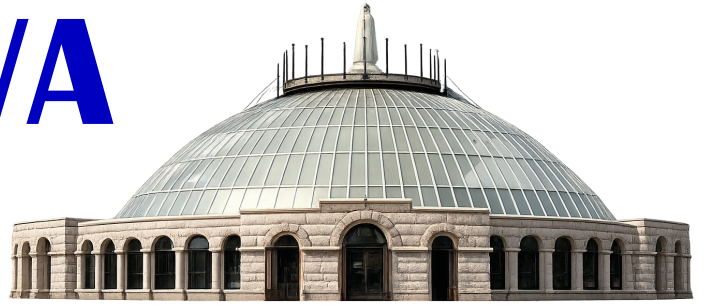
SUBSCRIBE





# THE COVA

*"Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because He is already so much offended."  
Our Lady of Fatima*



Celebrating our Love for Mary throughout May.

## The Seven Joys of Mary



Original picture made with Co-Pilot.

The Franciscans have always known that joy is not the opposite of devotion, it is the heart of it. And so they gave us this beautiful meditation on the seven greatest joys of Our Lady's life, each one a moment where heaven and earth touched and Mary's heart was full.

The **1st Joy was the Annunciation**. An angel appeared and told a young woman from Nazareth that she had been chosen to be the Mother of God. She who asked only to be a handmaid of the Lord was told she would carry the Lord Himself. That moment, that yes, changed everything.

The **2nd Joy was the Visitation**. Mary didn't keep the news to herself. She went over the hills to her cousin Elizabeth, who was also with child, and the moment Mary arrived the baby in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy. Two mothers, two miraculous pregnancies, one house full of the Holy Spirit.

The **3rd Joy was The Nativity**. Every mother who has ever held her newborn child has touched the outermost edge of what Mary felt in Bethlehem. She brought the Son of God into the world, wrapped Him in cloth, and held Him against her heart. Christmas has never been anything less than that moment echoing forward through every generation.

The **4th Joy was the Epiphany**. Wise men came from distant lands following a star, knelt before a Child, and offered Him gifts worthy of a King. Every mother is happy when the world recognizes what she already knows about her child. Mary had known since the Annunciation. Now the world was beginning to catch up.

The **5th Joy was Finding Jesus in the Temple**. After three days of frantic searching Mary and Joseph found Him among the teachers and scholars, listening and asking questions that left learned men astonished. The sorrow of those three days made the finding all the sweeter. She had lost Him and then found Him, and that contrast, that relief, that rush of love, is something every mother who has ever feared for her child understands completely.

The **6th Joy was the Resurrection**. After the agony of Good Friday, after standing at the foot of the Cross and watching her Son die, Mary saw Him risen. Whatever words exist in any language are not enough for that moment. The grief of Calvary was as deep as grief can go, and so the joy of Easter morning was as high as joy can reach.

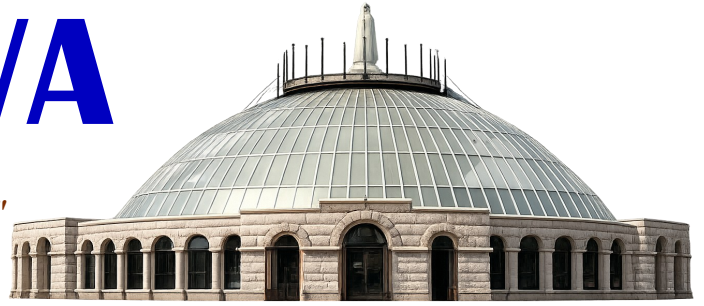
The **7th and Crowning Joy was the Assumption and Coronation**. Mary was taken body and soul into heaven and crowned Queen of heaven and earth by her own Divine Son. No creature before or since has been so honored. And what makes it purely joy rather than mere triumph is this, she never sought it. She sought only to serve. And that is precisely why she received everything.

Seven joys. Seven moments when a mother's heart was filled to overflowing. And not one of them was accidental. Every single one was a gift, from the God who loved her first, and loves us enough to give her to us as our own.



# THE COVA

*"The time for doubting Fatima has passed. The time for action is now."  
Pope Pius XII*



## The Story of Our Lady of Fatima

### The Angel Came First

Before Our Lady ever appeared at Fatima, God sent an angel to prepare three young shepherd children for what was coming. In 1916 the Angel of Peace appeared three times to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta in the fields outside their village. He taught them prayers of reparation, he brought them Holy Communion, and he told them to pray and make sacrifices because the hearts of Jesus and Mary had merciful designs for them. Heaven does not rush. It prepares. And when Our Lady finally appeared on **May 13th**, 1917, those three children were ready.



### She Came on the 13th

On May 13th, 1917, three shepherd children were tending their flock in the Cova da Iria when a flash of light drew their eyes to a small holm oak tree. Standing above it, more brilliant than the sun, was a Lady dressed in white. She was young and beautiful and radiated a peace that none of them had words for. She asked them to return on the thirteenth of each month for six months. She asked them to pray the Rosary every day for peace. She asked them if they were willing to suffer for the conversion of sinners. They said yes without hesitation. They were children. They meant it completely.

### The Secret She Carried

Our Lady entrusted the three children with a secret in three parts. The first part was a terrifying vision of hell, shown so that the children would understand what souls face without God's mercy. The second part was a prophecy, that if mankind did not stop offending God, a worse war than the first would come, announced by a mysterious light in the night sky. It came. On January 25th, 1938, an extraordinary aurora borealis lit up the skies over Europe. Within months the world was at war again. Heaven had warned us. Heaven always warns us.

### Francisco and Jacinta

Of the three children, Francisco and Jacinta were told they would be taken to heaven soon. Francisco died of influenza on April 4th, 1919. He was ten years old. Jacinta followed on February 20th, 1920. She was nine. Both had suffered enormously and offered every moment of it for sinners. Pope John Paul II beatified them in the year 2000 at Fatima itself, the first time in Church history that non-martyred children had been raised to the altar. They were not saints because they died young. They were saints because they loved completely.

### She Asked for So Little

Our Lady's requests at Fatima were not complicated. Pray the Rosary every day. Make sacrifices for sinners. Observe the First Saturday devotion. Consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart. She did not ask for grand gestures or heroic deeds beyond the reach of ordinary people. She asked for faithfulness in small things, daily prayer, personal sacrifice, devotion to her Heart. The simplicity of her requests is itself a message. Heaven is not looking for the extraordinary. Heaven is looking for the willing.

### She Is Still Waiting

Fatima was not a moment in history. It is a conversation that has not yet finished. Our Lady came to Fatima because she loves us too much to stay silent while the world drifts toward its own destruction. She wept. She pleaded. She showed the children visions that left them trembling. And then she promised, in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph. Not might triumph. Will. The outcome is not in question. What remains in question is how many souls will have said yes to her before that triumph comes. She is still asking. **The Cova** da Iria is still open. And Our Lady of Fatima is still waiting for our answer.



*Our Lady of Fatima - Pray For Us*



# THE COVA

*"The message of Fatima is more relevant and more urgent than ever." Pope St. John Paul II*



## HEAR IT, LIVE IT, LOVE IT



Imagine if you will a property so vast that it covers one quarter of the city? It is real!

Translate your imagination into reality as we visit a City in Portugal named Fatima. It is therein that exists an expanse of land once owned by the dos Santos family called **the Cova da Iria**.

In this pristine location is where the three shepherd children lovingly guarded and pastured the flocks in their charge. That was their primary responsibility as children during that historical timeframe.

But - the Cova da Iria was not simply an expanse of real estate; there was a far deeper meaning to its name.

The word "Iria" is a Portuguese name when translated into English becomes "Irene."

Etymologically, Irene is derived from the Greek (Eirene) meaning "peace."

How spiritually fitting is it that Our Blessed Lady, Mother Mary appeared to Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia in a place, a place of vast acreage crowned with the name of "peace!"

The message of Our Lady to the three shepherds at Fatima has echoed for over one hundred years – Pray the Rosary - Pray for Peace! That message clothes itself with significance because the Cova da Iria echoes perpetually the eternal message and words of Christ after the Resurrection - "Peace be with you!"

Even though the message from Our Blessed Lord resounds through the centuries, mankind hears but does not internalize the placidity, the gentleness and the astounding beauty that only heavenly peace can bring.

There is a song about peace with lyrics terminating in the wording-"...and let it begin with me!" Peace must begin in the heart of every man with rewards that are heavenly. It is then that mankind can echo the eternal words of Christ-"peace be with you!" with heartfelt love.

Alfred J. Picogna OFS

### Fatima Shrine's Famous FISH FRY



## \$15.50

Haddock Fish (deep fried or baked) French Fries or Baked Potato, Cole Slaw and a Roll & Butter.

Cafeteria is Open Friday's 11am - 7pm

### KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS at The Fatima Shrine



Council #14622

Catholic Men 18 & over are eligible to join!

Call: Fr. Peter Calabrese at (716) 523-9114 or

[pmccrsp@fatimashrine.com](mailto:pmccrsp@fatimashrine.com)



\*\* As a Special THANK YOU for running ads for our Palm Sunday Brunch, we are sharing your ads in our Newsletter.

**STEVE'S**  
Auto  
2047 River Rd  
Niagara Falls, NY 14304  
716-236-AUTO (2886)  
Appt. Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**STEVE'S**  
AUTOMOTIVE  
INC.

**Firth**  
JEWELERS  
Go Forth To Firth's!  
THOMAS JOHN LAURRIE  
2435 Military Road / Niagara Falls, New York 14304  
Tel: 716-297-2210 Fax: 716-297-9217  
firthjewelers.com / sales@firthjewelers.com

**Irwin Roofing**  
Since 1961  
•SIDING  
•COMMERCIAL WORK  
•WINDOWS  
•ROOFING  
**JIM IRWIN**  
(716) 873-5650  
79 Brendan Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217

Operated by CRB Holdings, Inc.  
Owner: Robert W. Burns

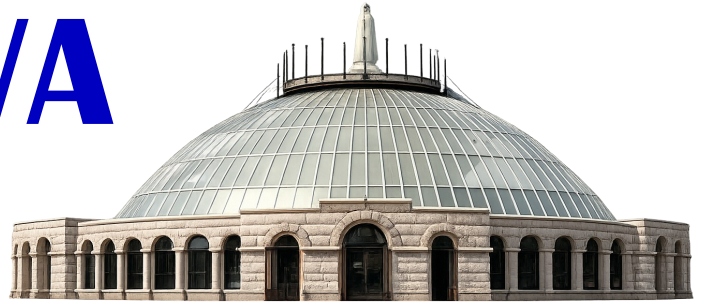
8580 Niagara Falls Blvd.  
(716) 927-6644  
3023 River Ave.  
(716) 523-5410  
4748 Military Rd.  
(716) 527-2544  
2348 Niagara Rd.  
(716) 713-2146  
2729 Military Rd.  
(716) 713-2112  
2879 Saunders Settlement Rd.  
(716) 714-2112  
780 Center St. Lewiston  
(716) 714-2112  
Quakertown, PA 222 Route 208 (NEW)

**LIBERTY**  
UNIVERSITY  
Buffalo Chapter open to alumni, current students & their family!  
**ALUMNI**  
  
Scan to join our Facebook page!



# THE COVA

*"The message of Fatima is more relevant and more urgent than ever." Pope St. John Paul II*



**Celebrating our Love for Mary throughout May.**

## May 31 - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Original picture made with Co-Pilot.

Mary had just said yes to the most extraordinary moment in human history. The angel had gone. And what did Mary do next? She didn't sit still. She went.

The Gospel of Luke tells us that Mary, pregnant, traveled in haste to the hill country of Judea to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was herself with child. The moment Mary arrived and called out in greeting, the baby in Elizabeth's womb, John, who would become

the Baptist, leaped for joy. Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out words the Church has never stopped repeating: "*Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.*" This is who Mary is, as soon as she receives God's grace, she immediately brings it to someone else. She doesn't keep Jesus to herself. She carries Him straight to the door of someone who needs Him.

At Fatima, she did the same thing. She came. She traveled to three small children in ***The Cova*** because the world needed what she was carrying.

**Mary continues to always direct us to Jesus.**

*Mary, our Lady of the Visitation, teach us to bring Jesus wherever we go. Amen.*

## Come visit The Fatima Shrine

### **Our Lady of Fatima Atop the Dome**

Climb 63 steps to the top of the dome and come face-to-face with a breathtaking statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

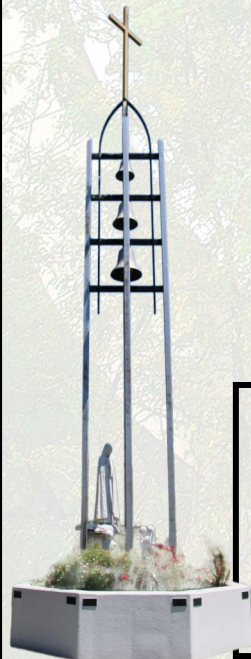
Masterfully sculpted from Vermont granite, this awe-inspiring statue stands an impressive 13 feet tall and weighs a remarkable 10 tons. At night, the stone's natural grayish hue transforms under the spotlights into something truly magical, she glows like a radiant beacon, visible to all who look upon her.



### **The Bell Tower**

It stands 48 feet tall, was built during the 25th Anniversary Year of the Shrine in 1981. The statues of Our Lady of Fatima and the three children are at the base of the Bell Tower, attracting countless thousands of pilgrims since the Shrine began. The Bell Tower was built and dedicated to the memory of Barnabite Father Charles M.

Barlassina, who served at the shrine.





# THE COVA

*"I promise salvation to those who embrace devotion to my Immaculate Heart." Our Lady*



## Come Visit The Relic Area In the Basilica at The Fatima Shrine



**The Barnabite Fathers cordially invite you to experience the Reliquary Gallery at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Lewiston, NY.**

Located within the quiet ambulatory of the Dome, the Relic Area offers a unique opportunity for prayerful veneration of sacred artifacts and historical art. Among the gallery's treasures, we also invite you to view the Statue of St. Michael the Archangel. This powerful figure was painstakingly restored by the late Fr. Julio Ciavaglia and Mary Ann Buchan, serving as a testament to their devotion and artistry.

While visiting, you may also reflect before the magnificent 24-foot "Peace Mural" by Josef Slawinski and view the significant collection of Barnabite relics housed within the granite-walled sanctuary.

**Come find a moment of "peace-filled" stillness and spiritual renewal.**



**\*\* As a Special THANK YOU for running ads for our Palm Sunday Brunch, we are sharing your ads in our Newsletter.**

**Jamie's ICE CREAM**  
716-693-6605

**WURST PIZZERIA**  
716-694-4799

1481 Nash Rd, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**SIEDLECKI**  
Cataract & Vision Care

**ANDREW J. SIEDLECKI, M.D.**  
Medical Director & CEO  
Certified Cataract & Lens Implant Specialist

716.634.8500

Williamsville • N. Tonawanda • Orchard Park

www.EyesOnBuffalo.com

INTEGRITY • EXPERIENCE • INNOVATION

**Guido's Upholstering & Decorating Center**  
2722 Pine Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14301

**Custom Made Furniture  
Upholstery Repairs  
Decorator Advice  
Guido & Sylvia Virtuoso**

Follow Guido's on Facebook & Instagram!

Phone/Fax: (716) 284-6505  
Commercial & Residential

Email: guidosupholstering@gmail.com  
www.guidosupholstering.com

**BUZZY'S**  
FAMOUS NY STYLE PIZZA & BUFFALO WINGS

**DINE-IN TAKEOUT DELIVERY**  
**283-5333**  
7617 NIAGARA FALLS BLVD.  
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

www.buzzyspizza.com