



St. Mary of the Fields

A Diocesan Shrine of the
Diocese of Peoria

Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary
Our Lady Of Mercy
Hooppole, Illinois

c/o Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 305 West South Avenue, Annawan ,IL 61234

Greetings of peace and mercy to all of you, friends of our Holy Mother Mary and children of Her Immaculate Heart of compassion and mercy!!!

The people of St. Mary of the Fields parish, home of the Shrine of our Holy Mother of Mercy invite you to be part of our 4 remaining months of prayer and celebration of the Divine Mercy poured forth for our salvation in the blood and water from the pierced side of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. We will draw near to this Divine Mercy by our prayer and devotion in honor of our Mother of Mercy: Mary, the Mother of God.

As in recent years you are invited to participate in the monthly Holy Hour of prayer and the communion in faith which is ours in our Holy Catholic Church in the power and presence of our Eucharistic Lord whom we praise, adore and glorify in coming together with Him to implore mercy for our wounded souls and our poor, broken world.

Please note the scheduling change we have adopted for this coming season of 2009. **THE HOLY HOUR WILL BE HELD NOT ON THE 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AS IN PAST YEARS BUT ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTHS OF MAY THROUGH OCTOBER BEGINNING AT 2:00 PM.**

After the Holy Hour each month, you are welcome to stay for the potluck which we share together immediately following the Holy Hour. In addition to the transfer of the

Holy Hours from the 2nd to the 1st Sunday of each month, we have changed the monthly themes and focus of our devotions. This year of 2009 will see each year devoted to a particular historical apparition of Our Holy Mother Mary which has received the official approval of Our Catholic Church as worthy of our belief and devotion.



The remaining schedule for the 2009 Holy Hours is as follows:

2:00 PM First Sunday of the Month

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 5th | Our Lady of Lourdes |
| August 2nd | Our Lady of Guadalupe |
| September 6th | Our Lady of Knock |
| October 4th | Our Lady of Banneux |
| | Our Lady of Beauraing |

Further, we have declared the year 2009 at St. Mary of the Fields as the “Year of the Children.” Each month we will welcome children to the Holy Hour with special features planned to include the children in a particular way and to provide each child present with a special “sacramental” in honor of Our Lady as she is known to us from the apparition which is the theme of the Holy Hour. We are hoping that many families will bring their children to participate in the Holy Hours.

1) In July, on the first Sunday, July 5th, we will honor Mary as Our Lady of Lourdes, the title she revealed to us during her apparitions in 1858 to fourteen-year-old Marie Bernade (St. Bernadette) Soubirous. Between February 11 and July 16, 1858, the Blessed Virgin appeared eighteen times, and showed herself to St. Bernadette in the hollow of the rock at Lourdes. On March 25 she said to the little shepherdess who was only fourteen years of age: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Since then Lourdes has become a place of pilgrimage and many cures and conversions have taken place. The message of Lourdes is a call to personal conversion, prayer, and charity.

2) In August on the 2nd we will honor Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1910 Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of Latin America, and in 1945 Pope Pius XII declared Her to be the Empress of all the Americas. She appeared to an Indian convert named Juan Diego on December 9, 1531. She left a marvelous portrait of herself on the mantle of Juan Diego. This miraculous image has proved to be ageless, and is kept in the shrine built in her honor, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Please plan to be with us again on July 5th and August 2nd. Please bring your children, grandchildren or neighbor children.



