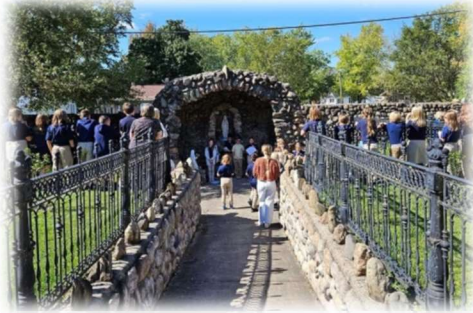


Have you visited the St. Joseph, Our Lady of Lourds, Grotto?
It is just north, up the block, on the left.

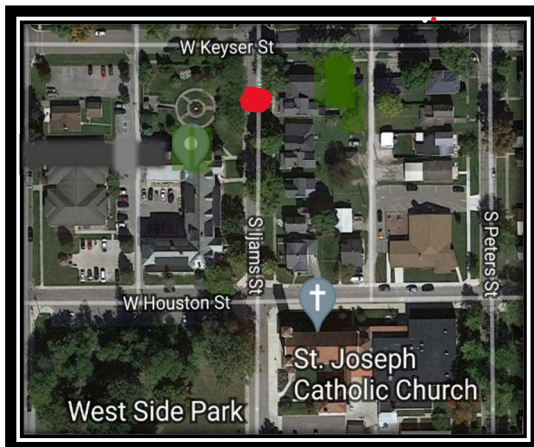


School children visit to pray the Rosary,

And to bring flowers for May Crowning.



Couples walk over for a visit
after their wedding ceremony.



The purpose of this shrine
is to provide a quiet place
of reflection.

Please plan to attend the
dinner and help the
Knights of Columbus
preserve this quiet place
for generations to come.

Knights of
Columbus



Can't make it to the dinner, but want to help, donations are accepted.

Italian Dinner Buffet Grotto Restoration Fund-raiser

Saturday, February 3

Bennett Hall (Church basement)

Dinner tickets are \$20.00 each

Doors open at 5:30pm with social hour.

Dinner begins 6:15pm

Cash raffle tickets \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for 6.

Contact John Blomeke (603)770-7047 or a member

of the Knights of Columbus

Donations are also accepted.



A short History of the St. Joseph, Our Lady of Lourdes, Grotto

In 1940, the Franciscan Sisters, who operated the Sacred Heart Hospital in the 200 block of South Ijams Street, commissioned the construction of a grotto to be built adjacent to the hospital on the north side. The purpose of this religious shrine was to provide a quiet place of reflection for the Sisters and the patients they served.

Since construction completed construction of the Our Lady of Lourdes grotto in 1941. The structure contains more than 200 tons of native stone and measures 17 ft. long, 7 ft. wide and 12 ft. in height, with an 8 ft. high stone fence which runs 80 ft. on the north and south side of the grotto along the west alleyway. The floor of the grotto is 4 foot below ground level. Originally the grotto featured a waterfall on the south side and a small bridge over a pool of water in front. These water features no longer exist.

Central to every Lourdes grotto is a statue of the Blessed Mother and Bernadette, the peasant girl to whom she appeared in 1858 in Lourdes, France. This grotto contained a large statue of Mary placed in a niche hand-inlaid with hundreds of quartz stones from over 20 states.

Reverend Charles Scholl from Rochester, Indiana, the brother of Sister Superior Salome of Sacred Heart Hospital, did the inlay work. Using a spoon for a trowel and a match to set the mortar around the stones, he also decorated a base for the statue of Bernadette. The remainder of the area was landscaped with evergreens and a central bed of roses that contained a birdbath.

A public dedication of the grotto was held on August 15, 1941 at 7:30 p.m. Following a service in the hospital chapel, a procession to the grotto was led by St. Joseph pastor Father John Bennett, hospital chaplain Father George Hassor, and Father Scholl. Procession participants included 31 sisters who carried candles while chanting the psalms and 200 members of the Garrett community. Father Hassor blessed the grotto and Father Bennett gave the dedication address. He explained the history of Christian art and the Lourdes religious site. Father Bennett then thanked the sisters for providing a place of rest, peace and inspiration.

In 1953, a second ceremony was held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the hospital. A beautiful statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was installed in the center rose garden in remembrance of three Franciscan sisters who were killed in an auto accident in 1951.

The end of this decade saw the sale of the hospital and the decline of the grotto and gardens. The property remained in a state of severe neglect for over 40 years.

Due to strong community and civic support, developer Terry Keusch deeded the property over to St. Joseph Parish with the stipulation it be returned to use as a grotto and park. Private donations and volunteer labor produced a cleanup and restoration of the grounds.

History repeated itself during the year of the Rosary on Oct. 6, 2003.

After an evening Mass filled with members from the Garrett community, participants proceeded to the grotto for the return of the Our Lady of Lourdes statue.

Father Thom Lombardi blessed the statue. "When someone who is hurting, is lost, or is seeking peace, this is where our lady will do her wonders," he said.

Under the care of dedicated volunteers headed by Dave Marti and Ralph and Carolyn DePaolo, the gardens have continued to thrive. The site provides a yearlong place of beauty open to the entire Garrett community. Volunteers are always welcome.

(KPC News, Oct. 11, 2015

<https://www.kpcnews.com/news/latest/garrettclipper/article>)

