



Shrine for Mary Gets a Facelift

The shrine to Mary, Mother of the Word on St. Francis Borgia-North parish grounds, is getting a facelift this year, thanks to the generous donation of a parishioner. Jim Kacmarcik made a donation to the parish last fall to enhance the shrine with eight additional statues of saints, a new altar top, enhancement of the grounds and improved lighting.

The shrine was donated by Jim's father, the late Tom Kacmarcik, as a tribute to his wife after her death in 1999. Tom died several months before the dedication in September 2000. When completed, it included cedar trellises atop a limestone-faced pergola with life-size statues of Mary flanked by two angels and smaller statues of St. Joseph, St. Catherine, St. Thomas and St. Matthew.

The improvements are set to be completed sometime this summer. "We are elated with this spectacular upgrade of the shrine," said Darryl Draeger, director of administration. "The parish is forever grateful to the Kacmarcik family for making this possible."

The shrine is open for individual private prayer at any time, and has been used for rosary devotions, Eucharistic processions, and occasionally for weddings. It will be the site of the May crowning, which will take place after the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 5. Those who participated in this year's first Communion are encouraged to dress in their special first Communion outfits and attend Mass. After church, they will line up on the plaza and be part of a procession to the shrine, where a blessing and May crowning will take place.

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