

Our Lady of Lourdes quasi-Parish celebrates first Mass

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Editor

"Grant that we who remember this solemn feast today may be shielded by her protection and attain everlasting happiness." Opening prayer, feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

St. John the Baptist Missioner Father Shannon Collins, pastor, was the celebrant, July 16 — the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel — for the first Mass celebrated at the newly erected Our Lady of Lourdes quasi-Parish, Park Hills. About 150 people — a standing-room-only crowd — attended the solemn high Mass, "offered in gratitude for all the blessings that we have received, for all the benefactors, all those that have made this quasi-parish of Our Lady of Lourdes possible," said Father Collins as he began his homily.

Bishop Roger Foys erected, June 24, Our Lady of Lourdes personal, quasi-parish for the Christian faithful of the Diocese of Covington attached to the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite.

knowing that July 16 was the last of 18 appearances made by Mary to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France, Father Collins said, "How appropriate, how fitting it is that we have our first Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes quasi-Parish on this wondrous day. We now have a place of protection and we have a place of refuge. We now have an official home for tradition.

"There are so many individuals to thank, beginning with the good Lord, Our Lady of Lourdes, her true husband, St. Joseph; the greatest of all prophets and our patron, St. John the Baptist; our kind bishop, his Excellency Roger Foys; and our favorite Franciscan, Father Valentine, a member of our board of directors, and all of our benefactors, those here today and those throughout the country who have been so generous to us, and to all the volunteer workers without whom, literally, this first Mass would not have been able to happen."

Referring to the turmoil, violence and sin present in the world today Father Collins said, "If of us long for a safe place, for refuge — let's call it even a cave — as we await a future time of restoration and peace... (T)hat is why we chose the name of this parish to be Our Lady of Lourdes. The blessed Mother of God appeared to St. Bernadette standing in the niche of a grotto. Our Lady came to a cave and from there she brought forth the miracles of healing, conversion, restoration and peace. We hope, therefore, that this parish will be a place of refuge, a place of protection and a place of restoration and peace.

"We should have great hope. For such a cave cannot remain hidden for long. A people followed Bernadette to the grotto of Lourdes, so (people) will come here to this parish looking for the Catholic faith. They will look for the traditional Latin Mass. They will look for the Roman ritual. They will seek the healing of Christ that comes from his Blessed Mother, and, yes, they will come for protection. Not a protection founded upon manufactured weapons but rather the supernatural protection of the omnipotent God and his gift of grace and his wondrous miracles."

The quasi-parish's first Mass was, and upcoming Masses will be, celebrated in the newly remodeled church undercroft until the main church is renovated. The church is located at 1101 Amsterdam Road, Park Hills.



(above) Nearly 150 people, a standing-room-only crowd, gathered, July 16, for the first Mass held at the newly erected Our Lady of Lourdes quasi-Parish, Park Hills. The Mass was held in the church undercroft, which was quickly (in three weeks' time) and dramatically transformed from a dark and empty theatre-like space into sacred worship space which includes an altar, reredos, Communion rail, pews, tabernacle, tabernacle light, Stations of the Cross, a vigil to St. Bernadette and statues of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John the Baptist and the Infant of the Prague, and an organ (not pictured). The quasi-parish, operated by the Missionaries of St. John the Baptist, is currently renovating the main body of the church as its permanent worship space.

(left) Musicians for the first Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes quasi-Parish included Marie Kleiman, organist, and Michael McNay, choir member.



(left) Father Shannon Collins, pastor, gives the absolution [the indulgentiam] after the altar servers prayed the second Confiteor. The indulgentiam is the response of the priest to the Confiteor (the Penitential Rite) that is prayed after the consecration and just prior to the distribution of Holy Communion in the extraordinary form of the Roman Rite. In both the ordinary and extraordinary form of the Roman Rite the Penitential Rite is held at the beginning of Mass to prepare for the Mass, but in the Extraordinary form it can be repeated just prior to receiving Holy Communion. The prayer begins and ends similarly: "I confess to Almighty God ... that I have sinned ... through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault ... pray for me to the Lord, our God."



(right) St. John the Baptist Missioner Father Sean Koczynski, parochial vicar, distributes Holy Communion.

Schedule for Our Lady of Lourdes quasi-Parish

Mass

Sunday: 8 a.m. (low) and 10 a.m. (high)
Monday-Friday: 6:30 a.m. and 12:10 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m.

Confessions

Saturday: 3-4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 45 minutes before each Mass
Monday-Saturday: 30 minutes before each Mass