

*"This is my beloved Son.*

*Listen to Him."* -Mark 9:7

On August 6<sup>th</sup>, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. This is one of the events in the life of Jesus that is recounted in all the Synoptic Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke. It happened not long before Jesus was ready to make His trip to Jerusalem and His death on the Cross. On that day, He invited three of the disciples, Peter, James, and John, to walk up a mountain to pray. While He was praying, Jesus began to shine brightly with a glorious light, then Moses and the prophet Elijah appeared and were talking with Him. The Bible says they were discussing his approaching crucifixion. The disciples saw all this and were amazed, leaving them speechless and in awe, not fully understanding the meaning of what they experienced until after Jesus' Resurrection. This miracle of seeing Jesus in His glorious light and its inclusion in Scripture testifies to His divinity, that Jesus is truly God's "beloved Son."



Today, we don't get to see Jesus in the flesh as they did 2000 years ago, and we don't see the same miracles as His disciples witnessed in the Transfiguration. However, we can experience the greatest miracle of all as we serve Him and seek always to know and love Him more, following the command God spoke at the Transfiguration: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." We can experience the Love of God.

The Bible tells that the God of Creation, the same God that spoke the world into existence, loves each one of us with a never-ending love; a love that was willing to die a humiliating, cruel, agonizing death that we might be saved through Him for the hope of heaven and eternal happiness with Him. What a joy to know that God always loves us and cares about everything in our lives, that even when we are alone, we are not truly alone because He is with us. He stands at the door and knocks, waiting to be invited in.

~Christina Bourquin, Pastoral Care Assistant



Behold,  
I stand at the door  
and knock.  
If anyone hears  
My voice, and opens  
the door, I will come  
unto him and dine  
with him  
and he with Me.

Revelation 3:20

## Worship & Prayer at Matulaitis Home

*"Where two or three are gathered  
together in my name, there am I in the  
midst of them..." Mt 18:20*

- 8.6.18 **Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord**  
Holy Mass 10:30am
- 8.15.18 **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Holy Mass 10:30am
- 9.4.18 **Pilgrimage to Lourdes**  
2pm gather at Center Court
- 9.7.18 **First Friday Adoration & Benediction**  
4pm Chapel
- 9.8.18 **Feast of Our Lady of Šiluva & Šilinės, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Holy Mass 10:30am
- 10.5.18 **First Friday Holy Hour & October Devotions: Month of the Holy Rosary**  
Adoration & Benediction  
4pm Chapel  
*\*every Friday in October\**
- 10.7.18 **Our Lady of the Rosary**  
Holy Mass 10:30am  
Rosary will be prayed following Mass



Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Bernadette,  
Grotto at Matulaitis Home

## Annual "Pilgrimage to Lourdes" Celebrating the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary & the Month of the Holy Rosary



Each year, early in September, Matulaitis residents, staff, and friends gather and process outside in pilgrimage to the garden grotto honoring Our Lady of Lourdes. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or Šilinės as it is known in Lithuania; the day that the Church celebrates Mary's birthday, expressing our joy and thanksgiving that God would give such a loving and faithful mother to Jesus and His Church – to all of us! Mary's appearance to the people of Lithuania is also honored on this date under the title Our Lady of Šiluva. The Lithuanian custom of celebrating this day is carried on by the community at Matulaitis Home as we make our pilgrimage outside to the statue of the Blessed Mother, singing and praying the rosary together, concluding by making our way to the chapel for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The practice of making pilgrimage to places of spiritual significance is common to many religions; for Catholics and other Christians, visits to the Holy Land, Rome, sites of Marian apparitions, and the tombs of Saints are all meaningful pilgrimage destinations where people go to demonstrate their devotion, plead for some favor, or to offer thanksgiving for blessings and prayers answered. While most of our residents are no longer able to travel to such places as Lourdes in France or Šiluva in Lithuania, this Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, we will make our gesture of pilgrimage when we process to our very own "Lourdes," giving thanks with song and prayer – family and friends are welcome to join us! Additionally, our annual Family Picnic will be held Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> – a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our faith, as well as the Lithuanian heritage of Matulaitis Home, when we gather on this special day!

## Our Lady of Šiluva:

### "Lithuania's Greatest Treasure"

Marian devotion at Šiluva dates back to the beginning of Christianity in Lithuania. A church dedicated to the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary was built in Šiluva in 1457. Huge crowds of faithful came, even from great distances, to celebrate the feast of the Nativity of the Bl. Virgin Mary. After the Protestant Reformation, the population in the vicinity of Šiluva became predominantly Calvinist. Many Catholic churches were confiscated, closed, and the one in Šiluva eventually burned. The last remaining priest, Fr. John Holubka, hid the church documents, liturgical vestments, and vessels in an ironclad chest, and buried it in a nearby field by a large rock where it was forgotten in time.

One day in the summer of 1608, a few children tending their sheep in that very field encountered a beautiful woman holding a baby, standing on the large rock. The children returned the following day, accompanied by many people from the village and their Calvinist minister. The beautiful woman, the Blessed Mother, appeared again, weeping bitterly. When the minister asked why she cried, she responded: "There was a time when my Beloved Son was worshipped by my people here, but now they plough and sow on this very spot." News of the apparition rapidly spread, leading many to return to the Catholic faith. This was the first widely-known apparition of the Mother of God in Europe.

As word spread throughout the village and beyond, an elderly blind man who knew of the buried chest recalled its location and led people there. When the chest was unearthed, he immediately regained his eyesight. This was the first miracle attributed to Our Lady of Šiluva. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Apparition Chapel was built on the site of the apparition, and the altar constructed upon the same rock where Mary stood. Many pilgrims who come kiss the rock and pray for their intentions, honoring Our Lady of Šiluva and worshipping her Son.

Where the original church stood, the present Basilica of the Nativity of the Bl. Virgin Mary was built. A painting of the Bl. Virgin Mary with the Divine Child that hung in the original church was recovered and was placed on the main altar. Many prayers were answered, and fame soon spread, with pilgrims from Lithuania and neighboring countries flocking there in ever greater numbers. For the people's great love and devotion to Mary, through whose prayers of intercession people return to Jesus, Pope Pius XI called Lithuania *Terra Mariana*, the "Land of Mary."

During the Russian, and later the Soviet, occupations of Lithuania, the government hindered pilgrimages to Šiluva. The faithful in Lithuania, however, persisted despite persecutions; they risked losing their jobs and suffering imprisonment and other punishments for defying government orders. Throughout its long history of political shifts and foreign occupations, Šiluva has remained the center of spiritual attraction in Lithuania, and pilgrims continue to come from all over the world. ~Sr. Bernadette



## Our Lady of the Rosary,

### Our Lady of Sorrows:

*Our Mother Always,  
in Celebration and in Grief*



Various Marian feasts, memorials, and a solemnity are celebrated in the coming months – the Assumption, the Nativity, Our Lady of Sorrows, Our Lady of the Rosary, and Our Lady of Šiluva among others. Such celebrations remind us of the gift that Jesus made to the Church when He said to John from the Cross, "Behold, your mother" (John 19:27). As His disciples today, we also receive Mary as our mother, and as such, we receive her as a loving companion throughout our lives who will help lead us always closer to her Son through her example of faithful discipleship, her prayers for us to her Son in heaven, and her maternal love for us.

Drawing near to Our Lady in times of difficulty or sorrow can be a source of great consolation, knowing that she understands – she too suffered profound grief and loss – and that as our mother, she loves us with the tender compassion of a mother's heart. Sister Joyce Rupp shares a beautiful prayer in *Your Sorrow is My Sorrow*:

*Woman of Compassion, Mother of Sorrows,  
I draw inspiration from your journey.  
I, too, can move through the pain of my present situation.  
Your faith and courage lead me to my own strength.*

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, and through these prayers we meditate on significant moments in the life of Jesus while asking His mother to pray for us. We pray the Joyful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries of the rosary, rejoicing with Our Lady in the Incarnation, Jesus' first miracle at the wedding in Cana, Jesus' gift of Himself in the Holy Eucharist, the Resurrection, and other wonderful and awe-inspiring events in Jesus' life. We also pray the Sorrowful mysteries, joining Our Lady in grief, and allowing her love to penetrate ours, as we reflect on the Passion and death of Our Lord. Mary always points to her Son, and so as we walk more closely with her, she leads us to deeper relationship with Jesus Our Savior. We hope you will join our pilgrimage and October devotions, and that these will be occasions of blessing for you.

May Our Blessed Mother pray for you, and may God bless and keep you always, and give you His peace. ✝

Check out our website:  
[www.matulaitisnh.org](http://www.matulaitisnh.org)



### Matulaitis Home

10 Thurber Road  
Putnam, CT 06260  
Phone.....860-928-7976  
Fax.....860-963-1920