



The Grotto embraces a new visual identity

The Ave Maria Committee, responsible for the management and development of the grotto, has adopted a new logo and a new visual identity for this historic shrine inspired by the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. New signage and interpretive panels will be installed in the near future to welcome pilgrims and visitors and highlight the history of this remarkable site in Manitoba.



FUNDING

FDÉFP GRANT APPROVED

The federal Economic Development Initiative (EDI) for francophone prairie provinces has approved \$61,000 in funding for Ave Maria Grotto's two new accessible washrooms and contemplative labyrinth.

VOLUNTEERING

SPRING CLEAN-UP

May 14th at 10:00 am

Bring your gloves, rakes, branch cutters and a positive attitude to help us clean up the grotto site. The more the merrier!

COMMUNICATIONS

NEW WEB SITE

The new avemariagrotto.ca website is currently under development and is expected to be completed by the end of May. If you have any photos or videos, please share them with us.

PART TIME EMPLOYMENT POSITION

The Ave Maria Committee is seeking someone to manage the fundraising campaign for the Ave Maria Grotto and provide administrative support. This is a part-time contract position that primarily involves working from home in collaboration with the committee (up to 15 hours per week).

For more information, please contact Léo Roch, Chair of the Ave Maria Committee, at 204-712-0833 or by email: rochleo28@gmail.com.

Adopt-a-Bench

As part of the project at the Ave Maria Grotto, plans are in place to purchase 34 new benches.

These benches will allow us to accommodate more participants during the annual diocesan pilgrimage, theatrical performances, and various activities held at the grotto. In addition, four of these benches will be placed around the contemplative labyrinth, fostering meditation and reflection.

Cost: \$1,000, which includes a plaque with your name.



Pick up a form at the parish office, at the back of the church, or on the website www.avemariagrotto.ca

Please contact Joanne Dupuis at the parish (204-347-5518) to pay for a bench and let her know what name you would like to have on the plaque.

THE 130TH DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE WILL TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 16, 2026

AN IMPORTANT DATE AND A HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY FOR THE COMMUNITY

Procession: 9:00 a.m. From the church to the statue of Mary in front of the chapel at the Grotto

Confessions: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Mass Schedule

In French: 10 :00 am **In English:** 3: 00 pm

Lunch: from 11 :30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Holy Hour: from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



GET INVOLVED - BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Volunteering at the Ave Maria Grotto strengthens ties with the community and helps promote this site. Getting involved, even just occasionally, has a positive impact on everyone, fostering a spirit of mutual support and a sense of belonging.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative tasks (mailing, printing, etc.) • Cleaning the chapel • Fall cleanup • Flower care • Graphic design • Landscape maintenance • Painting benches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone calls • Pilgrimage • Photography • Set up and take down of tables and chairs at events • Spring cleaning • Tree pruning • Videography • Writing articles |
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Volunteer forms are available at the back of the church and at the parish office.