Plan Your Visit to the National Shrine Grotto

The National Shrine Grotto is a two-hundred year old replica of the apparition site in Lourdes, France where the Virgin Mary appeared to a young girl named Bernadette Soubirous, giving her messages to share with the entire world. Tucked away in the contemplative woods of the Blue Ridge Mountains, this Catholic Devotional Shrine attracts over 400,000 visitors a year.

What types of attractions are available at the National Shrine Grotto?

- Daily Mass, Adoration, Confession, and Spanish Mass on weekends
- A 95-foot belltower topped with a gold-leafed bronze statue of the Blessed Mother
- Stations of the Cross
- Mosaic Mysteries of the Rosary
- A large and well-stocked Catholic gift shoppe with books, gifts, statues, rosaries, jewlery, and more
- A new visitors center with bathrooms, vending machines, and an ATM
- Fountains throughout the grounds to light candles, pray, and relax
- Over thirty Catholic devotional statues throughout the grounds
- Two Catholic Chapels

Can we make group reservations?

- Yes, groups are welcome to make reservations for Retreats and Masses through our website at www.nsgrotto.com/group-reservations.html, or by calling us at 301-447-5318

Is there a place to eat & sit?

- While we do not offer food or indoor dining areas, we do have an outdoor area for seating and picnics
- Mount Saint Mary’s catering services can be requested by groups

Does the National Shrine Grotto hold tours?

- The experience of the National Shrine Grotto is self guided. However, we have brochures with maps and historical data that can be given to every visitor.

Are the grounds Handicap Accessible?

- Yes. We also have a shuttle to transport handicap visitors from the parking lot to the visitors center and throughout the rest of the shrine. Simply call us at 301-447-5318 to request the shuttle upon arrival.