

Lenten Tenebrae Service Held at Shrine

MARIA STEIN, Ohio (March 29, 2018) – On March 22 the Maria Stein Shrine hosted a Lenten Tenebrae Service in the Adoration Chapel. The Service was presided over by Shrine rector, Fr. John Tonkin, and music was sung by the choir of Sacred Heart Church in McCartyville.



Tenebrae is Latin for darkness and is an appropriate name, as the service plays on the growing darkness of the Passion narrative. For each reading proclaimed or hymn sung a candle is put out. By the end of the reading of the death of Jesus, the chapel is plunged into darkness and a great noise is made to signal the chaos the world is left in without its Savior.

The celebration of Tenebrae dates back centuries, but the liturgical celebration ended in the late 1950s with the liturgical renewal. This devotional practice at the Shrine was based on many of its original details. There are fifteen candles lit for service and the Christ candle remains lit, as Christ never really leaves us. The readings from Lamentations describe Jerusalem's betrayal of God, which have been a cornerstone of the celebration for centuries. They were paired with Gospel readings of Christ's betrayal by those close to Him. The antique 'clacker' was also used after proclamation of the Crucifixion. This blend of traditional elements in a modern style breathes new life into a timeless Christian tradition.

The prayer of Tenebrae causes us to enter more deeply into the darkness and loneliness of Christ's Passion. We are urged to think of ways we have turned our back on God and remedy those, so that we can celebrate Easter and the gift of our Salvation more meaningfully.

The Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics provides faith nourishment and spiritual renewal through opportunities for prayer and pilgrimage and inspiration from the lives of the saints. People from around the world visit the shrine to explore and enjoy this environment rich in holiness and history.

The Shrine is located at 2291 St. John's Rd. in Maria Stein. For more event information, visit www.mariasteinshrine.org.

