



About the body

St. Maria's remains are inside a glass-sided casket. Inside the casket is a wax statue within which repose her skeletal remains.

None of her sacred remains are visible, and while the bodies of some saints are miraculously preserved from decomposition, St. Maria's are NOT "incorrupt". Nevertheless, the skeleton is complete save for some small fragments that have been taken for placement in altars and for use in the Church's ministry (e.g. in exorcism).



"I am delighted that the Church in the United States will have the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy through the inspiring story of the life and death of St. Maria Goretti! May the opportunity to reverence her relics demonstrate the power of Divine Mercy and forgiveness awaiting everyone of us who takes the message of Jesus seriously to heart."

-Cardinal Edwin O'Brien

Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem



15629 Rt. 59, Plainfield
Illinois, 60544
815.436.2651
www.smip.org



www.mariagoretti.com

St. Maria Goretti



The Little Saint of Great Mercy

Pilgrimage of the major relics of St. Maria Goretti

Thursday, October 15, 2015
St. Mary Immaculate Parish
Plainfield, IL



Timeline of Events at St. Mary Immaculate

Thursday, October 15

10:00am - Public Veneration opens

12:00pm - Rosary

1:45pm - Mass

3:00pm - Divine Mercy Chaplet

7:00pm - Solemn Mass

9:00pm - Rosary

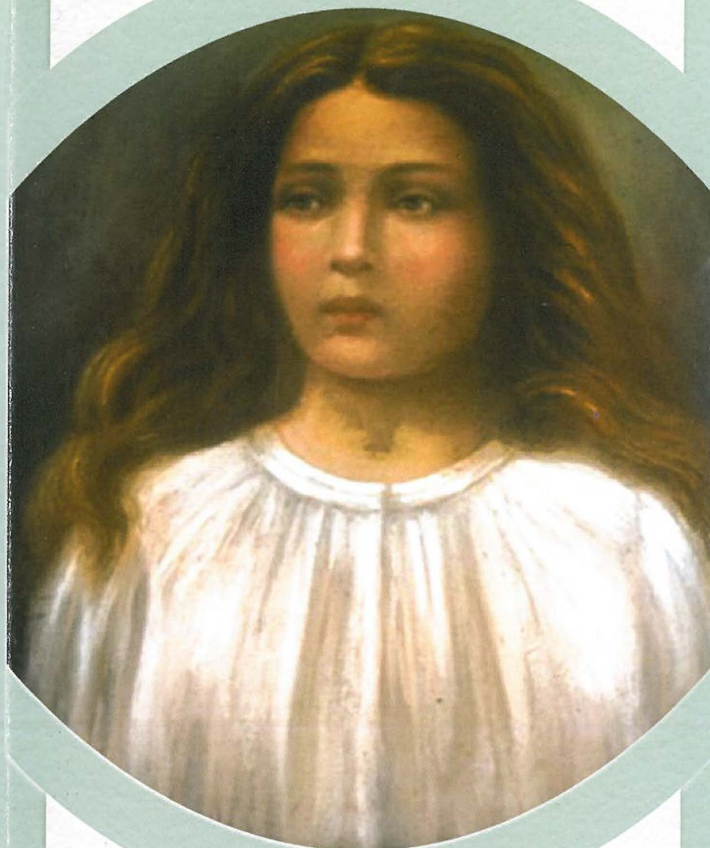
11:00pm - Night Prayer

- Public Veneration will close following Night Prayer

Other Notable Opportunities

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be available all day.
- Sacrament of Confession will be available from 10am - 10pm.
- Special video presentations will be available for viewing in the Parish Gym.
- School and Parish groups are encouraged! Please call Geri Morse, 815.436.2651 ext. 840 to book your special event. Lunch areas will be available for large groups by prior arrangement (lunch not provided).

Maria is known as a wonder-worker. She has intervened with the Lord to produce countless miracles. Of all the saints (over 160) whose relics Fr. Carlos Martins, Director of Treasures of the Church, ministers with, Maria is the one who by far has produced the most miracles.



Of all the artistic representations of her daughter, Maria's mother stated that this portrait most resembled her little girl.

Who is St. Maria?

St. Maria Goretti is unique in that she is the youngest canonized saint in the Church. She died tragically on July 6, 1902, at the age of eleven.

Born into poverty, her father moved the family when Maria was just six years old from the east side of Italy (near Ancona) to the west side (near Nettuno, about 40 miles south of Rome) in hopes of escaping the grinding poverty that was gripping the area.

Just three years later, when Maria was nine, her father died tragically. It fell to her at that time to raise her five siblings while her mother worked the fields to produce the crops with which they would both pay the rent and feed themselves.

This was a terrible time of trial and suffering for the whole family. For Maria it was especially difficult. Aside from having the responsibility of caring for her family, she had to also cook and clean for her two next door neighbors—Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro—who assisted her mother with the farm tasks.

It was also during this time that Alessandro began to develop an impure liking for Maria. The big 20-year-old would say rude and crude things to her, things that were inappropriate and embarrassing, and that would cause her to run away. However, at a certain point he began to make direct sexual advances towards her, demanding her virginity and threatening her with violence for non-compliance.

Finally, after many months of this, Alessandro forced himself upon Maria in an attempt to rape her. Though she prevented him from violating her, Alessandro brutally stabbed her numerous times. Maria died the next day in the midst of horrendous infection brought on by her lacerations. Her last words were, "I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... and I want him with me in heaven forever."