

# A Shrine to St. Teresa of Calcutta & Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal: "A Medal that Changed the World."

Shrines are officially defined as holy or sacred places dedicated to a specific martyr, saint, or similar figure of awe and respect, at which they are venerated or worshipped. They give us a place to learn more about God, our Blessed Mother, and many saints. Each shrine honors and focuses on a story and history, giving us a better understanding of our faith.

Vincentian Father Michael Shea, assistant director of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal, said, "The Irish call a place that you feel closer to God 'A Thin Place.' This refers to the veil between us and heaven feeling thinner, allowing a stronger feeling of God's love and graces to wrap around you like a blanket of reassurance." This is a beautiful description of a shrine where you can come, pray, lay your burdens, and feel wrapped in God's love through Mary's intercession on your behalf.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta would give Miraculous Medals to people she met when she walked this earth. On a visit by an American Buddhist Monk just before her death, Mother Teresa took 10 medals, kissed them, and gave them to him. He gave away 9 medals on his journey and kept one for himself. When he came to live in Largo, Florida, he found St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community and felt his last medal needed to rest at our parish. He presented it to us in 2023.



**Shrine for our Lady of the Miraculous Medal at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community Chapel**



Today, we venerate that Medal in a Shrine dedicated in August 2024 for that purpose. In addition to the Miraculous Medal, our Shrine has a large marble sculpture of St. Teresa of Calcutta, a description of the symbols of the Miraculous Medal, and a plaque of the Medal (illustrating its detail). The Shrine is open daily for prayer, and candles are present to light. We encourage all visitors to take a medal and Holy Card for Our Lady.

Shrines are not just places of learning and love but also refuge. They offer a profound sense of peace and comfort in our hectic and sometimes spiritually deprived lives. They are often associated with intercessory prayers for healing various ailments or other troubles and bring Catholics together in a community of prayer and faith. When you visit a shrine, you can leave behind the chaos of the world and find a peaceful sanctuary for your soul.



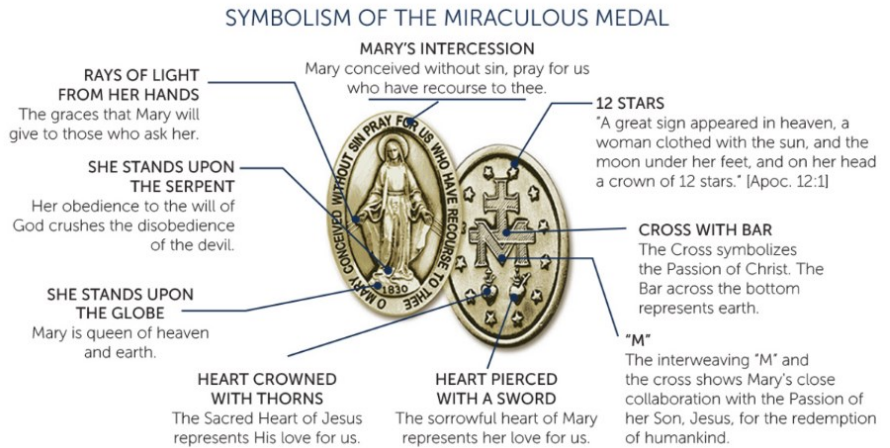
St. Teresa's Shrine for Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal is a place where hundreds of people, including our Methodist sisters and brothers from Allendale United Methodist Church, gather weekly, either online or in person. This is a testament to the sense of community and togetherness that shrines foster, bringing us all closer in prayer and faith. Our shrine helps us remember that we are part of a larger family of believers and not alone in our spiritual journey.

St. Teresa knew that the Miraculous Medal could transform hearts and lives; so do we. Hearing about the great graces people have received through our Blessed Mother and her Miraculous Medal is inspiring. We believe in faith's transformative power and hope you will, too. Faith can bring about incredible transformations in our lives and the lives of those around us.

We at St. Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community are excited to have this Shrine and plan to establish a special novena during May and August - the month of Mary. Join us for the weekly Rosary during those months before our Sunday Masses.

Our goal is to one day offer a pilgrimage group for tours to Fatima and Lourdes.

We invite you to visit our Shrine to pray for your families, yourself, and the ministries of St. Teresa of Calcutta. For those online, don't hesitate to contact Fr. Victor Ray at [pastor.stoccc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.stoccc@gmail.com). We will light a candle for your petitions.



**Saint Teresa  
of Calcutta**  
Catholic Community



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CATHOLIC CHURCH

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