



Villa Maria del Mar



Ministry & Maintenance Updates

BY JOANNA POLLOCK

Villa Maria del Mar enjoys serving a diversity of groups in accordance with our Mission. Last year, we hosted over 3500 guests from 136 different organizations. These organizations include various religious groups, recovery groups, Catholic and Christian groups, other non-profit groups, as well as schools. Last year, we also hosted an additional 289 individuals for independent private retreats. Villa sponsored retreats are a highlight of each year, and for 2024 we have added new “Days of Reflection” to these offerings. When space allows, we also enjoy hosting SNJM groups and Sisters for retreat. Fortunately, our calendar bookings are rebounding following the pandemic and we are now reserving large groups (30+ rooms) into 2026. In the last two years, a total of 75 new groups have stayed at the Villa for the first time.

In June 2024, the Villa will be closed for a period of three weeks. Extensive rot repair to the front walls of the Dining Room and the Seaview Room require windows to be removed, scaffolding to go up and wood framing to be replaced. Additionally, we are planning repairs to the balcony overhang on our main building entrance, due to significant dry rot. We are hopeful that the damage does not extend beyond the current scope of these projects. We are grateful to two major donors’ helping with the cost of these repairs.

Spring 2024 has also been an active time for maintenance repairs at the Villa. In March, we replaced the hot water heater in the main house, after it suddenly stopped working on a **Friday** afternoon! Thanks to a dedicated plumber, we were able to restore hot water within 24 hours. Then in April, our large walk-in refrigerator repeatedly stopped working. This took over three weeks to resolve! Overall, this past winter weather had much less of an impact on the property; however, several drain pipes failed and had to be replaced. We also installed a new section of gutter along the exterior windows of the Seaview Room.

During our closure in June, staff will stay busy with deep cleaning, painting, updating our guestrooms, conducting staff trainings, and generally re-organizing the Villa. Maintaining the Villa’s infrastructure, providing job security for our staff, and ensuring the Villa’s future is vital to our ministry and ongoing legacy. As always, your generous donations are appreciated. The Sisters and Villa Staff thank you for your support.

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JUNE 1 - 23, 2024
THE VILLA WILL
BE CLOSED FOR
REPAIRS



Stay in touch with our latest Villa News and retreat offerings...



To be added to our email marketing list, please contact:
jpollack@snjmuson.org

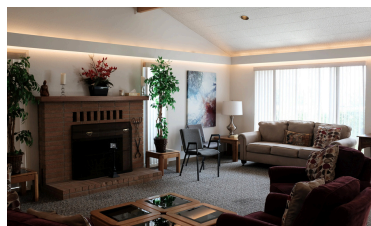
Everyday I pray the Lord to bless you.
Blessed Marie Rose

(Foundress of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus & Mary)

Josephine House

BY JOANNA POLLOCK

Josephine House is situated adjacent to the Villa Chapel on 19th Avenue. It is named after Josephine L. Spinetti Schibig, who was a long time friend of the Villa and previous occupant of the house. This small home, which was built in 1955, was purchased by the Sisters in 1991. A property renovation was completed in 1992.



Today, Josephine House serves as an additional meeting space for our groups, accommodating up to 30 guests with a cozy living room, a kitchen and its own bathroom. A beautiful outdoor patio and pergola was added in 2018, thanks to generous benefactors. Josephine House is a well used facility and currently

in need of a facelift. In June, during our closure, we hope to replace the old stained carpet, repaint both the interior living space and the exterior of the building, and replace window blinds where necessary. Eventually the purchase of some new comfortable and stackable chairs will better serve our guests and make the most of this valuable space.

Sponsored Retreats 2024

July 8-14

Terry Hershey

The Gift of Enough

August 1-4

Gringa Orbegoso

Unity Amid Diversity

December 12-15

Advent Winter

Stillness Retreat

Register online: villamariadelmar.org/events
or email: vmdmretreats@snjmuson.org

Notes from the Sisters

BY SISTERS MICHELLE GARLINSKI AND MARY ONDREYCO

One of the treasures on the Villa Maria del Mar property is the Villa Chapel that was constructed in 1906 by the Catholic Ladies Aide Society and was a worship space for guests and the local community for many years. When we, the Sisters of the Holy Names, purchased Villa Maria del Mar in 1963, the Villa Chapel became an extension of our ministry at the Villa. The planning of liturgies, the preparation of the environment and chapel maintenance all have been the responsibility of the Sisters throughout the last 61 years. During these years, the generous and committed presence of our neighbors and friends gathered each week for worship, has been an inspiration for us.



Today, the leadership and responsibilities are shared among the Villa Chapel Community. We have dedicated lectors, hospitality, collection and communion ministers, sacristans, environment team, music ministry and parking ministry. Throughout this past year we offered formation sessions, which built community and confidence among our volunteers. In the fall of 2023, the Villa hosted a retreat day for all liturgical ministers, facilitated by Sr. Miriam Malone, SNJM. The day concluded with a Villa Chapel Community Thanksgiving Mass and reception.

The sense of community is palpable when you worship with the Villa Chapel Community. For those who live in the area or others visiting, we welcome you to join us at our weekly liturgy on Saturdays at 4:00pm.

Epicurean News - What's Cooking?

The Kitchen team at Villa Maria del Mar prepares food daily for up to 70+ guests. Epicurean's philosophy is rooted in buying a variety of fresh local grown produce and whenever possible, organic, according to the Clean Fifteen, Dirty Dozen recommendations provided by the Environmental Working Group. (ewg.org/foodnews)

Each meal served onsite is meticulously and skillfully prepared and includes a healthy selection of seasonal fruits and vegetables. All salad dressings and stocks are made in house, eggs are cage free and meats are grass-fed, free range when available. For all meals, a meat and a vegetarian-based entree are provided. A salad bar is included daily with lunch & dinner.

With the diversity of groups onsite, it is hard to meet everyone's dietary requirements, or meal preferences. Prior to arrival, we ask group coordinators to advise us of the ratio of vegetarians within their group. This allows us to prepare meals accordingly and reduce food waste. For retreat guests who are vegan, gluten-free, or who have allergies to certain ingredients, we suggest bringing supplemental food to meet their specific dietary needs. A large refrigerator in the dining room is available for guest use, along with a microwave. The daily menu indicates which items are gluten-free, if applicable.

If you are a guest onsite and have questions regarding the menu, please see your hostess.

 EPICUREAN GROUP
fresh. honest. local.