



# LE DECINE DEL ROSARIO

## THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF POMPEII

The Oldest Continuing Italian-American Catholic Church  
in the City of Chicago, located in the heart of historic "Little Italy."

A Gift of Italian-American Hospitality, Embracing All Pilgrims of Faith  
Founded in 1911 ✦ Established as a Shrine in 1994

All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him. — *Psalm 72:11*

The term **shrine** signifies a church or other sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimages for a particular pious reason with the approval of the local ordinary. At shrines, more abundant means of salvation are to be provided for the faithful; the Word of God is to be carefully proclaimed; liturgical life is to be appropriately fostered especially through the celebration of the Eucharist and penance; and approved forms of popular piety are to be cultivated.

*Code of Canon Law, 1230 and 1234*

*Le Decine del Rosario* is the Italian phrase for decades of the rosary, representing the twenty decades of the rosary, for which our weekly bulletin is named.



## Christmas at the Shrine

Dear Friends of the Shrine,

I hope you have noticed that each year, at Christmas and Easter, we create a unique environment at the Shrine.

For the past years I have been the Rector, and even before, no two Christmases or Easters have ever looked the same. Each year, we attempt to bedazzle our associates with a fresh look of the season.

I have been asked, over and over, where do you get your ideas. The answer varies. Sometimes the ideas for the surroundings come from a dream I have had. Sometimes they come from conversations with our team of designers: Kathy Murr, Debbie Madda, Bob Provenzano, Joyce Puccini, to name a few. We sit and imagine the possibilities of the amazing space that we have inherited from the architects and designers of the shrine building, way back in 1923.

Sometimes the ideas come by looking and observing what others are doing to decorate for the holidays.

That's what happened this year.

At Thanksgiving, a few weeks ago, I was visiting the Art Museum in Milwaukee. And, lo and behold, there it was: this year's Christmas at the Shrine.

They had suspended from the ceiling of the museum a set of white lights in the shape of a Christmas tree... stunning.

So, I took a photo, and we adapted the idea to create the wonderful centerpiece of our Christmas Shrine 2014... never to be seen again.

With the assistance of Rich Panico, we were able to get a tree, decorate it with ornaments. Then, we suspended colored lights from the ceiling of the church and created a wonderful visual to celebrate the Lord's Nativity.

So, dear friends/readers, if you see any ideas that could work to enhance our beautiful Shrine for Christmas or Easter 2015... take a picture and send it my way.

Blessings for the New Year!

Father Richard

**Wishing you a Happy New Year  
overflowing with Love and Light, Health, Peace and Joy.**