

Massman Grotto St. Mary Cemetery Festina Iowa

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Frank and Lucy Massman had a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and therefore decided to build a grotto in her honor. Some of the decorative rocks came from West Bend, Iowa. Many rocks were picked up at the Massman family farm in Festina. The remainder were obtained from Mary and Henry (Frank's brother) Massmann's family farm in Rockville, Minnesota.

The grotto was built in 1960 with the help of their grandson Jim Massman. This endeavor was a precious memory for Jim and who is now buried in front of the grotto.

Originally the grotto was set on the north side of Frank and Lucy's home in Festina facing west. After their death the decision was made to move the grotto to St. Mary Cemetery. Our Lady of Seven Dolours Church and cemetery committee gratefully accepted the offer. The move was accomplished by Albin Massman with the help of Dennis Hageman and a forklift operator. The grotto was placed in the northeast corner of the cemetery where it now stands.

