

A close-up photograph of a brown grasshopper perched on a green plant stem. The grasshopper is facing left, with its long antennae and legs clearly visible. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural outdoor setting. The text 'Our Lady of the Grasshopper' is overlaid on the right side of the image in a dark blue, serif font.

**Our Lady of the
Grasshopper**



The Story

Over a hundred and fifty years ago, in the area near Cold Springs, Minnesota, grasshoppers ate all the crops the farmers planted for many years in a row. Things became so hard that on April 26, 1877, the governor of Minnesota called for a day of prayer. The people prayed, asking God to save their crops.

The priest who served the area, Father Leo Winter, asked his parishioners to build a chapel to honor Mary and to gather to pray there on Saturdays. His parishioners did what Father Winter suggested. They built a chapel and they gathered there every Saturday to ask Mary to save their crops and to spare them from further harm. By September 8 of that year, the Feast of the Nativity (*Birth*) of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the grasshoppers were gone. The building of the chapel, the faithfulness to gathering on Saturdays for special prayer, and the end of the trouble with the grasshoppers renewed the faith of the Catholics and strengthened their sense of being a parish community.

The Catholics in that area never forget how the Blessed Virgin Mary answered their prayers. They remain devoted to Mary to this day. The original chapel was destroyed by a tornado in June of 1894, but the chapel was rebuilt and dedicated in October of 1952. Every summer, Catholics gather for a novena of Masses on Thursday nights, leading up to a special procession and celebration on August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Although the Chapel is named in honor of the Assumption, people call it the Grasshopper Chapel and honor Mary there as Our Lady of the Grasshopper. In the chapel itself, a statue shows Mary with a grasshopper under each foot.

Note: Although no official feast day is assigned for the celebration of Our Lady of the Grasshopper, she is honored by the people in the Cold Springs, Minnesota, area on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*August 15*).