

Local Pilgrimages near Naperville

Pilgrimages are defined in one sense as a long journey to a sacred place but pilgrimages are also a *metaphor for life* – they give expression to our faith - they are the Church at prayer! Whether at home or abroad, planning and making a pilgrimage reminds us that our true home is in heaven. We are on the move, ready to follow the Lord. Pilgrimages start at home but *go* somewhere; they are essentially movement and prayer – a true expression of the Church as people on pilgrimage towards God’s kingdom.



There are numerous opportunities to experience in a deeper way that sense of journeying by planning your own pilgrimage. Discuss with your family the possibility of making a short local “pilgrimage” during this summer – even combine a pilgrimage with a vacation. It doesn’t have to be a major endeavor like planning a big trip to the Holy Land, Lourdes, Santiago de Compostela in Spain or to the Vatican. Think about a place closer to home. **A true pilgrimage is as much a spiritual journey as a geographical one.**

This document has some wonderful local pilgrimage suggestions; it includes many possibilities -- from praying our own outdoor Stations of the Cross to visiting Champion, Wisconsin, site of the only American church-approved Marian apparition. Please take a few minutes to look at the possibilities.

Experiencing a pilgrimage is much too important to our spiritual life to postpone indefinitely. Instead, we can look for ways to incorporate pilgrimages into our daily lives. If we keep in mind that we are all pilgrims we can find many places to feed our hearts and spirit. Each of our special pilgrimage places of prayer and devotion reminds us that the sacred is present in our own back yard.

Here are some very local pilgrimage suggestions. Your pilgrimage could be as simple as:

- Going to daily Mass, or the adoration chapel; (www.masstimes.org) find a Mass that works for you and your schedule and a quiet chapel for prayer.
- Praying the **Outdoor Stations of the Cross** at right here at [St. Elizabeth Seton](#) or near the lake on [Benedictine University’s campus](#) in Lisle.
- Also in Lisle, there is a beautiful outdoor **Grotto to Our Lady of Lourdes** at Villa St. Benedict just East of Benet Academy – make a visit and pray a rosary for your family or the victims of natural disasters. Ask Our Lady to intercede for your petitions.
- In Darien, near Cass and I55, you’ll find the newly renovated **National Shrine to St. Therese of Lisieux** on the beautiful grounds of the Carmelite Spiritual Center, Aylesford. There are outdoor Stations of the Cross and Mysteries of the Rosary near the lake.
- **Divine Mercy Polish Mission** – Lombard. Select English language at the top of the homepage. Beautiful shrine to Jesus of Divine Mercy. Enormous painting of Jesus of Divine Mercy behind the altar, mosaic of Pope St. John Paul II and large image of St. Faustina. See photos, etc. on their website. Masses, etc. are in Polish

A little further from home:

- **[The Shrine of Christ's Passion](#)** – St. John, Indiana. A little more than an hour away.
- **[National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion](#)** in Champion Wisconsin – site of the only US church-approved Marian apparitions. (outside of Green Bay, Wisconsin)
- **[Marytown](#)**, Mundelein, IL – National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe – chapel is a replica of St. Paul Outside the Walls Basilica in Rome
- **[Holy Name Cathedral](#)** – Chicago, IL
- **[Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica and National Shrine](#)** – Chicago, IL
- **[St. Stanislaus Kostka - The Sanctuary of the Divine Mercy](#)** – Chicago, IL
- **[The Basilica of St. Josaphat](#)**, Milwaukee, WI – replica of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome
- **[Holy Hill](#)** Hubertus, Wisconsin – outside of Milwaukee
- **[Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine](#)** – La Crosse, WI
- **[The Grotto](#)** on the Campus of the University of Notre Dame – South Bend, Indiana
- **[National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows](#)** – Belleville, IL
- **[National Shrine of St. Anne of Brighton Park](#)** – Chicago, IL
- **[National Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus](#)** – Chicago, IL
- **[Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii](#)** – Chicago, IL

As you travel on your vacations, check out the local shrines and basilicas. Always check Masstimes.org for local churches and Mass times. Did you know that there are:

- [85 US Basilicas](#) and
- [65 US National Shrines](#).



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