



JULY 10, 2022

CATHOLIC TIMES

MAGAZINE OF THE DIOCESE OF SPRINGFIELD IN ILLINOIS



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Are you looking for a Catholic adventure?

PERHAPS A WEEKEND GETAWAY GROUNDED IN OUR FAITH?

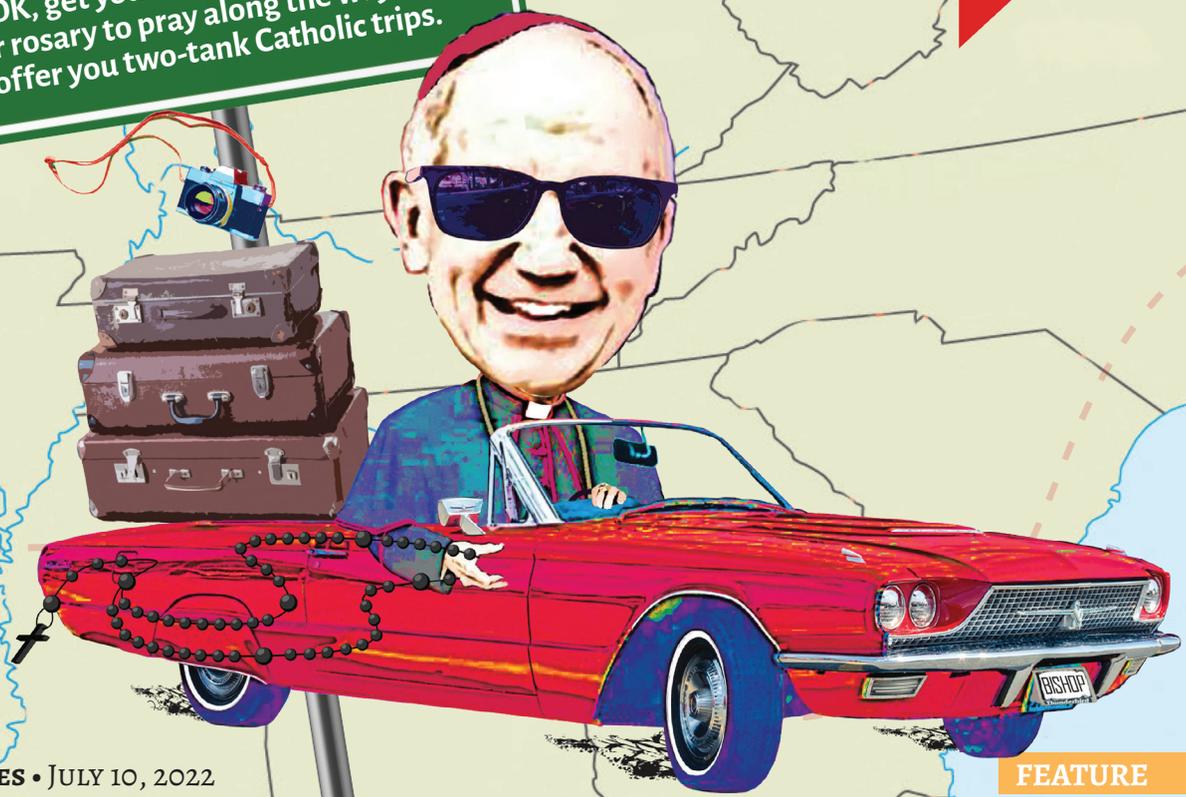
MAYBE YOU JUST NEED TO RESET YOUR BODY, MIND, AND SOUL?

Whatever it is, in this edition of *Catholic Times*, we offer you three places you can drive to and then get back to your home on a total of two tanks of gas (or pretty close) that checks all those boxes. So, fuel-up, make sure the tires are OK, get your snack bag, and grab your rosary to pray along the way as we offer you two-tank Catholic trips.



By ANDREW HANSEN
Editor

THIS WAY



INDIANA

St. Meinrad Archabbey—St. Meinrad, Ind.

A beautiful southern Indiana drive over rolling hills that can boast some of nature's richest colors in the fall can take you to the serene Benedictine St. Meinrad Archabbey.

Located slightly south of I-64, the St. Meinrad Archabbey is one of only two archabbeyes in the country and 11 in the world. The Benedictine tradition came to the Midwest more than 150

years ago when the Swiss Abbey of Einsiedeln sent two monks to Indiana to start a new Benedictine monastery. Today, they are a thriving community of Benedictine monks who pray, work, and live together—and they warmly invite you to come visit.

You can stay on the property at their Guest House and Retreat Center. While you are there, you can join the monks for prayer or Mass in the Archabbey

Church and tour the grounds and historic buildings. Many buildings are built of sandstone quarried from a neighboring hill.

What are some of the more unique things you can see besides dozens of monks? The Archabbey Church of Our Lady of Einsiedeln, completed in 1907, is a step back in time. Inside includes a statue of the Black Madonna, a replica of the statue at their motherhouse in Switzerland, hand-painted artwork, stunning murals, and choir-style seating for the monks. Walking around the tranquil grounds, you will find statues of saints and our Blessed Mother. One of the other highlights of touring the grounds is a visit to the Chapter Room. The Chapter Room is beautifully decorated with painted scenes by renowned Dutch artist and Benedictine monk, Dom Gregory De Wit. The Chapter Room is where the monastic community holds community meetings and elect a new abbot when needed.

While you're on the grounds, make sure to say hello to several seminarians of our diocese who are studying at the

St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology and visit their gift shop which includes a treasure trove of all things Catholic.

While the property boasts awe-inspiring architecture and artwork, the peacefulness of it all is what will really strike you, especially if that is something you are desiring.

"A visit to St. Meinrad Archabbey and the local area is a chance to rest and recharge physically, mentally, and spiritually," said Father Christopher House, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Springfield, who studied at St. Meinrad. "It is worth your time and the drive."

Visit saintmeinrad.org or call the Guest House at (800) 581-6905.

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT IN THE AREA

Monastery Immaculate Conception

While you are visiting St. Meinrad, make the 10-minute drive to in Ferdinand, Ind., to visit the Monastery Immaculate Conception, home of the Sisters of St. Benedict. What will strike you immediately is the large church, known locally as the "castle on the hill." The monastery dates back to 1867 and is listed within the National Register of Historic Places. The grounds also include gardens, outdoor *Stations of the Cross*, three shrines, and a gift shop.

Beverages and fun

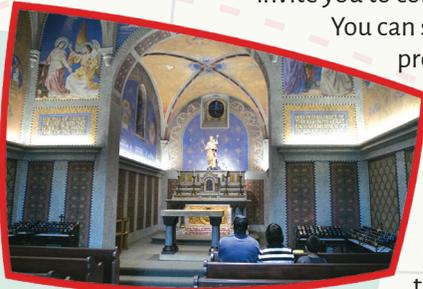
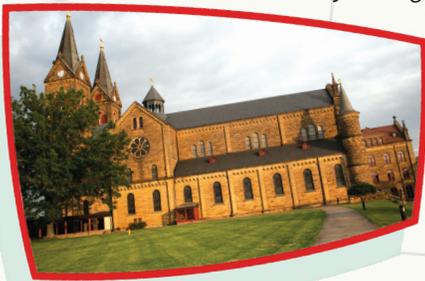
If sampling locally made beer is something you enjoy, check out St. Benedict's Brew Works in Ferdinand where their motto is, "Pray. Work. Brew." Monkey Hollow Winery in St. Meinrad is also another great place to sample the local taste, only they specialize in wine. They have a tasting room where you can enjoy a complimentary tasting, and they have a selection of locally made arts and crafts. For some family fun, there is Holiday World Theme Park & Splashin' Safari Water Park in Santa Claus, Ind., about 10 minutes from St. Meinrad.

Visit a saint on the way back to Illinois

It will be out of your way, but if you are looking for some saintly inspiration, why not visit a saint on your way back to Illinois? St. Mother Théodore Guérin is buried just outside Terra Haute, Ind., in Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind. There, you will also find the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, founded by St. Mother Théodore Guérin.

During your visit, you can visit the shrine to learn about this woman of courage and compassion and her incredible journey from France to Indiana, where she founded the Sisters of Providence and Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College in 1840. The shrine also has a small chapel where you can pray and view the saint's final resting place.

Visit spsmw.org or call (800) 860-1840 for more information.



Photos of St. Meinrad courtesy of St. Meinrad Archabbey





WISCONSIN

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe – LaCrosse, Wis.

Tucked on a large hillside in LaCrosse, Wis., sits a Catholic pilgrimage site that has been a spiritual destination for pilgrims from all over the world. Put simply, the Shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe is beautiful. From the rich, colorful flowers in full bloom in the spring and summer to the fall foliage that showcases the artistry of God's nature, to the impressive church that immediately draws you closer to Heaven, you will no doubt encounter God on a deeper level through the beauty.

The shrine is known for its peace, assisting those suffering in any way to better connect with God, providing spiritual clarity for the weary, and helping those who yearn for love and compassion that Our Lady of Guadalupe promised about 500 years ago when she appeared in Mexico.

The church sits a half-mile walk or golf cart ride up the hill from the Pilgrim Center, so if the first thing you are doing at the shrine is attending Mass, arrive early so you can make it to Mass on time. On your way along the path to the church, you will walk through God's majestic nature. You can also stop off at several devotional areas, pray at statues of saints, visit the Memorial to the Unborn, pray the *Stations of the Cross*, and pray a rosary in the Rosary Walk Devotional Area. If you did all those things along the path, called the Meditation Trail, you will have walked more than one-mile round trip.

The focal point of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the church, completed in 2008. Inside, you will find sacred art, eight shrines including ones to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, beautiful stained-glass windows that follow the life of Mary, and an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Most importantly, the shrine is meant for people to renew their relationship with God, and the best way to do that is through the sacrament of confession, participate in Mass, then receive our Lord in the Eucharist. Confession and Mass are daily with adoration happening Monday-Friday.

The shrine is open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. from June 1-Labor Day. From Labor Day-May 31, it is open from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tours of the church are available upon request by calling (608) 519-4429. A gift shop and café are also located on the grounds. Visit guadalupeshrine.org for more information.

Photos of the shrine in Wisconsin courtesy of The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Submitted photo

CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER ENCOURAGES OTHERS TO TAKE TRIP TO SHRINE

Last fall, Father Peter Chineke, then-parochial vicar at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield, led a group of pilgrims, including my wife, Betty, and I to the shrine. We saw this trip as an opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ, strengthen our devotion to Our Lady, develop new friendships, and celebrate 20 years of marriage.

When entering the church, Betty and I were speechless and truly felt the presence of God. It is awe-inspiring with ornate architecture, unique paintings, splendid statues, magnificent stained-glass windows, and sacred relics. It was both spiritually moving and uplifting.

I was privileged to serve Mass on Friday, and in a church like this, it was an unforgettable experience. We received abundant graces through confession, adoration, and a plenary indulgence. The following day held a special significance for us. Father Chineke wanted to have us renew our vows for our 20th wedding anniversary. Not long before the pilgrimage, my mom found my grandmother's engagement ring. We both wanted Betty to have it, so Father Chineke and I came up with a plan prior to the trip. As Betty and I were renewing our vows, Father Chineke asked for our rings to bless them. Betty struggled to remove hers, and at the same time, I pulled the engagement ring out of my pocket and handed it to Father Chineke. Betty was shocked. Father Chineke glanced at her with a smile and whispered, "Surprise!" Needless to say, it was a day that we will never forget.

In just two short days, not only were we spiritually renewed, but we also shared camaraderie with the other pilgrims. On the bus trip, we were able to pray with and for each other by reciting the rosary and the concluding prayer of the *Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe*. In addition, we watched movies about saints, and Father Chineke briefly shared his vocation story. We enjoyed each other's company over meals. There were so many fond memories that I wish I could include in this article. I highly encourage anyone who wants to grow in their faith to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Joseph R. Kessler Sr. is a parishioner at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Springfield.

Take the long way home though Iowa and visit more Catholic sites

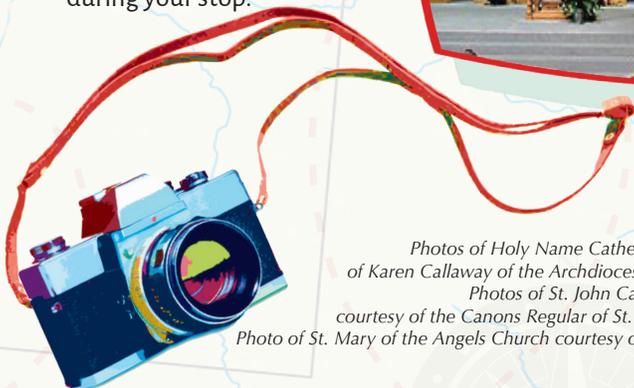
The Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville, Iowa was dedicated in 1889 and in recognition of the impressive architecture and the faith of the congregation, the church was raised to the rank of minor basilica in 1956 by Pope Pius XII. Today, it is one of 53 basilicas in the United States. While you're in Dyersville, you can also stop by Field of Dreams, the baseball field that was used in the popular movie.



You can then continue east from Dyersville and just 15 minutes later, visit the New Melleray Abbey in

Peosta, Iowa (Trappist Monastery of Monks). Guests are welcome to visit their monastery and share in their daily liturgy of prayer from 3:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. A gift shop, guest house, and monastic center are also on the grounds and visitors can tour where they produce Trappist caskets, which is their primary form of manual labor and self-support.

Drive 20 minutes east from there and you will be in Dubuque, Iowa. Despite it not being a major city, Dubuque is an archdiocese, one of only a handful of archdioceses in the U.S. that are not located in a metropolitan area. There is plenty of history in Dubuque to see with it being located on the Mississippi River, but make sure you visit the Cathedral of St. Raphael during your stop.



*Photos of Holy Name Cathedral courtesy of Karen Callaway of the Archdiocese of Chicago
Photos of St. John Cantius Church courtesy of the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius
Photo of St. Mary of the Angels Church courtesy of Mary Davis*

CHICAGO

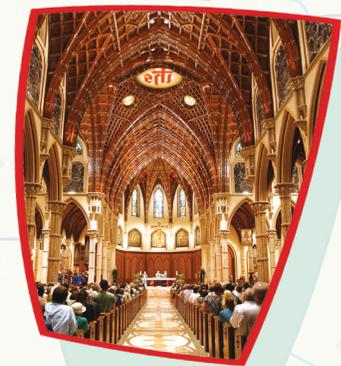
Churches and Shrines

Chicago has about as rich a Catholic history as any city in the country. If you make a trip to the Windy City, there are so many beautiful churches and shrines, the list of places to visit would take you days if not weeks. Nonetheless, here are several that will inspire your faith as soon as you walk in.



Holy Name Cathedral

The seat of the Archdiocese of Chicago is Holy Name Cathedral. With a capacity of 1,100, the cathedral has several “wow” elements to it. The ceiling has an almost web form, meant so the worshiper feels like he or she is dwelling in the “tree of life.” The organ is massive, comprised of 1,284 pipes in 19 stops distributed over two keyboards and a pedal. Immediately above the sanctuary panels, you will find five red, broad-brimmed, ornamental hats suspended from the ceiling. These are the five hats of all the cardinals that served in Chicago. More beautiful artwork and images of Catholicism can be found throughout the Cathedral. Offering several options for daily Mass, take a look around after receiving our Lord in the Eucharist.



St. John Cantius Church

A simple online search of “Chicago’s most beautiful churches” will reveal St. John Cantius Church is always on the list. In fact, the church was voted most beautiful church in America in a 2016 online contest. The church, finished in 1893, is staffed by the Canons Regular of St. John Cantius, three of whom serve St. Katharine Drexel Parish in Springfield. At one point in the late 1980s, the parish was set to be demolished. It was saved, in large part, by the Canons Regular. Today, its spectacular baroque beauty draws plenty of visitors, and is one of Chicago’s most thriving parishes.





One of the unique features of the church includes three sets of functioning bells. The Canons Regular are not aware of any other church in the country with as many bells, and which ring throughout the bustling neighborhoods in the area keeping time, calling for prayer, marking celebrations, and playing religious and Christmas songs.

Inside, look up. Your mind will try its best to consume all the sacred artwork, rich colors, high ceiling, and most importantly, the liturgy itself.

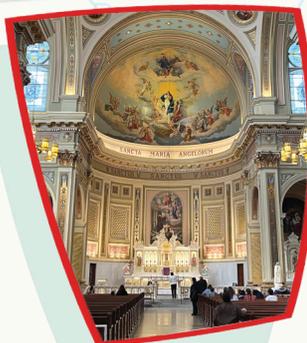
You will hear sacred music and Gregorian chant, receive the Eucharist at the communion rail, and be converted by beauty.

St. Mary of the Angels Church

If you want to see the longest church aisle you may ever come across, a dome that many say resembles St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and a church so large it encompasses a city block and dominates the neighborhood it sits in, go visit St. Mary of the Angels Church. Staffed by priests by Opus Dei, St. Mary of the Angels is a huge church with an angelic feel that can overwhelm the senses with its sheer beauty.

In Jim Butcher's *The Dresden Files*, an urban fantasy novel series set in Chicago, the church is often mentioned. In one of the books, Dresden writes, "... One cannot see the church

without being impressed by its size, by its artistry, by its beauty. In a city of architectural mastery, Saint Mary of the Angels need bow its head to no one."



SHRINES

- **The National Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows** has a full-size replica of Michelangelo's *Pieta*.
- **The National Shrine of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini** features the saint's hospital room when she lived and ministered.
- **The Dominican Shrine of St. Jude Thaddeus** houses the arm relic of St. Jude, reportedly the largest relic of an Apostle located outside of Europe.
- **The National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe** is located in Libertyville, north of Chicago, and features an educational Holocaust exhibit, relics of St. Maximilian, and several outdoor shrines, all set on 15 acres of land.
- **The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe** in Des Plaines, west of Chicago, has attracted millions of people. On Dec. 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, thousands make a trip from around the country to celebrate and honor Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- **The National Shrine Museum of St. Therese** in Darian, southwest of Chicago, is home to the largest collection of St. Therese relics and memorabilia outside of Lisieux, France.



BISHOP PAPROCKI TALKS ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN

Growing up in Chicago, my father used to take our family to Mundelein Seminary, north of Chicago, where he was a seminarian for one year. Fortunately for me and my siblings, he decided to leave and marry my mother!

Another family outing included taking the elevated train (known as "the El") downtown to shop at Marshall Field's flagship store on State Street. It is now a Macy's Department Store but retains its original architecture. Today, I like Chicago-style deep dish pizza! My favorites are Giordano's, Gino's East, and Nancy's Pizza. If you go anywhere for a great Chicago hot dog, you must remember a strict rule: Never put ketchup on a hot dog! Mustard is fine, but people will look at you funny if you put ketchup on your hot dog.

If you like architecture, I recommend taking a Chicago Riverboat Architecture Tour on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan for a fantastic view of the Chicago skyline with a tour guide describing the various buildings.

Of course, I have spent a lot of time at various sports venues that I recommend seeing: the United Center, home of the Blackhawks and the Bulls; Soldier Field, home of the Bears; and Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the White Sox. Oh, I suppose you might want to see Wrigley Field too, where the Cubs play. Wrigley Field is the second oldest Major League Baseball ballpark in the country, built in 1914. ♦

