



HOLY THURSDAY 2023

Seven Churches Pilgrimage

SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF HISTORIC DOWNTOWN DETROIT CHURCHES

8 CHURCHES PARTICIPATING GO TO ANY OR ALL



“Were you not able to keep watch with me one hour?” – Matthew 26:40

The Seven Churches visitation grew out of the penance given to pilgrims to visit the seven basilicas of Rome. St. Philip Neri is credited with the popularization of the Seven Churches Pilgrimage in the 16th Century. The practice has proliferated around the world and today is popular in Italy, Poland, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Pilgrims are invited to draw closer to Jesus through prayer before the Blessed Sacrament at the start of the Holy Triduum by visiting seven Altars of Repose. The Seven Churches visitation is reminiscent of when Jesus asked disciples to stand watch with him and pray while in the garden of Gethsemane. In visiting seven locations, we are reminded of the seven places Jesus went between the Last Supper and Calvary.

Upon entering each church, pilgrims visit the altar of repose, kneel, make the sign of the cross, read the appropriate scripture for each station and engage in private prayer and adoration. At the final church, many opt to observe a Holy Hour.

Eight churches in Detroit are participating this year. You may choose to visit all eight if you wish, or you may choose any seven.

Station 1

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22: 39-46

39 Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives, and his disciples followed him. 40 On reaching the place, he said to them, “Pray that you will not fall into temptation.” 41 He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, 42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” 43 An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. 44 And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground. 45 When he rose from prayer and went back to the disciples, he found them asleep, exhausted from sorrow. 46 “Why are you sleeping?” he asked them. “Get up and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.”

Station 2

Jesus bound and taken before Annas

John 18: 19-22

19 Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. 20 “I have spoken openly to the world,” Jesus replied. “I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. 21 Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said.” 22 When Jesus said this, one of the officials nearby slapped him in the face. “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” he demanded.

Station 3

Jesus taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas

Matthew 26: 63-65

63 But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” 64 “You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” 65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy.

Station 4

Jesus taken before Pilate

John 18: 35-37

35 “Am I a Jew?” Pilate replied. “Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What is it you have done?” 36 Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.” 37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

Station 5

Jesus taken before Herod

Luke 23: 8-9, 11

8 When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. 9 He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. 11 Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.

Station 6

Jesus taken before Pilate again

Matthew 27: 22-26

22 “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?” Pilate asked. They all answered, “Crucify him!” 23 “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!” 24 When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” 25 All the people answered, “His blood is on us and on our children!” 26 Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Station 7

Jesus given the crown of thorns and led to his crucifixion

Matthew 27: 27-31

27 Then the governor’s soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. 28 They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. 30 They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. 31 After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit

1000 Sainte Anne Street Detroit, MI, 48216

Holy Thursday Service – Spanish - 7 pm

Open until 12 Midnight

Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament

9844 Woodward Avenue Detroit, Michigan 48202

Holy Thursday Service – English - 7 pm

Open until 10 pm

Most Holy Redeemer

1721 Junction St. Detroit MI, 48209

Holy Thursday Service - 7pm

Open until 11 pm

Most Holy Trinity

1050 Porter St, Detroit, MI 48226

Holy Thursday Service – English - 7 pm

Open until 10:00 pm

Old St. Mary Parish (Greektown)

646 Monroe St, Detroit, Michigan 48226

Holy Thursday Service - 7 pm

Church's open until 11 pm

Guarded parking and security.

St. Aloysius

1234 Washington Blvd, Detroit, Michigan 48226

Holy Thursday Service – English - 7 pm

Open until 10:45 pm

Note - Located in the heart of downtown so they do not have a parking lot. There are several parking lots and metered street parking. Enter through the bronze doors off Washington Blvd. and take the stairs to the Lower Altar.

St. Gabriel Parish

8118 W. Vernor Hwy, Detroit MI, 48209

Holy Thursday Service – Spanish 7 pm

Father Bologna Hall open until 11 pm

Sweetest Heart of Mary

4440 Russell St, Detroit, MI 48207

Holy Thursday Service - 6 pm

Open until 11 pm

Participating Churches (alphabetically):

Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit

This parish is the second-oldest continuously-operating Catholic parish in the U.S. (first is in St. Augustine, Florida). Original French settlers to this area built a simple chapel on July 26, 1701, Ste. Anne's feast day. The chapel was followed by seven other buildings, different locations, but same community and same name. The current building was built in 1886. In 2020, it was named a Basilica – the first in Detroit and second in the Archdiocese.

Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament

In 1905, Most Blessed Sacrament parish was established in the then-northern limits of the city of Detroit. By 1930, construction was completed on this Gothic revival church. In 1937, Detroit was elevated to an Archdiocese, and Most Blessed Sacrament was chosen to be the cathedral, replacing St. Patrick's, which had been serving as the cathedral since 1890. A renovation of the Cathedral was started in 1985; St. Pope John Paul II visited the church in his 1987 visit to Detroit.

Most Holy Redeemer

Most Holy Redeemer Church is located at 1721 Junction Street in Southwest Detroit, Michigan, within the West Vernor–Junction Historic District. The church was once estimated as the largest Roman Catholic parish in North America. West Vernor–Junction Historic District is adjacent to Mexicantown and contains a growing Mexican community and resurgent neighborhood.

Most Holy Trinity

Established in 1834 for English-speaking Catholics who had begun to settle in French-speaking Detroit, Detroit's 1834 Cholera epidemic saw the building used as Detroit's only hospital. The neighborhood would see an explosion of immigration from County Cork, Ireland, resulting in the name "Corktown" in the mid-1800's. Today, the church remains a center of mercy and social justice via a clothing bank, food pantry, clinic, and more.

Old St. Mary's (Greektown)

Founded in 1834 by Father Martin Kundig to serve the German-speaking Catholic immigrants who settled in this part of the city, it is the third-oldest Roman Catholic parish in Detroit. Referred to as Old St. Mary's to avoid confusion with other churches, it was also known as the "Church of the Grottos" for the three grottos in the rear of the church. Since 1893, the Holy Spirit Fathers (Spiritans) have served the church.

St. Aloysius

Starting as Westminster Presbyterian Church, it was purchased by the Bishop of Detroit in 1873. St. Aloysius once served as the Cathedral for the Diocese. By 1930, the old Church Building was too small for the congregation. Not wanting to lose its location on Washington Blvd, the present Church was built to seat 2000 in only 6 months. This is the only Church in the United States with a well looking down to the lower level.

St. Gabriel

St. Gabriel Parish is part of the Southwest Detroit Family of Parishes. It is named for the archangel Gabriel, who announced to Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus.

Sweetest Heart of Mary

The Gothic Revival cathedral styled church is the largest of the Roman Catholic churches in the City of Detroit. It was designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1974 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. It, along with St. Albertus Roman Catholic Church and St. Josaphat Roman Catholic Church served the large Polish community through most of the twentieth century. In a diocesan reorganization instituted by Archbishop Allen Vigneron in 2013, Sweetest Heart of Mary joined with St. Josephat to form Mother of Divine Mercy Parish.