

HOLY THURSDAY 2025

Seven Churches Pilgrimage

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

VISIT 7 OR MORE
ALTARS OF REPOSE AT
9 DOWNTOWN CHURCHES
ON 1 HOLY NIGHT

“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.

Station 1

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Luke 22: 39-46

And he came out, and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. And when he came to the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this chalice from me; nevertheless not my will, but yours be done." And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down upon the ground. And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you will not enter into temptation."

Meditate:

On the pain of Jesus who was greatly saddened, and as he prayed, sweated blood for your salvation.

Prayer:

We feel your pain, Lord; thank you for everything you suffered for our salvation tonight in the Garden of Gethsemane. Grant us strength in our sorrows and the gift of prayer.

Our Father

Station 2

Jesus is bound and taken before Annas

John 18: 19-23

The high priest then questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together; I said nothing secretly. Why do you ask me? Ask those who have heard me, what I said to them; they know what I said." When he had said this, one of the officers standing by struck Jesus with his hand, saying, "Is this how you answer the high priest?" Jesus answered him, "If I have spoken wrongly, bear witness to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?"

Meditate:

On the pain of Jesus who here received a cruel slap at the hands of one of those present.

Prayer:

We accompany you Lord and we thank you for everything you suffered for us tonight in the house of the high priest Annas, where you were cruelly slapped. Grant us, Lord, that we respect our brothers and sisters.

Our Father

Station 3

Jesus is taken before the High Priest, Caiaphas

Matthew 26: 63-68

But Jesus was silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven." Then the high priest tore his robes, and said, "He has uttered blasphemy! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserved death." Then they spat in his face, and struck him; and some slapped him, saying, "Prophecy for us, Messiah: who is it that struck you?"

Meditate:

On the pain of Jesus who here was spit on, slapped and suffered very serious injuries and pain. Here he was also denied by his apostle Peter.

Prayer:

We feel your pain, Lord, and we thank you for everything you suffered tonight in the house of the High Priest Caiaphas for our salvation. Grant us the grace of being your witnesses before men and being faithful to your love.

Our Father

Station 4

Jesus is taken before Pilate

John 18: 35-37

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

Meditate:

On the pain of Jesus who was vilely accused by people who called for his crucifixion.

Prayer:

We feel your pain, Lord, and thank you for everything you suffered for our salvation in Pilate's Praetorium where you were slandered, and your death was called for. Forgive us, Lord, for all the ways that we have offended our brothers and sisters by our words.

Our Father

Station 5

Jesus is taken before Herod

Luke 23: 8-9, 11

Herod was very glad to see Jesus; he had been wanting to see him for a long time, for he had heard about him and had been hoping to see him perform some sign. He questioned him at length, but he gave him no answer. Even Herod and his soldiers treated him contemptuously and mocked him, and after clothing him in resplendent garb, he sent him back to Pilate.

Meditate:

On the pain of Jesus who here was vilely insulted by King Herod and his army, who dressed Him as a king out of mockery.

Prayer:

We feel your pain, Lord, and we thank you for everything that you suffered for our salvation in the palace of King Herod. Grant us, Lord, that we may be faithful to the promises of our Baptism.

Our Father

Station 6

Jesus is taken before Pilate again.

Matthew 27: 22-26

Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!" But he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" They only shouted the louder, "Let him be crucified!" When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood. Look to it yourselves." And the whole people said in reply, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." Then he released Barabbas to them, but after he had Jesus scourged, he handed him over to be crucified.

Meditate:

On the pain that Jesus felt here when he was sentenced to death unjustly.

Prayer:

We feel your pain, Lord, and we thank you for all you suffered in Pilate's Praetorium, unjustly sentenced to death. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have tried to wash our hands of the evil we have done. We beseech you, Lord, to have compassion on so many of our brothers and sisters who are victims of hatred and injustice.

Our Father

Station 7

Jesus is given the crown of thorns and led to his crucifixion

Matthew 27: 27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

Meditate:

On the pain of Jesus who here, with such great suffering, dies nailed to the Cross.

Prayer:

We feel your pain, Lord, and we thank you for everything you suffered for our salvation on the road to Calvary and in your crucifixion and very painful death. Grant that we know how to carry our cross daily and that we have a holy death.

Our Father

Basilica of Ste. Anne de Detroit

1000 Sainte Anne Street, Detroit, MI 48216
Holy Thursday Service – Spanish – 7pm
Open until 12 midnight

Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament

9844 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202
Holy Thursday Service – English – 7pm
Open until 10pm

Most Holy Redeemer

1721 Junction St., Detroit, MI 48209
Holy Thursday Service – Bilingual (English & Spanish) – 7pm
Open until 11pm

Most Holy Trinity

1050 Porter St, Detroit, MI 48226
Holy Thursday Service – English – 7pm
Open until 10pm

Old St. Mary Parish (Greektown)

646 Monroe St, Detroit, MI 48226
Holy Thursday Service – English – 7pm
Open until 9pm
Guarded parking and security

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

(Our Lady Queen of Angels site)
4200 Martin St, Detroit, MI 48210
Holy Thursday Service – Spanish – 7pm
Open until 12 midnight
Please enter by the side door by the parking lot.

St. Aloysius

1234 Washington Blvd, Detroit, MI 48226

Holy Thursday Service – English – 7pm

Open until 11pm

Night Prayer will be prayed at 10:45pm

Note – Located at 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 – Bilingual (English & Spanish) – 7pm

Open until 11pm

Sweetest Heart of Mary

4440 Russell St, Detroit, MI 48207

Holy Thursday Service – English – 6pm

Open until 11pm