



# PILGRIMAGE PLANNING GUIDE





## WHY A PILGRIMAGE TO THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CHAMPION?

Most dictionaries define pilgrimage as a journey to a sacred place. Our faith history is full of stories of people responding to a call to leave home and journey to the place of God. The Old Testament records the sojourn of Abraham to a new land, of Joseph's family traveling to Egypt looking to be fed, and of Moses leading the Israelites through the waters of freedom and the desert of repentance. The New Testament offers the example of the long excursion of the Magi to see the child Jesus and highlights the Holy Family's pilgrimage to the temple when Jesus was twelve.

After the Church was established, the journey continues, as we find many traveling to the places where Jesus walked, where the apostles and saints died for their faith, and where the Virgin Mary appeared calling souls to conversion and life united with her Son.

We encourage you to reflect on these things as you begin to plan your pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. Whether on your own, with your family, or as part of a large group, your pilgrimage is a time to reflect on the Apparitions and message of Our Lady of Champion, to pray for your intentions and those of others, and to hear the quiet whispers of God often drowned out by the noise of daily life.

This Planning Guide is designed to assist you in planning your upcoming pilgrimage, including identifying the daily schedule, major events, devotional opportunities, area attractions, and even sample itineraries. Our pilgrimage coordinators are also ready to help take the worry and anxiety out of planning the details of your trip, providing guidance to ensure a positive and fruitful experience.

Your pilgrimage to Champion, like all pilgrimages, should be seen as a miniature of your earthly pilgrimage towards eternity in heaven and give you food for that journey. As Pope Francis wrote in his Apostolic Letter *Sanctuarium In Ecclesia* (Sanctuaries in the Church), "To this day, Shrines in every part of the world are a distinctive sign of the simple and humble faith of believers who find in these holy places the dimension that upholds their existence as believers. Here, in a profound way, they experience the closeness of God, the tenderness of the Virgin Mary, and the company of the Saints...and Shrines can be a true refuge for rediscovering oneself and to find anew the necessary strength for conversion."

As we journey in faith, may the fruit of your pilgrimage to Champion be bountiful!



# GET TO KNOW NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

Located just 16 miles northeast of Green Bay, Champion Shrine lies at the heart of a region rich in Wisconsin history, including the state's founding in 1634 by Roman Catholic French Emissary Jean Nicolet. The first European settler to set foot in Wisconsin at Red Banks in the town of Scott, Nicolet paved the way for future immigrants to Wisconsin, including Belgian immigrants like Adele Brise and her family.

Champion Shrine is positioned in a tri-county region that has a rich agricultural heritage. Wisconsin, known as "America's Dairyland," is home to thousands of dairy farms and a growing number of vineyards and wineries. Champion (formerly known as Robinsonville) is located in Brown County, which encompasses Green Bay, home of the 13-time World Champion Green Bay Packers, a founder of the National Football League. [www.greenbay.com](http://www.greenbay.com)

Champion also opens the door to Door County. Comprised of a chain of resort communities, Door County is often referred to as the Cape Cod of the Midwest because of its miles of shoreline. [www.doorcounty.com](http://www.doorcounty.com) Also nearby is Kewaunee County, home to Wisconsin's top fishing villages and home to a number of beautiful agricultural and outdoor recreational communities. [www.visitkewaunee.com](http://www.visitkewaunee.com)



## Directions:

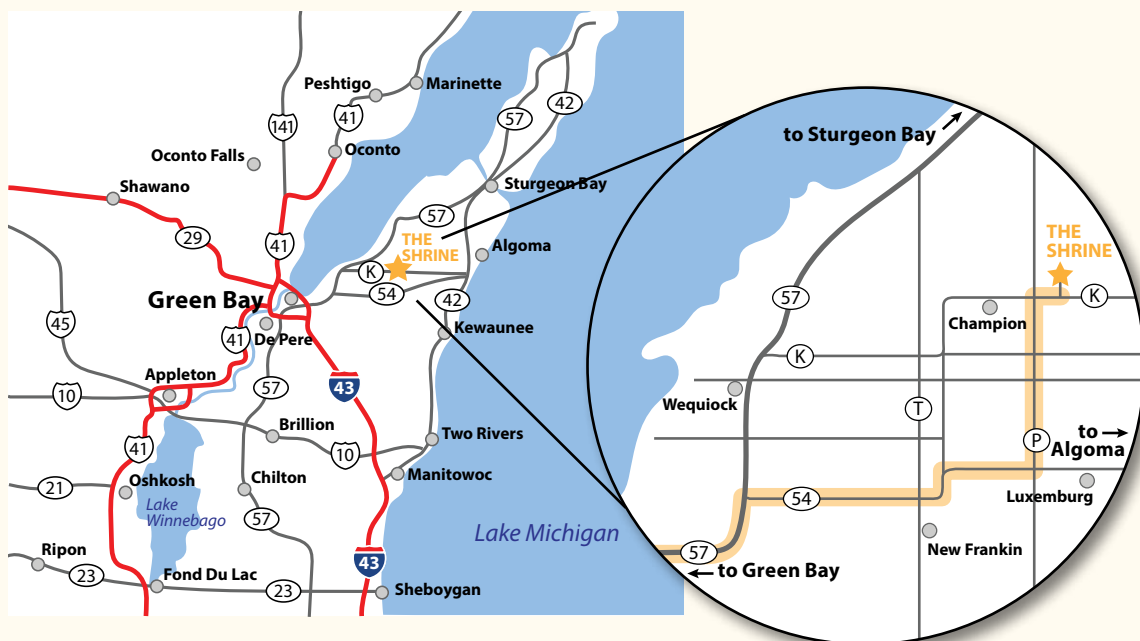
We are located on County Hwy K just 17 miles Northeast of Green Bay, Wisconsin: 6 miles east of the intersection of State Hwy 57 and 1 mile east of the community of Champion, on the North side of County Road K.

### Closest Airports to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

Green Bay, WI: Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport (1/2 hour driving distance)

Appleton, WI: Appleton International Airport (one hour driving distance)

Milwaukee, WI: Mitchell International Airport (two hour driving distance)



# HOURS AND INFORMATION

4047 Chapel Drive, Champion, WI 54229  
920-866-2571

## Apparition Chapel, Apparition Oratory, and the Shrine Grounds

Daily from 7:00 am – 7:00 pm

## Mass

Daily & Sunday at 11:00 am

Tuesday & Saturday at 8:30 am

Wednesday at 5:45 pm

Sunday (May-October) at 8:30 am

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Daily at 10:00 am, after 11:00 am Mass, and 2:00 pm

Saturday at 9:15 am

## Devotional Prayer

Rosary..... Daily at 10:30 am

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament... Daily from Noon – 3:15 pm

Chaplet of Divine Mercy..... Daily at 3:00 pm

Sacred Heart Devotions ..... First Friday after 11:00 am Mass

Fatima Devotions..... First Saturday after 8:30 am Mass

Healing Service ..... Last Saturday after 11:00 am Mass

Outdoor Rosary Walk.... Sundays (May-Oct) after 11:00 am Mass

Family Holy Hour..... Sundays (Nov-Apr) after 11:00 am Mass

## Adele Brise Day - Anointing of the Sick

Ninth of Each Month, after 11:00 am Mass

## Gift Shop and Schoolhouse Café

920-866-2571 ext 101

Monday – Saturday from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday from 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm

## History Center

May-October from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

November-April from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

For updates to this regular schedule,  
please visit [championshrine.org/updates](http://championshrine.org/updates)







## EVENTS AT CHAMPION SHRINE

### Walk to Mary

#### The First Saturday of May

From the National Shrine of St. Joseph to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, the Walk to Mary winds approximately 22 miles from De Pere, WI, to Champion, WI. This one-of-a-kind pilgrimage is a beautiful way to connect with your community and the Blessed Mother. Additional 1.7, 7, & 14-mile join-in points are available for the walk. To register or for more information, please visit [walktomary.com](http://walktomary.com).

### Marian Conference

#### Third Weekend of May

Champion Shrine's Marian Conference will focus on a different quality of Mary each year, inviting speakers to dive into the topic. Attendees will be able to develop a deeper understanding of Mary while also growing in greater intimacy with her Son, Jesus. To register or find more information, please visit [championshrine.org/marian-conference](http://championshrine.org/marian-conference).

### Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### August 15

One of Champion Shrine's longest-standing traditions! Pilgrims from all over the country come to celebrate the Mass for the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother. Following Mass, all are welcome to participate in the Shrine's historic Eucharistic Rosary Procession around the grounds. A picnic lunch is available at the Shrine for a small fee.

### Anniversary of the Miracle of the Fire

#### October 8

On October 8, the anniversary of the Great 1871 Fire, the Shrine partners with the Belgian Heritage Center to share the

inspiring history of the Belgian settlers who came to the area and the tragic impact the 1871 fire had on its community. On the evening of October 8, thousands of candles are placed around the Shrine's grounds for prayer intentions, and the story of the miracle of the fire is read aloud with all-night adoration and hourly rosary processions.

### Solemnity of Our Lady of Champion

#### October 9

October 9 celebrates the anniversary of Our Lady's 2nd and 3rd apparitions to Adele Brise in 1859. Celebrated as a Solemnity on the grounds of the Shrine, it is a day of highest honor for Our Lady of Champion and thousands of pilgrims travel to the Shrine to commemorate this special moment in history. To learn more about the Solemnity Day, please visit [championshrine.org/oloc-solemnity](http://championshrine.org/oloc-solemnity).

### Advent Rorate Caeli Mass & Breakfast

#### Second Saturday of December

Join the National Shrine in Champion for its celebration of the Rorate Caeli Mass, an ancient liturgy honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary! The event begins in the darkness of the morning, and as Mass is celebrated in candlelight, the sun rises and illumines the chapel. Hot breakfast and a special Advent reflection will follow Mass.

### Eucharistic Healing Services

#### Last Saturday of the Month

At the conclusion of the 11 a.m. Mass on every last Saturday of the Month, the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and presented among the faithful in Adoration. This is then followed by the Anointing of the Sick for those needing the Sacrament.

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

Champion Shrine is a place of prayer and reflection; as such, we ask that all pilgrims please respect others' rights to a quiet and prayerful atmosphere.

## Etiquette Considerations

- There is no formal dress code at the Shrine, but we encourage pilgrims to dress appropriately and keep in mind they are in the presence of the Lord, most especially during the Mass.
- All children on-site must be accompanied and attended to by an adult.
- All pets on-site must be on a leash. Approved service animals are allowed on all grounds, in buildings, and in the Chapel.
- Please be respectful of others praying when photos are taken on site.
- The Safe Environment policies of the Diocese of Green Bay are adhered to at Champion Shrine.



## On-Site Considerations

- There is no overnight parking or camping on site.
- There is no retreat center or lodging on-site at the Shrine.
- All buildings and facilities are ADA-accessible. Wheelchairs are provided in the Chapel and Mother of Mercy Hall. For those with limited mobility, there is transportation to buildings during large events, both by wheelchair and golf carts.
- A hearing loop is available in the Apparition Chapel for those with compatible hearing devices.
- The following religious events are not celebrated at Champion Shrine: weddings, funerals, baptisms, and communion services.
- Pilgrim groups of 10 or more people need to be planned and scheduled with the pilgrimage coordinator.



## The Liturgical Norms of the Catholic Church are Observed

- Clergy from outside the Diocese of Green Bay who are planning to celebrate, concelebrate, or assist at Mass on-site must have a letter of good standing submitted two weeks prior to planned arrival.
- Priests need to bring an alb if celebrating Mass. Other vestments are provided.





# ITINERARY CONSIDERATIONS

## History Center

- Education of Champion Shrine and the story of Adele and Our Lady of Champion. The history video plays continuously at 30 minute intervals.

## History Talk

- Shrine Staff will give a history talk on the Shrine and its heritage. A history talk must be scheduled in advance and at a cost of \$30 per group.

## Mass (with an accompanying Priest)

- Priests with credentials submitted and accepted may concelebrate Mass at scheduled Mass times.
- Priests with credentials submitted and accepted may celebrate a private Mass for their pilgrim group.
  - 8:30 am or 9:00 am on weekdays excluding Tuesday and Saturday
  - Other times must be arranged, including any private Mass in Mother of Mercy Hall.
  - Minimum fee for private Mass is \$50.

## Dining on Site

- Meeting/Lunch rooms: Reservations for an eating area and a fee is required to rent a room for the day.
- Café Lunch – Sandwich orders must be placed through Café at least 2 weeks in advance.
- Catered – See local caterers and recommendations
- Outdoors – Picnic grounds and picnic tables (as available)

## Private Prayer Locations

- Apparition Oratory & Chapel – accessible entries
- Relics in Apparition Oratory
- Gravesite of Adele Brise
- Roadside Chapel
- Lourdes Grotto
- Fatima Grotto
- St. John Paul II Grotto
- Stations of the Cross
- Outdoor Rosary Walk
- Statues of the Pieta, Holy Family, St. Joseph, St. Francis of Assisi, The Crucifixion, Blessed Mother, St. Michael the Archangel, and Replica of the Divine Mercy Portrait



## Minimum Fees

- \$30 – History Talk
  - \$50 – Private Mass
  - \$50 – Use of the Kitchen
  - \$75 – Minimum for Medium Room Rental (20-60 people)
  - \$100 – Minimum for Large Room Rental (75-100 people)
- Fees are subject to change based on the needs of the group.*

# SAMPLE ITINERARIES

## Sample of a Full Day Group Pilgrimage

*This is suggested itinerary please contact the pilgrimage coordinator to create your own personalized pilgrimage itinerary.*

### 9:30 am Arrival at Mother of Mercy Hall

After being welcomed by Shrine staff or volunteers, pilgrims will have time to use restrooms and will receive some general information about the Shrine.

### 9:45 am History Talk or Video

A ½ hour history talk about the Shrine and the apparition approval. There is a \$30 fee per group. A history video is available for viewing free of charge.

### 10:30 am Rosary in the Chapel

Rosary begins at 10:30 am daily.

### 11:00 am Holy Mass in the Shrine Chapel

If a private pilgrimage Mass is desired please see the private Mass information below. Visiting Priests may celebrate/concelebrate Mass only with valid Priest credententials.

These credententials must be submitted two weeks in advance.

### 12:15 pm Lunch in Mother of Mercy Hall

Rooms are rented depending on the size of group. Room rental information available upon request. Bring your own lunch or use one of our catered options.

### 1:00 pm Visit and pray at many devotional areas on the Shrine grounds

Mother of Mercy Hall, Apparition Oratory, Our Lady of Fatima Grotto, Rosary Walk, St. Francis Grotto, Stations of The Cross, and the History Center.

### 2:00 pm Confession in the Chapel/Visit Shrine Gift Shop

Confessions are daily at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. The Gift Shop is a great source of religious gifts, statues, books, videos, music, and artwork.

### 3:00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Chapel

### 3:30 pm Departure



## Private Mass

*If a private pilgrimage Mass is desired, the following are available Mass times:*

Chapel:	M, W, TH, F TU, SAT, SUN	8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. After 3:30 p.m.
Mother of Mercy Hall:	SUN - SAT	9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. <i>Depending on Availability</i>



## Sample of a Half-Day Pilgrimage

*Consider viewing the Shrine History video and/or saying the rosary as a group on the bus prior to arrival.*

### **10:15 am Arrival at Mother of Mercy Hall**

After being welcomed by Shrine staff or volunteers, pilgrims will have time to use restrooms and will receive some general information about the Shrine.

### **11:00 am Holy Mass in the Shrine Chapel**

Visiting Priests may celebrate/concelebrate Mass only with valid Priest credentals. These credentals must be submitted two weeks in advance..

### **12:15 pm Lunch in Mother of Mercy Hall**

Rooms are rented depending on the size of group. Room rental information available upon request. Bring your own lunch or use one of our catered options.

### **12:45 pm Visit and pray at many devotional areas on the Shrine grounds**

Mother of Mercy Hall, Apparition Oratory, Our Lady of Fatima Grotto, Rosary Walk, St. Francis Grotto, Stations of The Cross, and the History Center.

### **2:00 pm Departure**



## Sample of a Student Pilgrimage/Retreat

### **9:30 am Arrival at Mother of Mercy Hall**

After being welcomed by Shrine staff or volunteers, pilgrims will have time to use restrooms and will receive some general information about the Shrine.

### **9:45 am Group Activity**

This could be a history talk, an activity led by a Priest and/or Religious Education Leader, Confessions or Rosary

### **11:00 am Attend Mass**

### **12:00 pm Lunch**

Rooms are rented depending on the size of group. Room rental information is available upon request. Bring your own lunch or use one of our catered options.

### **12:45 pm Break out into groups to tour devotional areas on the Shrine grounds**

### **2:00 pm Departure**

# POPULAR CATHOLIC SITES IN WISCONSIN



- 1 National Shrine of Saint Joseph** De Pere, WI (29 miles from Champion)
- 2 Holy Hill – Basilica of the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians** Hubertus, WI (136 miles from Champion)
- 3 Basilica of Saint Josaphat** Milwaukee, WI (118 miles from Champion)
- 4 St. Joan of Arc Chapel** Milwaukee, WI (118 miles from Champion)
- 5 Shrine Our Lady of Guadalupe** La Crosse, WI (225 Miles from Champion))
- 6 National Shrine of Saint Philomena** Briggsville, WI (140 miles from Champion)



# RESOURCES

[www.championshrine.org](http://www.championshrine.org)

## Reference Materials Available

History Brochure

Liturgical Guide

Dining / Catering Options

Self-Guided Tour Map

Hotel Listings

Schoolhouse Café Order Form

## Notes:

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