

2025 ADULT FAITH AND LAY FORMATION



Walk to Mary

ABOUT THE WALK TO MARY

WHAT IS IT? WHY SHOULD I GO?

The *Walk to Mary* is an annual, twenty-one-mile pilgrimage walk in Wisconsin. The pilgrimage begins at the National Shrine of St. Joseph, located in St. Norbert College in De Pere, WI, and ends at the only Church-approved Marian apparition site in the United States of America—the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

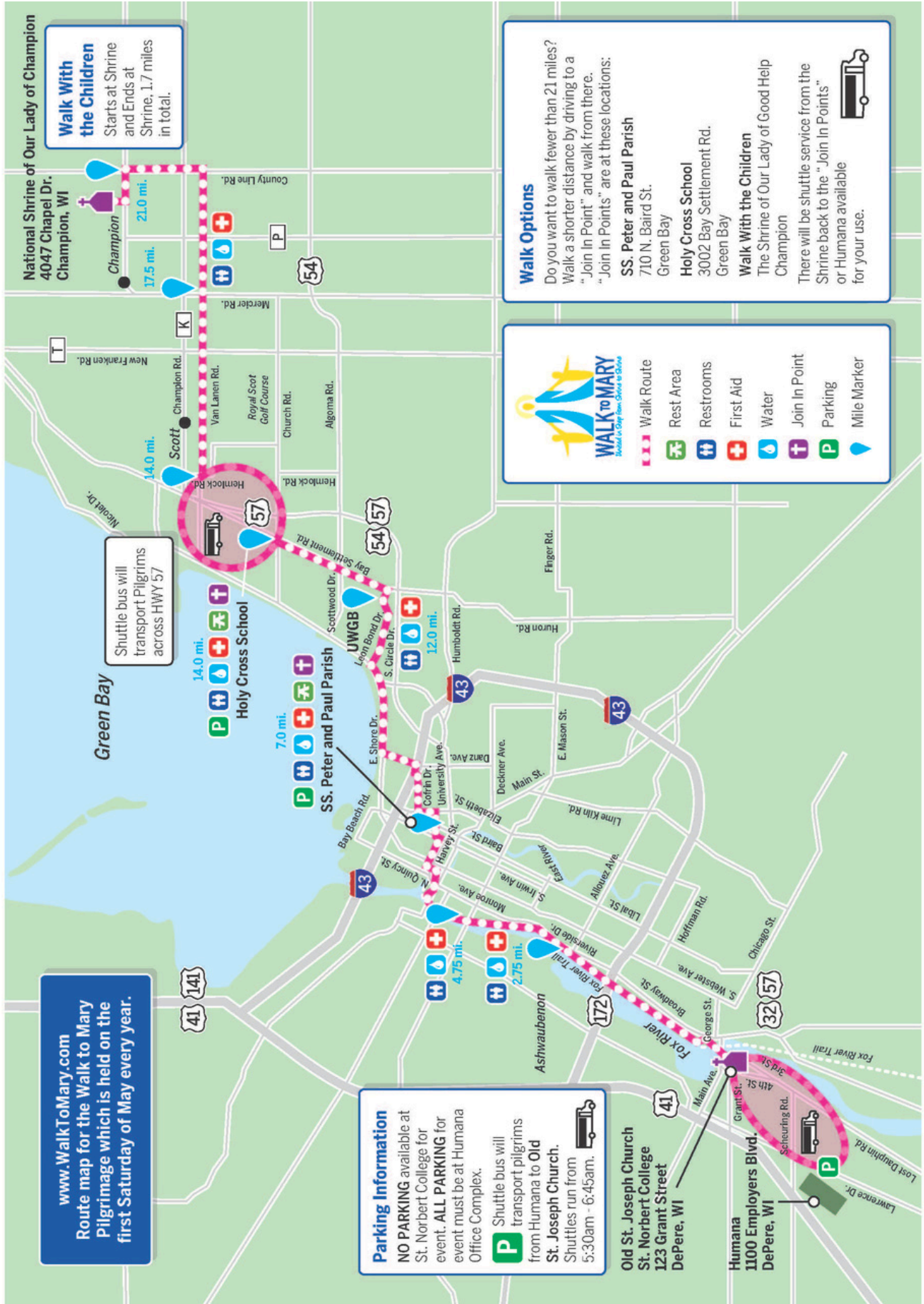
In 1859, Mary appeared to Adele Brise in Champion, WI, instructing her to teach the Catholic faith to the children of the land. On this pilgrimage, pilgrims not only remember this beautifully simple Marian apparition, but they also journey spiritually with Joseph and Mary to witness their love and fidelity to Jesus Christ. People of diverse ages, races, and nationalities all come together to participate in this sacred experience.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

The *Walk to Mary* is open to Catholic adults of all ages and their families. However, in the months leading up to this pilgrimage walk, pilgrims must do some physical training and preparation to get into walking shape. Walking twenty-one-miles is no small task, and pilgrims are likely to experience fatigue and soreness during the journey.

To minimize these challenges, please refer to the tips and resources found on the [“Physical Preparation”](#) page of the official *Walk to Mary* website. Although this walk will not be easy, it is an opportunity for pilgrims to rise to the challenge so as to be physically and spiritually transformed!

WALK TO MARY PILGRIMAGE ROUTE



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO WALK 21 MILES?

It typically will take from 7:30 am (the start of the pilgrimage) to 3:00 pm-ish to get to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. For some pilgrims, it could take a bit longer assuming you are walking slower than the group leading our journey carrying the statue of Our Blessed Mother.

Q. ARE THERE BATHROOMS ALONG THE WAY?

There are porta-potties, water stations, and first-aid available along the entire route, every 1.5 – 2 miles.

Q. IS LUNCH INCLUDED OR SHOULD I PACK MY OWN LUNCH?

Lunch is included – sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, water, and fruit. If you require gluten-free options we suggest you bring some snacks or food along to accommodate your personal needs.

Q. CAN YOU CLARIFY HOW THE “FATIGUED PILGRIM SHUTTLES” WORK?

Transportation will be made available to assist pilgrims who struggle to complete the walk. There are numerous courtesy vans available to assist pilgrims to continue to move forward along our route. At Holy Cross Church, at our lunch stop, there are shuttle buses available to transport fatigued pilgrims directly to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

Q. WHEN DOES MASS START? DOES IT FULFILL OUR SUNDAY OBLIGATION?

Our diocese’s pilgrimage group will attend the regular Vigil Mass that starts at 5:15 pm at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. This Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay. The 5:15 pm Mass counts as your regular Sunday obligation.

Q. IS THE PILGRIMAGE TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOUNG CHILDREN TO WALK?

The entire journey of 21 miles is certainly a challenge for everyone, especially children. However, many children have walked the entire route. Like adults, children should train to ensure they are physically prepared for the journey.

Q. CAN FAMILIES BRING STROLLERS FOR THEIR CHILDREN?

Yes, many parents and grandparents bring strollers for their children. You will be able to store the stroller in compartments under some of the shuttle buses. Make sure you board a shuttle bus that is able to accommodate a stroller.

HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Please refer to the [“Frequently Asked Questions”](#) page of the official *Walk to Mary* website.

WHAT TO BRING ON PILGRIMAGE

REMEMBER...

The *Walk to Mary* pilgrimage will occur regardless of the weather conditions (rain or shine). Pilgrims are therefore advised to dress appropriately for the day's forecast. It is always encouraged to dress in layers; if the weather warms up, pilgrims can take off extra layers and stow them in their backpacks (see below).

PILGRIMAGE ITEMS CHECKLIST:

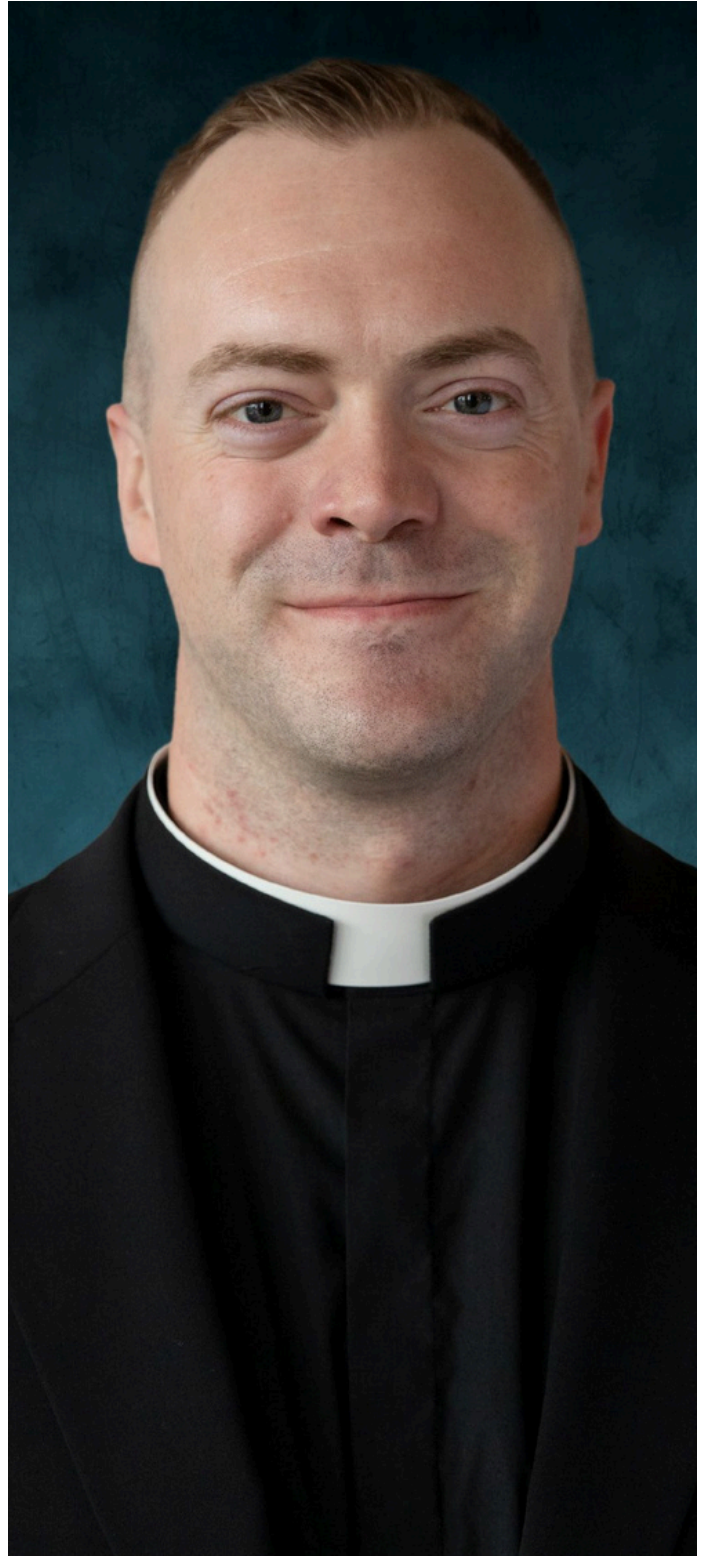
1. A backpack to carry items
2. Appropriate dress for the walk
 - Rain gear and/or layered clothing may be needed.
3. Water bottles are a MUST!
 - There will be water refill stations along the way. Only water will be supplied.
4. Food and snacks
5. Rosary
6. Comfortable walking shoes that have been broken in
7. Extra pair of socks
8. Some first-aid items (i.e. powder, bandages)
9. Sunscreen
10. Dry and wet tissues
11. Small towel
12. Optional: Experienced pilgrims have found Moleskin to be extremely helpful for the prevention and treatment of blisters.
 - Blisters are the most common issue for the pilgrims who participate on this journey.

MEET OUR CHAPLAIN: FR. JOSHUA MILLER

ABOUT FR. JOSHUA:

Fr. Joshua Miller, originally from Waseca, MN, is the oldest child of Gregory and Karen Miller. He graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point in 2012 and commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer in the US Army. After serving five years on Active Duty, he entered Mundelein Seminary in Illinois studying for the Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska and co-sponsored by the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA.

In 2023 he transferred to the Diocese of Winona-Rochester and also transferred to Saint Paul Seminary. He was ordained in June 2024 and is assigned as the Parochial Vicar for Sacred Heart Parish in Owatonna and to assist with Sacramental Ministry at Saint Joseph Parish in Owatonna and Christ the King Parish in Medford. Currently Fr. Joshua is in the Army Reserves. Upon the completion of three years of parochial ministry, Fr. Joshua will be returning to Active Duty with the US Army as a Chaplain in accordance with the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA Co-Sponsored Seminarian Program.



TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 2

- 8:00 a.m. Arrive at DOWR Chancery in Rochester, MN
Mass | Blessing of Pilgrims (Location & Time: TBD)
Depart for De Pere, WI
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (OLG)
Lunch | Personal Prayer & Reflection at OLG Shrine
- 7:00 p.m. Arrive at and check into Hotel (De Pere, WI)
Dinner at Hotel

SATURDAY, MAY 3

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel
Depart from Hotel to St. Norbert College
- 7:00 a.m. Pilgrims check-in at National Shrine of St. Joseph
Prayer Service | Blessing of Pilgrimage prior to Walk
- 7:30 a.m. Walk to National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion (OLC)
- 12:00 p.m. Pilgrims arrive at Holy Cross Parish for Lunch
- 5:00 p.m. Pilgrims arrive at OLC Shrine
Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop David Ricken
- 7:00 p.m. Depart from OLC Shrine and return to Hotel
Dinner at Hotel

SUNDAY, MAY 4

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel
- 7:30 a.m. Depart from Hotel
- 12:00 p.m. Return to DOWR Chancery
Mass of Thanksgiving in Chancery Chapel (Optional)

TENTATIVE COST

THE COSTS BELOW ARE **ESTIMATED** AS BEST THEY CAN BE

COST OF THE 2025 WALK TO MARY PILGRIMAGE

Notice: The below costs reflect the estimated cost for an **adult** registering for the pilgrimage. Registration costs vary for **teenagers** and **young children** who plan on attending the pilgrimage (see online registration form for details). The cost of the hotel room(s) also varies depending on the number of occupants in the room(s).

\$270.00 - Registration Cost

- Cost covers: Bus fee | Gas & Mileage | Meals | Pilgrim's Registration & T-shirt

\$350.00 - Hotel Room Cost per Pilgrim (see "Notice" above)

- This cost is separate from Registration Cost (see "Payment Details" below)

620.00 Total Cost Per Adult Pilgrim

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment for registration will be made to the Diocese of Winona-Rochester. The *Walk to Mary* pilgrimage organization requests that you pay for your own hotel reservation. Once you register, we will send you a link to the hotel and provide you with an authorization code to claim your room(s) and make a payment. Payments will be accepted by credit or debit card when you register online.

MEALS AND SPENDING MONEY

Meals included in pricing:

- Friday dinner
- Saturday lunch included in pilgrimage walk
- Saturday dinner
- The hotel provides a continental breakfast on Saturday and Sunday morning.

Pilgrims should bring their own **snacks for the bus ride and extra spending money** for the following: Friday's lunch at OLG Shrine and pilgrimage souvenirs.

HOW TO REGISTER

LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!

Register as soon as possible, space is limited!

Step 1: Click on this link to get access to the registration form

Step 2: Follow the prompts and click "submit"

Step 3: Select make a payment and submit

Step 4: You will receive a confirmation email and watch for more emails with further information

You can register by visiting here: <https://www.dowr.org/event-details/3769>

Or scan the QR code with your phone:



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

February 8, 2025 Holy Family Retreat at St. Edwards Parish in Austin

March 1, 2025 Registration deadline for Walk to Mary Pilgrimage

March 15, 2025 St. Joseph Retreat at St. Joseph Parish in Owatonna

April 12, 2025 St. Mary Retreat at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Blue Earth