

SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF MARIAPOCH



BURTON, OHIO

HISTORY OF THE SHRINE OF MÁRIAPÓCS IN HUNGARY

The Byzantine Catholic (then called Greek Catholic) people in the Carpathian Basin of Europe were poor, but they possessed a great spiritual treasure in their devotion to the Most Holy Mother of God, the Theotokos. And she showed her motherly concern for her poor people by her miraculous icons, the most famous of which is the Weeping Icon of Máriapócs in Hungary.

In the mid-17th century, on the northeastern plains of Hungary, in the poor village church of Pócs, on Sunday, Nov. 4, 1696, during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy the faithful noticed that the icon of the Most Holy Theotokos on the iconostasis was shedding tears. The weeping continued until Dec. 8, 1696.

After hearing of miraculous healings attributed to the weeping icon, Emperor Leopold I ordered that it be brought to Vienna. On Dec. 1, 1697, the icon was solemnly enthroned on the main altar of St. Stephen's Cathedral there.

Since its arrival, the icon never wept again, but many other miracles and answered prayers have been attributed to it, including the victory of Prince Eugene of Savoy over the Turks at Zenta (Serbia) a few weeks after the icon's installation in the cathedral.

To appease the people of Pócs, the bishop of Eger ordered an exact copy of the icon to be made and installed in church there. And the Blessed Mother again shed tears on the copy of the original icon between Aug. 1-5, 1715. Following an investigation, Bishop Erdody declared that the weeping of the icon was miraculous, and so it could be publicly venerated in the church.

After construction of a larger church to accommodate the growing crowds of pilgrims, the Basilian Fathers from Mukachevo were summoned to take care of the shrine. They became the sole curators of the Marian Shrine in Pócs, which since that time is known as Máriapócs. Many miraculous healings were meticulously recorded by the Basilian Fathers in their registers. The shrine, enriched by various papal indulgences, constantly attracted more and more pilgrims, both Byzantine and Roman Catholics, coming from all parts of Hungary and beyond. In 1905 the Blessed Mother once more showed her motherly concern for her people. Between Dec. 3-19, and again on Dec. 30 and 31, her miraculous icon shed tears for the third time. An episcopal commission issued an official statement saying that the shedding of tears was miraculous and should be ascribed to divine intervention. In 1948 Pope Pius XII raised the twin-spired stone church in Máriapócs to the rank of minor basilica. Pope John Paul II visited the shrine in 1991. Now designated a "National Place of Worship," the church in Máriapócs housing the miraculous icon is visited by 600,000-800,000 pilgrims and tourists each year.

SHRINE OF MARIAPOCH, BURTON, OHIO

An American counterpart of the Shrine of Our Lady of Máriapócs does exist. Located off Route 422 in Troy Township among the rolling hills of Geauga County, it is very similar to the one in Hungary. The Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch is a beautiful, peaceful wooded area to the east of Cleveland, south of Burton. It was purchased in 1955 through anonymous donors wanting to give honor to Our Lady of Máriapócs. This American shrine was dedicated in August 1956 by Bishop Nicholas T. Elko, D.D., the head of the Ruthenian (then) Exarchate in America, honoring the intentions of the donors. Through the devoted services of the shrine's founding director, Father Alexander Bobak, S.T.D., and the Social Mission Sisters and with resources provided by faithful contributors, the grounds were developed for pilgrimage.

The shrine is open to visitors from the last Sunday in May through the first Sunday in October. A Byzantine Catholic Divine Liturgy (Mass) is celebrated each Sunday at the shrine altar. Dinner is served in the café after the Liturgy. The Eastern Treasures Gift Shop is open for purchasing religious items. The Sisters of Christ the Bridegroom Monastery, across the street at 17485 Mumford Road, invite you to visit. See their website www.christthebridegroom.org for more information about the community.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mariapoch

O most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, adorned with miracles, whose icon shed tears at the place of your mercy in Mariapoch, we, who honor you, humbly beseech your motherly care. Save our country from all its enemies; protect the church; and join all in one faith that, at last, the words of Christ may be fulfilled: "There shall be one fold and one shepherd." Do not deny us your intercession; and obtain for us peaceful times, health for our bodies and peace for our souls. Obtain the grace for us that our last hour finds us in the Christian faith and in a state of grace so that we be enabled to gain eternal salvation, Amen.

INTRODUCTION

This shrine is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God, under the title “Our Lady of Mariapoch,” just one of the myriad titles given to her. Very little is known of the early life of Mary, daughter of Joachim and Anna. What is known is found in the Protevangelium of St. James, a non-canonical book written in mid-second century, which tells of her birth to the elderly couple who had been barren but promised to return their child back to God, thus Mary’s presentation in the temple at the age of three, where she remained until her betrothal to Joseph, an elderly widower (according to Eastern Christian tradition).

The New Testament Gospels pick up the account of Archangel Gabriel’s annunciation to Mary that she was to give birth to the Savior through the power of the Holy Spirit. We read of Joseph’s doubts being dispelled by an angel appearing in a dream and the couple’s journey to Bethlehem where Jesus is born, their flight into Egypt and eventual return to settle in Nazareth.

Perhaps the two most important Gospel passages referring to Mary are the wedding at Cana and the Crucifixion. At the wedding, when Mary discovers that the wine has run out, she states that to Jesus. She does not ask him to do anything. But she is certain that he will, so she tells the servers to “Do whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). This is her message to all of humanity. She points the way to her son.

At the Crucifixion when only Mary and the beloved disciple John are remaining by Jesus, he tells his mother, “Woman, behold your son,” and John, “Behold your mother” (Jn 19:26-27). So Mary becomes the mother of all humanity. She remains with John until her Dormition (Eastern Christian term for “falling asleep” in the Lord) or Assumption (Roman term for being assumed into heaven).

With the 431 A.D. Third Ecumenical Council in Ephesus declaring Mary truly “Theotokos” or “Bearer of God,” she becomes the model of motherhood and has, through the centuries, shown her motherly love and concern for all of God’s peoples through various means. Often Mary has appeared to poor children or persons in remote areas. These apparitions have given Mary the titles: Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Knock, Our Lady of Fatima, and many others throughout the world.

Mary’s love and sorrow for her people is often expressed in Eastern Christianity through weeping icons. The original weeping icon of Our Lady of Mariapoch, in Hungary, and a replacement icon wept when the people of that region were in peril.

The sites of these apparitions and miraculous weepings have become places of pilgrimage where many miracles have taken place, often for people of different faiths or no faith. It was a Muslim man who experienced a miraculous healing during the apparitions of Our Lady of Light, at a Coptic Orthodox church in Zeitoun, Egypt.

It is not only the Catholic faith that reveres Mary. Muslims devote a chapter, or sura, in the Koran to Mary and see her as the most exemplary woman in the world. As Miriam, the mother of Jesus, Mary is held in high regard by Jews.

What Mary is telling the world through all of the apparitions and weeping icons is a message of repentance, prayer, love and peace. The December 2015 issue of National Geographic magazine contains an article titled “Mary, the most powerful woman in the world.” A reissue of LIFE’s classical edition, “Mary, blessed art thou among women,” is devoted to Mary as mother and intercessor. Everyone can turn to her, our universal mother, to hear the longings of our hearts.

*“We are a center of prayer for peace in the world and in each life,
offering the healing refuge of Our Lady of Mariapoch.”
“Behold your mother!”*

THE GROUNDS

The Byzantine Catholic Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch. The spacious grounds of the shrine in its serene country setting provide ample opportunities for setting aside all earthly cares and reconnecting with nature. Take the time to breathe in the fresh air, see the lush greenery, and listen to the wind whisper through the trees. You may even hear the rhythmic clippety-clop of horse-drawn buggies passing by!

We invite you to explore all that the shrine has to offer. In the back of this booklet you will find a map listing all of the prayer venues. Visit the Stations of the Cross, the Calvary Chapel, the Seven Sorrows of Mary, the Lourdes Grotto and more. Sit and meditate on their meaning or offer a prayer. In addition to the prayer venues, visit the gift shop for a remembrance of your visit, and stop at the café for some refreshment.

As you walk these grounds you will find a blending of Roman statuary and Eastern iconography, two ways of portraying the Mother of God and the saints. Whatever your belief system, you are most welcome to experience the peace this shrine brings to your soul. The shrine’s mission statement is, “We are a center of prayer for peace in the world and in each life, offering the healing refuge of Our Lady of Mariapoch.”

1. ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

St. Anthony of Padua is one of the church's most popular saints. He is known as the patron saint of lost and stolen articles, travelers and sailors. A 13th century Franciscan, he was also known for powerful preaching, love of Scripture and love for the poor. In 1946 Pope Pius XII declared St. Anthony a Doctor of the Church. He is portrayed holding lilies, a symbol of his purity, a book for his knowledge of Scripture, and the child Jesus, who appeared to him in a vision. His feast day is June 13.

Prayer to the "Wonder Worker"

After you died, St. Anthony, God chose to make your holiness known to the world and to draw people by working miracles in answer to prayers made in your name. Since then, people have asked God to continue to honor you by working wonders through your intercession. Those who have experienced the power of prayers offered in your name have told how God has answered them.

God has healed the sick, restored peace of mind, relieved poverty and granted favors of all kinds.

Now in this time of need, I ask you, St. Anthony, to pray with me for the things I desire. I pray that God may again give me a sign of loving care and providence, and that through you, God may draw us all to the fullness of life and love in eternity. Amen.

2. ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

St. Francis was born to a wealthy family but after living a life of luxury, he soon renounced that lifestyle and began a life of poverty. He had a vision of Jesus Christ telling him to rebuild the church, which he first took literally and then understood it to mean spiritually. He founded the monastic Franciscan Order for men and the Poor Clares for his friend (St.) Clare and her group of women. He also founded the Third Order for lay people and priests who wished to follow the Franciscan principles in their daily lives.

Two years before his death he received the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ, following a vision. He died in 1226 and was declared a saint in 1228 by Pope Gregory IX. Because of his love of animals and nature on Nov. 29, 1979, Pope John Paul II declared St. Francis the Patron Saint of Ecology. His feast day is Oct. 4.

The Prayer of St. Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

Where there is injury, pardon;

Where there is doubt, faith;

Where there is despair, hope;

Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master,

Grant that I may not so much seek

To be consoled as to console;

To be understood, as to understand;

To be loved, as to love;

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

3. SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The devotion to the Sacred Heart is especially concerned with what the church deems to be the long-suffering love and compassion of the heart of Christ towards humanity. The popularization of this devotion in its modern form is derived from a Catholic nun from France, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who said she learned the devotion from Jesus during a series of apparitions to her between 1673 and 1675, and later, in the 19th century, from the mystical revelations of another Catholic nun in Portugal, Blessed Mary of the Divine Heart Droste zu Vischering, a religious of the Good Shepherd, who requested in the name of Christ that Pope Leo XIII consecrate the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Roman Catholic Church celebrates the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus 19 days after Pentecost.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

4. THE HOLY FAMILY

The Holy Family refers to the human family unit of Jesus Christ, his mother, Mary, the Theotokos, and his foster-father, St. Joseph. Not much is written about their family life, but we can look to them as a model for the Christian family. According to Eastern Christian tradition, St. Joseph is an older widower with children from his previous marriage, perhaps the “brothers” of Jesus referred to in the Gospels.

Prayer to the Holy Family

Lord Jesus Christ, you were made subject to Mary and Joseph and consecrated domestic life by your ineffable virtues; grant that we, with the assistance of both, may be taught by the example of your holy family and may attain to its everlasting fellowship, for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

5. MARY, QUEEN OF HEAVEN

The papal encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*, issued by Pope Pius XII, states that Mary is called Queen of Heaven because her son, Jesus Christ, is the king of Israel and heavenly king of the universe. The title also comes in part from the ancient Catholic teaching that Mary, at the end of her earthly life, was bodily and spiritually assumed into heaven, and that she is there honored as Queen.

Prayer

*Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
to you we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

6. ICON OF MARIAPOCH

The icon of Our Lady of Mariapoch is a replica of the miraculous weeping icon of Our Lady of Mariapocs, in Hungary. An original icon of the Mother of God and the child Jesus wept in 1696, indicating Mary’s concern for her poor, oppressed people. After the icon was taken to Vienna, a replacement icon in the Hungarian church wept in 1715 and 1905, again times when the people were suffering. The town of Pócs, where the church housed the weeping icon, became a place of pilgrimage and eventually was called Máriapócs.

In 2017, Deacon William Fredrick, director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Mariapoch, approached Metropolitan Fülöp Kocsis, head of the Greek Catholic Church in Hungary, for permission to have a replica painted of the miraculous icon for our own shrine here.

On June 2, the replica icon of Our Lady of Máriapócs was touched to the miraculous icon at the basilica in Máriapócs and blessed there by Basilian Father Ábel Szocska, apostolic administrator of the Eparchy of Nyíregyháza and hegumen of the Basilian monastery at Máriapócs. After a perilous journey to America, the icon was then encased in a wooden and glass frame and installed at the shrine on Aug. 13, during the annual eparchial pilgrimage.

Painted with relatively simple strokes, the icon belongs to the so-called Hodigitria (the Guide) icons. Mary holds the baby Jesus on her left arm and points to him with her right hand: He is the Way. The child Jesus holds a flower in his left hand and extends his right hand in blessing. Mary's outer garment contains three stars (the third hidden by the child Jesus), to indicate her virginity before, during and after the birth of Jesus.

Prayer to Our Lady of Mariapoch

O most blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, adorned with miracles, whose icon shed tears at the place of your mercy in Mariapoch, we, who honor you, humbly beseech your motherly care. Save our country from all its enemies; protect the church; and join all in one faith that, at last, the words of Christ may be fulfilled: "There shall be one fold and one shepherd." Do not deny us your intercession; and obtain for us peaceful times, health for our bodies and peace for our souls. Obtain the grace for us that our last hour finds us in the Christian faith and in a state of grace so that we be enabled to gain eternal salvation, Amen.

7. ST. ANNE

St. Anne and her husband, St. Joachim, were the parents of Mary, the Theotokos. Mary's mother is not named in the canonical Gospels. In writing, Anne's name and that of her husband Joachim come only from New Testament apocrypha. Tradition says that the elderly couple prayed to God for a child and promised to give the child back to God; hence Mary's entrance into the Temple at age three. St. Anne is the patron of childless people; children; equestrians; grandparents; homemakers/housewives; lace makers; lost articles; miners; mothers; moving house; old-clothes dealers; poverty; pregnancy; seamstresses; stablemen; sterility; and teachers.

Prayer

O holy Anne, you are filled with the wisdom of God, and you gave birth to the most pure Mother, the one who gave birth to Life. Therefore, you have been carried up in glory on this day to the blessedness of heaven, to the abode of those who exult with joy. And now you pray, O ever-blessed one, for the forgiveness of sins for all those who honor you with all their heart.

8. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross are a common devotion based on the events of the last day of Jesus Christ's life on earth, perhaps in imitation of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem (believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary). People not able to go to Jerusalem could still make a "pilgrimage" by meditating and praying at each of the 14 Stations of the Cross.

First Station: Jesus is Condemned to Death

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Mediation: It is necessary that we accept the cross of tribulation willingly, at least with the higher part of our soul, as Jesus accepted His condemnation in perfect conformity to the will of the Father. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*O Jesus! so meek and uncomplaining, teach me resignation in trials.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Second Station: Jesus Carries His Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Mediation: Most fortunate is the soul who walks by the way of Calvary, following Jesus our Redeemer, for if we suffer with Christ now with Christ we shall reign in the glory of the Father. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*My Jesus, this cross should be mine, not Thine; my sins crucified Thee.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Third Station: Jesus Falls for the First Time

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Mediation: Come and see our Savior enduring so much suffering, so many insults, and oppressed with the heavy burden of the cross, for love of us. Contemplate the Son of God, Redeemer of the world, and how much He is suffering. O Jesus in Your sufferings I see the gravity of my sins. Lord have mercy! — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*O Jesus! by the first fall, never let me fall into mortal sin.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Fourth Station: Jesus Meets His Mother

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: The Sorrowful Mother seeks her Divine Son, Jesus; she meets him on the way to Calvary; she sees Him bound, crowned with thorns, with the cross on his shoulders. O Queen of Martyrs, we also have been your sorrow that, like a sharp and unrelenting sword has pierced your soul. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*O Jesus! may no human tie, however dear, keep me from following the road of the Cross.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Fifth Station: Simon Helps Jesus Carry His Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: Those who suffer tribulations, suffering, persecutions, and are despised for the love of God are helping Jesus Christ carry His cross. If they persevere, they will be partakers of His glory in heaven. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*Simon unwillingly assisted Thee; may I, with patience, suffer all for Thee.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Sixth Station: Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: The remembrance of the most holy Passion of Jesus Christ is the door through which the soul enters into intimate union with God, interior recollection and most sublime contemplation. It must be impressed deeply on our souls as we allow ourselves to be immersed in His bitter sufferings, for through these the love of God is enkindled in us and we will then be plunged in the abyss of the divinity. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*O Jesus! Thou didst imprint Thy Sacred features upon Veronica's veil; stamp them also indelibly upon my heart.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Seventh Station: Jesus Falls for the Second Time

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: The greater number of Christians live unmindful of all that Jesus, our Life, has done and suffered. That is why they live on, sleeping in the night of iniquity. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*By the second fall, preserve me, dear Lord, from relapse into sin.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Eighth Station: Jesus Consoles the Women of Jerusalem

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: The most holy Passion of Jesus Christ is the most efficacious means to convert obstinate sinners, because meditation on the sufferings of our Savior has power to root out vice and implant love and holy fear of God in the soul. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

My greatest consolation would be to hear Thee say: "Many sins are forgiven thee, because thou hast loved much."

One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Ninth Station: Jesus Falls for the Third Time

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: Let us be glad when we are afflicted and the cross is most heavy on our shoulders, because then if we suffer with the patience of Christ we will begin to be His disciples. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

O Jesus! When weary upon life's long journey, be Thou my strength and perseverance.

One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Tenth Station: Jesus is Stripped of His Garments

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: Jesus permitted Himself to be despoiled of His garments on Calvary in order to teach us to renounce our own will when it is not conformable to the will of the Father. He wants us to strip ourselves of earthly affections and all inordinate love of the things of this world, so that we may clothe ourselves with the virtues of Christ. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

My soul has been robbed of its robe of innocence; clothe me, dear Jesus, with the garb of penance and contrition.

One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Eleventh Station: Jesus is Nailed to the Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: We must glory in nothing else but in being crucified with Jesus and in bearing the marks of His wounds in our body. We must strive for great detachment from creatures in order to be united only with the Creator, through the various sufferings and pains of life, endured for the love of God, in patience, silence in the midst of all the sacrifices demanded by our state in life, and by practicing the virtues taught by our Divine Savior. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

Thou didst forgive Thy enemies; my God, teach me to forgive injuries and FORGET them.

One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: Jesus died to give us life: all creatures are in sorrow: the sun is darkened, the earth trembles, the rocks split, the veil of the temple is rent; will only our heart remain harder than the rock? Let us be immersed in a sea of sorrow over the death of Jesus and let us say to Him: "Lord, we thank you for having died on the cross for our sins." — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*Thou art dying, my Jesus, but thy Sacred Heart still throbs with love for Thy sinful children.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Thirteenth Station: Jesus is Taken Down from the Cross

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: If we go to the crucifix, we find our Mother of Sorrows, for where the Mother is, there also is the Son. Dear Mother, what sorrow you experienced in receiving your dead Son into your arms! We beseech you, Holy Mother, grant that the Passion of our Lord may be for us a fountain of sorrow, of pardon, of love and of life. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*Receive me into Thy arms, O Sorrowful Mother; and obtain for me perfect contrition for my sins.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

Fourteenth Station: Jesus is Laid in the Tomb

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You.

Because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world.

Meditation: Devotion to the Passion of Jesus is the easiest way to be saved. The crucifix is a book wherein we learn every virtue, we learn the science of the saints, and therein we find all. — Saint Paul of the Cross

Prayer

*When I receive Thee into my heart in Holy Communion, O Jesus, make it a fit abiding place for Thy adorable Body.
One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be*

9. CALVARY CHAPEL

A large crucifix (a cross with the body of Jesus nailed on it) is the central feature of the chapel. The crucifix emphasizes Jesus' sacrifice – his death by crucifixion, which brought about the redemption of mankind. Here we meditate upon the suffering Jesus endured for our salvation.

Prayer

Today, the Lord who raised the dry land from the waters is raised upon the cross. A crown of thorns is placed upon the head of the King of angels. He clothed the sky with clouds; now today He is clothed with a purple robe. In the Jordan He freed Adam; now today He is slapped in the face. The Bridegroom of the church is fastened with nails; the Son of the Virgin is pierced with a spear. We worship your Passion, O Christ; we worship your Passion, O Christ; we worship your Passion, O Christ; let us now behold your glorious Resurrection.

10. LOURDES GROTTTO

It began in 1858, at a grotto near a little village in southwestern France. Mary appeared 18 times to a young woman named Bernadette Soubirous, announcing: "I am the Immaculate Conception." Mary helped Bernadette discover a hidden spring at the grotto. That spring was to become a fountain of faith, hope and healing for the six million visitors every year who come from all corners of the world. Lourdes is truly a place of healing. The church recognizes 69 miraculous cures there, and thousands more have been reported. And for many others, Lourdes is a place where they have found peace in coming to understand and accept God's will for them. To all who are sick in body or spirit, the Lord brings hope and comfort through Our Lady of Lourdes.

11. IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

This statue of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, refers to her being born without the stain of original sin on her soul. Pope Pius IX declared this a dogma of the church in 1894.

Prayer

Let us praise the Virgin Mary who, although born of our humanity, gave birth to the Lord of all. The angels extol her in song; for she is the glory of the whole world, the gateway to heaven, and the adornment of the faithful. As the Mother of God, she is heaven itself and the very temple of God. She broke down the wall of enmity between humankind and God, thereby bringing us peace and opening the gates of the kingdom. Let us, therefore, cling to her as the anchor of our faith; and our Lord, who was born of her, will be our protector. Take courage then, O people of God, for the Almighty himself will defeat your enemies.

12. ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

Thérèse of Lisieux, also known as St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face, was a French Catholic Discalced Carmelite nun who is widely venerated in modern times. She is popularly known as “The Little Flower of Jesus,” or simply “The Little Flower.” All four of her older sisters were also nuns. St. Thérèse dedicated her life to doing little things with great love, as documented in her spiritual memoir, *The Story of a Soul*. Always frail, she succumbed to tuberculosis after much suffering. Thérèse was canonized on May 17, 1925, by Pope Pius XI, only 28 years after her death; on Oct. 19, 1997, Pope John Paul II declared her the thirty-third Doctor of the Church. Thérèse of Lisieux is the patron saint of aviators, florists, illness(es) and missions.

Prayer

O Little Flower of Jesus, ever consoling troubled souls with heavenly graces, in your unfailing intercession I place my confident trust. From the heart of our divine Savior, petition the blessings of which I stand in greatest need (mention your intention here).

Shower upon me your promised roses of virtue and grace, dear St. Thérèse, so that swiftly advancing in sanctity and perfect love of neighbor, I may someday receive the crown of life eternal. Amen

13. OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP ALTAR

One of the most famous icons is the Icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, an icon cherished the world-over in both Eastern and Western Churches. We see in the Mother of God human tenderness. The Divine Infant appears as a true infant. He cuddles up to His mother’s bosom and hugs her with one arm. The icon portrays Mary holding Christ in her left arm. Jesus seems to be frightened by the vision of two angels showing Him the instruments of His passion and death. In His mother he finds the greatest comfort and tenderness. In His haste to run into her protective arms, He almost loses one of His tiny sandals. His hands are pressed firmly into His mother’s palms as He holds on to her thumb. Mary, although holding Jesus in her arms reassuringly, looks straight ahead at the viewer as if to invite us to follow Jesus’ example and turn to her for consolation and help. The Greek letters are abbreviations for the subjects they identify. MP ØY stands for the Mother of God. IC XC stands for Jesus Christ. OAPM stands for St. Michael the Archangel, and OAPG stands for St. Gabriel the Archangel. The gold background represents the Kingdom of God, and the gold shining through the clothing reflects the joy and glory of the Kingdom. The icon invites us to become sharers in this glory.

Prayer

THEOTOKION – O gentle Protectress of Christians, unfailing Mediatrix before the Creator, do not despise the prayerful voices of sinners; but, in your goodness, hasten to assist us who trustfully cry out to you: “Inspire us to prayer, and hasten to hear our supplication. Intercede always, Mother of God, in behalf of those who honor you.”

The main icon at this altar is flanked by icons of St. Theresa of Avila on the left and St. Joseph on the right. Teresa of Ávila, also called St. Teresa of Jesus was a Spanish noblewoman who felt called to monastic life in the Catholic Church. A Carmelite nun, prominent Spanish mystic, religious reformer, author, theologian of the contemplative life and mental prayer, she earned the rare distinction of being declared a Doctor of the Church over four centuries after her death.

*Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila
Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

St. Joseph was the foster-father of Jesus. According to Eastern Christian tradition, St. Joseph is an older widower with children from his previous marriage, perhaps the “brothers” of Jesus referred to in the Gospels. St. Joseph is regarded as the patron saint of workers and Pope Pius IX declared him to be both the patron and the protector of the Catholic Church, in addition to his patronages of the sick and of a happy death, due to the belief that he died in the presence of Jesus and Mary. He is also regarded as a model for fathers.

Prayer

Since you have loved purity of heart, you have become a close friend to the heavenly King. Since He chose you to become the foster-father to his only-begotten Son, the ever Virgin Mary was entrusted to you as a pure bride. Therefore, you received the choicest gifts of the Holy Spirit. O holy Joseph, intercede for the salvation of our souls.

14. ST. JUDE

St. Jude, also known as Judas Thaddaeus, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus according to the New Testament. According to tradition, St. Jude suffered martyrdom about 65 AD in Beirut, in the Roman province of Syria, together with the apostle Simon the Zealot, with whom he is usually connected. According to tradition, after his martyrdom, pilgrims came to his grave to pray and many of them experienced the powerful intercessions of St. Jude. Thus the title, “The Saint for the Hopeless and the Despaired.” St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Bernard had visions from God asking each to accept St. Jude as “The Patron Saint of the Impossible.”

Prayer

O most holy apostle, St. Jude, faithful servant and friend of Jesus, the church honors and invokes thee universally, as the patron of hopeless cases, and of things almost despaired of.

Pray for me, who am so miserable. Make use, I implore thee, of that particular privilege accorded to thee, to bring visible and speedy help where help was almost despaired of.

Come to my assistance in this great need, that I may receive the consolation and succor of Heaven in all my necessities, tribulations, and sufferings, particularly ... (insert your prayer request here) ... and that I may praise God with thee and all the elect throughout eternity.

I promise thee, O blessed Jude, to be ever mindful of this great favor, to always honor thee as my special and powerful patron, and to gratefully encourage devotion to thee. Amen.

15. SACRED HEART OF MARY

The Immaculate Heart of Mary is a devotional name used to refer to the interior life of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections, and, above all, her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus, and her compassionate love for all people. The devotion to Mary’s Heart has had a greater flowering following the manifestation of the Miraculous Medal to St. Catherine Labouré in 1830. The Immaculate Heart is depicted on the Miraculous Medal, pierced by a sword. The Sacred Heart of Jesus also appears on the medal, next to the Immaculate Heart, crowned with thorns. The M on the medal signifies the Blessed Virgin at the foot of the cross when Jesus was being crucified.

Prayer

O Heart of Mary, Mother of God, and our Mother, most amiable Heart, object of the complacency of the most adorable Trinity, and worthy of all the veneration and affection of Angels and men; Heart most conformable to that of Jesus, of which Thou art the most perfect likeness; Heart full of goodness and compassion for our miseries, vouchsafe to melt our frozen hearts, and grant that they may be entirely turned towards the Heart of our Divine Savior. Infuse into them the love of thy virtues; inflame them with that sacred fire with which thou continually burns. Take under thy protection the Holy Catholic Church; defend it, and be always its consolation, its asylum and its invincible fortress against every assault of its enemies. Be thou our way to come to Jesus, and the channel through which we receive all graces necessary for our salvation. Be thou our help in our wants, our relief under afflictions, our comfort in temptations, our refuge in persecutions, and our support in all dangers; but especially in our last conflict at the time of death, when all the powers of hell will use their utmost endeavors to seize our souls in that awful moment, in that terrible crisis, on which depends our eternal lot. Do thou, at that time, O most pious Virgin, make us experience the sweetness of thy maternal Heart, and the efficacy of thy influence with Jesus, thy all-powerful Son, by opening unto us, a secure refuge in the source itself of mercy, a secure refuge, that we may enjoy the happiness of blessing Him in Heaven for all eternity. Amen. May the Divine Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, be known, praised, blessed, loved, served, and glorified for ever, by all His creatures! Amen.

16. SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY

The Seven Sorrows of Mary became a popular devotion in the 14th century when it was revealed to St. Bridget that this devotion would bring many graces. Pope Pius VII approved this series of prayers in honor of the Seven Sorrows for daily meditation in 1815:

O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the affliction of your tender heart at the prophecy of the holy and aged Simeon. Dear Mother, by your heart so afflicted, obtain for me the virtue of humility and the gift of the holy fear of God.
Hail Mary...*

2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the anguish of your most affectionate heart during the flight into Egypt and your sojourn there. Dear Mother, by your heart so troubled, obtain for me the virtue of generosity, especially toward the poor, and the gift of piety.
Hail Mary...*

3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days (Luke 2:41-50)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in those anxieties which tried your troubled heart at the loss of your dear Jesus. Dear Mother, by your heart so full of anguish, obtain for me the virtue of chastity and the gift of knowledge.
Hail Mary...*

4. The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the consternation of your heart at meeting Jesus as He carried His Cross. Dear Mother, by your heart so troubled, obtain for me the virtue of patience and the gift of fortitude.
Hail Mary...*

5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the martyrdom which your generous heart endured in standing near Jesus in His agony. Dear Mother, by your afflicted heart obtain for me the virtue of temperance and the gift of counsel.
Hail Mary...*

6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, in the wounding of your compassionate heart, when the side of Jesus was struck by the lance before His Body was removed from the Cross. Dear Mother, by your heart thus transfixed, obtain for me the virtue of fraternal charity and the gift of understanding.
Hail Mary...*

7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42)

*I grieve for you, O Mary most sorrowful, for the pangs that wrenched your most loving heart at the burial of Jesus. Dear Mother, by your heart sunk in the bitterness of desolation, obtain for me the virtue of diligence and the gift of wisdom.
Hail Mary...*

Let Us Pray

Let intercession be made for us, we beseech You, O Lord Jesus Christ, now and at the hour of our death, before the throne of Your mercy, by the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother, whose most holy soul was pierced by a sword of sorrow in the hour of Your bitter Passion. Through You, O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

17. OUR LADY OF FÁTIMA

Our Lady of Fátima, formally known as Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Fátima, is a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary based on the famed Marian apparitions reported in 1917 by three shepherd children at the Cova da Iria, in Fátima, Portugal. The three children were Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto. Bishop José Alves Correia da Silva declared the events worthy of belief on Oct. 13, 1930. Also in 1930 the Catholic Church officially recognized the apparition events as “worthy of belief” and granted a papal indulgence to pilgrims visiting Fátima. In 1935 the bodies of the child visionaries, Francisco and Jacinta, were reinterred in the basilica. Pope Pius XII granted a Canonical Coronation of the statue of Our Lady of Fátima on May 13, 1946. This event drew such large crowds that the entrance to the site had to be barred.

In the 21st century, pilgrimage to the site takes place year round. Additional chapels, hospitals and other facilities have been constructed at the site. The principal pilgrimage festivals take place on the 13th day of each month, from May to October, on the anniversaries of the original apparitions. The largest crowds gather on May 13 and Oct. 13, when up to a million pilgrims have attended to pray and witness processions of the statue of Our Lady of Fátima, both during the day and by the light of tens of thousands of candles at night.

Prayer

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to the children of Fatima and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer.

18. INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

The Infant Jesus of Prague or Child Jesus of Prague is a 16th-century Roman Catholic wax-coated wooden statue of child Jesus holding a cross-bearing orb, located in the Discalced Carmelite Church of Our Lady Victorious in Malá Strana, Prague, Czech Republic. Pious legends claim that the statue once belonged to St. Teresa of Ávila. In 1628 it was donated to the Carmelite friars by Princess Polyxena of Lobkowitz.

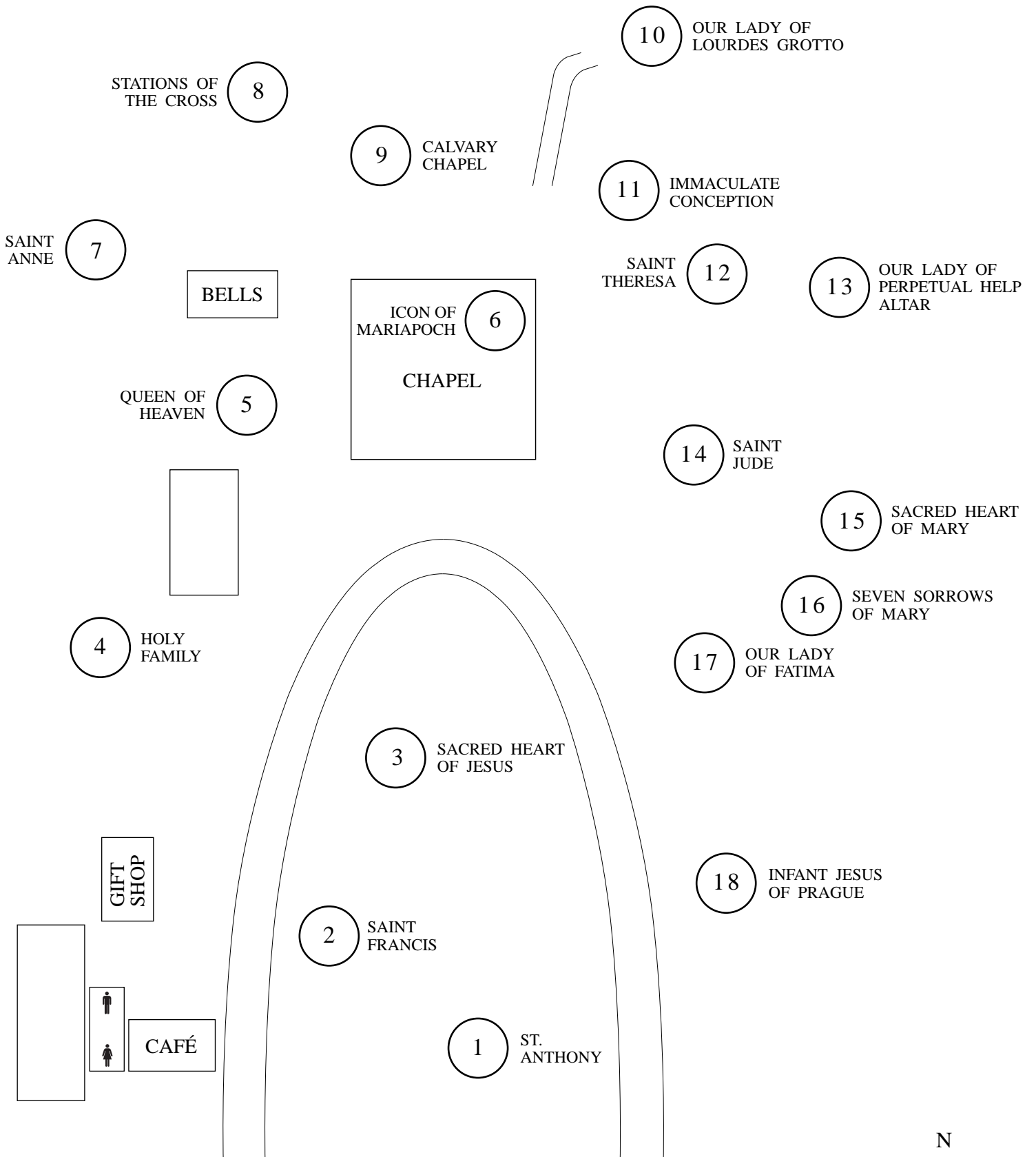
The image is routinely clothed by the Carmelite nuns in luxurious fabrics with imperial regalia and a golden crown while his left hand holds a cross-bearing orb and the right hand raised in a benedicting posture. It is venerated during the Christmas season and the first Sunday of May commemorating its coronation and public procession.

Pope Leo XIII approved the devotion to the image in 1896 and instituted a sodality in its favor. On March 30, 1913, Pope Pius X further organized the Confraternity of the Infant Jesus of Prague, while Pope Pius XI granted its first canonical coronation on Sept. 27, 1924. Pope Benedict XVI crowned the image for the second time during his Apostolic visit to the Czech Republic on Sept. 26, 2009.

Prayer

Dearest Jesus, little Infant of Prague, how tenderly you love us! Your greatest joy is to dwell among us and to bestow your blessing upon us. Though I am not worthy that you should help me, I feel drawn to you by love because you are kind and merciful. So many who turned to you with confidence have received blessings and had their petitions granted. Behold me as I come before you to lay open my heart to you with its prayers and hopes. I present to you especially this request, which I enclose in your loving Heart (state your request). Rule over me, dear Infant Jesus, and do with me and mine according to your holy will, for I know that in your divine wisdom and love you will arrange everything for the best. Do not withdraw your hand from me, but protect and bless me forever. I pray you, all-powerful and gracious Infant Jesus, for the sake of your sacred infancy, in the name of your blessed Mother Mary who cared for you with such tenderness, and by the greatest reverence with which St. Joseph carried you in his arms, help me in my needs. Make me truly happy with you, dearest Infant, in time and in eternity, and I shall thank you forever with all my heart. Amen.

MAP OF GROUNDS



MAP NOT TO SCALE





SHRINE OF
OUR LADY OF MARIAPOCH

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