

May Crowning at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion

May is Mary's month! And during May, throughout the Catholic world, special devotions honor the Virgin Mary. "May Crowning" is a traditional Catholic ritual that occurs in the month of May and it recognizes Mary as Queen of heaven and earth. Since medieval times, we have had the combination between Mary and the month of May. May is considered the season of the beginning of new life. "May Crowning" marks a new spiritual season. Our Mary, Queen of heaven and earth, lifted us right out of the last long, cold days of winter and firmly planted our hearts in the warm and promising soil of spring.

Each year, on the Sunday following the Walk to Mary, pilgrims are especially invited to join in the "May Celebration" at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. The "Celebration" has been a part of the local faith culture since before the Apparitions of 1859. The Celebration includes Holy Mass, often principally celebrated by a visiting Bishop, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and a Eucharistic Rosary Procession walking along the property lines protected from the devastation of the Peshtigo Fire in 1871. Additionally, Sunday afternoon Holy Hour, which includes Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Hymns, Litany, and Benediction. It is believed the Celebration is rooted in the European tradition of Rogation Days, celebrated to ask Our Lord's blessings upon the plantings and remind us that we are the stewards of all God has created. It is a great compliment to the Walk to Mary as a way to celebrate the first weekend in May in honor of our Blessed Mother.



WALK TO MARY

United in Step from Shrine to Shrine

An American Pilgrimage

The First Saturday in May
Every Year

*Walk a journey that transforms your heart,
only healed hearts will transform the world.*

*With each step, we not only enjoy God's gift of creation,
we also approach the holy ground where the Queen
of Heaven, Our Lady of Champion, spoke to Adele.*

*The most peaceful moment for every pilgrim
comes with the realization one never walks alone.*

Walk to Mary
P. O. Box 22225
Green Bay, WI 54305

info.walktomary@gmail.com
888.838.4514

Like Us at  /WalkToMary



www.WalkToMary.com

Printed in 2024

What Is the Walk to Mary?

Walk to Mary is a 21-mile pilgrimage starting from the Vatican-appointed National Shrine of St. Joseph at Old St. Joseph Church on the St. Norbert College campus in De Pere, WI to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion in Champion, WI. If necessary, there are several points along the way you can join in to make your pilgrimage shorter. (see **The Route**)

Supporting the Education of Children

On October 9, 1859, the Holy Mother appeared to Sister Adele Brise on the site of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion and gave her this message: ***“Gather the children in this wild country and teach them what they should know for salvation. Teach them their catechism, how to sign themselves with the sign of the Cross, and how to approach the sacraments; that is what I wish you to do.”*** Inspired by the faith of Sister Adele, we continue to live out the instruction she received from Mary by educating children in the faith. Funds raised by the Walk to Mary will be used to support the education of children in their faith.

At the core of Catholic education is the realization that life, itself, is a pilgrimage, and we are called to prepare children for their journey in the world. We educate them not in defense against this world, but as a promise for this world. We form their hearts so that they, in turn, may transform the world.

Life is a Journey

We walk because life is a journey of discovery and revelation, not a destination. Along the way, we tire, toil and triumph. We empty ourselves out, making room for the Holy Spirit to expand within us. When we arrive, tired and exhausted, we encounter the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion as a refreshing oasis along life’s journey, offering respite for all who are weary and thirsty.

Walk With the Children

After the inaugural pilgrimage in 2013, as a result of suggestions from some families with younger children who would like to participate in the Walk to Mary, we have specifically implemented a 1.7 mile segment of the Walk to Mary. It is designed to accommodate children, families and individuals who would like to participate but are challenged to walk longer distances. Many of our elderly pilgrims and pilgrims with physical handicaps participate in the Walk with the Children.

The Walk with the Children is a “smaller version” of the 21+ mile Walk to Mary pilgrimage. It stands alone as its own shorter pilgrimage route that gracefully merges into the last ½ mile of the longer Walk to Mary route.

Pilgrims **start and end** at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. The walk begins at the St. Joseph Grotto and ends at the Apparition Grotto on the Shrine’s grounds.

The Route

The route is divided into five segments, representing the five decades of the rosary.

Join In Point	Description	Mile Marker	Total Miles
#1 Start	National Shrine of St. Joseph Old St. Joseph Church St. Norbert College Campus De Pere, WI	0	21
#2	St. Peter and Paul Parish Green Bay, WI	7	14
#3	Holy Cross Parish Green Bay, WI	14	7
#4	Walk with the Children Starts at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion	19	1.7
#5 End	National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion Champion, WI	21	0

Fatigued Pilgrim Shuttles - Transportation will be made available to assist Pilgrims who struggle to complete the walk. Pilgrims can notify safety personnel who will arrange transportation to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion.

