A large, solid red cross stands prominently on the peak of a dry, grassy hill. The sky above is filled with long, horizontal, streaked clouds in shades of blue, white, and yellow, suggesting a bright, possibly sunrise or sunset, atmosphere. The overall scene is serene and evocative of a spiritual journey.

# Pilgrimage

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



# What is a pilgrimage?

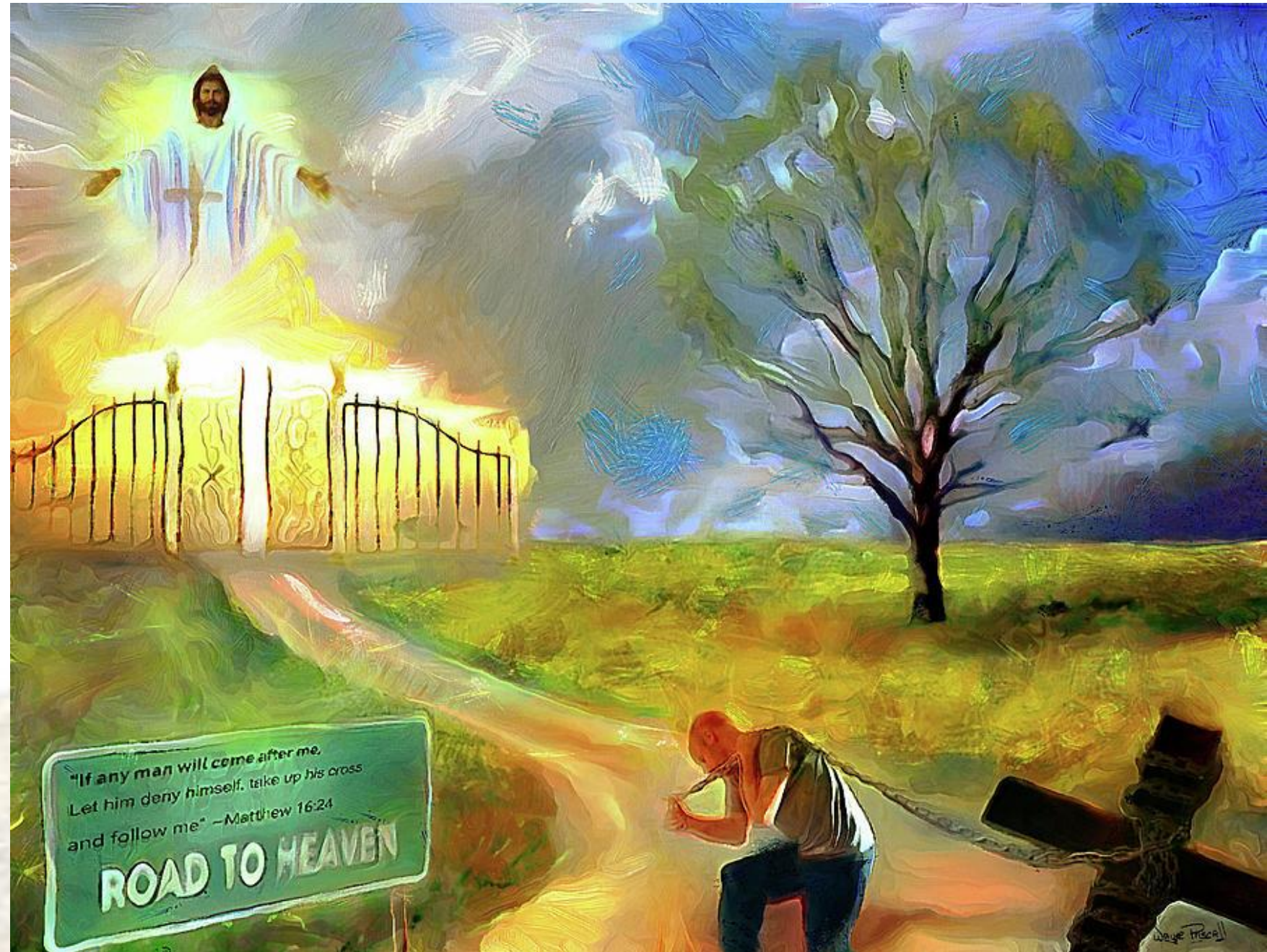
- A pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a sacred place.
- It is a journey with a higher purpose and that purpose is to honor God and get closer to Him.
- How is that different from a vacation?





# What does a pilgrimage remind us of?

- CCC 2691  
Pilgrimages evoke our **earthly journey toward heaven** and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer.





# Why make a pilgrimage?

1. To pray/sacrifice for a special intention.
2. To thank God for blessings He has given.
3. To grow closer to God and the saints through time spent in prayer and sacrifice at the shrine.

[Why Do Catholics Go On Pilgrimages? - Steve Ray](#)





# Year of St. Joseph



- Mary and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem, then to Egypt, then back to Nazareth.
- They brought Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem when He was 40 days old and later when He was 12.
  - “**Each year** his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of **Passover**, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom” (Lk 2:41-42).

# Year of St. Joseph

A pilgrimage gives us a chance to imitate St. Joseph!

- Virtues of St. Joseph
  - Justice (a “just” man)
  - Obedience
  - Humility
  - Fidelity (Faithfulness)
- Workman/Artisan
- Servant to the Holy Family



St. Joseph, the Carpenter  
[Georges de la Tour](#)

# 3 Pilgrimage steps: **Prayer**, Sacrifice, Service

- **Before**

- Prayer is the most important act of preparation for the pilgrimage.
- **Ask God to give you an open heart** to receive all the graces He wants to give you.
- Start praying every day. As a class, pray a specific novena prayer together on the days prior to your pilgrimage.

- **Choose one or two special intentions for your pilgrimage**

1. **For yourself**
2. **For a family member or an area of need**

- **During**

- As you travel, enjoy the presence of your companions, but also **take time to pray together**, asking God to make them holy and grant their petitions as well as your own.
- When you arrive at the site, be in a prayerful and reflective mindset. This is an important time for you to witness and feel what God has to say to you.

- **After**

- Take time to reflect on your pilgrimage experience. Ask God to show you what He has done in you and to continue to be open to His grace.
- **Thank God** for His constant love for you and the opportunity you have had.





# 3 Pilgrimage steps: Prayer, **Sacrifice**, Service

- Be willing to **offer sacrifices** for these intentions – a pilgrimage can be fun but it is not a vacation

- Give up a favorite food
- Don't complain
- Let others go first
- Offer to help when you don't feel like it
- Do a kindness for someone





# 3 Pilgrimage steps: Prayer, Sacrifice, **Service**



Just as St. Joseph served the Holy Family, our pilgrimage is a time to **serve others**

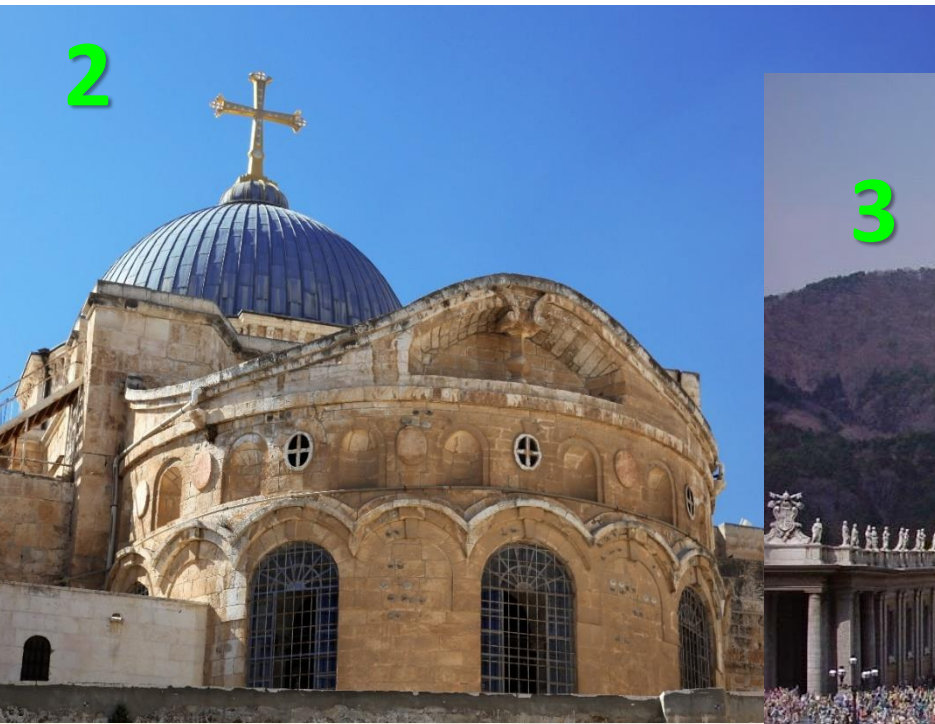
- Pick up trash
- Pray for those we visit
- Do a small kindness on purpose
- Make a donation
- Offer to help your teacher, parents or classmates
- Be extra mindful of listening and following directions





# Famous Pilgrimage Sites in the World

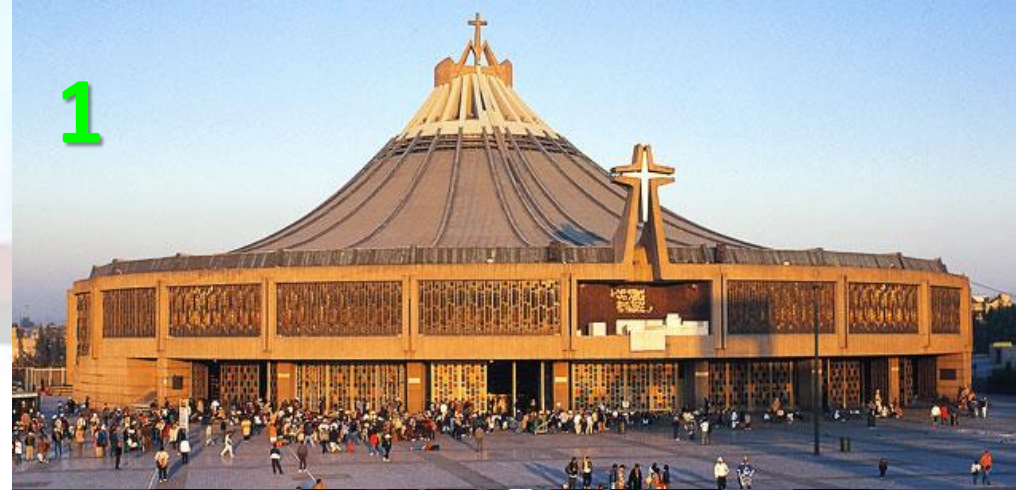
1. Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem
2. Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem
3. St. Peter Basilica, Rome
4. Marian shrines:
  - Lourdes, Fatima, Knock, Czestochowa





# Famous Pilgrimage Sites in North America

1. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City
2. Our Lady of Good Help, Wisconsin
3. Oratory of Saint Joseph, Montreal, Canada
4. North American Martyrs & St. Kateri at Auriesville, New York.





# Pilgrimage Sites Near Nebraska

1. Holy Family Shrine near Gretna, NE
2. West Bend Grotto, Iowa
3. Trinity Heights, Sioux City
4. House of Mary Shrine, Yankton, SD





# Where are we going?

- **PreK** – St. Joseph Rectory, Lincoln
- **K-2** – Carmel of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in Agnew, Sts. Mary & Joseph Church in Valparaiso
- **3-4** – St. Joseph Shrine at Villa Regina Motherhouse and Leatherwork with Mr. Mike Czyz at his farm
- **5-6** – Holy Family Shrine and Tradewell Pallet, Gretna
- **7-8** – St. Joseph Church and Zongkers Custom Woods, Omaha

**Let St. Joseph lead the way!**



St. Joseph,  
-Pray for us!

