

YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH - PILGRIM CHAPEL

Frequently Asked Questions

MISSION QUESTIONS

What is the purpose of a Shrine?

A Shrine is not a parish, but it importantly serves a dual role in promoting prayer, faith mission, service, and community. The Pope recently called for the "establishment of international Shrines" and "the promotion of an organic pastoral ministry of Shrines as powerhouses of the new evangelization. [Click here to read the document.](#)

What is the Year of St. Joseph?

We have designated 2018 as the YOSJ here at the Shrine in preparation for the centennial celebration of the Shrine, with St. Joseph serving as the guiding symbol to revitalize faith and bring together all communities.

What is the significance of "Families of Faith" and how does it relate to the Shrine?

Families of Faith" is the encompassing Shrine movement which represents the crucial dual roles that Shrine's will directly serve for the Church into the 21st Century. "Families" signifies the all-inclusive sense of "community" here at the Shrine where all peoples of different backgrounds, cultures and life experiences are welcome. "Faith" promotes the mission of Shrines as powerful tools of evangelization, pilgrimage, and prayer. Multiple Shrine groups (Recovery Ministry, Men of St. Joseph, Society of Angels) are included within the encompassing "Families of Faith" movement.

Who are the Society of Angels?

The "Society of Angels" was created to promote the dynamic example of St. Joseph for years to come with the immediate focus of building excitement and momentum specifically for the capital raising effort to make the Pilgrim Chapel a reality. Angels were crucial in the life of St. Joseph bringing him strength and guiding through very challenging times.

What will the donations be used for?

To cover all expense related to the design, approvals, and construction of the Pilgrim Chapel. These donations also will ensure that critical updates are made to the immediate surroundings of the Shrine grounds and facilities. A special emphasis includes bringing sidewalks and entrances up to full ADA compliance so that all God's people may enjoy the Shrine with easy accessibility in a safe environment.

Why is the new chapel called the "St. Joseph Shrine Pilgrim Chapel?"

The St. Joseph Shrine Pilgrim Chapel will provide a central focus for promoting and enhancing a living devotion to St. Joseph in the world and the Church today. It will serve as a central place for pilgrimages from around this region and beyond. The Shrine is becoming a part of the international network of Shrines promoted by our Holy Father in conjunction with the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization. It will be for the pilgrims who come a holy place of prayer and peace to promote an indispensable opportunity for evangelization in our time. "Pilgrim" focuses on the all-encompassing family/community significance of the Shrine as a "mission center," a place of welcome for retreats, gatherings, and service even to the most marginalized members of society.



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What is the significance of the "Life of Saint Joseph" mosaic?

The mosaic will be the central focus of devotion and prayer within the St. Joseph Pilgrim Chapel. Created in 1925-1927 by the renowned artist, Leopold Forstner, it was the main altarpiece in the St. Joseph Seminary in Callicoon, NJ. In 1972 the Seminary closed, and the mosaic was moved by the Franciscan Friars to the Little Sisters of the Poor, in Totowa, NJ before eventually being gifted to the Shrine of St. Joseph. Br. Martin Pacholek, S.T., personally brought it from Totowa and carefully guarded and looked after its well-being at the Shrine for almost forty years.

Why are we constructing a new building in an environment where churches are under pressure to survive financially?

The importance of Shrines is critical for the Church in years to come. Pope Francis reiterated these words affirmatively in a document entitled *Sanctuarium in Ecclesia* published in 2017. Shrines are here for everyone without exception. They are places to reflect, be at peace, search for and encounter God no matter where you are on your life's journey. The Shrine of St. Joseph wants to be a home for all peoples as they search for faith or seek to sustain and strengthen their faith. The Pilgrim Shrine is a direct response to this need and desire not only for now but for generations to come.

What impact is expected both spiritually and financially from the construction of the Pilgrim Chapel?

A central symbol in honor of St. Joseph will finally be present as a key focal point within the Shrine and will impact the renewed focus on the importance of faith, family, and community. Financially, upon the opening of the Pilgrim Chapel, it is expected that Shrine visitation and pilgrimages will increase from our 7,000 visitors in 2017. Bookstore revenues will directly appreciate with the additional visitors of the Chapel along with the goal of improving numbers of retreats and retreatants as well as Days of Renewal and group and individual pilgrimages.

What's the schedule for starting the construction of the project and when is it expected to be completed?

We plan to break ground in the Fall of 2018, followed by full completion during the Spring of 2019.

DONATION QUESTIONS

Are donations tax-deductible?

Yes, the Shrine is designated as a 501(c)3 non-profit.

When is the deadline for receiving donations?

Target commitment dates are requested as soon as comfortable as we are actively engaged in the pre-development and planning process of the chapel with a goal of breaking ground during the Fall of 2018.

What's a suggested donation amount?

All donations are critical and appreciated in ensuring the success of constructing the Pilgrim Chapel. The minimal contribution required to become a Founding Member of the Society of Angels is \$1,000. These contributions to the Society of Angels can be made either as individuals or as communities, for example, a sodality, a parish group, etc.

Can I donate over time or does it need to be in one lump sum?

Yes, multiple options are allowed per the Commitment Form.

How does the challenge match work?

Donations are received dollar for dollar in response to a substantial gift from a lead founding donor to create momentum to achieve the full campaign raise. If the full matching capital target is not achieved, then the pledged matching capital is lost.

Are company gift matches allowed towards my donation?

Yes, see the Commitment Letter Form.

Can I donate in memory or in honor of a loved one?

Multiple options exist to donate in honor of someone living or in memory of someone deceased, as well as unique in a broader family, group, or corporation name.