

SAINT
JOHN PAUL II
NATIONAL SHRINE

September 28, 2023

Dr Louis DeAngelo
Superintendent
Diocese of Wilmington
PO Box 2030
Wilmington, DE 19899-2030

Dear Louis, *LOU,*

The formation of young people in a Catholic school relies on the witness of school leaders and teachers (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 41). But we also know that the witness of the saints is an essential element for enlivening faith, not only on the part of young people but all of us as well. Saint John Paul II, pope from 1978 to 2005, is a powerful witness to many, and his story and intercession energizes youth today as he did during his earthly ministry.

That is why I'm inviting you and the Catholics schools in your diocese to visit the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington DC this school year. With a permanent exhibit on the life of Saint John Paul II, prayerful spaces that both instruct and inspire with beauty, and the opportunity to receive the Sacraments, our Shrine has everything you need to excite and deepen the faith of your schools.

Our exhibit, *A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II*, features beautiful photos, short films, personal artifacts, and interactive displays that lead students on a pilgrimage with John Paul II. They learn about his extraordinary life, his teachings on the dignity of the human person, and his travels to bring Jesus Christ to peoples around the world. We also offer the opportunity to attend Mass and to venerate a first-class relic of John Paul II.

More information about the Shrine is included in the accompanying flyer and FAQ sheet, and we will share these with your leaders. We also would be honored to visit with your principals at professional days if you would like. It would be our honor to partner with you in the ongoing formation and transformation of your Catholic school students.

Thank you for your ministry in support of Catholic Education.

Sincerely in Christ,

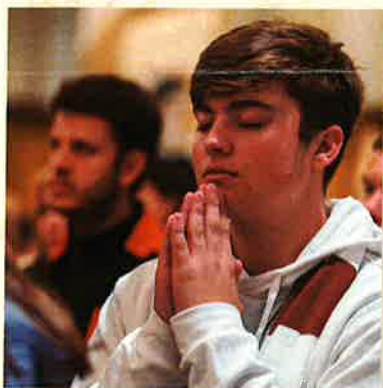


Thomas W. Burnford, D.Min.
Manager of Events and Visitor Services

P.S. If you (or members of your team) are in Washington DC at any point, please do call me so I can personally show you our wonderful Shrine.

PLAN A PILGRIMAGE TO THE *Saint John Paul II* NATIONAL SHRINE

Let us plan your School Trip...



Join us for Mass and
pray together in our Church



Venerate a first-class relic of
Saint John Paul II's blood



Explore our exhibit on the
life of Saint John Paul II



Tour the Sacred Art
of the Shrine

Call **202.635.5400** or email
visitorservices@jp2shrine.org
today for more details!



Sample Schedule

10:15 a.m.

Arrival and Sacred Art Tour

11:00 a.m.

Visit the Exhibit on life of
Saint John Paul II

12:00 p.m.

Mass

12:45 p.m.

Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Presentation
& free time outside

2:30 p.m.

Depart

3900 Harewood Rd. NE
Washington DC 20017
jp2shrine.org | 202.635.5400

SAINT
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NATIONAL SHRINE



@jp2shrine

Frequently Asked Questions

FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

What is the Saint John Paul II National Shrine?

- A **Catholic Shrine** that seeks to promote the teachings of Saint John Paul II, to encourage each visitor to respond to the universal call to holiness, and to foster spiritual devotion to this great saint.

When is the Shrine open for visitors and pilgrims?

- The Shrine is open from **10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. every day.**

What makes the Saint John Paul II National Shrine a unique field trip or retreat location?

- **A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II:** A stunning array of photos, quotes, short films, personal artifacts, and interactive displays in this extensive exhibit allows students to become familiar with Saint John Paul II, the gospel message of love to which he dedicated his life, and world history in an engaging way. We offer numerous student resources, including worksheets designed to help your students get the most out of their exhibit experience. Details are available at jp2shrine.org/schools.
- **Prayer and the Sacraments:** The church, where Mass is celebrated daily, seats 350 and the smaller chapel includes a first-class relic of Saint John Paul II available for veneration by pilgrims.
- **Sacred Art:** Brilliantly colored mosaics decorate both the Redemptor Hominis Church and Luminous Mysteries Chapel. Sacred art tours are available to help students reflect on salvation history and the mysteries of the Catholic faith depicted in these spaces.
- A **variety of spaces** are available upon request for scheduled talks, presentations, or group discussions, including a formal auditorium for lectures or films.





What grade-levels, subject areas and educational objectives does a visit to the Shrine especially complement?

- **Grade Levels:** *A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II* is most appropriate for students in grades 6 – 12, and for younger grades with advance preparation by the teacher and/or Shrine staff. Sacred art tours can be adapted to suit a variety of age groups.
- **Subject Areas and Topics:** Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation; 20th century world history; ethics; vocations; art/art history; religion and theology; language arts.
- **Educational Objectives:** The exhibit, sacred art, and opportunities for prayer at the Shrine provide an unrivaled integration of spiritual and intellectual formation across several disciplines, especially history, world studies, art and religion.

What liturgical activities could my field-trip or retreat include?

- **Mass:** Monday through Saturday at noon and Sunday at 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- **Veneration:** A first-class blood relic of Saint John Paul II is available for veneration in our Luminous Mysteries Chapel daily.
- **Penance and Reconciliation:** The sacrament of confession is available for individuals Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m. before noon Mass.
- Groups can contact our sacristan for special Mass requests and to arrange for visiting priests to celebrate or concelebrate Mass or to hear confessions.

What amenities does the Shrine offer?

- **Parking:** The Shrine has ample free parking for automobiles and buses.
- **Food Service:** Seating is available inside for groups to bring their lunch or received catered deliveries. Groups can also eat picnic-style on our expansive front lawn.
- **Gift Shop:** A small gift shop is open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Accessibility:** All areas of the Shrine are accessible. The entrances include access ramps, and public elevators are available inside.

How do I contact the Shrine with questions or to schedule a visit?

- **Phone:** 202.635.5400
- **Email:** VisitorServices@jp2shrine.org
- **Website:** www.jp2shrine.org