



CARMELITE FRIARS CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

2020
2021

National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

A Ministry of the Carmelite Friars

Pilgrimages and Retreats

Thank you for your inquiry regarding a pilgrimage to The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, NY.

Our mission statement is as follows:

---To provide a place of pilgrimage and meaningful spiritual experience of God centered around devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel; to offer pilgrims an opportunity for personal experience and growth, reconciliation, learning and meditative prayer

We will work with you to plan a pilgrimage or day of retreat. It can be centered on your own theme, or if you wish, we can provide suggestions for a possible theme. You may also visit our website and sign up for one of our prepared retreat days. If you wish to bring a priest to guide your retreat and celebrate Mass, they are welcome to do so and must provide a letter of suitability from their home Diocesan office prior to the visit if they reside outside the Archdiocese of NY. You may also have someone from your parish guide your retreat, or if you wish, we can provide one of our Carmelite friars or brothers to help with this, as well as myself.

Since the pews in our Shrine church are marked for social distancing, groups can be no larger than 20-25 people. This number allows for the constant flow of outside visitors that may be present on any given day, and allows adequate indoor spacing while moving around for restroom use or visiting our Gift Store without too much overcrowding. Masks are required to be worn for the duration of your visit, except during any planned meals, and hand sanitizer is available at the entrance and throughout the inside areas of the Shrine.

Food options have changed since we re-opened after the appearance of the world-wide pandemic of Covid-19. At the present time, we cannot provide food or refreshments, so groups would need to bring their own food & drinks, and eating wares. We have a conference room that has adequate space for 20-25 people, socially distanced, or the outside picnic area would also be large enough for a group this size.

When a date is confirmed by phone, we then ask that you send in a \$50 non-refundable deposit to hold this date. A facility use fee ranges from \$150-\$200 which is determined by the length of time of the retreat. In addition, if a group plans to celebrate a private Mass at the Shrine, we would also ask that you take up a collection as a donation to the Shrine. To help with your planning, we wanted you to be aware that the Shrine offers weekday Mass Monday thru Friday at 11:30am and on Sundays at 12:00noon. Confessions are held every Saturdays from 11:00 – 12:00noon. Our Gift Shop is also open Monday thru Friday, 11:00 – 4:00pm; Saturdays, 10:00 – 3:00pm and Sundays, 11:00 – 3:00pm.

The outdoor grounds are filled with many shrines and places of personal prayer or meditation, as well as a picnic area with tables and a large, picturesque lake which all contribute to the peace and serenity that the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel has to offer.

We hope to hear from you soon! God Bless you. Carol Bezak, Shrine Director

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