

THY SHIP

CARLISLE



A COMPANION FOR MAKING
ANY PLACE A PILGRIMAGE

2024

A prayer for travel

God our Father, watch over us as we travel to find more of Your love.

Be our companion as we walk, our breath when we are tired,
our protection in danger, our shade in the heat, our light in the darkness,
our consolation in our discouragements, and our hope in our dreams.

Enrich our hearts and bring us safely home filled with joy.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen.

Watch and pray

- What is important to you on this trip?
- What are your intentions and hopes for this trip?
- Are there intentions, needs, habits, idols, relationships, or other struggles you can offer to God as you make this trip?

Lectio divina with the daily Gospels

St Jerome said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Use these steps to engage in one of the most ancient practices of praying with Scripture called *lectio divina*:

- Read the daily Gospel and ask God what He wants to tell you.
- Sit quietly and read the passage again, slowly.
- What words or phrases stand out to you?
- What parts of the passage relate to your own ideas, feelings, needs, or desires?
- Tell God about these things as they come to mind.
- *Lectio divina* often happens best at quieter times, like in the morning or before bed.

Daily Gospels

July 27: Mt 13:24-30

Jesus proposed a parable to the crowds. "The Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, "First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn."'"

July 28: Jn 6:1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

July 29: Jn 11:19-27 - Memorial of Sts Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother [Lazarus, who had died]. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and anyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

July 30: Lk 6:43-45 - Memorial of St Peter Chrysologus

Jesus said to his disciples: "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

July 31: Mt 13:44-46

Jesus said to his disciples: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the Kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

August 1: Mt 5:13-19 - Memorial of St Alphonsus Liguori

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father. "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

August 2: Jn 15:1-8 - Memorial of St Peter Julian Eymard

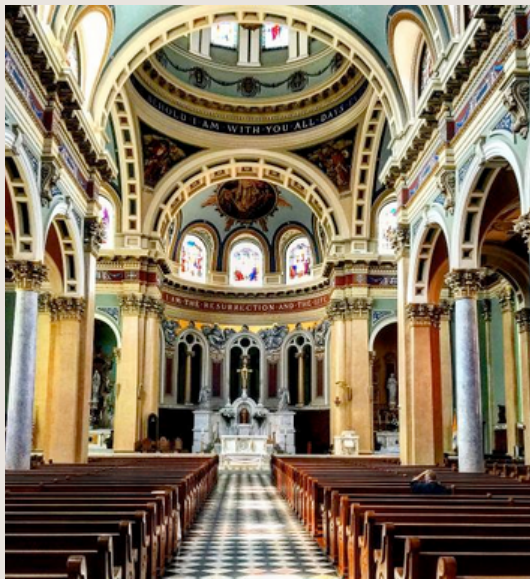
Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and everyone that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

August 3: Mt 14:1-12

Herod the tetrarch heard of the reputation of Jesus and said to his servants, "This man is John the Baptist. He has been raised from the dead; that is why mighty powers are at work in him." Now Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, for John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." Although he wanted to kill him, he feared the people, for they regarded him as a prophet. But at a birthday celebration for Herod, the daughter of Herodias performed a dance before the guests and delighted Herod so much that he swore to give her whatever she might ask for. Prompted by her mother, she said, "Give me here on a platter the head of John the Baptist." The king was distressed, but because of his oaths and the guests who were present, he ordered that it be given, and he had John beheaded in the prison. His head was brought in on a platter and given to the girl, who took it to her mother. His disciples came and took away the corpse and buried him; and they went and told Jesus.

Sacred sites in and near Carlisle

St. John's Catholic Church, Rectory and School, Carlisle, Pa.



St Patrick Church and Shrine

The Catholic community first celebrated Mass here in a log cabin in the 1770s. The current red brick church was built in 1806 for the rapidly growing German and Irish immigrant population. One of the earliest priests to serve the parish was Servant of God and Russian prince turned priest Fr Demetrius Gallitzin. St Katharine Drexel later established a mission for Native and Black children here. St John Neumann also ministered here on his rounds as bishop of Philadelphia. The parish cemetery holds the parents of Abraham Lincoln's advisor Archbishop John Hughes of New York, who built the famed St Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan. The church contains stained glass windows from the Royal Art Institute of Munich, a gold monstrance gifted by Mother Drexel, and a 3,000-pound copper bell. [Mass and confession times here.](#) [More history here.](#)

Basilica of the Sacred Heart (Conwego)

This minor basilica occupies the area first evangelized by Jesuit missionaries in the mid-1600s. By 1784, the congregation had formed the largest Catholic parish in the young United States. It remains the oldest stone-constructed Catholic church in the country. Fr Gallitzin served his early ministry here. The church is believed to be the first-ever entity consecrated to the Sacred Heart in North America.

[Mass and confession times here.](#)

Cathedral of St Patrick (Harrisburg)

In 1826, the cornerstone was laid for what would become the seat of the Diocese of Harrisburg. Prior to the establishment of the Harrisburg diocese, St John Neumann visited the cathedral as bishop of Philadelphia. The classical architecture features vaulted ceilings, a stunning dome, several side chapels and shrines, and an abundance of sacred art, including frescoes, stained glass, marble sculptures and altarpieces, and beautiful crucifixes. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

[Mass \(including Latin Mass\) and confession times here.](#)

BONUS | St Joseph Catholic Church (Mechanicsburg)

This church isn't much to look at, but has a sweet history. In the 1860s, 15-year-old Mary Brindle, daughter of an interfaith couple, was the only Catholic in the city. She led Catholic devotions in her own home while persistently asking the diocese for a proper parish and pastor. After 21 years of Mary's prayers and letters, the first Mass was finally celebrated with a congregation of 16 in a local home. The first permanent parish church was built in 1900. [Mass and confession times here.](#) [More about Mary here.](#)

Saints associated with the region



St Katharine Drexel (1858-1955): Katharine was a Philadelphia socialite who inherited an enormous fortune as a young woman. In her extensive travels, she encountered the plight of disenfranchised Native people. As a devout Catholic, she began applying her wealth to missionary efforts for Native and Black communities. She eventually entered religious life and founded schools, churches, and convents across the United States. She established one such mission at St Patrick's in Carlisle.

[Read more here.](#)

Servant of God 'Prince' Demetrius Gallitzin

(1770-1840): Demetrius was a Russian noble whose family friends included Voltaire, Empress Catherine the Great, and the future King William I of the Netherlands. His family had only nominal faith until his mother's conversion in 1786. She deeply influenced her son, and he entered the Church at age 17. To his father's shock and horror, he decided to pursue missionary priesthood in the United States. He served throughout the Carlisle region and was involved in a famous haunted-house investigation known as "Wizard Clip" ([listen to an amazing Catholic podcast about this event here.](#) [Read more about his life here.](#))



Venerable Gus Tolton (1854-1897): Gus Tolton escaped slavery as a child with his mother, who then educated him in Catholic schools. He became the first Black priest in the United States. It's not known whether Fr Tolton visited Carlisle, but he was personal friends with Katharine Drexel and collaborated frequently with her missions. [Read more here.](#)

St John Neumann (1811-1860): Born in Bohemia, John decided to become a missionary priest to the then-primitive United States. He eventually became bishop of Philadelphia and personally ministered around the diocese, including in Carlisle. He was the first to organize diocesan school systems and the first American bishop to be canonized. [Read more \(and visit his Philadelphia shrine\) here.](#)



"GROWTH IS THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF LIFE." +ST JOHN NEUMANN

Prompts for prayer, journaling, and discussion

The rich history of Carlisle connects to the American Revolution for independence and liberty; Catholic missionary work to indigenous and enslaved people; saints who joyfully said yes to God in unique ways; families who undertook significant hardship to find new homes; the Underground Railroad's mission of human freedom—dozens of stories and signs of perseverance, hope, action, and willingness to sacrifice for love. As you visit local sites, use these prompts to pray, reflect and journal about the spiritual insights available here.

Freedom

- What does it ultimately mean that Jesus frees us? What does He save us *for*? What does He save us *from*?
- How does fear constrict us from freely living lives of faith?
- What fears and insecurities restrain you? How do you want the Lord to heal these?

Joy

- What is something you find to be meaningful and fulfilling, but sometimes unpleasant and inconvenient at the same time? What does this tell you about the source of joy?
- What is something that interferes with your joy now, but that you probably won't really care about in 5-10 years? What is something that interferes with your joy now, but that you will definitely still care about in 5-10 years? What does this tell you about how to prioritize?
- What does abundant, joyful life mean to you? What does it look like throughout the coming year? Try to be as specific as possible.
- How is it possible to have joy even if things are hard?
- Who is someone whom you think shows joy even in suffering?
- How does joy give you strength?

Mission

- What does it really mean to love your neighbor as yourself?
- If the Church is the Body of Christ, what are its parts? Which part are you?
- How well are you participating in this call to the Body of Christ in the Church?
- Why does discipleship always mean bringing others along?
- Do we live like nothing matters more than becoming a saint?

Fight

- How is love connected to sacrifice?
- Why do bad things happen?
- What do these words mean to you: "Suffering can make us either bitter or better"?
- How does God use suffering for our good?

Vocation

- What are the deepest dreams and desires of your heart?
- How do you want to spend your life? At the end of your life, what words do you hope will describe you and how you have lived?
- What prevents you from being wholly yourself as God has made you to be?
- Who does God say that you are?
- How does this compare with what you say to yourself about who you are?
- Do you live according to God's vision of who you are?

"LET US OPEN WIDE OUR HEARTS. IT IS JOY WHICH INVITES US.
PRESS FORWARD AND FEAR NOTHING." +ST KATHARINE DREXEL

Other sites for contemplation

It's not always a cathedral or a holy site that carries us to the sacred. Creation itself overflows with wonder, pointing like a Gothic cathedral spire toward the Creator. Beauty always points to Beauty, to the One who loves us most. Here are some other places you can find the sacred.



Highlights of historic Carlisle:

- Old public graveyard
- Site of a famous return of captives from kidnapping by Native tribes; [read the touching story of one little girl returned to her mother here](#)
- Sites visited by George Washington, Frederick Douglass, and other historic figures
- The grave of [Mary Ludwig Hays \(Molly Pitcher\)](#), a woman who fought in the Battle of Monmouth in the American Revolution
- Several sites associated with planning and equipping the American Revolution
- Sites associated with major battles and events of the American Civil War
- Colonial-era churches and homes
- Memorial to the [54th Massachusetts](#), the U.S.A.'s first Black regiment
- [Find printable walking tour map and notes here](#)
- Carlisle also offers convenient access to the [Appalachian Trail](#)

Some food and drink suggestions:

- [The Whiskey Rebellion](#) - upscale American
- [Gingerbread Man](#) - pub vibes
- [The Rustic Tavern](#) - voted best local steak, crabcakes, and seafood
- [Fairgrounds Diner](#) - daily homecooked plate specials
- [Denim Coffee Company](#) - fresh ground specialty coffees

More helpful tips to make any place a pilgrimage:

- [9 Tips for Touring Churches and Holy Sites with Young People](#)
- [8 Non-Church Vacation Places You Can Contemplate God, Plus What to Ask](#)
- [Saints Quotes for Traveling](#)
- [Why You Should Visit Cemeteries When You Travel](#)
- [Add a Sacred Layer: Look for Mary](#)
- [A Broken Cathedral](#)

"ALL DO NOT GO BY THE SAME PATH. IT IS FOR EACH OF US TO LEARN THE PATH BY WHICH HE REQUIRES US TO FOLLOW HIM." +ST KATHARINE DREXEL

Lead, Kindly Light, amidst th'encircling gloom,
 Lead Thou me on!
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
 Lead Thou me on!
Keep Thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that Thou
 Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
 Lead Thou me on!
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will. Remember not past years!
So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still
 Will lead me on.
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
 The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile!
Meantime, along the narrow rugged path,
 Thyself hast trod,
Lead, Saviour, lead me home in childlike faith,
 Home to my God.
To rest forever after earthly strife
In the calm light of everlasting life.



+ST JOHN NEUMANN