



NATIONAL SHRINE OF
OUR LADY of LA LECHE
AT MISSION NOMBRE DE DIOS
DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

*Discover the
Soulful Connection*
OF PILGRIMAGE,
HISTORY, FAITH
AND DEVOTION



THIS SACRED PLACE STANDS
AS A LIVING TESTAMENT TO
The Enduring Spirit of Devotion

Nestled in the heart of historic St. Augustine, Fla., America's oldest Marian shrine offers a unique blend of history and devotion for an unforgettable experience. Encounter the transformative power of pilgrimage as you immerse yourself in stories of resilience, faith and cultural exchange.

THE PILGRIMAGE TRADITION

Pilgrimage has long been a cornerstone of religious practice, deeply embedded in Judaic tradition with journeys to Jerusalem. Early Christians adopted this practice, traveling to the Holy Land to venerate the sites associated with the life of Jesus Christ.

By the sixth century, pilgrimages evolved into acts of penance. By the tenth century, they began to take on aspects of tourism while maintaining their devotional roots. Over time, these sacred journeys expanded to include themes of intercession and gratitude, with shrines dedicated to the Blessed Mother being among the most popular destinations.

A SACRED DESTINATION

Long before the Spanish missions in California, Mission Nombre de Dios is where the story of Spanish "La Florida" began. It was part of a vast missionary network stretching from St. Augustine to the Florida Keys, north to the Chesapeake Bay, and west to Pensacola.

On Sept. 8, 1565 — 55 years before Plymouth Rock — Pedro Menéndez de Avilés founded St. Augustine, the first permanent European settlement in the U.S.

Father Francisco López celebrated the first Mass that day, and Spanish settlers shared a meal with the Timucuan natives. In 1587, the Franciscans established Mission Nombre de Dios and later created the first shrine to Mary, Nuestra Señora de La Leche.



Planning Your Pilgrimage...

A pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche can be personalized to meet the spiritual needs and preferences of each visitor.

Contact our pilgrim coordinator to help plan your visit today.

SELF-GUIDED TOURS

Walk the beautiful grounds. Visit the Historic Chapel, Shrine Church and Mission Museum.

Explore the 27 acres of the National Shrine and Mission Nombre de Dios, including the "Sacred Acre." Discover the history of the mission and shrine at our Mission Museum. Rotating exhibits will offer new experiences with each visit.

Enhance Your Experience: Purchase devotional prayer cards and pillar candles at the gift shop or visitor kiosk. Light a candle in the outdoor Pavilion, Historic Chapel, Shrine Church or Candle Grotto.

Timeframe: 30 minutes to 1.5 hours

GROUP TOURS

(Self-Guided or Docent-Led)

Docent-led tours are available daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with experience upgrades available.

Similar to self-guided tours, with additional options for itinerary planning, facilities rental, catering coordination and more. Tailor your pilgrimage request to suit your group's unique needs.

Enhance Your Experience: Custom gift bags, professional photography and catering coordination can be arranged in advance of your visit. Reserve facility rental space.

*Timeframe: 30 minutes to 1.5 hours (self-guided);
1 to 1.5 hours (guided)*

*Suggested Donation: \$10 per person;
\$100 per 20 pilgrims.*

TOURS FOR MOTHERS

A special tour for mothers seeking the blessings of motherhood through the intercession of Our Lady of La Leche. The many messages received here attest to Our Lady's love for her devoted and faithful children.

For mothers in any stage of motherhood. Visit the Historic Chapel, attend Mass and submit prayer petitions.

Enhance Your Experience: Purchase devotional prayer cards and the Mother's Manual at the gift shop.

*Timeframe: 15 to 30 minutes
Suggested Donation: \$5 per person*

WEEKDAY RETREATS

Participate in the Stations of the Cross, Rosary Garden and The Seven Sorrows of Mary Walk.

Mass is available daily. Reconciliation is available Monday – Saturday. Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet are available Monday through Friday.

Enhance Your Experience: Holy water bottles may be purchased in our gift shop and used as a devotional in daily life.

*Timeframe: Varies by activity
Suggested Donation: \$10 per person*



WALKING PRAYER & MEDITATIONS

**Pray and meditate on the life of Christ
and Our Blessed Mother.**

Walk in prayer throughout our sacred outdoor spaces;
Stations of the Cross, Rosary Garden and
the Seven Sorrows of Mary Walk.

Enhance Your Experience: Our Lady of La Leche
rosaries and the Rosary (Chaplet) of the Seven Sorrows
are available for purchase in our gift shop.

*Timeframe: Varies by activity
Suggested Donation: \$5 per person*

SACRAMENTS & DEVOTIONS

**Participate in the pilgrim Mass,
Adoration and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.**

Take part in the weekly opportunities
for Reconciliation and Mass.

Enhance Your Experience: Bring your family and
friends to experience the beauty of our shrine together.



**Support
Our Shrine,
Give Today!**

FACILITY INFORMATION

PILGRIM CENTER

Private conference room for up to 20 people

FATHER LÓPEZ MEETING ROOM

Indoor space with a scenic view of the
“Sacred Acre” for up to 100 people

RECEPTION AREA

Indoor space ideal for hosting a reception
with food and beverage service

PAVILLION

Outdoor covered patio with picnic
tables for up to 100 people

HISTORIC CHAPEL

Capacity of 25 people

SHRINE CHURCH

Capacity of 250 people

ADDITIONAL AMENITIES

*kiosk, gift shop, stage, restrooms and parking
(via Passport Parking App; Zone 320841)*

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCE UPGRADES

devotional speakers and guest lecturers

facilities rental | catering coordination

gift bags with keepsakes and souvenirs

professional photography

CONTACT US TO COORDINATE YOUR PILGRIMAGE

(904) 439-7253 | pilgrimage@missionandshrine.org | missionandshrine.org/pilgrimage

EMBRACING THE PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE

*A pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche is not just a journey to a sacred site
but an invitation to deepen one's faith, seek intercession and express gratitude. It is a tradition that links
the pilgrim to centuries of devotional practice, offering an enriching spiritual experience.*

We hope this information inspires you to plan a visit. The clergy, staff and volunteers of the
National Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche look forward to welcoming you to this special place.
Enjoy our beautiful grounds, Historic Chapel, Mission Museum, gift shop and daily Mass.

(904) 824-2809
missionandshrine.org

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MISSION NOMBRE DE DIOS

DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE

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