

The Immaculata Spiritual Pilgrimage



December 2021 – December 2022

Purpose

For us to grow in holiness as a parish and build an Immaculata in our souls. We will make special efforts for the Marian year from December 8, 2021 to December 8, 2022.

General Approach to the Spiritual Pilgrimage

- ♦ We are making this spiritual pilgrimage for our Mother, who has blessed us all in so many ways. If we remember we are making resolutions for Her, it should help us keep them or take them back up should we fail. We live in Her town where She protects us, and when Her church is completed, we want to be worthy to enter into it.
- ♦ Like all pilgrimages, we want to end up somewhere other than where we are right now. Any efforts we make will not be in vain.
- ♦ **You are not alone in your efforts.** You are making this pilgrimage alongside everyone else in the parish and even many other supporters worldwide. Take advantage of your Catholic community, workplace, or family to reinforce your resolutions. “A threefold cord is not easily broken.” (Eccle. 4:12)

- ♦ **Less is more.** Do one or two things well, but don't be afraid to make the one or two things challenging. This pilgrimage is a chance to make profound changes in your life, but without expecting results immediately. We are using a whole year because **good habits take time to develop.** You may fail at times, but do not let that make you give up. While you should challenge yourself, be realistic about what you can do. Just as no one becomes bad suddenly, no one becomes a saint suddenly. Take the obvious resolution, not the idealistic one.
- ♦ **Replace the bad with the good.** For example, if you get rid of excessive entertainment in the home, replace it with healthy family recreations.
- ♦ This pledge may regard something you do all year long, or something done in preparation for great feasts, or you could change your efforts monthly. Do whatever works for you, and do not be afraid to change your resolution during the year if the initial one was not realistic.

Bring your resolutions to the rosary procession on *October 17, 2021* and officially present them to Our Lady at the end of the procession. Or, if you cannot make that event, present them to Our Lady in the chapel and place them in the box we will provide under the pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima *anytime before December 8, 2021*.

*Please do not put donations in with your spiritual pledges since we will not be looking at the pledges nor tallying them in any way. **These pledges are between you and Our Lady.***

What should I consider in making resolutions?

♦ Turn away from creatures

Examine what occasions of sin are in my life or what creatures I use only for myself. Consider the internet, media, substances that get abused, bad friendships and relationships, clothing, and language. How can I mortify myself so that I can make my heart free of sin like the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

♦ Turn towards God, especially through Mary

Examine what I can do to unite myself to God more consistently, such as the family rosary, attendance at Mass and the Divine Office, mental prayer, holy hours, or spiritual reading, especially Marian books.

If you are already doing the basics, here are a few ideas of some more significant things that you could do over the course of the Marian year:

- ♦ Pledge to do a 60-day Reconquista.
- ♦ Go on a [retreat](#).
- ♦ Make a Marian pilgrimage.
- ♦ Make your first Fridays and Saturdays.

Keep in mind these great Marian feasts throughout the year:

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| ♦ Immaculate Conception – December 8 th | ♦ The Assumption – August 15 th |
| ♦ The Annunciation – March 25 th | ♦ Our Lady of Sorrows – September 15 th |
| ♦ Our Lady of Compassion –
Friday in Passion week, April 8 th | ♦ Our Lady of the Rosary – October 7 th |
| ♦ Queenship of Mary – May 31 st | ♦ The Divine Maternity – October 11 th |