

Pilgrimage to Poland with Father Patrick Gibbons

Parish: St. Cecilia Catholic Church

October 11 - 21, 2026

Warsaw ✚ Krakow ✚ Czestochowa
Zakopane ✚ Auschwitz
St. Faustina ✚ Maximilian Kolbe
St. John Paul II ✚ Gdansk
Wieliczka Salt Mine ✚ St. John Paul II Center
Black Madonna of Czestochowa ✚ Divine Mercy

Spiritual Leader: Father Patrick Gibbons



B (breakfast) L (lunch) D (dinner)

Sunday, 11th - We depart from St. Louis, MO in the morning to connect to the overnight transatlantic flight to **Gdansk**. Dinner and breakfast served aboard.

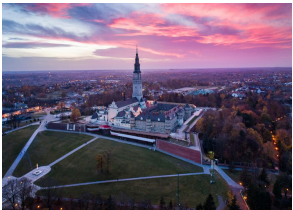
Monday, 12th - Arrive at Gdansk Airport and meet our professional English-speaking tour escort. Upon arrival, we take a **Tour of Gdansk** including the **St. Mary's Church**, the **Royal Route**, the **Golden Gate**, **Neptune Statue**, **Mariacka Street** and **Blugie Pobrzeze**. Our first mass of the pilgrimage will be celebrated **at St. Mary's church in the Royal Chapel**. We check into our Hotel. Welcome dinner at the hotel & Overnight at the hotel. **D Gdansk**



Tuesday, 13th - After breakfast and checkout, we board our motor coach for **Warsaw** this morning. Our first stop is the **Castle of the Teutonic Order in Malbork**. This 13th-century fortified monastery belonging to the Teutonic Order was substantially enlarged and embellished after 1309, when the seat of the Grand Master moved here from Venice. The Castle is a 13th-century Teutonic castle and fortress located in the town of Malbork, Poland. It is the largest castle in the world measured by land area and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival in Warsaw, we are free for lunch on our own. Then we will celebrate Mass at **St. James Church in the Resurrection Chapel**. Soon after, we check into our hotel. Dinner will be at our hotel. **B & D Warsaw**



Wednesday, 14th - After a restful sleep and breakfast, go to a Roman Catholic church located in Warsaw; it is the center of the **Divine Mercy and St. Faustina Parish**. From 1863 to 1944 the building served as an internal chapel within the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy monastery compound; destroyed during the Warsaw Uprising, it remained a ruin until the early 21st century, when it was brought to the current shape. The church and its immediate surroundings gained nationwide iconic status in the 1980's. **Here Mass will be celebrated.** Immediately after mass **we take a tour of the Monastery**. Lord Jesus instructed Sister Faustina to venerate the hour of His death and to connect with Him in prayer referring to the value and merits of His Passion. "At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow." **We will pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.** Soon after, we have a guided tour of Warsaw including: Umschlagplatz Memorial, The Ghetto Heroes Monument, the Palace of culture, Barbican, Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Market Square, Royal Palace and Royal Palace Square, St. Anna Church. After Lunch on our own, our sightseeing concludes at **Lazienki Park** with its beautiful gardens, **Chopin's Monument** and the **Palace on the water**. Soon we return to our Hotel to get ready for dinner at a local restaurant. **B & D Warsaw**



Thursday, 15th - In the morning we have our breakfast, then check out. Today we visit **Saint Stanislaus Kostka Church**. It is the most significant church of Żoliborz, a district of Warsaw. The parish was created in 1927 and in 1930 construction work started on the monumental neo-romanesque church building, it was interrupted by World War II, and was finished in 1963. The church is the well-known Sanctuary of **Blessed Jerzy Popiełuszko**, who was the spiritual leader of Solidarność and was killed by the Communists in 1984. **Here we are able to visit the exhibition of this martyred Priest.** From 1980, he conducted very popular Masses for the Fatherland that became a kind of manifesto for the social movement and protesters, attracting people from all around Poland. This is also the place of his burial and his tomb is situated beside the church. The site was visited by **Pope John Paul II** in 1987. We Depart for Czestochowa and upon arrival have lunch on our own. Then we visit **Jasna Gora Monastery**. The Monastery is a famous Polish shrine to the Virgin Mary. The image of the **Black Madonna of Czestochowa**, also known as **Our Lady of Czestochowa**, to which miraculous powers are attributed, is one of Jasna Góra's most precious treasures. Among the monastery's other treasures and artifacts of interest is the medal from the 1983 Nobel Peace



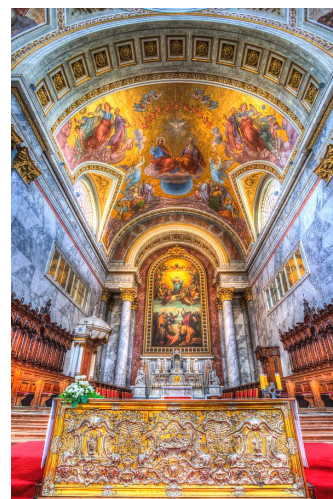
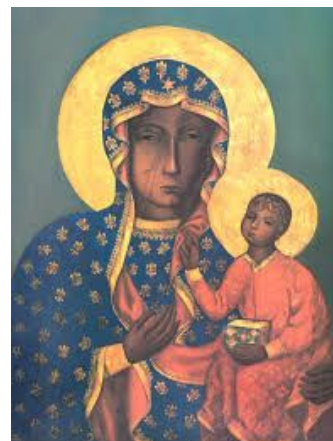
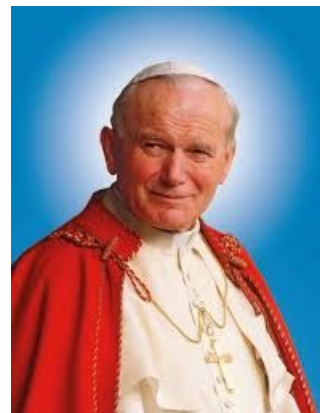
Prize received by Lech Wałęsa, the former Polish president and trade-union organizer. We will see the **Treasury, the Knights Hall, the Refectory and the Basilica of the Holy Cross & the Nativity of the Virgin Mary.** After our tour **we Celebrate Holy Mass here.** Then we drive to & check into our hotel. After dinner at our hotel, we have an opportunity to attend the **Apel Jasnogorski** - Evening Prayer to the Virgin Mary. **B & D Częstochowa**

Friday, 16th - Before breakfast, you may rise early to attend the unveiling of the **Black Madonna Icon.** After breakfast and hotel check out, **Mass will be at a Jasna Gora Monastery this morning.** Then we drive to **Oswiecim** where upon arrival we are free to have lunch on our own. After lunch we have a guided visit to the infamous **Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi Concentration Camp.** We visit the cell of the martyred St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, who voluntarily surrendered his life so that another prisoner might live. **Saint Maximilian Kolbe** is known as the "Apostle of Consecration to Mary," and he was canonized by Pope John Paul II in October, 1982. We will also drive by **Birkenau**, site of the martyrdom of **Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross.** After lunch on our own, we continue to **Zakopane** located at the foothills of The Tatra Mountains, where peasants still live in wooden houses and bears roam wild in the forests. Here, we check into our hotel for the next 2 days. We dine out tonight at a local restaurant. **B & D Zakopane**

Saturday, 17th - This morning after Breakfast, we enjoy a raft trip down the **Dunajec River** through the **Pieniny Gorge** and along the **Polish-Slovak** border, which is one of the greatest tourist attractions in Poland. The serene tour begins at the raft wharf in **Sromowce Nizne** and ends 9-miles later in **Szczawnica.** The towering cliffs, the gorge's limestone rock formations, the picturesque mountain scenery, and the colorful river guides make for a wonderful day in a pristine and wild environment. After, we return to **Zakopane** and marvel at the superb vistas of this gateway to Poland's most popular ski areas. Saint Pope John Paul II skied here. **We enjoy lunch together in a local restaurant with highlander folk music.** After lunch, we **Celebrate Holy Mass at the Sanctuary of the Holy Virgin of Fatima**, a chapel constructed in 1999 in gratitude for Pope John Paul II's survival of an assassination attempt. After Mass we take a tour of the chapel. Then we will take a cable car up **Mt. Gubalowka** for a great view of the **Tatras**, central Europe's highest mountains. Later, we have free time for shopping on **Krupowki** street and enjoy the highlander atmosphere of the town. Dinner at the hotel. **B, L & D Zakopane**

Sunday, 18th - After breakfast at the hotel and check-out, we depart for **Wieliczka.** We will stop in **Ludzmierz** for a **Mass at a beautiful Marian Sanctuary in Ludzmierz.** This Church is related to the cult of **Our Lady of Ludzmierz**, very important for mountaineers who live in the surrounding Tatra Mountains. In its adjacent **Rosary Garden** Pope John Paul II prayed in **1997** during his pilgrimage to Poland. **Ludźmierz**, the oldest village in Podhale, Poland's southernmost region. As we continue to **Wieliczka**, we find a good spot for lunch on our own. Soon we find ourselves at the entrance of the **Wieliczka Salt Mine**, in the town of **Wieliczka.** From Neolithic times, sodium chloride (table salt) was produced there from the upwelling brine. The **Wieliczka salt mine**, excavated from the 13th century, produced table salt continuously until 2007, as one of the world's oldest operating salt mines. This is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site.** Its attractions include the shafts and labyrinthine passageways, displays of historic salt-mining technology, an underground lake, four chapels and numerous statues carved by miners out of the rock salt. After, we continue to **Krakow** & check into our hotel for the next 3 days. Dinner at our hotel. **B & D Krakow**

Monday, 19th - After our breakfast we drive to **Wadowice** - the hometown of **John Paul II.** We begin at the **Church of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary** where he was baptized.



Here we Celebrate Mass. Then we visit his childhood home which is now a museum. After we enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant in Wadowice. Then we depart for Krakow but en route, we stop at **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska** which was a popular pilgrimage place for Pope John Paul II when he was a young man and where in the 17th century the Palatine of Krakow founded a Franciscan Monastery. On the slope of the hill and the valley is an architectural 'Way of the Cross' made up of 40 chapels set on the surrounding hills. After, we drive back to our hotel in Krakow for dinner.

B & D Krakow

Tuesday, 20th - After breakfast, we have a sightseeing tour of Krakow. one of the oldest cities in Poland and its first capital city with the entire **Old Town area listed on the Unesco World Heritage**. Visit the amazing **Wawel Hill** with the first Polish royal residence **The Wawel Castle - enter the Royal Chambers And the Wawel Cathedral**. Continue with a walk along Grodzka street, on the way passing the beautiful churches of **St. Andrew, St. Peter and Paul, and St. Francis of Assisi**. Reach the **Market Square** (at two hundred meters squared, it became the largest marketplace in Europe) and **hear the silver trumpet of the bugler from St. Mary's Tower**. We will visit the church, where we can see the extraordinary Europe's largest wooden altar, the work of **Wit Stwosz**. Next, we stop at **E.WEDEL CHOCOLATE LOUNGE**. Here we are served coffee/tea with the delicious cakes for which they are known. Next, We make a stop at the **Dominican Friary. We will celebrate our daily Holy Mass here**. After Mass, we have lunch on our own. Next, we drive to **Lagiewniki, the Capital of Divine Mercy**. Here, we enjoy a tour led by one of the sisters. It was here that the message of the Divine Mercy originated, which Christ Himself wished to pass on to our generation through the mediation of St. Faustina. The Sanctuary houses grace working image of the Merciful Jesus and the relics of St. Faustina. As we visit the Shrine of Divine Mercy, we will see St. Faustina's convent chapel and her Tomb. We visit the newly constructed **Shrine of Divinity dedicated by Pope John Paul II on his last visit to Poland in 2002**. Afterwards, we visit the new center '**Have No Fear!**' **John Paul II Centre** (the official name of which refers to his famous words during his inauguration speech) The primary highlights for visitors are the **Sanctuary of Blessed John Paul II** - a chapel with relics of the former pope, including a vial of his blood. Tonight we go out for a farewell dinner.

B & D Krakow

Wednesday, 21st - We leave the hotel and check-out early in the morning, we then transfer to Krakow's International Airport to take the homebound flight.

B

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- Farewell Dinner with Wine & Music
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Not Included: Gratuities to tour guides and driver, extra beverages and meals not listed in Itinerary, donations at church's, your own personal room charges.

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For Single Room, please add: \$657.00

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Please be aware that **walking** may be involved in this pilgrimage.

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