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Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a Catholic shrine located in [La Crosse, Wisconsin](#). It is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Construction of the Shrine Church began on May 13, 2004, with a dedication on July 31, 2008.^{[1][2]} The 100-acre (0.40 km²) grounds include a visitors' center and outdoor devotional areas such as a rosary walk, Stations of the Cross, and a votive candle chapel. The shrine was founded and later dedicated by Archbishop [Raymond Leo Burke](#).^[3] [Mass](#) and the sacrament of [Penance](#) are celebrated daily by [Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate](#).



The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA.

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History

The shrine was an inspiration of Cardinal [Raymond Leo Burke](#), while he was Bishop of La Crosse, who wanted to establish a place of lasting worship for Roman Catholics to go on pilgrimage to in the [Diocese of La Crosse](#).^[4] On September 28, 1999 a letter was sent for consideration to the Vatican, and on November 11, 1999 the Holy See gave the project its approval and blessing. 70 acres (280,000 m²) of woodland near the south end of La Crosse were then donated by Robert and Lucille Swing.^[5] Groundbreaking began on June 17, 2001.

The first phase of construction included a Pilgrim Center, which features an orientation room, information desk, the Flores Mariae gift shop, and the Culina Mariana restaurant, and the Mother of Good Counsel Votive Candle Chapel. This phase was completed and dedicated December 12, 2002.

The second phase included an outdoor stations of the cross, a devotional area to St. Joseph the Workman and a rosary walk, in addition to construction on the Shrine Church. Groundbreaking for the church was on May 13, 2004. The Stations of the Cross were dedicated December 9, 2004, followed by the devotional area to St. Joseph the Workman on September 21, 2007 and the rosary walk on December 8, 2007.

Excavation for the third phase, the Memorial to the Unborn, began on October 29, 2007.

On July 31, 2008 the Shrine Church was dedicated. The dedication Mass was also presided over by Burke, who by then had been named Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, having previously served as Archbishop of Saint Louis and before that as Bishop of La Crosse, and who would be named a Cardinal in 2010. Burke was joined by Cardinals Justin Francis Rigali of Philadelphia, who had previously served as Archbishop of Saint Louis before Burke was named as his successor, and Francis Eugene George of Chicago, the closest cardinalatial see to La Crosse. The ceremony included an honor guard made up of members of the local area Knights of Columbus and Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. Also in attendance were over 100 priests, and members of the St. Juan Diego Guild and Marian Catechist Apostolate.

The Memorial to the Unborn was completed on December 12, 2008 and was also dedicated by Archbishop Burke.

Shrine church

In July 2011 Pope Benedict XVI affiliated the shrine church to the papal basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome,^[6] which inspired much of the interior design.

Architecture

The Shrine Church was designed by Duncan G. Stroik,^[7] in collaboration with River Architects. The architecture is in Romanesque style,^[6] one of the first Catholic structures to be designed in such a way in 50 years. The exterior is made of stone from Minnesota and Wisconsin, designed to recall buildings of Tuscany.

Interior

The floor plan is a cruciform with a large narthex and an ambulatory connecting the nave to two sacristies. The interior of the sanctuary was designed to look like a high renaissance or baroque church.^[8] The marble was supplied by Twin City Tile & Marble Co. of St. Paul, Minnesota.^[9] The pews, doors and other woodwork are of mahogany provided by Heebink Architectural Woodwork of Baldwin, Wisconsin.

Art work was a collaboration of many artists and includes a variety of styles. The decorative painting and ornamental plastering was done by the John Canning Company of Connecticut with moldings crafted by Felber Ornamental Plastering Corp. of Norristown, Pennsylvania.^[8] The dome ceiling features a turquoise sky with gold-leaf constellations composed



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with assistance from astronomers at the Talcott Mountain Science Center in Avon, Connecticut. The dome is intended to replicate the night sky on the Winter Solstice as viewed from Mexico City in 1531.^[10] Thirty-one stained-glass windows were created and installed by Rohlfs Stained & Leaded Glass Studio of Mt. Vernon, New York.^[11]

A fresco inside the narthex inside the main entrance painted by Anthony Visco is titled “Visions of Guadalupe.” The images are of the apparitions of Mary to Juan Diego from the time of his approach to the hill of Tepeyac until the time of the healing of his uncle.^[4] Surrounding the outside the fresco are images of workers of the faith.

On the aisles inside the church are six paintings of saints, five of whom lived in the 20th century: Saint Peregrine Laziosi, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, Blessed Miguel Pro, and Saint Therese of Lisieux were painted by Neilson Carlin, and Saint Faustina and Divine Mercy and Saint Maria Goretti by Noah Buchanan. There are also three paintings by Brett Edenton in the lower narthex of the church that depict Venerable Father Samuel Mazzuchelli, Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga, and Blessed Solanus Casey.

Sculptures

The many sculptures inside and outside the church were sculpted in Italy of Carrara marble. Outside the church above the entrance is a statue of Jesus the Good Shepherd, to his right St. Peter, and to his left St. Paul. In the middle of the plaza is a statue of Juan Diego showing his tilma to Bishop Zumárraga.

Inside the church are statues in each of the transepts. The south transept holds statues of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and of Juan Diego. In the north transept are statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of St. Joseph and Jesus.

Mosaic

The sanctuary of the church contains a mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, created by The Vatican Mosaic Studio. The mosaic measures 9 ft (2.7 m) in height and 6 ft (1.8 m) in width.

Relics

1st Class relics

- Blessed Miguel Pro - in the altar of the church and in the side-aisle shrine
- Saint Kateri Tekakwitha - in the altar of the church
- Saint Therese of Lisieux- in the side-aisle shrine under the painting by Neilson Carlin
- Saint Peregrine Laziosi - in the side-aisle shrine under the painting by Neilson Carlin
- Saint Maria Goretti - in the side-aisle shrine^[6]
- Saint Faustina - in the side-aisle shrine
- Saint Gianna Beretta Molla - in the side-aisle shrine

The grounds

The Shrine is handicap accessible, with motorized carts and volunteers to assist people with mobility challenges.^[12]

The Stations of the Cross were designed by Anthony Visco and done in bronze relief. The Rosary Walk has four alcoves, with each alcove made up of five blue tiles, each depicting a mystery of the rosary. The alcoves were also designed by Visco.

Saint Joseph the Workman devotional area

This area includes a fountain and a bronze relief designed by Anthony Brankin showing Saint Joseph the Workman instructing Jesus. Background images depict Archbishop Burke, founder of the shrine, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swing, donors of the land. The Saint Joseph the Workman Devotional Area was dedicated September 21, 2007.

Saint Kateri Tekakwitha devotional area

This secluded devotional area features a larger-than-life-sized bronze statue of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Lily of the Mohawks, by artist Cynthia Hitschler. It was dedicated July 30, 2008. The work depicts the Saint in native buckskin in a natural setting, kneeling in reverence to a rough, hand-made cross, with a basket at her side filled with strawberries, a calla lily and the three "sister" plants; corn, squash and beans.

Memorial to the Unborn

The Memorial to the Unborn arcade provides a means of memorializing unborn children and providing a place of spiritual healing and closure for parents, relatives and friends. Also, there is a series of plaques that present teachings of the Catholic Church on abortion, contraception, embryonic stem cell research, and the dignity of the human person. The memorial was designed by River Architects.

Mother of Good Counsel Votive Candle Chapel

The Mother of Good Counsel Votive Candle Chapel contains 576 votive candles. It is surrounded by seven stained glass windows, designed by Willet-Hauser Stained Glass Studio, each depicting a different title or apparition of Our Lady. The central candle structure measures 14 feet (4.3 m) high, and 12 feet (3.7 m) across.

Culina Mariana Café

The Culina Mariana Café is a European bistro style restaurant located in the Pilgrim Center.

Flores Mariae Gift Shop

The Flores Mariae is a gift shop in the Pilgrim Center that provides literature about the Catholic faith and other religious items.

Friary

A friary next to the Shrine Church houses Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate, who are responsible for the sacramental and spiritual needs of the pilgrims.

Images



Votive Chapel

- [Peter Fehlner](#)
- [Holy Hill National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians Erin, Wisconsin](#)
- [National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help Greenbay, Wisconsin](#)

Notes

1. [La Crosse Tribune - 7.0 : 'Return to Beauty': Shrine could bring international spotlight to La Crosse \(http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2007/12/09/news/00lead.txt\)](http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2007/12/09/news/00lead.txt)
2. [La Crosse Tribune - 7.0 : Archbishop dedicates shrine's Rosary Walk \(http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2007/12/09/news/00walk.txt\)](http://www.lacrossetribune.com/articles/2007/12/09/news/00walk.txt)
3. [History \(http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/about/history\)](http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/about/history). Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
4. [Spencer, Susan. "A Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the U.S.", *National Catholic Register*, December 16, 2016 \(http://www.ncregister.com/blog/sspencer/a-pilgrimage-to-the-shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe-in-the-u.s\)](http://www.ncregister.com/blog/sspencer/a-pilgrimage-to-the-shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe-in-the-u.s)
5. ["Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe", Explore Lacrosse, La Crosse County Convention and Visitors Bureau \(https://www.explorelacrosse.com/5-things-need-know-shrine-lady-guadalupe/\)](https://www.explorelacrosse.com/5-things-need-know-shrine-lady-guadalupe/)
6. [Hrbacek, Dave and Carroll, Julie. "La Crosse shrine: A sanctuary for the soul", *Catholic Spirit*, Archdiocese of St. Paul & Minneapolis, September 29, 2011 \(https://thecatholicspirit.com/featured/la-crosse-shrine%E2%80%88a-sanctuary-for-the-soul/\)](https://thecatholicspirit.com/featured/la-crosse-shrine%E2%80%88a-sanctuary-for-the-soul/)
7. ["Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe", Duncan Stroik, Architect \(http://www.stroik.com/portfolio/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/\)](http://www.stroik.com/portfolio/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/)
8. [McDonald, Martha. "Classical Shrine | Our Lady of Guadalupe", *Traditional Building*, April 6, 2017 \(https://www.traditionalbuilding.com/projects/our-lady-guadalupe/\)](https://www.traditionalbuilding.com/projects/our-lady-guadalupe/)
9. ["Sacred Stone Project: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe", Twin City Tile & Marble Co. \(https://www.tctm.com/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/\)](https://www.tctm.com/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/)
10. ["Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe", John Canning & Co. \(https://johncanningco.com/portfolio/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/\)](https://johncanningco.com/portfolio/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe/)
11. ["Projects Featuring New Stained Glass Windows", Rohlf's Stained & Leaded Glass Studio \(http://www.rohlfstudio.com/recent-new-stained-glass-windows-projects/\)](http://www.rohlfstudio.com/recent-new-stained-glass-windows-projects/)
12. ["Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe", Travel Wisconsin, Wisconsin Department of Tourism \(https://www.travelwisconsin.com/tours/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe-194374\)](https://www.travelwisconsin.com/tours/shrine-of-our-lady-of-guadalupe-194374)

External links

- [Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe \(http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/\)](http://www.guadalupe Shrine.org/)
- [Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe \(http://lacrossetribune.com/app/shrine/\)](http://lacrossetribune.com/app/shrine/) at the *La Crosse Tribune*

- [Duncan G. Stroik's description of shrine \(http://stroikarchitect.com/portfolio/guadalupe.php\)](http://stroikarchitect.com/portfolio/guadalupe.php)
- ["Citadel of Orthodoxy" Meaning, Message and Pilgrimage at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in LaCrosse, WI \(https://muse.jhu.edu/article/658378\)](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/658378)

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