

Frequently Asked Questions

FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

What is the Saint John Paul II National Shrine?

- A **Catholic Shrine** that seeks to promote the teachings of Saint John Paul II, to encourage each visitor to respond to the universal call to holiness, and to foster spiritual devotion to this great saint.

When is the Shrine open for visitors and pilgrims?

- Monday to Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

What makes the Saint John Paul II National Shrine a unique field trip or retreat location?

- **A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II:** A stunning array of photos, quotes, short films, personal artifacts, and interactive displays in this extensive exhibit allows students to become familiar with Saint John Paul II, the gospel message of love to which he dedicated his life, and world history in an engaging way. We offer numerous student resources, including worksheets designed to help your students get the most out of their exhibit experience. Details are available at jp2shrine.org/schools.
- **Prayer and the Sacraments:** The church, where Mass is celebrated daily, seats 350 and the smaller chapel includes a first-class relic of Saint John Paul II available for veneration by pilgrims.
- **A variety of spaces** are available upon request for scheduled talks, presentations, or group discussions, including a formal auditorium for lectures or films.





What grade-levels, subject areas and educational objectives does a visit to the Shrine especially complement?

- **Grade Levels:** *A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II* is most appropriate for students in grades 6 – 12, and for younger grades with advance preparation by the teacher and/or Shrine staff. Tours can be adapted to suit a variety of age groups.
- **Subject Areas and Topics:** Preparation for First Communion and Confirmation; 20th century world history; ethics; vocations; art/art history; religion and theology; language arts.
- **Educational Objectives:** The exhibit and opportunities for prayer at the Shrine provide an unrivaled integration of spiritual and intellectual formation across several disciplines, especially history, world studies, art and religion.

What liturgical activities could my field-trip or retreat include?

- **Mass:** Monday through Saturday at noon and Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (Español) and 2:00 p.m. (English)
- **Veneration:** A first-class blood relic of Saint John Paul II is available for veneration in our Luminous Mysteries Chapel daily.
- **Penance and Reconciliation:** The sacrament of confession is available for individuals Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m. before noon Mass.
- Groups can contact our sacristan for special Mass requests and to arrange for visiting priests to celebrate or concelebrate Mass or to hear confessions.

What amenities does the Shrine offer?

- **Parking:** The Shrine has ample free parking for automobiles and buses.
- **Food Service:** Seating is available inside for groups to bring their lunch or received catered deliveries. Groups can also eat picnic-style on our expansive front lawn.
- **Gift Shop:** A small gift shop is open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
- **Accessibility:** All areas of the Shrine are accessible. The entrances include access ramps, and public elevators are available inside.

How do I contact the Shrine with questions or to schedule a visit?

- **Phone:** 202.635.5400
- **Email:** VisitorServices@jp2shrine.org
- **Website:** www.jp2shrine.org