



Medjugorje Pilgrimage

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Fr. Lourduraj Alapaty - Spiritual Leader

Bob Rzeszutek - Group Leader





Medjugorje Pilgrimage

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

► Agenda

- Introductions
- Prayer
- Medjugorje - what, where and why go on pilgrimage there
- History of Medjugorje
- Important sites in and around Medjugorje
- Marian Apparitions
- Medjugorje Visionaries
- Our Lady
- Fruits of Medjugorje
- 206Tours pilgrimage
- Q & A



Medjugorje Pilgrimage

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

- ▶ Introductions:
- ▶ Bob Rzeszutek
- ▶ Parishoner of St. Michael's for 20+ years
- ▶ Volunteer with visiting Extraordinary Eucharistic ministry, Sunday 10:30 audio/visual equipment for live streaming, ride sharing,
- ▶ Moved to Triangle in 1998 from Springfield, Massachusetts,
- ▶ Around 1999, listened to an after-Mass talk by Wayne Weibel,
 - ▶ This began my deeper conversion and call to Our Lady
 - ▶ "The Message" book
- ▶ Medjugorje - what and where in the world is Medjugorje ?
 - ▶ (meh-jew-gore-e-yeh)
- ▶ And you ? How have you heard about Our Lady and Medjugorje ?



Medjugorje Messages

- ▶ March 18, 2025: Message to Mirjana Dragicevic-Soldo on March 18th's
 - ▶ ***"Dear children! With motherly love I implore you: give me your hands folded in prayer, give me your hearts cleansed in confession and I will lead you to my Son. Because, my children, only my Son, with His light, can illuminate the darkness; only He, with His Word, can remove suffering. Therefore, do not be afraid to walk with me, because I am leading you to my Son – salvation. Thank you."*** (March 18, 2025)
- ▶ February 25, 2025: Marjia's message for the world on 2nd of each month
 - ▶ ***Dear children, May this springtime be an encouragement for personal conversion for you, that with your lives you may pray and love God above all, for all those who are in need. Little children, be my hands of peace and prayer; be love for all those who do not love, do not pray and do not want peace. Thank you for having responded to my call.***



What is a Catholic Pilgrimage ?

- ▶ A Catholic pilgrimage is, in essence, a journey—in body and spirit—that honors sacred sites. Often, these pilgrimages are taken to places of worship such as cathedrals, monasteries, shrines or other holy sites. In this case, a Marian shrine - Medjugorje.
- ▶ Physical travel to such destinations can be a life changing, transformational experience and perhaps result in a greater sense of life's purpose, deeper faith.
- ▶ Can help a person grow closer to God, through prayer, participating in Holy Mass, sacraments of confession and Holy Eucharist, deepening their faith and find relief from life's troubles; offering your troubles to God,
- ▶ A pilgrimage to Medjugorje will immerse the pilgrims in such conditions, renew faith and Our Lady will touch your heart.



Why Go on a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje ?

- ▶ A tangible sense of peace when you enter Medjugorje, something is very different in this village - has been described as there being a thin veil between heaven and earth,
- ▶ The Confessional of the World - traditional confessional booths and outdoor face-to-face confessional seating area in the sides/rear of church; many priests spending up to six hours in confession,
- ▶ Outdoor worship area behind St. James church - seats thousands !
 - ▶ Evening Mass, Adoration, Veneration of the Cross, Youth Festival
- ▶ Apostolic visitors have been assigned to St. James Church by Vatican
 - ▶ Polish Archbishop Henryk Hoser from May 2019 to 8-13-21; died from Covid
 - ▶ Italian Archbishop Aldo Cavali assigned since 11-27-21
- ▶ 9-19-24: Pope Francis granted approval for Medjugorje devotion, pilgrimages
 - ▶ [vaticannews_sep19_2024.pdf](#)

Why Go on a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje ?

- ▶ 2-20-25: St. James Church was named a Jubilee pilgrimage shrine during this Jubilee year!!!
 - ▶ Plenary indulgence can be received in St. James Church in Medjugorje !
 - ▶ Indulgence Decree
 - ▶ Jubilee year - 2 plenary indulgences per day ! One for you and successive ones can be dedicated for deceased loved ones, Holy Souls in Purgatory,
 - ▶ Attend Holy Mass, receive Holy Eucharist in a state of grace, confession within +/- 21 days) and pray for our Holy Father's intentions: Apostles Creed, 2-Our Father's, 2-Hail Mary's,
 - ▶ Reference Father Leon Pereira homily on 2-22-25 in St. James church.
(MaryTV.tv) Plenary Indulgence - MaryTV



Where is Medjugorje ?

- ▶ Medjugorje means “between mountains”,
- ▶ Small village in the Citluk municipality in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the former Yugoslavia,
- ▶ Usually gentle winters, hot summers and moderate spring/fall temperatures,
- ▶ Tobacco, grapes, figs, olives, livestock farming,
- ▶ Rocky hill/mountain terrain (Apparition Hill, Cross Mtn),
- ▶ Fertile, flat farming land in the valley areas,
- ▶ App 4000+ people live there permanently,
- ▶ App one million+ pilgrims each year have visited since June 24, 1981 when Our Lady was first reported to have appeared.



Where is Medjugorje ?





Medjugore - then and now





History of Medjugorje

- ▶ Croatians began to establish themselves here ~ 6th century and Christianity started in this region; Poles migrated there,
- ▶ Turks invaded in 16th century (Ottoman empire) and “Islamicized” some of the people, persecuted Catholics, many priests and villagers lost their lives,
- ▶ Franciscans (“uncles”) operated under difficult conditions during those times - they went underground for 400 yrs !,
- ▶ WWII, post-WWII communist Yugoslavia, 1933, Pope Pius XI requested the whole Catholic world to erect crosses in honor of Christ’s 1900 anniversary of His crucifixion,
- ▶ Medjugorje villagers constructed a 28 ft, 10-ton concrete cross on 1700 ft Mt. Krizevac, carrying materials on their backs (6 weeks),
- ▶ Part of Christ’s true Cross ,donated by Vatican, was encased in base of cement cross,
- ▶ Balkan War in 1990’s - many lives lost but Medjugorje was spared !



Cross Mtn. (Mt Krizevac) - 28 ft Cross





History - cont'd

St. James church

- ▶ Original church constructed in 1897, placed under the protection of Saint James
- ▶ St. James is the Patron Saint of Pilgrims,
- ▶ But the foundation was unstable, cracked and entire church had to be rebuilt,
- ▶ New church completed in 1969,
- ▶ Outdoor altar and seating area (5000+ seating) at the rear of St. James church,
- ▶ Late afternoon Rosary hour, Croation Mass (translated via radio handsets), outdoor Adoration and Veneration of the Cross.



History - cont'd

St. James Church





History - cont'd

- ▶ WWII: "(It was) an act of 'ethnic cleansing' before that hideous term came into vogue, it was an attempt to create a 'pure' Catholic Croatia by enforced conversions, deportations, and mass exterminations. So dreadful were the acts of torture and murder that even hardened German troops registered their horror. Even by comparison with the recent bloodshed in Yugoslavia at the time of writing, Pavelic's onslaught against the Orthodox Serbs remains one of the most appalling civilian massacres known to history"
- ▶ 66 Franciscan priests were killed during and immediately after WWII
 - ▶ 30 were shot and burned in a cave in Siroki Brijeg for not renouncing their faith,
 - ▶ Bodies are interned at a Franciscan Monastery in Siroki Brijeg,
- ▶ Spread of communism - communist Yugoslavia nation formed post-WWII; continued oppression of the people, atheism promoted by communists - no such thing as God !
- ▶ Civil War: following the breakup of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia from 1991 - 2001
 - ▶ The **Bosnian War** (1992-1995) was one of the most significant conflicts, resulting in a NATO-led intervention and a peace agreement that established Bosnia and Herzegovina as a single state



History - cont'd

- ▶ Deep, enduring faith of the Medjugorje villagers is why Our Lady chose Medjugorje for her plan of conversion and salvation of the whole world.



Apparition Hill (Mt. Podbrdo)

- ▶ Our Lady first appeared to four of the current visionaries on June 24, 1981; were afraid and ran away,
- ▶ The four children were drawn to return along with two other children on June 25, 1981 when Our Lady again appeared,
- ▶ Apparitions have continued from that day on,
- ▶ Relentless communist resistance of the apparitions until they realized they could tax the pilgrims/villager hosts,
- ▶ A statute was placed at this site In September 2001; purchased by a Korean couple whose child was miraculously healed in Medjugorje from a deaf and “dumb” affliction,
- ▶ Site of many of Our Lady’s apparitions to the visionaries, widely visited by pilgrims,
- ▶ Similar statue located in front of St. James Church,
- ▶ App. 1.5 mile walk from St. James church to foot of hill,
- ▶ Large bronze plaques to pray the Rosary on way up hill.





Risen Jesus Statue

- ▶ Large bronze statue of the Risen Jesus located behind St. James Church ,
- ▶ Depicts the victorious, risen Jesus with his outstretched arms,
- ▶ Crafted in 1998 by Slovenian sculptor Andrija Ajdic,
- ▶ Tear-like droplets started to ooze from the right knee in 2001; now oozing from both knees,
- ▶ Liquid does not evaporate or freeze,
- ▶ Liquid was analyzed in laboratory and found to be similar in composition of tears,
- ▶ Pilgrims dab the droplets onto prayer cloth pieces,
- ▶ Healing and miracles have been associated with these tears.



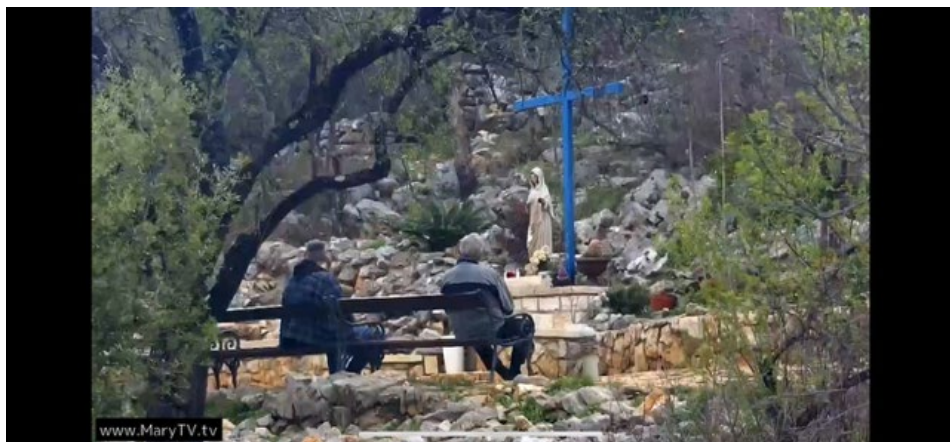
Risen Jesus Statue





Blue Cross

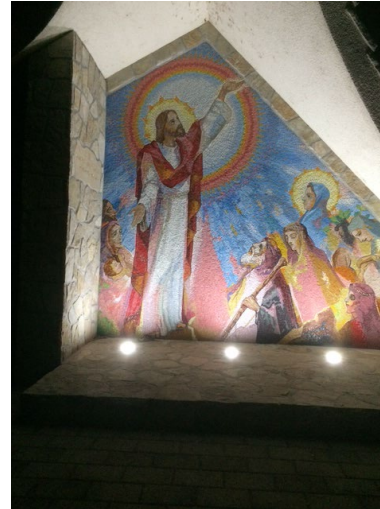
- ▶ Communist military and police forbade villagers and others from climbing Apparition Hill,
- ▶ Blue Cross secretly erected by Ivan in early days due to these restrictions,
- ▶ Used as a site for their apparitions with Our Lady,
- ▶ Mirjana used the Blue Cross site for her 2nd of month apparition given for non-believers until March 2020 (now only on March 18th),
- ▶ Blue Cross site is visited by pilgrims as a site for prayer and meditation.





Via Domini (The Way of the Lord)

Behind St. James is a beautiful tree-lined path with 5 stunning tile mosaics of the Luminous Mysteries that pilgrims will visit and pray the Rosary





Candle Park

- ▶ Quiet place for mediation and prayer alongside St. James church,
- ▶ Pilgrims light votive candles for their loved ones who have passed away and for all the intentions they bring with them to Medjugorje, laying their troubles, hopes, and prayers at the foot of the cross.





Hall of St. John Paul II

- ▶ Located behind and to the left of St. James church,
- ▶ Hall seats 800 pilgrims,
- ▶ Used for Masses, prayer meetings, lectures and testimonies,
- ▶ A painting by Carmelo Puzzolo based on the visionaries' description of Our Lady.





Tihaljina

- ▶ Fr. Jozo Zovko was the pastor of St. James Church in Medjugorje when the apparitions began in 1981. He protected the children visionaries from the communists,
- ▶ He was arrested six weeks after the first apparition, and, though innocent, was sentenced to 3.5 yrs in prison by a communist court.
- ▶ After Fr. Jozo was released from prison, he was assigned to Immaculate Conception parish in Tihaljina, (a 30-minute drive from Medjugorje) where he served until 1991.
- ▶ When pilgrims came to visit Fr. Jozo in Tihaljina, he often presented them with a prayer card featuring a photo of this statue on the front and the five stones and Our Lady's words, "If you only knew how much I love you, you would cry with joy" on the back.
- ▶ Although many refer to the statue as Our Lady of Medjugorje, it is actually called Our Lady of Grace and is located in Immaculate Conception Church in Tihaljina.





Siroki Brijeg

- ▶ The monastery at Široki Brijeg is the site where 30 Franciscans were martyred.
- ▶ Killed by Communist soldiers in 1945 after refusing to remove their Franciscan habits and renounce their faith in God,
- ▶ The cave where their bodies were burned is close by,
- ▶ Siroki Brijeg is where Fr. Jozo went to live when he left Tihaljina.





Some Past Marian Apparitions

Our Lady of Guadalupe - Dec 1531; Mexico

- ▶ St. Juan Diego

- ▶ Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal - 1830; Paris, France

- ▶ St. Catherine Laboure

- ▶ Our Lady of the Cape - mid 1800's; Quebec, Canada

- ▶ Our Lady of Lourdes - 1858; Lourdes, France

- ▶ St. Bernadette Soubirous

- ▶ Our Lady of Knock - 1879 Knock, Ireland

- ▶ 15 witnesses

- ▶ Our Lady of Fatima - 1917; Fatima, Portugal; 60,000 witnessed Miracle of Sun

- ▶ Lucia dos Santos, St. Jacinta Marto, St. Francisco Marto

- ▶ Our Lady of Garabandal - 1961-1965; Garabandal, Spain; Our Lady of Caramel

- ▶ Conchita Gonzalez, Maria Dolores Mazon, Jacinta Gonzalez and Maria Cruz Gonzalez

- ▶ Our Lady of Kibeho – 1989; Kibeho, Rwanda

- ▶ Alphonsine Mumureke, Nathalie Mukamazimpaka, Marie Claire Mukangango



Marian Apparitions - Now

- ▶ Our Lady of Medjugorje - 1981 to present; Bosnia-Herzegovina (former communist Yugoslavia)
 - ▶ Six visionaries- Ivan, Vicka, Marija, Mirjana, Ivanka and Jakov
 - ▶ 10 secrets have been given to Ivanka, Mirjana and Jakov; Ivan, Vicka and Marija have received nine of ten secrets
 - ▶ Ivanka, Mirjana, Jakov - 1 apparition each year; Vicka, Marija, Ivan - 1 each day
 - ▶ 3rd secret will be a permanent, visible, beautiful, indestructible sign at the original site of the apparitions
 - ▶ *"This sign will be given for the atheists. You faithful already have signs and you have become the sign for the atheists. You faithful must not wait for the sign before you convert; convert soon. This time is a time of grace for you. You can never thank God enough for His grace. The time is for deepening your faith, and for your conversion. When the sign comes, it will be too late for many."* Our Lady of Medjugorje



Apparition Background

- ▶ Medjugorje apparitions “allegedly” began on 6-24-81
 - ▶ St John the Baptist Feast Day
 - ▶ Marija, Ivanka, Ivan and Vicka were the first to be in the presence of Our Lady but didn’t respond to her call,
 - ▶ Six children responded to Our Lady’s call/apparition beginning on 6-25-81
 - ▶ Apparitions have continued for 43 + years !!!
- ▶ Children visionaries:
 - ▶ Jakov Colo – 10 years old
 - ▶ Ivanka Ivanković - 15
 - ▶ Mirjana Dragičević - 16
 - ▶ Vicka Ivanković - 16
 - ▶ Marija Pavlović – 16
 - ▶ Ivan Dragičević -16



Visionaries - early days



Ivan

Marija

Ivanka

Mirjana

Jakov

Vicka



Visionaries, now - Ivan, Marija, Vicka Mirjana, Jakov, Ivanka





About Our Lady

From Visionaries

- ▶ Very slender
- ▶ About 5' 5" tall
- ▶ Appears to look 18-20 yrs old
- ▶ Thin reddish lips
- ▶ Long, oval "normal" face
- ▶ Light rosy cheeks
- ▶ Clear beautiful blue eyes
- ▶ Black hair
- ▶ Clothed in a simple women's grey dress
- ▶ Long white veil covering her back and sides
- ▶ Always stands on a cloud
- ▶ Wears crown of 12 golden stars
- ▶ Aramaic is Our Lady's native language but can speak any
- ▶ Very beautiful - a heavenly beauty beyond earthly description (Our Lady has said that she is beautiful because she loves !)



Why Has Our Lady Come to Medjugorje?

- ▶ Our Lady identified herself as the Queen of Peace in her first apparitions,
- ▶ She calls us to peace, conversion and to pray, pray and pray... everyday,
- ▶ Peace must start first in our own hearts, then pray for peace in our families, our nation and then the whole world,
- ▶ Our Lady always points us back to Jesus in her messages,
- ▶ Our Lady's mission is one of peace. She has returned to earth (again) to help us convert and recenter our lives to Her Son, Jesus.
- ▶ Our Lady's call to conversion is urgent and we need to respond with all our hearts,
- ▶ Our Lady has been patiently walking with us since 1981, guiding us step by step, message by message, often repeating the same words as any patient mother would.



What is Our Lady Recommending to Us?

- ▶ Pray with the heart; what does that mean ?
 - ▶ Pray always thinking of the words you are praying
 - ▶ Imagine that you are looking at Jesus or Mary in front of you as you say your prayers
- ▶ Pray the Rosary everyday,
 - ▶ The Rosary depicts the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - ▶ Offer your prayers for her intentions (Our Lady knows what is best needed and will offer our prayers to God)
- ▶ Pray the Apostles Creed, 7-Our Father's, 7-Hail Mary's, 7-Glory Be's daily
 - ▶ For your intentions and also offer these prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory
- ▶ Holy Mass on Sunday and daily Mass whenever possible,
- ▶ Our Lady has said many times to pray for the strength of faith and fear nothing !
- ▶ Peace, faith, conversion, prayer and fasting,
- ▶ Sacraments of Confession and Holy Eucharist.



Our Lady of Medjugorje's 5 Stones

► 5 Stones to defeat Satan:

1. Daily prayer

Rosary - every day; Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious mysteries

Apostles Creed, 7 Our Father's, 7 Hail Mary's, 7 Glory Be's

2. Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays: bread and water is best; however, any sacrifice is better than none at all

3. Daily Reading of the Bible, especially New Testament

4. Monthly Confession - more if necessary; each time peels away the layers of past sins

5. Holy Mass - every Sunday and weekdays when possible



10 Secrets Shared by Our Lady to Visionaries

- ▶ Our Lady will confide 10 secrets to each of the visionaries.
- ▶ Ivanka, Marijana and Jakov have received all 10 secrets; now one apparition each yr
- ▶ Ivan, Marija and Vicka have received only 9 secrets; still daily apparitions
- ▶ When Ivan, Marija and Vicka receive the 10th secret, the secrets will begin to be revealed,
- ▶ Ten days before the events of a secret are due to occur, Mirjana will contact a chosen priest (Fr. Petar Ljubicic). They were undergo 7 days of prayer/fasting
- ▶ 3 days before the events of the secret are due Fr Ljubicic will publish the secret to the world (what, where and when) ensuring the secret originated from Our Lord,
- ▶ First 3 secrets will be warnings or great signs - 3rd secret has been revealed to be a permanent, supernatural, indestructible sign on Apparition Hill,
 - ▶ Will lead to many healings and conversions
 - ▶ But we must not wait for that sign for our conversion and strengthening of our faith !



10 Secrets Shared by Our Lady to Visionaries

- ▶ Other 7 secrets will be challenging events and chastisements for the world,
- ▶ 7th secret was lessened from prayers and fasting in Medjugorje,
- ▶ 9th and 10th secrets are severe chastisements for the sins of the world,
 - ▶ Entire world will not likely be converted, but...
 - ▶ Severity can be lessened with prayer and penance
- ▶ ***“Peace, Peace, Peace! Be reconciled! Only Peace. Make your peace with God and among yourselves. For that, it is necessary to believe, to pray, to fast, and to go to confession.”*** June 26, 1981 message given to Marija
- ▶ ***“Dear children! Return to prayer because [he] who prays is not afraid of the future...”*** October 25, 2021 message given thru Marija for the world



Fruits of Medjugorje

Roland Patzleiner

- ▶ Plays in English, Croatian Mass and Adoration
- ▶ Converted as a troubled youth



Melinda Dumitrescu

- ▶ Very talented, accomplished violinist; has consecrated her life and musical ministry to Jesus and Mary in Medjugorje
- ▶ Plays and sings during English, Croatian Mass and Adoration





Fruits of Medjugorje

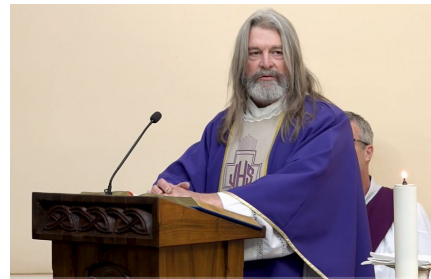
- Fr. Don Calloway



- Fr. Michael Lightner



- Fr. Rick Wendell





Fruits of Medjugorje

- ▶ Healings - from wheelchair to walking again !

- ▶ Linda Christy



- ▶ Maria Mann



- ▶ Colleen Willard





Fruits of Medjugorje

- Conversions of the Heart:

- Wayne Weibel



- Regina Collins



- Jim Brown



- Christine Watkins





Fruits of Medjugorje

“Mladfest”



- ▶ “Mladfest” = Youth Festival
- ▶ Attracts 50,000 young pilgrims and adults globally,
- ▶ Started in 1989 by Fr. Slavko Barbaric and Fr. Tomislav Vlasic,
- ▶ In celebration of Our Lady’s real birthday, August 5th (church celebrates on September 8th)



Fruits of Medjugorje

- ▶ Mary's Meals - Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow
 - ▶ Over 2.5 million meals are served to poor children in Malawi, Benin, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Sudan, Syria, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe
 - ▶ Children have at least one nutritious meal to allow them to survive, school
- ▶ Friends of Mary's Hands - Jakov Colo
 - ▶ Founded by visionary Jakov Colo; feeding the poor in villages by Medjugorje
- ▶ Spirit of Medjugorje - June Klins; took over as editor in 2002
 - ▶ Founded by Joan Wieszcyk, Bob Nietupski and Dr. Charles Jackson to spread the message of Our Lady of Medjugorje
 - ▶ Monthly newsletter - <http://www.SpiritOfMedjugorje.org>



Why Go on a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje ?

- ▶ An active Marian apparition site,
- ▶ 2025 Church Jubilee Year: Pilgrims of Hope theme
 - ▶ *2025 is the Jubilee Holy Year, the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an "event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church."*
- ▶ Medjugorje is a beautiful quaint village "between mountains",
- ▶ Wonderful, friendly, accommodating villagers,
- ▶ Prayer, Sacraments: Confession, Holy Mass, Holy Eucharist daily,
- ▶ Many conversions and deepening of faith of the faithful,
- ▶ Many miracles !! Many testimonies !!
 - ▶ Amazing physical and spiritual healings and cures,
 - ▶ Infertility issues have been cured,
 - ▶ Miracle of the sun,
 - ▶ Rosary's turning gold,
 - ▶ Visions and lights in the sky, over Mt Podbrdo (Apparition Hill), Mt Krizevac (Cross Mtn).
- ▶ Hundreds of priests have attributed their vocation to Medjugorje,
- ▶ Risen Jesus statue - knee area weeps a tear-like liquid !



206Tours Medjugorje Pilgrimage

- ▶ Fr. Lourduraj Alapaty - Spiritual Director from St. Michael's Parish
- ▶ Bob Rzeszutek - Group Leader
- ▶ "Pilgrims" from our and other parishes



What's included with 206Tours Pilgrimage

- ▶ Roundtrip airfare, luggage handling (1 piece/person); one personal item, one carry-on and one checked bag 50 lb max.
- ▶ Hotel accommodations - standard double occupancy (e.g. Villa Grace)
- ▶ Breakfast and dinner daily, on our own for lunch
 - ▶ Wine and mineral water included with dinners
- ▶ Transfer per itinerary; air-conditioned motor coach
- ▶ Whisper headsets where needed for Croation-English translation
- ▶ Professional Catholic local guide assistance
- ▶ Sightseeing and admissions fee per itinerary

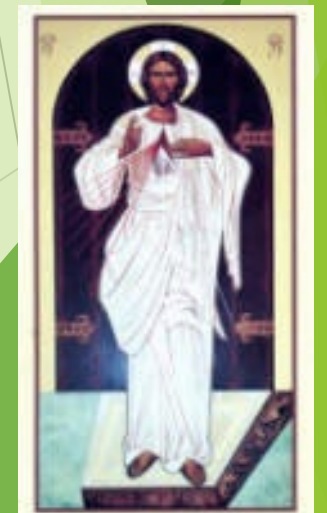


What's included with 206Tours Pilgrimage

- ▶ Visits to Siroki Brijuni, Tihaljina and Surmanci,
- ▶ Visit to Community Cenacolo and testimonies from members,
- ▶ Meeting with a visionary - pending availability,
- ▶ Lots of Masses, Adoration, praying Rosary.
 - ▶ 10AM English Mass, 6 PM Croatian Mass, others
 - ▶ 5PM Rosary before Croatian Mass
 - ▶ Adoration after Croatian Mass on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
 - ▶ All day adoration in Yellow Building if no Mass or meetings
 - ▶ Veneration of the Cross on Friday after Croatian Mass
- ▶ Climbing Apparition Hill (Mt Podbrodo) and Cross Mtn. (Mt. Krizevac)
- ▶ MaryTV studio tour, new studio building under construction overlooking Apparition Hill.

What's included with 206Tours Pilgrimage

- ▶ Siroki Breg - site of massacre of 66 Franciscan priests during WWII
 - ▶ Communists despised Catholic faith and were responsible for massacre
 - ▶ Remains of 24 remain there
 - ▶ Our Lady of Assumption church overlooks this site
- ▶ Tihaljina - Our Lady of Grace statue in Church of Immaculate Conception
 - ▶ Many prayers have been answered here
 - ▶ Some say the expression on the face of the statue changes when they've prayed there
- ▶ Surmanci - miraculous image of Jesus of Mercy in the Merciful Jesus Church there
 - ▶ Also, relic of St. Faustina
- ▶ Cenacolo Community - founded by Sister Elvira Petrozzi
 - ▶ The aim of the Community is to foster a sense of family and community in the individuals seeking help. The methods used are not based on medical intervention. Through faith, prayer, work, and the virtue of charity, the young people begin to have a sense of belonging, thus building hope, healing, and a new outlook as Jesus Christ becomes the centre of their lives





What's Not Included:

- ▶ Lunch
- ▶ Tips for driver and tour guide
- ▶ Travel protection insurance (see 206Tours for this)

Guidelines for Pilgrims and Priests

- ▶ 1. Holy Mass is celebrated only in the parish church. It is possible to celebrate Mass in the Adoration chapel and in the Hall of John Paul II, all with the prior permission and agreement with the Information Office and nuns in the sacristy that keep the records of the groups. ***According to an official diocesan directive, it is forbidden to celebrate Holy Mass in pensions, in private homes you are staying in, on the hills and in any community or chapel located in the parish of Medjugorje.*** Holy Masses can only be celebrated in the communities that were approved by the Apostolic Visitor. For any explanation or further information, please contact the Information Office in the sanctuary, or call them on phone/fax: 38736651988 or email: informacije@medjugorje.hr
- ▶ 2. Prayer meetings within the parish can be organized only with the permission of the parish priest.
- ▶ 3. Only priests who serve in this parish have the permission to give encounters and talks to groups of pilgrims in the church area. All the others have to obtain the permission of the parish priest.

Guidelines for Pilgrims and Priests

- ▶ **4.**No one has the permission to “pray over” any person, either in the church or around the church area.
- ▶ **5.**If you are a priest, you are invited to concelebrate at the evening Mass (please bringing what is necessary: alb, stole, celebret...), and - if you have the permission to hear confessions - to be at the disposal of pilgrims for confessions in your language, or in the language you speak.
- ▶ **6.**Each priest that wishes to confess or to concelebrate at Holy Masses needs to have valid celebret. When he presents it in the Information Office, he will receive registration card that allows him to confess and to concelebrate at the Holy Masses. Priests who fail to register will not be allowed to concelebrate at Holy Masses.
- ▶ **7.**Leaders of pilgrim groups need to arrange their meetings with priests of the parish through the Parish Information Office.

Guidelines for Pilgrims and Priests

- ▶ **8.**It is forbidden to use private speakers and sound system in the church area.
- ▶ **9.**We kindly ask groups to hire a professional and qualified guide during their stay in Medjugorje. The service of a such guides should be requested at the Information Office.
- ▶ **10.**Pilgrimage group leaders should announce the arrival of their group and the number of participants by phone/fax + 387 36 651 988 or by e-mail: informacije@medjugorje.hr
- ▶ **11.**We kindly ask you not to make any other arrangements during the evening prayer program in the church.
- ▶ **12.**The area around the church, on Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain, are places of prayer. Please respect these places as such, please behave in harmony with their significance and dress appropriately (shoulders and knees should always be covered), as to not disturb prayer and meditation. Please try to preserve the cleanliness of these places.
- ▶ **13.**No candles are to be lit on Apparition Hill or on Cross Mountain. They may be lit only at the place provided on the west-side of the church, near the Wooden Cross. Please do not leave any votive offerings, religious articles, photos – nothing should be left on Apparition Hill or on Cross Mountain.

Guidelines for Pilgrims and Priests

- ▶ **14.**Smoking is not allowed in and around the church.
- ▶ **15.**Aware of the presence of God, and in order to protect the atmosphere of prayer and meditation, it is not allowed to take photos during Holy Mass and during Adoration.
- ▶ **16.**It is forbidden to solicit any money, apart from the offerings during Holy Mass. If you notice anybody trying to do this, please contact the Information Office of the Shrine.
- ▶ **17.**Mass intentions, votive offerings or donations for the maintenance of the Shrine of the Queen of Peace can be left in the Parish Office. Thank you!



Medjugorje - Questions ?

- ▶ See 206tours.com for specific booking questions and by email at...
 - ▶ jacob@206tours.com, alexandra@206tours.com or cat@206tours.com
 - ▶ Phone: 800-206-8687
- ▶ Spiritual Leader: Father Lourduraj Alapaty
- ▶ Group Leader: Bob Rzeszutek
 - ▶ 919-637-4649 - cell
 - ▶ bobrzeszutek@gmail.com
 - ▶ I can help you to book your pilgrimage