

Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Holy Hill – Hubertus, WI

All information in this document was taken from the Holy Hill website at www.holyhill.com. I encourage you to visit the website to learn more about the pilgrimage site.

Points of Interest: (from the Home page)

1. Gift Store (Level 1): open 10am-3pm
2. Mercy Chapel (Level 2):
3. The Chapel of St. Therese (Level 2): open 6am-4pm
4. Platform and Main Entrance to the Basilica (Level 3)
5. Basilica (Level 3)
6. The Shrine Chapel (Level 3): open 6am-5pm
7. Outdoor Way of the Cross Entrance (at Station 11) and path to Monastery: open 6am-4pm
8. First Station and Picnic Area (From Station Way Road off Hwy. 167)
9. Scenic Tower Entrance (Level 2)
10. Monastery: open 9am-3:30pm
11. The Lourdes Grotto
12. The Sacred Heart Statue
13. Shrine Replica Statue
14. Holy Hill Café: open 7am-3pm
15. New Guesthouse
16. Old Monastery Inn



Mass:

Daily Mass: Shortly after arriving at the Shrine, we will attend 11:00 am daily Mass and Fr. Chris will concelebrate.

Where to Eat:

The **Holy Hill Café** offers a variety of soups, sandwiches and salads, as well as teas, coffee drinks and baked goods for all of our pilgrims.

You will have time after Mass to eat lunch at your convenience. We are not able to preorder box lunches at Holy Hill Café, as previously planned. More information will be forthcoming about lunch.

Etiquette:

- Please maintain a respectful silence in the Basilica and chapels. Everyone in the church is there to pray and worship. Maintain a respectful silence, talking quietly when necessary. Behavior in the sanctuary should always be respectful and reverent toward God and towards one another.
- Modest dress is appreciated – please show respect for these sacred spaces.
- No food or beverages are permitted in the Basilica or chapels.
- Throw all garbage into trash cans.

- Do not play loud music, use profanity or make other loud noise disturbances.

About the Basilica and National Shrine:

Approximately half a million people from all over the world visit the Basilica and National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians at Holy Hill each year.

Holy Hill was declared a Shrine with “Portiuncula privilege” by **Pope Leo XIII in 1903**. As a result of the increasing number of pilgrims, the Discalced Carmelites of Bavaria were invited to staff the Shrine in 1906. On November 19, 2006, the Shrine was elevated to the status of **minor Basilica**.

Shrine Chapel:

Located just off the main Church, the **Shrine Chapel** houses a rare **statue of Mary**. The youthful **Virgin Mother offers her Son, Jesus Christ, to those who kneel before her**. The statue was made by the Pustet Co. of Munich, and exhibited at the 1876 World’s Fair in Philadelphia. In 1878, eighteen young barefoot women dressed in white robes with blue ribbons, carried the statue to the top of Holy Hill. The women were escorted by an entourage of 100 men on horseback, many priests and delegates from all over the state.

The ivory colored and gold leaf statue of **Our Lady of Holy Hill** now stands in the beautiful 40x50 foot shrine chapel to the right of the sanctuary in the upper church.

Crutches and other mementos left by pilgrims who have sought healing from Our Lady of Holy Hill line the entrance of the Chapel.

Chapel of St. Thérèse:

Also called **the Lower Church**, this Chapel, located one level below the Main Church, is dedicated to **St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus**, popularly known as **the Little Flower**. Considered possibly the most popular saint of recent centuries, she was a Discalced Carmelite nun from **Lisieux, France** who died in 1897. Although her life itself displayed little that was remarkable to the eyes of the world, the rich inner life revealed in her autobiographical writings showed a remarkable grasp of the core of the Gospel of grace and mercy. She was canonized in 1925.

St. Thérèse Chapel was dedicated on July 15, 1928.

Scenic Tour:

The Scenic Tower entrance is on Level 2

The **Scenic Tower** stretches **192 feet** from its base to the tip of its spire. Those who complete the **178-stair climb** will find a breathtaking panoramic view of the kettle Moraine area.

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The Scenic Tower will be CLOSED when the following conditions are present:

- Gusty Winds
- Threatening weather
- Fog, rain, or electrical storms
- Wet stairs following a storm
- Frost or snow

Donations for the upkeep of the Scenic Tower are greatly appreciated! You can place your donation in the box at the base of the tower or visit the website to make a donation.

SCENIC TOUR RULES:

1. NO RUNNING ON THE STAIRS
2. Ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.
3. Do not throw objects from openings of the Tower.
4. FOOD AND BEVERAGES ARE NOT PERMITTED
5. Please be respectful to those who are praying in the churches. Do not use loud voices.
6. **Please do not climb the stairs if** you have breathing problems, heart problems, a fear of enclosed places or a fear of heights.
7. GRAFFITI IS FORBIDDEN. Please help us to care for and preserve our beautiful Shrine.
8. Please limit your time in the Scenic Tower to allow others to enter.

History:

Throughout sacred history, mountains and hills have held great significance as places of encounters with God. Holy Hill is no exception.

The first resident on the hill was a hermit named **Francois Soubrio** who came to the hill in the mid 1800's. he had found an old French diary and map dated 1676 showing a cone-shaped mountain in Wisconsin. The diary described how the author placed a stone altar, raised a cross, and dedicated the hill to **Jesus's mother Mary**, an account which corresponds with Jesuit missionary work in the area in the late 1600's.

In 1855, **Fr. Paulhuber, from Salzburg, Austria** purchased 40 acres from the U.S. government with the intention of transferring the title to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Unfortunately, Fr. Paulhuber passed away unexpectedly and the land changed hands for decades until it was finally transferred to the Archdiocese in 1876.

Irish settlers first called the area **Holy Hill**, and on **May 24, 1863 Fr. George Strickner** first used the name formally in the course of his sermon when dedicating a log chapel as the first **Shrine of Mary – Help of Christians**.

In the winter of 1879, **Fr. Ferdinand Raess**, who contributed to many improvements to Holy Hill, sent a proposal to **Archbishop John Henni** to construct a **new shrine to Mary**. Construction began that spring. The building now known as the **Old Monastery Inn and Retreat Center** was completed in 1920. The second shrine was removed in 1925 so that a third shrine could be built. The cornerstone of the third and present shrine was placed by **Archbishop Messmer** on August 22, 1926. The present church was completed and consecrated in 1931.

As pilgrims began flocking to the shrine, it was decided that a religious order should administer the shrine. A group of **Discalced Carmelites came from Bavaria** at the invitation of Archbishop Sebastian Messmer, and the Shrine of Mary was put under their care on June 26, 1906 and they have been the custodians of this sacred place ever since.

Reverence for Mary:

Holy Hill is dedicated to Mary's honor under the title Mary – Help of Christians. Many people wonder why the Catholic Church has such great reverence for Mary. The simple reason is that she is the mother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and since we honor our own mothers, all the more reason to honor His.

The Catholic Church, however, carries greater depth of meaning in its **Marian tradition**. In order to understand why great recognition is given to Mary, we must understand the nature of her Son. **Mary's son is Divine Logos** in full humanity. **Jesus of Nazareth is the incarnate Word of God – the Word made Flesh**. Mary is the **Theotokos, the God-Bearer**. She allowed the **Divine Logos** to take on human flesh within her body by the power of the Holy Spirit. It was she who brought Jesus into the World (the Incarnation) that He might redeem all mankind. With her Fiat – “let it be,” she said yes to God and by this act of faith, enfleshed the Second Person of the Triune God (Lk 1:38). She became the mother of the Second Person of the Trinity who is God not in part but in whole – who is man not in part but in whole. She is justly called the **Mother of God** because Jesus Christ is Lord and he is her son. She is **the God-Bearer** because she brings her Son to all humanity (Council of Ephesus, A.D. 431).

In praise to the Lord, throughout time society has attempted to express the eternal love of the Father through the gifted hands of the artist. In keeping with this tradition, Holy Hill is privileged to house two beautiful representations of His love. They are the **monstrance titled The Glory of Mary and the shrine statue, Our Lady of Holy Hill**.

For more information, visit the Holy Hill website. Select “History” under the “Basilica” tab. www.holyhill.com