

# Pilgrimage to Martyrs' Shrine

## August 3 to 8, 2026



This is a **walking pilgrimage** open to boys and girls between grade 7 (September) and university. It will be supervised by Fr Martin Hilbert and several adult helpers. **Meet at Holy Family Church for Mass on Monday, August 3, at 8 a.m.** (or drive up to St James in Colgan, ON for 11:30 a.m.) A simple breakfast will be served in the parish hall afterwards. We will then drive to Colgan, Ontario, where we will begin the walk. We will arrive in Midland on the afternoon of Thursday, August 6. We will stay at Martyrs' Shrine until Saturday. On Friday, we will visit Ste Marie among the Hurons and then go swimming on a sand beach in Georgian Bay.

Then on Saturday we will walk to St Ignace, the place of martyrdom of Sts Jean de Brebeuf and Gabriel Lalemant, and celebrate Mass there at 3:30 p.m. We will then leave for Toronto 4:00 p.m. (arriving in Toronto around 6:00 p.m.) The total walking distance is 110 km, mainly along bicycle and snowmobile trails and along roads with sparse traffic. There will be daily Mass, Rosary, and other prayers. Along the way we will sleep on the floor in parish or community halls in Alliston, Angus, and Phelpston. At the Shrine, we will sleep in tents. Boys and girls will be separated to preserve modesty.

### **What to bring:**

A light sleeping bag, a camping mattress, change(s) of clothes, especially socks, personal toiletries, water bottle, a Rosary, and a backpack. Make sure you have good sturdy walking shoes – an extra pair may be a good idea if there is rain. A hat with a brim as protection against the sun is a must. Musical instrument is an option. **Also, make sure to bring a bathing suit.** (Showers are the one thing that parish halls do not provide. So we will improvise by using a watering hose outside.)

### **What not to bring:**

Food and drink; plates, cups, and cutlery – this will be provided by the adult organizing committee. Electronic gadgets: we want to encourage socialization with the people present.

Pilgrims will need to carry their belongings for the first hour in the first day. After that, they can put their belongings into a support car. Or, in the spirit of a penitential pilgrimage, they can carry it all day. What this means, of course, is that you need to pack lightly. Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, sunscreen, and mosquito spray will be provided, so you do not need to bring your own.

Cost: \$50 per pilgrim. If paying by cheque, please make it out to Fr Martin Hilbert.

If parents need to get in touch with us (in case of real emergency), the adult supervisors will have a cell phone. Please call the Oratory at 416-532-2879 and the receptionist will put you in touch with the pilgrims.

**Registration / Permission Form** *(if more space is necessary, attach another sheet of paper)*

Name of Pilgrim(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and emergency contact information of parent or legal guardian:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please list any medical conditions that your child has that the organizers need to be aware of, such as allergies, epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, etc.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to my child(ren) to go swimming: [ ] yes [ ] no

Pilgrim's OHIP number: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any restrictions or instructions about releasing your child(ren) at the end of the trip. We anticipate that some parents will offer to help with the driving at the end of the trip but may not find it convenient to stop at Holy Family, preferring instead to drop off passengers at a subway stop. So please let us know if those kinds of arrangements are acceptable to you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

I understand that every effort will be made to protect and safeguard all participants. I understand that a reasonable attempt will be made to contact me concerning any serious illness or injury involving my child(ren). I agree not to hold the Oratory liable for any illness or mishap from any cause whatsoever. I give Fr Martin Hilbert and the adult supervisors he has chosen full authority in dealing with problems of discipline. I give my child(ren) permission to participate in the walking pilgrimage from August 3 to 8, 2026.

Signature of parent / guardian: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one option and fill in number if appropriate:

I will definitely pick up my child(ren) at the end of the pilgrimage and I can take \_\_\_\_\_ more pilgrims back to Toronto with me.

I might be able to pick up my child(ren) at the end of the pilgrimage and perhaps take \_\_\_\_\_ more pilgrims back to Toronto with me.

I will definitely not be able to pick up my child(ren) at the end of the pilgrimage.