St. John's Newsletter



Basilicas celebrate spiritual beauty of the Faith

Basilica of the Little Flower

Looking for a way to explore our faith with a pilgrimage to a holy place? One doesn't have to look too far to find gems of our faith.The San Antonio parish of the Little Flower Basilica will celebrate its centennial on Sunday, Nov. 14 with a 5:30 pm Mass with Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller. While the rich history of the missions in San Antonio are often in the news, the Basilica of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, is a quiet beauty, much like Saint Thérèse herself. As part of the celebration, first class relics of St. John of the Cross and other Carmelite saints will be exhibited from Nov. 14-22.

The Basilica's history begins at a time when Mexico experienced religious persecution and political upheaval during the 1913-30 revolutions. The resulting influx of immigrants to San Antonio to escape included Discalced Carmelite friars who had escaped execution by Pancho Villa's forces. The teachings of the newly-canonized Thérèse of Lisieux, a Discalced Carmelite nun known as "The Little Flower," were inspiring millions worldwide. It was then that the vision was fulfilled to express the spirituality of the Little Flower through a National Shrine in her honor on the west side of San Antonio.

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Little Flower was built during the Great Depression and its notable size, beauty, architectural character, and spiritual significance led to its placement on the National Register of Historic Places and its elevation to the status of Minor Basilica in the Catholic Church, both in 1998. The Shrine Chapel of St. Thérèse was inspired by the original Tomb Chapel in Lisieux. The Basilica's treasury of art, craftsmanship, and relics includes first-class relics of St. Thérèse, her parents, St. Louis Martin and St. Zélie Guérin Martin, as well as several other Discalced Carmelite saints.

Little Flower Basilica serves people from across the nation and all walks of life as a historical and spiritual landmark and as a traditional parish served by a community of Discalced Carmelite Friars. The physical address is 1715 N. Zarzamora St. in San Antonio and is open to visitors. Complete schedule of Masses is available at www.littleflowerbasilica.org.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica



If you are inclined to a longer pilgrimage, head to Mexico City. Pope Leo has declared a Jubilee Year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Built in 1976, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located near Tepeyac Hill, the site of Mary's apparitions to St. Juan Diego in 1531. With some 20 million people visiting each year, it is Catholicism's most popular Marian shrine. Before its construction, the Old Basilica of Guadalupe, built in 1695, served as the primary sanctuary housing St. Juan Diego's tilma, which bears the miraculous image of Virgin Mary. However, a 1921 bombing caused the basilica to sink over time, prompting the construction of the current basilica.The Jubilee Year will not only mark the basilica's dedication, but also the transfer of the tilma to a little room behind the current basilica's main altar.

Sources: https://www.thecatholicspirit.com/news/nation-and-world/pope-grants-jubilee-year-for-guadalupe-basilica-anniversary/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckkx3-Uo4no
https://littleflowerbasilica.org/about

Volume 17 - November 2026- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters