

PILGRIMAGE TO AUSTRIA & GERMANY Including the Passion Play in Oberammergau
September 5-12, 2022

Escorted by
Fr. Kenneth Smith
Saint Katharine Drexel Parish

Nonrefundable Initial Deposits of \$150 per person are needed immediately to secure your Passion Play/Lodging tickets. Checks should be made payable to Saint Katharine Drexel Parish, 1 Peter Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050. Full cost of the pilgrimage will be available after airline seats come into booking range in October 2021.

ITINERARY

Day 1, Monday, September 05: USA / Vienna

This afternoon we board our international jetliner en route to Vienna. Dinner and Breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2, Tuesday, September 06: Arrive Vienna Airport / Vienna

Upon arrival at Vienna Airport, we will meet our tour manager, who will accompany us throughout our tour. We make our way to Vienna for dinner and overnight. (D)

Day 3, Wednesday, September 07: Vienna

A wealth of treasures awaits us in Vienna -one of Europe's most dynamic cities. Our sightseeing tour of Vienna includes visits to the Town Hall (outside view), the State Opera House (outside view), Belvedere Palace (outside view) which is the former residence of the Prince of Savoy, the landmark St. Stephen's Cathedral, where we will celebrate Mass, Karlskirche, Hofburg Palace (outside view) and the Kaisergruft. The highlight of the tour is a visit to the magnificent Schoenbrunn Palace with its 1,400 elaborately decorated rooms and gardens. Overnight in Vienna. (B, D)

Day 4, Thursday, September 08: Vienna / Salzburg

Depart Vienna this morning and drive to visit Mariazell, a favorite Viennese resort and the pilgrimage center in Austria dedicated to the Blessed Mother. We enjoy our drive through scenic Austria, stopping at Hallstatt, a tiny town mostly untouched by the modern world, noted for its replicas of the pre-Christian Celtic period and its exquisite wood carvings. We continue to Salzburg, the birthplace of Mozart and a Baroque jewel of a town. Overnight in Salzburg. (B, D)

Day 5: Friday, September 09: Salzburg

Stroll through the heart of old Salzburg, the city where the famous movie, The Sound

of Music, was filmed. We will explore the famous Horse Fountain, the Hohen Salzburg Fortress and the modern Festival Hall, and Mozart's Geburtshaus, the composer's birthplace. We will also visit the religious heritage of this town, including the 17th Century Cathedral, Nonnberg Convent, which was founded by St. Rupert in the 8th Century and is the oldest nunnery in existence and the Benedictine Abbey of St. Peter which was also founded by St. Rupert. Later this afternoon, visit Hellbrunn Palace, a 17th Century castle known for its trick fountains that spray unsuspecting walkers with water. Wear casual clothes; concealed trick-spouts sometimes drench sightseers. Overnight in Salzburg. (B, D)

Day 6, Saturday, September 10: Salzburg / Oberammergau

This morning we leave Salzburg and travel through Garmisch-Partenkirchen, at the foot of Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain. Encircled by the majestic Alps, the picturesque town delivers a stunning panorama in every direction. With its distinctive Bavarian architecture and mellow pace, life in the valley feels like another world. We drive to Oberammergau, with its painted houses and center of the Bavarian wood carving industry. Today will be the highlight of our tour, as we witness the world-famous Passion Play, performed by the local people of Oberammergau. The story of Oberammergau is one of faith and began with a miracle. In the 1600s "the Black Plague" swept through Europe, striking down one in every three people leaving in its wake, misery, panic, and death. The people of Oberammergau prayed to be spared, vowing that they would present a play depicting the Life and Passion of Jesus Christ every ten years. True to their word, the villagers performed their Passion play in 1634 and had kept their pledge, the routine of plays only having been interrupted by two World Wars. Overnight in Oberammergau. (B, D)

Day 7, Sunday, September 11: Oberammergau / Munich

This morning, visit the 'Wieskirche' (Church of the Meadow), also called the Scourged Redeemer, considered to be the most beautiful Rococo church in Europe. Then continue to Neuschwanstein, one of the fairytale castles built by King Ludwig II. Drive on to Munich, where our city tour will include Nymphenburg Palace, the summer home of the Bavarian monarchs with its magnificent gardens. We'll also see the historic Glockenspiel on the Marienplatz, and the revered twin-towered Frauenkirche, the most familiar landmark of old Munich. Farewell dinner at the festive Hofbrauhaus beer hall. Overnight in Munich. (B, D)

Day 8, Monday, September 12: Munich / Munich Airport / USA

After breakfast, we transfer to the Airport for our flight home. (B)