

Sunday, October 4, 2026 / Feast of St. Francis

DAY PILGRIMAGE IN THE FRANCISCAN JUBILEE YEAR

In response to Pope Leo's call to solemnly commemorate the 800th Anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi, the following places in our Diocese of Oakland are hereby designated as official Pilgrimage Sites:

St. Francis Church in Concord, St. Jarlath in Oakland, San Damiano Retreat House in Danville, San Junipero Serra Friary in Oakland, Old Mission San Jose in Fremont, St. Paul in San Pablo, Our Lady of Grace and Transfiguration in Castro Valley

Pilgrims to these churches and chapels may receive a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions: Prayer to St. Francis, sacramental confession, reception of Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. This indulgence may also be offered for the souls in Purgatory.

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MISSION SAN JOSÉ | ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Our day begins at Mission San José, the Diocesan Shrine of St. Joseph. Founded in 1797, Mission San José is one of the original Alta California missions established by the OFM Franciscans and played a significant role in the early development of the East Bay. It is also the first church in the Diocese of Oakland. We gather for 8:00 AM Mass, followed by time to explore the Mission grounds. The current church is a faithful reconstruction of the original structure, which was destroyed in the 1868 earthquake. Today, the site includes a museum featuring artifacts from early mission life and exhibits that illuminate the Catholic faith and the role of St. Joseph, the Church's beloved patriarch.

MORNING REFRESHMENT STOP

Following our visit, we make a brief morning snack stop for coffee and light refreshments.

SAN DAMIANO RETREAT HOUSE | DANVILLE

We depart by motorcoach for our second Jubilee site, the San Damiano Retreat House in Danville. Operated by the Franciscan Friars (OFM), the retreat center is named after the chapel in Assisi where St. Francis received his call to rebuild the Church. The property sits on 40+ acres in the San Ramon Valley and has been used for retreats and diocesan gatherings since the 1960s. During our visit, there will be time to pray at the chapel and walk the grounds, which include outdoor prayer spaces and views of Mount Diablo.

LUNCH & ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CHURCH | CONCORD

We enjoy a group lunch, taking time to enjoy each other's company. We then make way to our third jubilee site, St. Francis of Assisi Church in Concord. The parish was established in the 1960s during a period of rapid growth in Contra Costa County, and its modern church design reflects that era. Time is provided for prayer and visiting the church.

ST. JARLATH CHURCH | OAKLAND

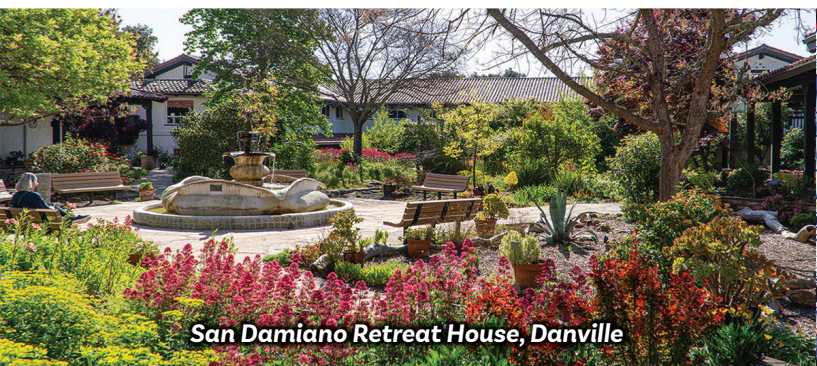
We travel to Oakland for our visit to St. Jarlath Church. Dating back to the early 1900s, St. Jarlath's has been connected to the Capuchins for decades, who are known for their distinctive hooded habits and emphasis on simple living and ministry in urban settings.

SAN JUNÍPERO SERRA FRIARY | OAKLAND

We stop for a brief snack and then journey to our final jubilee site, the San Junípero Serra Friary, home to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. This community, founded in the Bronx in 1987, established their Oakland friary as part of their expansion on the West Coast. The friary serves as a base for their work in the area and reflects a more recent expression of Franciscan life.

FAREWELL DINNER

We conclude the day with a farewell dinner, gathering one last time to share the day's experiences before returning home.



San Damiano Retreat House, Danville



San Junípero Serra Friary, Oakland

Your Pilgrimage Includes

- ✓ Private deluxe motorcoach
- ✓ Snacks, lunch, and dinner
- ✓ Dedicated Canterbury tour director
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