

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish, Worcester, MA
Pilgrimage Ministry

PILGRIMAGE TO PRAGUE (Czech Republic) and POLAND
July 16-31, 2018 (15 Days)

Prague – Świdnica - Wrocław – Kraków – Zakopane – Stary Sącz – Oświęcim (Auschwitz) – Wieliczka – Czestochowa – Niepokalanów - Żelazowa Wola – Warszawa

Day 1: Monday, July 16: 5:00 PM - Departure from the church's parking lot (34 Ward St. Worcester, MA) Transfer to the Boston Logan International Airport for our overnight Flight to Prague with stop in Zurich. (SWISS Airlines) with meals and movies onboard.

Day 2: Tuesday, July 17: Arrival in Prague, at 1:55 PM - transfer to our hotel. Check-in, Time to rest, Welcome Dinner and overnight in Prague. Hotel Orea Piramida.

Day 3: Wednesday, July 18: Breakfast. This morning we tour the city of Prague, the capital of Czech Republic. Hradčany, the Castle District, is the district of the city of Prague, surrounding Prague Castle. The castle is said to be the biggest castle in the world at about 570 metres (1,870 feet) in length and an average of about 130 metres (430 feet) wide. Its history stretches back to the 9th century. St Vitus Cathedral is located in the castle area. Most of the district consists of noble historical palaces. There are many other attractions for visitors: romantic nooks, peaceful places and beautiful lookouts. Lunch, Dinner with folklore show in a local restaurant. Overnight in Prague.

Day 4: Thursday, July 19: Breakfast. Mass at the Shrine of Infant of Prague. Then we continue to discover the Beautiful Old City of Prague. After lunch we will have some time for shopping and private exploration of the city. Dinner and overnight in Prague.

Day 5: Friday, July 20: Breakfast. On our way to Wrocław we will stop in Świdnica, town first recorded in 1070. We will see The Gothic Church of Ss. Stanislaw and Vaclav from the 14th century has the highest tower in Silesia, it hosts an image of "Our Lady Health of the Sick". The Evangelical Church of Peace, a UNESCO Heritage site, was built from 1656–57. The 16th-century town hall has been renovated numerous times and combines Gothic, Renaissance, and Baroque architectural elements. Other notable destinations include the old town and the Stary Rynek square and more. Dinner and overnight in Wrocław. Best Western Prima Hotel

Day 6: Saturday, July 21: Breakfast. Tour of Wrocław including Panorama Raławicka (a monumental (15 × 114 meter) cycloramic painting depicting the Battle of Raławice, during the Kościuszko Uprising), Ostrów Tumski (the oldest part of the city) and Old Town. Wrocław is the largest city in western Poland and the fourth-largest city in Poland and the main city of Wrocław agglomeration. Wrocław is the historical capital of Silesia and Lower Silesia. Today, it is the capital of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. The history of the city dates back a thousand years, and its extensive heritage combines almost all religions and cultures of Europe. At various times, it has been part of Poland, Bohemia, Prussia or Germany. It became part of Poland in 1945, as a result of the border changes after the Second World War. Dinner and Overnight in Wrocław

Day 7: Sunday, July 22: Breakfast. On our way to Kraków we will visit Oświęcim (Auschwitz) – former Nazi concentration camp. Dinner and overnight in Krakow. Hotel Campanile.

Day 8: Monday, July 23: Breakfast. This morning we drive to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, one of the world's oldest operating salt mines built in XIII century (the oldest is at Bochnia, Poland, 20 km (12 mi) from Wieliczka), which has been in operation since 1248) for an unforgettable tourist attraction with underground chambers, grottoes, and chapels carved from salt.

In the afternoon we will visit Łagiewniki – National Shrine of Divine Mercy and the tomb of St. Faustina. We will entrust ourselves and our loved ones to the Mercy of God. We will also visit St. John Paul II Center – “Nie lękajcie się” – “Do not be afraid”. Dinner and overnight in Krakow.

Day 9: Tuesday, July 24: Early Breakfast. After Breakfast we will leave for one day tour of Zakopane – the majestic Tatra Mountains Resort. Visit to Shrine of Our Lady Of Fatima at Krzeptówki, which was built by the people of Zakopane to thank the Our Lady of Fatima for saving the Pope after an attempt on His life on May 13, 1981. We will climb Gubałówka Mountain by cable car for spectacular views and then we stop at local bazaar to browse some of the arts and crafts of the local Mountaineers “Górale”. Lunch and Dinner in local restaurant. Overnight in Krakow.

Day 10: Wednesday, July 25: Tour of Kraków. Today we will be discovering medieval treasures of Krakow, one of the few cities not destroyed during WWII, including the St. Mary's Church with the biggest Gothic wooden altar and the imposing Wawel Castle with the Coronation Cathedral from where Polish kings ruled for four centuries. Cloth Hall with a multitude of souvenir shops. Dinner and overnight in Kraków.

Day 11: Thursday, July 26: After Breakfast we will visit Pieniny National Park for a scenic trip on rafts down the Dunajec River. Then we continue to Stary Sącz for a short visit to one of the oldest town in Poland, founded in 1257 by Prince of Kraków Bolesław V the Chaste. His wife the Duchess Kinga (Saint Kinga of Poland) founded there a Convent of the Poor Clares in 1280. After the death of Prince, she herself became a nun in Stary Sącz and died there. We will also see the outside altar constructed for John Paul II visit in 1999 and then saved for pilgrims and visitors. Below the altar there is a museum of John Paul II. After visit in Stary Sącz we continue for Dinner and overnight in Kraków.

Day 12: Friday, July 27: This morning we leave Krakow and travel to Warsaw with stop in Poland's Spiritual Capital – Częstochowa, Home of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Black Madonna, Queen of Poland. After Mass and tour we will have a time for private prayer and shopping. Dinner and Overnight in Warsaw. Hotel Mercure Grand.

Day 13: Saturday, July 28: After breakfast you will get acquainted with this heroic city largely destroyed during WWII. Your city tour includes the colorful Old Town with, the Royal Castle and Royal Castle Square, St John's Cathedral, oldest church in Warsaw, Royal Route, Łazienki Park built by last monarch of Poland with Chopin's monument where summer concerts are held. We will also visit Warsaw Rising Museum. It was opened on the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of fighting in Warsaw. The Museum is a tribute of Warsaw's residents to those who fought and died for independent Poland and its free capital. Dinner and overnight in Warsaw.

Day 14: Sunday, July 29: After Breakfast we will travel to Niepokalanów – town founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe. Niepokalanów Monastery (so called City of the Immaculate Mother of God) is a religious community founded in 1927 by Friar Minor Conventual Maximilian Kolbe, who later gave his life for one of the prisoner in Auschwitz and was canonized as a saint-martyr of the Catholic Church.

In the afternoon we will visit the town of Żelazowa Wola, the birthplace of one of the most known and famous composer and pianist - Fryderyk Chopin. The rest of the day is free in Warsaw. Dinner and overnight in Warsaw.

Day 15: Monday, July 30: In our third day in Warsaw we visit the church of Blessed Fr. Jerzy Popiełuszko, the Solidarity Movement Chaplain, who was murdered by three agents of the Polish communist internal intelligence agency on October 19, 1984. He has been recognized as a martyr by the Catholic Church, and was beatified on 6 June 2010. After Lunch we visit Wilanów Palace, built by Polish King Jan III Sobieski in the last quarter of 17th century which survived the time of Poland's partitions and both World Wars and has preserved its authentic historical qualities, also is one of the most important monuments of Polish culture. The rest of the day is on your own in Warsaw. Dinner and overnight in Warsaw.

Day 16: Tuesday, July 31: After breakfast we depart for the Warsaw Airport for our flight back home via Munich (Lufthansa Airlines). We will arrive to Boston the same day at 6:35 PM. Expected arrival to Worcester is 8:30 PM.

Pilgrimage Conditions:

Note: The order of the program can be changed.

Total cost per person (as of October 30, 2017) - \$3,290.00. (double occupancy)
Single room supplement is \$650.

Deposit \$500.00 is due at signing.

Remaining balance 2,790.00 is due by **March 1, 2018**

Please make checks payable to Our Lady Of Czestochowa Church with the note in Memo area: "Trip to Poland"

Price may be subject to change, as Air Ticket taxes or fuel surcharge may change slightly.

In addition, the price may change in case of severe fluctuations in exchange rates: U.S. Dollar USD to Polish Złoty PLN

The price includes:

- **Transportation:** Round trip Bus transportation from Worcester (34 Ward St.) to Boston airport; Round trip flight from Boston to Prague and from Warsaw to Boston; Air-conditioned motor coach in Poland
- **Accommodation:** 14 nights in a first class hotels
- **Meals:** breakfasts, lunches and dinners daily
- Local Guides and Pilot
- Admissions tickets and entrance fees to sites specified in the program
- Highways and Parking fees

Price does not include:

- The price does not include alcoholic beverages with dinner.
- **Price does not include optional travel insurance (cancellation, accident/health, baggage, delays)** that is recommended to buy on your own before you travel through one of the reputable insurance agency. If you have a preexisting conditions, insurance must be purchased within 7 days of deposit.
- Price does not include cost of Passports, baggage handling, items of personal nature, phone calls, and gratuities to tour guides and drivers.

Required documents:

- Valid passport (passport must be valid for at **least** three months after our return date).

Baggage:

Free check-in baggage allowance is 1 piece not exceeding 50 pounds.

Free carry-on baggage allowance is 1 piece not exceeding 17 pounds You can also take a small personal hand bag or laptop.

OUR HOTELS:

Prague – Hotel Pyramida (3 nights)

www.hotelpyramida.cz

Wrocław – Best Western Prima (2 nights)

www.bestwestern-prima.pl

Kraków – Campanile (5 nights)

www.campanile.com

Warszawa – Mercure Grand (4 nights)

www.mercure.com