

Chapel of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours

Old Port Area of Montreal

Marguerite Bourgeoys' historic chapel:



This is the chapel of 1771, built over the ruins of the first stone chapel. It was built on a high piece of ground overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Marguerite Bourgeoys was the first teacher and founder of the Congrégation de Notre-Dame. In 1655, she rallied the colonists to build a chapel of pilgrimage outside the settlement, a stone chapel finally erected in 1675. After a second trip back to France in 1672, Marguerite

returned with the wooden statuette of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours for the chapel, the one in the reliquary on the left side-altar. This statue survived a fateful day in 1754 when fire ravaged the first chapel, and the statue and its reliquary were found intact among the smoldering embers.

Cradle of the English-speaking Catholic community

After the fall of Montreal six years later, the British garrison included Irish and Scottish families who attended services at Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours. It was from this community that money was raised to begin construction of Saint Patrick's, Montreal's first parish for the English-speaking community.

The Sailors' Church

As the port grew in importance in the 19th century, the chapel became a favourite place of prayer for sailors. The carved replicas of sailing ships hang from the vault of the chapel as a reminder of their faith in Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours.

The tomb of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys

In 2003, celebrations marked the 350th anniversary of Marguerite Bourgeoys' arrival in Montreal. And in 2005, the 350th anniversary of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours was especially joyful when the "mother of the colony" returned to the chapel in Montreal's historic district where she had lived as a beloved friend and valued counsellor to all. Her remains were placed in the left side-altar below the statue of Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours.

Maison Saint Gabriel



Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700) arrived in Ville-Marie in 1653. She had a clear vision of her mission in the small colony: provide free education to the children and women. To reach her goal, she founded the Congrégation de Notre-Dame. The first school in Montreal opened its doors in 1658.

Marguerite soon realized that farming was a way of providing self-sufficiency for her companions who had come to assist her in her mission. Thus, her teaching community broadened to include farming sisters – the sharecroppers. In 1662, Marguerite Bourgeoys obtained a land concession in Pointe-Saint-Charles from Paul de Chomedey de

Maisonneuve, Governor of Montreal. In 1668, she added on to it an adjoining piece of land and a house built of fieldstone that she bought from her neighbour, François Le Ber.

This farm in Pointe-Saint-Charles provided a means of subsistence for the sisters devoted to teaching.

Maison Saint-Gabriel, museum and historic site, opened its doors in 1966. Situated in Pointe-Saint-Charles, the beautiful building is one of the finest examples of the traditional architecture of New France.

In 1965, two buildings on the site, the barn and the fieldstone house, were classified historic monuments. In 1992, the site was officially recognized as historic by the Quebec Ministry of Culture and Communications. Finally, in 2007, Maison Saint-Gabriel was recognized as a national historic site of Canada.

These marks of recognition bear witness to the importance of this site as a unique place for raising awareness about the history and heritage of Quebec since the French regime.



Note: Handicap access is not available at all Shrines.

This Pilgrimage involves a fair amount of walking.

St. Francis Xavier Mission Site of Saint Kateri Shrine



Shrine of St. Kateri Tekakwitha is located in the main church of the St. Francis Xavier Mission.

The Saint Francis Xavier Mission is a historic mission first established in 1667 when the Kanienkeha'ka (Mohawk) community located to the northern part of the Territory at

Kentake, now known as Laprairie, Quebec. The community moved four more times due to economic, agricultural as well as political changes, and settled at its present site in 1716 at Kahnawake, meaning “On the rapids” and it was here that a more permanent church was built in 1720 and renovated and expanded in 1831, 1845 and 1914. Fort St. Louis erected in 1725, still partially surrounds the Mission and looks out onto the St. Lawrence River.

Tomb of Saint Kateri

St. Kateri’s Tomb is located in the church on the right side near to the altar. The statue of Kateri behind the tomb was carved in 1981 by Quebec sculptor Leo Arbour. Her beaded crown was donated by a community member in thanksgiving for her intercession.

Kateri, a Mohawk woman from Kahnawake, is the first native woman to be canonized a Saint on October 12, 2012, by Pope Benedict XVI.

Kateri Tekakwitha has always been respected by the Mohawk community who view her in many ways, a woman, a saint, our ancestor. The Mohawk people, First Nations and all Nations alike have prayed to Kateri for years asking for her intercession or to obtain special favors.

Tentative Schedule

Tuesday, September 24

- 8:00 am Leave Holy Rosary Church
- 11:00 am Lunch at Bainsville OnRoute
- 1:00 pm Arrive St. Kateri Shrine, Kahnawake
- 1:30 pm Mass
- 2:30 pm Free time to tour Shrine
- 4:15 pm Leave for Hotel: Holiday Inn, Vaugreuil-Dorion
- Supper at Baton Rouge Steakhouse near Hotel

Wednesday, September 25

- Breakfast at Hotel
- 8:45 am Leave for Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours Chapel and St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Shrine
- 10:30 am Mass at Shrine
- 11:15 am Free time to tour Museum and Shrine
- 12:00 pm Lunch in Restaurants of choice in Old Port section of Montreal
- 1:15 pm Leave for Maison St Gabriel
- 2:00 pm Tour of Museum and Historic site of St Marguerite’s Farm
- 4:30 pm Leave for Home
- Supper: OnRoute

400th Anniversary of the Birth of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys Pilgrimage

to

Shrine of Saint Marguerite Bourgeoys
(Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours, Montreal)

Historic Farm Established by Marguerite Bourgeoys
(Maison Saint-Gabriel, Pointe St-Charles)

Shrine of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha
(St. Francis Xavier Mission, Kahnawake, QC)



September 24-25, 2019

From Holy Rosary Church
Organizer: Sheila Alexander
Chaplain: Father John Hibbard
Foley Bus Lines

Accommodation: Holiday Inn (Vaudrueil-Dorion)