



Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

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INFORMATION REGARDING UPCOMING PAPAL VISIT

Thank you for your interest in Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception during his Apostolic Journey to the United States. We are delighted that the Holy Father will visit our nation's pre-eminent Marian Shrine dedicated to the patroness of our country, Mary Immaculate, during his visit to our nation's capital.

Please be advised that Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the Basilica on Wednesday, April 16, 2008, will be a private event (not open to the public) during which he will celebrate Solemn Vespers with the United States Catholic Bishops.

While in Washington, DC, the Holy Father will celebrate a public Mass on Thursday, April 17, 2008, at Nationals Park, the new baseball stadium of the Washington Nationals. The Archdiocese of Washington will distribute tickets; however, their plans for ticket distribution have not yet been finalized. In the past, the Archdiocese's custom has been to distribute tickets primarily through their parishes. Once a decision on ticket distribution has been made, the Archdiocese of Washington will announce it publicly. You may wish to check the Archdiocese of Washington's website at www.adw.org for updates. Likewise, please check the Basilica's website at www.nationalshrine.com as we will provide updated information as we receive it.

Thank you for sharing in our excitement and joy over the Holy Father's Apostolic Journey to the United States and his visit to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. We hope that you, too, will plan a visit to Mary's Shrine and we pray that God will bless you abundantly.

Reverend Monsignor Walter R. Rossi, Rector
Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception