

Pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea July 26-August 9, 2027

# World Youth Day 2027

## St. Scholastica

You are invited to be a part of World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. World Youth Day (WYD) is a Pilgrimage of faith. An awesome, unforgettable, inspiring, and faith-filled opportunity awaits you. Not only will it be faith-filled, it will be a lot of fun and allow you to meet and make friends with teens from around the world! World Youth Day is an incredible gift for the Catholic youth of the world.

*"Thank God for the World Youth Days! Thanks be to God for all the young people who have been involved in them in the past sixteen years! Many of them are now adults who continue to live their faith in their homes and work places. I am sure, dear friends, that you too will be as good as those who preceded you. You will carry the proclamations of Christ into the new millennium."*

-From the Homily of Saint Pope John Paul II at the Closing Mass of WYD 2000

*"Dear young people, aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. Then you will see the light of the Gospel grow every day, within you and around you".*

Pope Leo - Jubilee of Youth, Rome, Italy, August 2025

*"Take Courage! I Have Overcome the World!" - John 16:33 -Theme for WYD 2027*

**What is World Youth Day?** WYD is when the Holy Father calls his youth to himself for six days of prayer, meditation, and instruction. With this are also much sightseeing, cultural experiences, and the opportunity to interact with Catholic Youth from all over the world. WYD brings together Catholic youth from over 150 countries to learn about their faith and celebrate it. It is characterized by the happiness of youth being with the Pope and with each other. At WYD 2027, participants will learn how Korean Catholics live their faith and also experience life in their country. We will be traveling with other churches from our Diocese. Although this trip should be fun for the participants, please be aware that it is a Pilgrimage, not a vacation. The main focus of the trip is the spiritual aspect.

**Dates of WYD?** The dates of the entire trip are July 26-August 9, 2027. The WYD Celebration itself takes place August 3-8, 2027. There will be time at the beginning of the trip for sightseeing around South Korea.

**Who can go?** High school and college students for the school year 2026-2027 are eligible if they will be at least 15 years old by the trip. Young adults older than college age can join us as chaperones (or they can look into the young adult trip offered by the Diocese).

**What is the adult to teen ratio?** There will be at a minimum a 1 to 5 ratio of adults to teens. Adult chaperones must be 21 years or older.

**What is the cost of WYD?** \$4500 estimated cost per person, based on double or triple occupancy. The cost could go up or down slightly depending on airfare taxes and surcharges, transportation around South Korea, what we include (all meals?), and entrance to sites. We will be fundraising for this trip, but a lot of the fundraising will be individual. For WYD 2005, 2008, 2011, 2016, and the Italy Pilgrimage some teens used sponsorship by friends and family to pay for their trip and were very successful, and this will be one of the ways we will be fundraising this year. We can also, as a group, ask for funds from parishioners, and do a few group fundraisers (Trivia Nights have been our main Fundraiser). I think it is reasonable to assume you will be able to raise about \$1500-2500, but it will all depend on how much effort YOU put into the fundraising effort and how many people we have going. Many of the fundraisers are also dependent on parent involvement. The first payment of \$500 must be turned in with the completed application to Jennifer Olson **by Sunday, February 1, 2026** (we have a Trivia Night on February 7, so I want to know who is coming). You will need to pay the full first payment, but fundraised money may reduce your future payments. If you are an amazing fundraiser and you are able to fundraise the full amount (but please don't count on this happening), money you paid out of pocket will be returned to you. The payment schedule for the remainder of the money will be (this is a tentative schedule which could change based on the travel payment requirements) July 15, 2026 - \$1500, February 15, 2027 - \$1500, and April 15, 2027 - Remainder. You also must make a commitment to participate in parish and large group formation meetings prior to the trip. We have a limited number of spaces available, and we want to start fundraising, so please turn your information in as soon as possible. Participants will be accepted based on the essay they write and if needed an interview process. If you are not chosen to go, you will get your deposit back. If you are chosen to go, there are cancellation fees that increase as time goes on. The minimum cancellation fee is \$500. After April 15, 2027 the cancellation fee could be up to the cost of the trip depending on penalties assessed by suppliers.

**What is included in the cost?** Hotels for 4 nights in Cities Around South Korea to see the Saint & Martyr Sites and 8 nights in Seoul, South Korea in an AirBnb, Air transportation to and from Seoul, transfer to and from the airport, ground transportation between cities, sightseeing and tours in and around Seoul and other cities, breakfast and dinner each day, and WYD registration (which includes: Free Public transit in the Greater Seoul area, Meals for August 3-8, passes for the large group events, and a pilgrim souvenir kit).

**What is not included in the cost?** Personal costs (passport). Lunches. We sometimes add in some additional sightseeing. Other personal expenses.

**Informational Meetings?** After the decision is made in early February as to who is going on the trip, we will have a first meeting to discuss fundraising responsibilities. We will want to begin fundraising right away so that you will not have to pay ALL of the money out of pocket beyond February. We have a Trivia Night on February 7.

Please call me if you have any additional questions at 630-885-6439 or e-mail me at youthministry@stscholasticaparish.org. If you need to mail completed form, please mail them to Jennifer Olson; 7800 Janes Avenue; Woodridge, IL 60517.

# Pilgrimage Registration for World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea

If you decide that you are interested in participating in the trip, please complete this application and the essay and return it with your \$500 first payment to Jennifer Olson by Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Checks should be made payable to St. Scholastica WYD.

Participants will be accepted based on their essay (so think about what you write) and an interview process if necessary. We have a limited number of spaces available, so please turn your information in as soon as possible.

**One paragraph essay (attach): Why you are interested in going on this pilgrimage to Seoul, South Korea? What do you hope to get out of the trip?**

Pilgrim's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City & State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Male Female (Circle)

Current School & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name(s) (If applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Cell Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been on a pilgrimage before? If yes, when and where?

Do you have any allergies or medical conditions? Please list them.

Do you have a passport? (If not, you will need to get one)

## Commitment

I understand the nature of this Pilgrimage experience to World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea. I agree to cooperate with the Joliet Diocese Code of Behavior and to be financially responsible for the cost of the pilgrimage. As possible, I am also willing to participate in the formation meetings (both parish and larger group) to prepare for our trip that will occur prior to our departure in July 2027.

Signature of Pilgrim: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

