I’m delighted that you have chosen to visit this very special place. You follow in a long line of saints, popes, kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, who have graced us by their presence.

One of those distinguished pilgrims, St. Pope John Paul II, commented during his visit here in 1987:

“This serene and beautiful place is truly the historical and spiritual heart of California.”

Each person who visits with us is warmly welcomed and offered the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of California and their knowledge of how much God loves them.

There is so much to do here during your visit, including walking in the footsteps of our beloved founder and first pastor, St. Junipero Serra known as “the Apostle of California.” There are several museums, a wonderful collection of art and religious artifacts, beautiful fountains and courtyards, all deserving some of your time. No visit here would be complete without admiring the unique collection of religious and Mission-related gifts in our Museum Store.

I pray that you will truly enjoy your visit with us and that you take with you some of the love that sustains the “heart of California.”


Fr. Paul P. Murphy
Pastor at Carmel Mission

Visitation Guidelines and Policies
The Carmel Mission is a vibrant and active parish community. We welcome visitors and pilgrims from all around the world, who come to explore the history of the Mission and experience it fully in today’s setting. We ask that all visitors respect our beautiful prayerful environment. Kindly know that access to the basilica and parts of our grounds may be limited due to services, events or restoration activity.

If you wish to reserve a tour or visit as part of a pilgrimage, kindly contact us in advance of your visit to ensure we receive written confirmation of your visit. Please go to our website to plan your visit www.carmelmission.org.

Tours tours@carmelmission.org
Pilgrimages pilgrimages@carmelmission.org
Weddings weddings@carmelmission.org
Events events@carmelmission.org

Photography & Drone Policy
Photography and Videography of any kind, whether for personal use (i.e. family portraits, holiday portraits, wedding/engagement photos, quinceañera, company team photos, maternity photos, graduation photos, etc) or commercial use requires a reservation. If you are interested in using the Mission grounds and gardens as a backdrop, a reservation must be booked two business days in advance. To ensure a positive and safe experience, the Mission prohibits the use of drones over its private property. All visitors to the Mission are advised that their photo may be taken by staff for promotional purposes as part of the effort to raise awareness of the Mission. Names are not provided. Attendance at the Mission implies consent.

Accessibility
Wheelchairs: Wheelchairs are available upon request at the Museum Store.
Restrooms: Restrooms are available for admitted visitors and those attending service.

Service Animals: Qualified service animals, such as a guide dog, are welcome at the Mission. No other pets allowed.

Emergency Information:
For emergencies, dial 9-1-1. Our address is 3080 Rio Road in Carmel, CA 93923. Please notify Mission staff of any incident, accidents, or emergency as soon as possible.
Welcome to Carmel Mission Basilica
A Place of Worship, Education, History & Art

1 Museum Store & Visitor’s Entrance
   Entrance to the Carmel Mission Museum and Grounds.

2 Convento Museum
   Featuring the relic artifacts of Saint Junípero Serra and his living quarters
   along with exhibits displaying historic art, furnishings and the first library
   of California.
   - Saint Junípero Serra – Cell
   - Caravaca Cross
   - First Bible of California
   - Hartnell Library – First Library of CA
   - Liturgical Paintings of Paez

3 Jo Mora Chapel Gallery
   Houses the Saint Junípero Serra Memorial Cenotaph, sculpted in 1924 by noted California artist Jo Mora.
   Featuring some of the earliest liturgical artifacts of colonial California and a rotating exhibits gallery.
   - Silver Room
   - Cenotaph – Joe Mora

4 Carmel Mission Forecourt
   Outdoor memorials, historic statues and heritage gardens framing the entrance of the Carmel Mission Basilica Church.

5 Harry Downie Museum
   Exhibits and displays of the restoration history of the Old Mission.

6 Carmel Mission Basilica
   A National Historic Landmark, the Basilica houses an array of Mission era art and artifacts. The Basilica
   is the final resting place and shrine of Saint Junipero Serra, founding father of California and the Spanish
   Colonial Missions.
   - Saint Junipero Serra – Final Resting Place

7 Our Lady of Bethlehem Chapel
   A Basilica Chapel, honoring the Patroness of the Diocese of Monterey. Saint John Paul II prayed in this
   Chapel during his visit in 1987.

8 Mission Cemetery
   The final resting place and memorial to members of the Historic Parish community.
   - Cemetery

9 Munrás Family Heritage Museum
   Displays the Early California artifacts of one of Monterey’s prominent families.

10 Mission Quadrangle Courtyard
    Within the Quadrangle Courtyard are historic memorials, heritage gardens and the iconic mission fountain.
    - Main Courtyard Fountain
    - Courtyard Cross

11 Blessed Sacrament Chapel
    Built on the foundation stones of the original Mission quadrangle, this chapel is open to the public with mass and communion service offered daily.
    - Blessed Sacrament Chapel
    - Original Sanctuary Lamp

12 Rectory Office

13 Junipero Serra School

14 Crespi Hall
   Carmel Mission Basilica Parish Hall.

View the Map & Guide and A Brief History of the Carmel Mission on your mobile device

[ Map & Guide ]  [ A Brief History ]

www.carmelmission.org