

# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 IS HERE!

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Welcome!

We are so excited to invite you to join the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and Verso Ministries on the pilgrimage for World Youth Day 2027!

Whether this is your first pilgrimage or your tenth, we are grateful for your consideration in joining us next summer for this journey.

World Youth Day is not simply something we attend—it is a pilgrimage we enter into. As with any meaningful journey of faith, how we prepare, travel, and accompany one another shapes what we will receive. The following expectations are offered as guides to help each pilgrim more fully encounter Christ, the Church, and one another through this experience and feel prepared for what's to come at World Youth Day.

Register today at  
[versoministries.com/archindy-wyd](https://versoministries.com/archindy-wyd)



# WHY GO WITH THE ARCHDIOCESAN GROUP?

Choosing to attend World Youth Day as part of the archdiocesan pilgrimage rather than going on your own isn't just a logistical decision—it's a pastoral one that shapes how you and your group experience the Church, the journey, and Christ himself.

When you join the archdiocesan pilgrimage, you step into the reality that you are not meant to walk the life of faith alone. You give yourself and other young people the chance to encounter a Church that is bigger than your parish. They begin to see that their faith is part of something much larger—a living community that stretches beyond what they know. For those who may feel isolated in their parish, this can be transformative. They are no longer just part of a small group; they are surrounded by many others seeking the same relationship with Christ.

From a practical standpoint, you place yourself in an environment that is intentionally designed to support you. You don't have to carry every detail on your own. Formation, prayer, and accompaniment are more deeply integrated into the experience, allowing you and other pilgrims attending with you to focus less on logistics and more on encountering Christ. There is a sense that you are being carried—by your archdiocese, by fellow leaders, and by the Church herself.

When you go as part of the archdiocese, you also witness something powerful: your local Church standing together within the universal Church. Gathering with your bishop and fellow pilgrims makes visible the unity of the Church in a way that you can see and feel. It helps you understand more deeply what it means to belong to something both local and global.

And when you return home, you don't come back alone. Because you've built relationships across the archdiocese, you have a stronger foundation for ongoing ministry, support, and accompaniment. The experience continues to bear fruit, not just within your parish, but within the wider Church you now feel more connected to.



# GROUP DYNAMICS

We will be attending World Youth Day as an Archdiocesan group. This means at times, we will gather and move together as one Archdiocesan group, even when it requires flexibility from individual or parish plans.

All pilgrims are asked to actively engage in both the smaller group they are attending with and the larger Archdiocesan community attending World Youth Day.

We value this group experience together because there is something deeply powerful about experiencing the Church not just globally, but also locally, together.

# WHO CAN ATTEND?

World Youth Day is a pilgrimage experience targeted to those **ages 16 to 35**.

ArchIndy's 2027 World Youth Day pilgrimage to South Korea is open to young adults in their 20s and 30s and youth over the age of 16 (and their chaparones) at the time of WYD occuring.

**Minors** must attend WYD with a parish/school group that includes designated chaparones for care of these youth and cannot sign up independently to attend WYD with ArchIndy.

Required youth to adult chaperone ratio for WYD is 1:6

Young adults are welcome to register independently from a parish/school group. Independent young adults will be placed into a group with other independently registered young adults with a designated group leader.



- Young adults registering this way are expected to be an active participant in this group as well as in the larger ArchIndy group experience at WYD
- Independently registered young adults are required to attend 2 in-person group meetings before departure in addition to the 2 ArchIndy in-person all pilgrims gatherine as stated below. (Dates TBD).

# PRE-DEPARTURE MEETINGS

We want you feeling prepared, accompanied, and spiritually ready before you land in South Korea. In order to do this, we value regular in person and virtual pre-departure gatherings to address both practical and spiritual needs of the pilgrimage process and help each pilgrim and our entire ArchIndy group grow in community with one another. These meetings will allow us to enter into the pilgrimage with shared purpose and understanding, open our hearts to the Lord's presence throughout, and grow in relationship with one another.

**ALL PILGRIMS MEETINGS:** All pilgrims are required to attend 4 pre-departure meetings as outlined:

**2 In-Person Gatherings:**

- a. Fall 2026
- b. Summer 2027

**2 Virtual Meetings:**

- a. Winter 2026
- b. Spring 2027

We suggest group leaders hold at least two additional meetings in person outside of these meetings.

The Office of Youth Ministry and the Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry are happy to serve as a resource as you plan these meetings.

**GROUP LEADER MEETINGS:** All group leaders are required to attend monthly virtual group leader meetings beginning in August 2026 with the ArchIndy team. Dates & Times TBD.

# WHAT TO EXPECT ON A WYD PILGRIMAGE

## 1. It's a Pilgrimage, Not a Vacation

The challenges are real - but they open the door to joy, growth, and a deeper encounter with God.

*What this means for you: Approach the trip with intention, sacrifice, and a willingness to be changed.*

## 2. You'll Encounter the Global Church

You'll meet people from around the world and experience diverse expressions of faith.

*What this means for you: Be open, curious, and willing to engage across cultures and languages.*

## 3. Prayer Experiences are Powerful

Mass, Adoration, and gatherings with the Holy Father can be deeply moving.

*What this means for you: Come spiritually open and ready to fully participate, even when tired.*

## 4. Community is Formed Quickly

Shared challenges and faith experiences create strong bonds within your group.

*What this means for you: Invest in your group - show up, engage, and support one another.*

## 5. It's Physically Demanding

Expect long days, lots of walking, and challenging weather conditions.

*What this means for you: Come prepared to be active all day - break in your shoes and build stamina ahead of time.*

# WHAT TO EXPECT ON A WYD PILGRIMAGE

## 6. Living Conditions Are Simple

Sleeping arrangements may be hectic, filled with people, and not what you'd expect from typical American hotels. *What this means for you: Be ready to sacrifice comfort and pack light, practice essentials.*

## 7. You'll Be in Massive Crowds

Thousands - even a million or more - of pilgrims will be everywhere you go. *What this means for you: Stay patient, stick with your group, and be comfortable navigating busy environments.*

## 8. Waiting Is Part of the Journey

Lines for food, bathrooms, and events are long and unavoidable. *What this means for you: Bring a flexible mindset and small things to help pass time (snacks, water, prayer, conversation).*

## 9. Flexibility Is Essential

Schedules change, plans shift, and things won't always go as expected. *What this means for you: Let go of control and be ready to adapt with a positive attitude.*

## 10. Little Privacy or Personal Space

You'll share close quarters with your group and other pilgrims. *What this means for you: Practice patience, respect others, and be mindful of shared space.*

# FUNDRAISING

The price of the WYD pilgrimage is often one of the biggest hurdles for interested youth and young adults to overcome. The cost can appear out of reach. However, remember that you are not alone in this effort - involve the community around you and trust in the Lord. The fundraising process itself can actually be spiritually enriching, as you see how God provides to make the pilgrimage possible for you.

The earlier you begin fundraising efforts, the better. A longer time span allows more time to accumulate the necessary funds. Below are several means of raising funds. Do not rely on only one means of funding - all of these can be carried out at the same time. Develop a budget for how much you reasonably expect to raise through each means, and then start working toward that goal!

## Community Organizations

Approach community organizations, such as your local Knights of Columbus council, to inquire about funding potential. This can be done individually or as a group of young adults. In return, you might offer to help with community events that they organize, as well as solicit prayer intentions and share the experience through a blog or slideshow.



## Personal Sacrifice

How much can you save up between now and the final payment due date? What expenditures might you be able to give up in order to direct that money to WYD instead? Some suggestions:

- Forego replacing older electronics or clothes for another year
- Downgrade or cancel your video streaming subscription(s) for a period of time
- Switch to making your daily coffee at home rather than purchasing it
- Limit personal purchases

What might be difficult but possible for you to sacrifice? Even small sacrifices can accumulate to a significant amount over a long period of time. The spiritual benefits of personal sacrifice can really add up too, similar to what we experience during Lent.

## Parish Support

Find out who else at your parish has interest in going to WYD, especially if your parish has an active young adult ministry. Work together and approach your pastor for permission and guidance to organize a parish-wide fundraiser.

Contact your parish to find out if the young adult group is organizing any fundraising events that you might be able to assist with in return for a share of the proceeds.

If neither of the above is possible at your parish, ask whether the parish can commit to help you financially in some other way.

For all of these options, you might solicit prayer intentions from the parish to bring with you, share the experience with the parish via a blog or social media during the pilgrimage, and/or create a slideshow presentation upon your return to show the parish what happened and the fruits of the pilgrimage in your life.

# SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Part of our shared responsibility on this pilgrimage is to care for one another, especially the other young people in our midst. Because our ArchIndy group, and World Youth Day as a whole, will have minors present on the pilgrimage, all adults attending WYD with ArchIndy, including young adult attendees, are required to complete the archdiocesan safe environment training (Safe Parish) and submit a background check in order to attend. This must be completed by June 1, 2027.

**To complete or update your training and submit a background check, navigate to this website:**  
**<https://www.archindysafeparish.org/>**

- New users will need to create an account using the Passcode/Organization Code: Archindy2021
- Returning users will login using your login and password and update the training/background check as needed

# CODE OF CONDUCT

All attendees of WYD with the ArchIndy group will be expected to abide by our codes of conduct.

**Please review this code of conduct before registering to attend. There are separate codes of conduct for adults and youth.**

# FAQ's

- Why should I go?

World Youth Day is a global gathering of young people with the Pope. It's more than just a trip; it's a pilgrimage of faith, a celebration of the universal Church, and a way to witness the vibrancy of the Gospel in a new culture.

- How do I register?

See [Verso Ministry's website](#) for more info  
**WYD Registration Closes September 30, 2026.**

- What if my parish/school isn't bringing a group and I'd like to attend?

If you are 18+, you are welcome to register as an independent young adult. You will be placed in a group with other young adults who have registered independently with a designated leader provided by the ArchIndy staff.

If you are a youth (16-17 years old), or a parent of a youth, we recommend reaching out to other nearby parishes/schools to see if they are bringing a group and would be open to you joining the group.

- How much will it cost?

See [Verso Ministry's website](#) for more info.

- What's the itinerary?

See [Verso Ministry's website](#) for more info:

- Who can attend the pilgrimage to South Korea?

Youth ages 16+ (and their chaperones) and young adults in their 20s and 30s.

# FAQ's

- What is the daily WYD schedule like?

While the official Vatican schedule will be finalized closer to the date, a typical WYD week looks like this:

Mornings: "Rise and Shine" for catechesis (teaching sessions) led by bishops from around the world, followed by Mass.

Afternoons: The Youth Festival! This includes concerts, exhibits, and prayer encounters across the host city.

Evenings: Main events like the Opening Ceremony, the Papal Welcome, and the Stations of the Cross.

The Weekend: A multi-mile walk to the vigil site for an overnight prayer service under the stars, followed by the final Sunday morning Mass with the Pope.

- How difficult is the pilgrimage?

Walking: Expect to walk 6-10 miles per day on paved streets, hills, and occasionally uneven terrain.

The Vigil Walk: The most challenging part is the "Pilgrim Walk" to the final vigil site, where you carry your own gear (sleeping bag, clothes, etc.) and sleep on the ground overnight.

- What is the climate like in South Korea in August?

August in Seoul is hot, humid, and rainy. Temperatures often sit in the high 80s or 90s (°F). It is the tail end of the "Jangma" (monsoon) season, so heavy downpours are common. It can feel quite "sticky," so packing moisture-wicking clothing and staying hydrated is essential.

