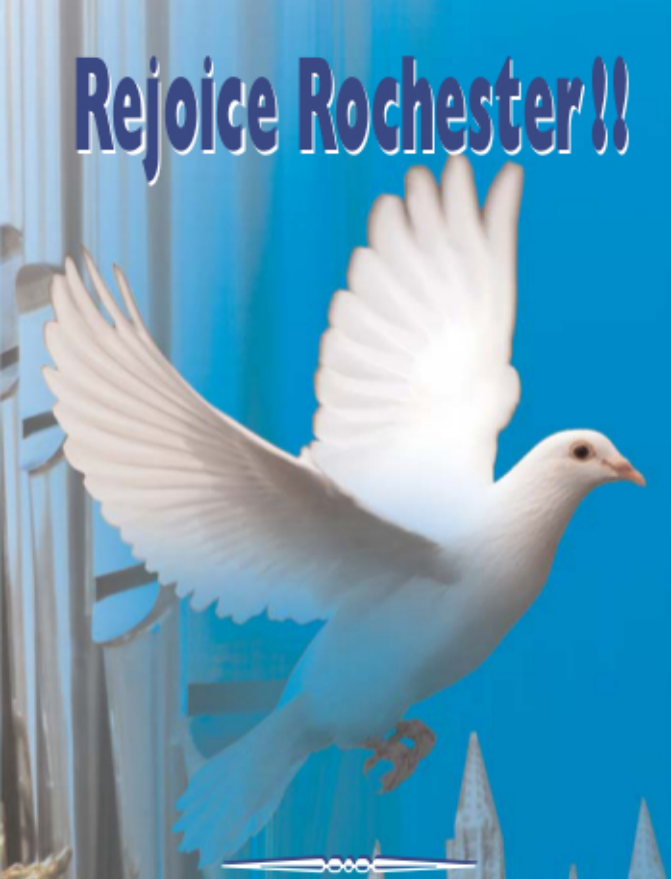
Rejoice Rochester!!



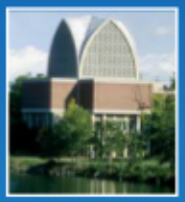
Come, take a journey of faith through Rochester New York's Religious History

visit Rochester

Spiritus Christi Church Mass

Rochester Area Religious Traditions

With its strong family ties, the Rochester area includes many religious faiths, replete with peace and tolerance. Our focus here is Christianity, however, Rochester is home to Muslims and Jews, Buddhists, Quakers, Jehovah's Witnesses and Hindus. The Rochester, New York region provides accessible and affordable accommodations. In our out-reach to communities of the sacred, the spiritual and the divine, Rochester beckons to those who strongly identify with their own religious traditions, those who are "spiritual but not religious," as well as those with no affiliation at all.



The University of Rochester took a pioneering step forward when the Interfaith Chapel was built in 1970, to provide a multifaith gathering place for all people.

Sacred Heart

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester began in March 1868. Through consolidation of several Catholic churches, the Cathedral parish for this Diocese is **Sacred Heart Cathedral** in Rochester. The 1927 Gothic-style Cathedral has gone through a complete restoration that includes a special link to the Dioceses' beginning. In the Eucharistic chapel, the ceiling has been painted to depict the night sky on March 3, 1868, the day the Diocese of Rochester was established. Sixteen life-size angel figures that stand at the base of the ceiling beams and on the tabernacle were inherited from St. Philip Neri Church, which was lost to fire in 1967. A wood beam and crucifix that had previously been removed from the Cathedral interior has been restored. A new organ completes the apse space. The beauty will take your breath away...

296 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY 14615
www.dor.org • (585) 254-3221

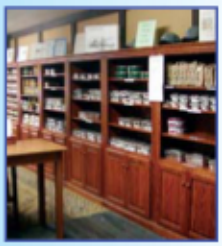
Abbey of the Genesee

In spring 1951, a group of Trappists monks moved from the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky to the town of York, New York near Piffard to establish the Abbey of the Genesee. The community of more than two dozen contemplative monks has prepared a monastic retreat of over 2,400 acres of forest, ravines, rolling hills and a meandering creek, located in the picturesque and historic Genesee River Valley.

The brothers of the Abbey and their charities are partly supported by the sale of a delicious variety of what is called Monks' Bread sold in the Abbey's store and regional supermarkets.

3258 River Road, Piffard, NY 14533 • (877) 264-6785
www.geneseeabbey.org • www.monksbread.com

Bethlehem Retreat



Pipe Organ Capital of North America

Rochester is fast becoming the pipe organ capital of North America. Pipe organs inspire congregations of all denominations and enhance the spirit of worship services.

Memorial Art Gallery

Every Sunday afternoon, visitors make their way to the Memorial Art Gallery's Fountain Court on the second floor, drawn by the rich music emanating from a visually stunning 18th century antique Italian Baroque organ owned by the Eastman School of Music, the only full-size antique Italian organ in North America.

500 University Avenue, Rochester, NY 14607
www.mag.rochester.edu • (585) 276-8900

Christ Church, Episcopal

Crowning the area's organ collection is the Craighead-Saunders Organ at Christ Church, Episcopal. For years, the head of the organ department at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music wanted a new pipe organ for Christ Church, Episcopal in Rochester. He met the founder of the Guteborg Art Center in Sweden who specialized in reconstructing historic organs. The decision was made to restore a late 18th century Baroque organ built by Adam Gottlob Casparini of East Prussia in 1776 for the church of the Dominicans in Vilnius, Lithuania, and make a replica for the Eastman project. The breathtaking 30,000-pound Craighead-Saunders Organ at Christ Church Episcopal is approximately 25 feet wide and 24 feet high, it has 2,000 pipes and sits on a balcony 12 feet above the sanctuary floor. It made its debut in Rochester in 2008 and has been the center focus of pipe organ aficionados worldwide. Christ Church, founded in 1855, served as the cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese from 1965 to 1976.

141 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604
www.christchurchrochester.org • (585) 454-3878

Christ Church
George Wallace

Craighead-Saunders Organ
Eastman School of Music Photo

Saint Padre Pio Chapel

Saint Padre Pio Chapel, located in the Town of Gates off Manitou Road, at 141 Frank DiMino Way (Marconi Blvd.), is the only privately owned chapel dedicated to Saint Padre Pio in New York State. Opened on May 25, 2008, the chapel was built to give the community a place of prayer and reflection and to honor Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, the legendary Italian Capuchin confessor and 21st century saint canonized by Pope John Paul II on June 16, 2002. Saint Padre Pio, who lived from 1887 to 1968, led a life of constant prayer and reportedly bore the stigmata, the wounds of the crucified Christ. "The People's Chapel" is completely open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to visit and make use of this beautiful facility for their own personal prayer and meditation.

St. Padre Pio Institute of Rochester Inc.
141 Frank DiMino Way (aka Marconi Blvd.)
Rochester, New York 14624
www.stpadrepiochapel.com • (585) 594-5220

"To my Spiritual Children, my prayers for you will never be lacking."

–St. Padre Pio

Eagle Crest Vineyards, Inc.
7107 Vineyard Road, Conesus, NY 14435
www.eaglecrestvineyards.com
(585) 346-2321

Eagle Crest Vineyards

The second oldest continually operating winery in the Finger Lakes Region, Eagle Crest is the parent company of the O-Neh-Da Vineyard established in 1872 by Bishop Bernard McQuaid of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester to produce authentic sacramental wines for regional churches. This winery is the largest producer of premium sacramental wines in the Western Hemisphere. In addition, Eagle Crest, a multiple award-winning winery, produces a line of "pure grape table wines" made in the same patient and time-honored manner set forth in its inception of the O-Neh-Da Vineyard.
(585) 346-5760 • (800) 977-7117

Eagle Crest Vineyards
100% Pure Grape Finger Lakes Table Wine

O-NEH-DA
Established 1872

Black Church Growth and Development

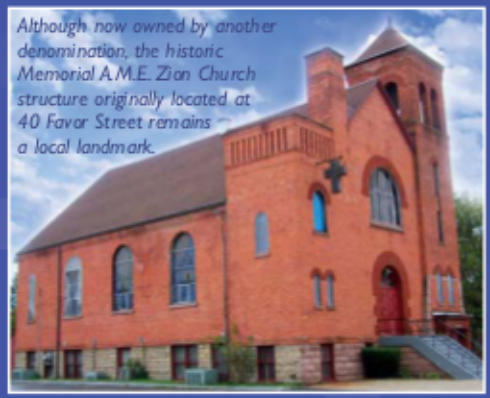
Today, we hear the expression, "The Black Church." While the many congregants and worshippers were of African descent, the churches reflected an array of denominations. Each church was steeped in the rich and robust church tradition that has contributed to the social, educational, and political well-being of black people.

Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

Founded in 1827 by Rev. Thomas James, an escaped slave, the Memorial African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church, currently located at 549 Clarissa Street, is Rochester's oldest African-American church, which also served as the church home for Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman and many fugitive slaves during its connection to the Underground Railroad in Rochester. Harriet Tubman, known as "The Moses of her people," is credited with leading hundreds of Negro slaves to freedom, using the first church building to shelter fugitive slaves. Susan B. Anthony gave one of her last public addresses in the old church on Favor Street, and Frederick Douglass edited his abolitionist papers, "The North Star," from presses set up in the church basement.

Other early black denominations include **Trinity (Emmanuel) Presbyterian Church** (1902); **Mount Olivet Baptist Church** (1910), **Aenon Baptist Church** (1923) and **New Bethel C.M.E. Church** (1923) became centers for field work for black students enrolled at Colgate Rochester Divinity School; **St. Simon's Episcopal Church** (1935) was served by Bishop Quintin Ebenezer Primo, Jr., the first bishop to ordain women as priests in Chicago; and both **Aenon Baptist Church** and **Mt. Vernon Baptist Church** (1939) were pastored by Reverend Robert E. Warfield, father of the famous singer, William Warfield.

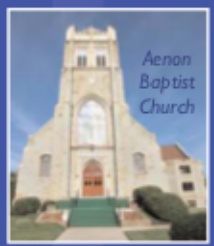
AKOMA, a rousing women's community gospel choir, performs songs of solidarity, freedom, hope and faith, in a worship and praise tradition woven between monologues about the Civil Rights Movement.



Although now owned by another denomination, the historic Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church structure originally located at 40 Favor Street remains a local landmark.

Jim Hunter

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church



Aenon Baptist Church

AKOMA

www.akoma.org/Watson Photo

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

CRCDS, founded in 1817 and in Rochester since 1850, is an independent, professional graduate School of Theology conferring both Master of Divinity and Doctorate of Ministry degrees. Among its alumni/ae are the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the Rev. Dr. Marjorie Matthews (United Methodist), the first woman elected bishop in any denomination; and civil rights pioneer, the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman. From its early days, CRCDS, as it became called in 1928, was progressive. It enrolled seminarians of all denominations, CRCDS was a pioneer in reconciling religion with the new scientific aspects of evolution and biblical criticism as a way to understand the deeper meanings and environment of the Bible's formation. Rev. Walter Rauschenbusch, native Rochesterian and faculty member, was noted as the "Father of the Social Gospel," which applied Christian ethics to social problems. On February 16, 1965, Malcolm X spoke to Rochesterians sympathetic to the Civil Rights Movement at Colgate Divinity School, five days before he was gunned down in a Manhattan ballroom. In keeping with its teachings toward social justice, CRCDS offers two unique courses of study; the Program for the Study of Women and Gender in Church and Society and the Black Church Studies program, the latter being the oldest such program in the Country.

1100 S. Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14620
www.crcds.edu • (585) 271-1320

Northeastern Seminary

One of the newer seminaries, founded in 1998, Northeastern Seminary (NES) is located at Roberts Wesleyan College (RWC) in the oldest building on the campus, B.T. Roberts Memorial Hall in North Chili, New York. RWC, a Christian liberal arts college, is the first educational institution established in 1860 for Free Methodists in North America. The "Free Methodist" were once expulsed from the Methodist Episcopal Church but maintained their Methodist name and added "free" to represent both their anti-slavery stand and their freedom with the Holy Spirit in the services.

2265 Westside Drive, Rochester, NY 14624
www.nes.edu • (585) 594-6000

Elim Bible Institute

Elim Bible Institute, a 75-acre Bible college in Lima, New York, offers a three-year non-degree "diploma" program to prepare spirit-filled Christian workers and servant-leaders for revival and renewal ministries worldwide. A member in the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA), Elim Fellowship is of Pentecostal conviction and Charismatic orientation. "Charismatics" are Christians who believe that miracles, prophecy, and glossolalia (speaking in other tongues or languages), are available to Christians and may be practiced today.

The Elim campus in Lima was originally the site of Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (opened in 1831, closed in 1941), one of the first coeducational schools in the United States. Among its alumnae were Belva Lockwood, one of the first female lawyers in the U.S. and Helen Pitts Douglass, the second wife of Frederick Douglass. Genesee College was founded on the same campus in 1849 to 1870 when it relocated to Syracuse and became the basis of Syracuse University. The Methodist Church operated Genesee Junior College at the site from 1947 to 1951. Two campus buildings, Genesee Wesleyan Seminary and Genesee College Hall, are on the National Register of Historic Places.

7245 College Street, Lima, NY 14485
www.elim.edu • (585) 582-1230

Saint Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry

In 1893, St. Bernard's Seminary was founded to provide education for Roman Catholic diocesan priests. Following the Second Vatican Council, the seminary turned its attention to educating men and women for lay ministry. In 1981 St. Bernard's Seminary was closed, and St. Bernard's Institute was born and entered into a covenant relationship with Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. It moved to the CRCDS campus where it remained until 2003, when it was able to build a new campus. Its name was changed to St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry.

120 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618
www.stbernards.edu • (585) 271-3657

Rochester Riverside Convention Center

Accommodations & Meeting Space

Greater Rochester offers over 7,000 rooms in scores of hotels, inns and resorts. Groups from 20-6,000 can be accommodated and assistance is readily available from the professional staff at VisitRochester. Located in the heart of Rochester and set as part of the enclosed walkway connections to major hotels and parking garages overlooking the Genesee River, the Rochester Riverside Convention Center has been "fellowship central" for a host of religious, spiritual and ecumenical events. Unique venues for gatherings abound, and leisure time options for all tastes are plentiful in and around Rochester. Niagara Falls and the Finger Lakes region are within a short drive.

Rejoice in Rochester – Relax in Rochester!

www.visitrochester.com • (585) 262-4242

Motor Coach Tours

Located on Lake Ontario, Rochester offers a gateway to the Finger Lakes Region of New York State and the scenic Seaway Trail. Historical characters come to life with re-enactments and colorful narratives reflecting the region's proud history of the Underground Railroad, Erie Canal and Native American culture. VisitRochester's Group Tour Department provides support to help custom build your own tours and local and regional itineraries.

www.visitrochester.com • (585) 279-8305

Religious Groups Hosted in Rochester, New York

Adventist Risk Management (275)
African Methodist Episcopal Church (3,800)
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (3,000)
Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses (6,000)
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (125)
Church of God (5,000)
Church of God in Christ (1,500)
Global Korean Young Adult Mission Festival (2,500)
Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission (4,000)
Lutheran Women's Missionary League (250)
National Association of Pastoral Musicians (1,000)
N.A. Division–Seventh Day Adventist Church (250)
Promise Keepers (6,000)
Religious Conference Management Association (1,500)
Unitarian Universalist Association (3,000)

Intellectual Reserve

Hill Cumorah Pageant

Experience each July, the story of the Savior's love told by a cast of more than 650 members of the Church of Latter-day Saints on a 10-level outdoor stage during the Hill Cumorah Pageant. The Hill Cumorah is located on Highway 21 between the villages of Palmyra and Manchester, New York, two miles north of Interstate 90, Exit 43. Other important sites for the LDS church include the Welcome Center at the Joseph Smith Farm, Smith Family Homes, Book of Mormon Historic Publication Site, Fayette Chapel, Peter Whitmer Farm and the Palmyra Temple at 2720 Temple Road.

630 State Route 21, Palmyra, NY 14522

www.hillcumorah.org • (315) 597-1600

visitRochester.com

www.visitrochester.com

45 East Avenue, Suite 400, Rochester, NY 14604
800-677-7282 or **585-279-8300**

VisitRochester is the official tourism promotion agency for Monroe County in New York State. The organization offers a wide-range of tourism and visitor services and is available to provide support in planning local and regional itineraries for conventions, meetings, and group tours. Rochester's unique venues are provided in a safe and friendly environment, and at a great value.

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