

Rochester's Religious History

Prepared by VisitRochester

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 outreach 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.

Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester



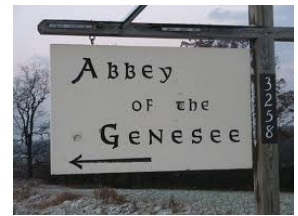
The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester began in March 1868. The Cathedral parish for this Diocese is Sacred Heart Cathedral, a 1927 Gothic-style Cathedral that has gone through a complete restoration. The Eucharistic chapel's ceiling has been painted to depict the night sky on the day the Diocese of Rochester was established. Sixteen life-size angel figures stand at the base of the ceiling beams, while a new organ completes the apse space.

296 Flower City Park, Rochester, NY 14615
www.dor.org • 585.254.3221

Abbey of the Genesee

The Abbey 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 Abbey is partly supported by the sale of Monks' Bread.

3258 River Road, Piffard, NY 14533
www.geneseeabbey.org or www.monksbread.com • 877.264.6785



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 Foundation Court, drawn by the rich music emanating from a visually stunning 18th century antique Italian Baroque organ owned by the Eastman School of Music.

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. The breathtaking 30,000-pound Organ 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.

141 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604
www.christchurchrochester.org • 585.454.3878

Saint Padre Pio Chapel

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. "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.

141 Frank DiMino Way (aka Marconi Blvd.), Rochester, NY 14624
www.stpadrepiochapel.com • 585.594.5220

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Eagle Crest Vineyards

The second oldest continually operating winery in the Finger Lakes Region, Eagle Crest is the largest producer of premium sacramental wines in the Western Hemisphere. In addition, the 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.

7107 Vineyard Road, Conesus, NY 14435
www.eaglecrestvineyards.com • 585.346.2321

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.

Other early black denominations include *Trinity (Emmanuel) Presbyterian Church* (1902); *Mount Olivet Baptist Church* (1910), *Aeon Baptist Church* (1923), *New Bethel C.M.E. Church* (1923), *St. Simon's Episcopal Church* (1935), and *Mt. Vernon Baptist Church* (1939). 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.



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, and the Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman. 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. 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.

1100 S. Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14620
www.crcds.edu • 585.271.1320

Northeastern Seminary

Founded in 1998, Northeastern Seminary is located at Roberts Wesleyan College in the oldest building on the campus, B.T. Roberts Memorial Hall in North Chili, NY. RWC is the first educational institution established in 1860 for Free Methodists in North America. The "Free Methodist" were once expelled 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. www.nes.edu/distinctive/Heritage

2265 Westside Drive, Rochester, NY 14624
www.nes.edu • 585.594.6800



Elim Bible Institute

Elim Bible Institute, a 75-acre Bible college in Lima, NY, 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, 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.

7245 College Street, Lima, NY 14485
www.elim.edu • 585.582.1230

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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

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. 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

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 gathering 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

Source: VisitRochester
www.visitrochester.com

45 East Avenue, Suite 400, Rochester, NY 14604
800.677.7282 or 585.279.8300

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