

Catholic Pilgrimage Outside Seoul

Mirinae Holy Ground (Anseong)



Mirinae (“Milky Way”) **Holy Ground** is the burial site of St. **Andrew Kim Taegon** (1821–1846), the first native priest of Korea and martyr of the faith. During the persecutions, Catholics would light lanterns along the path to Mirinae, making it glow like the Milky Way. Today, it is a pilgrimage center with a large cathedral, rosary paths, and peaceful gardens for reflection.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” — 2 Timothy 4:7

Solmoe Holy Ground (Dangjin)



Solmoe is the birthplace of St. Andrew Kim Taegon, Korea's first Catholic priest. It is home to a shrine, cathedral, and memorial sites dedicated to his legacy. Surrounded by peaceful forests and hills, Solmoe is a symbol of faith passed down through generations, honoring the courage of early Catholics in Korea.

“Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
— Revelation 2:10

Chon Jin Am (Gwangju, Gyeonggi-do)



Chon Jin Am is considered the **birthplace of Korean Catholicism**, where lay leaders first gathered to study and share the faith. It now features a Way of the Cross (Stations of the Cross) and prayer gardens. Pilgrims come here to honor the devotion and sacrifice of early believers who risked their lives to follow Christ.

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” — Matthew 18:20

Haemi Martyrdom Holy Ground (Seosan)



The Haemi Martyrdom Holy Ground is the site where nearly 1,000 Catholics were buried alive during the persecutions of the 19th century. It stands today as a powerful witness to the endurance of faith and the ultimate sacrifice of countless unnamed martyrs. A memorial tower and prayer spaces invite pilgrims to remember and reflect.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” — Matthew 5:10

Gongseri Catholic Church (Asan)



Built in 1897, Gongseri Catholic Church is one of the oldest Catholic churches in Chungcheongnam-do. Known for its beautiful blend of Korean and Western architectural styles, it also serves as a memorial site for 32 martyrs who gave their lives for their faith. It remains an active parish and a place of pilgrimage.

*“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and it dies,
it bears much fruit.” — John 12:24*

Naepo Martyrs' Shrine (Hongseong, Chungcheongnamdo)



▶ 홍주일보

The Naepo Martyrs' Shrine commemorates Catholics who were executed during the 19th-century persecutions in the Naepo region. It stands as a solemn reminder of the price of faith, with a church, memorial hall, and prayer spaces dedicated to those who gave their lives for Christ. The shrine continues to inspire pilgrims with the witness of steadfast devotion and sacrifice.

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.” — Matthew 10:28

Baeti Shrine (Yesan, Chungcheongnam-do)



Baeti Shrine marks the place where St. Andrew **Kim Taegon**, Korea's first priest, studied Latin and theology in preparation for the priesthood before leaving for Macau. This hidden valley became a refuge for believers during the persecutions and today is home to a beautiful shrine and seminary memorial. Pilgrims visit to honor his dedication and the perseverance of the faithful. This was also the **pastoral center of Fr. Thomas Yangup Choe** where he ministered to Catholic believers from 1853 to 1856.

"And I will appoint for you shepherds after my own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently." — Jeremiah 3: 15

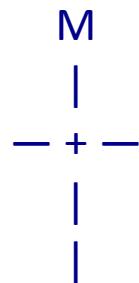
Closing Prayer for Pilgrims

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of faith passed down through the blood of martyrs and the devotion of Your saints.

As we honor these holy sites of Korea, may their witness strengthen our resolve to live faithfully each day. Grant us courage, perseverance, and a deeper love for Your Son, Jesus Christ. May our journey bear fruit in holiness and inspire others to follow You.

Amen.

*“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” —
Matthew 5:8*



“Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.”