

# West Bend Grotto of the Redemption 2024

Start times dawn to dusk

OSB only

## Reasons to do the event

### Special Programs

Town Halls / City Halls

CC: Kossuth and Palo Alto counties

### Event comments

The walk is on sidewalks and wide streets. On-street parking.

**The Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption** is a religious shrine in West Bend, Iowa. A conglomeration of nine grottos (caves) depicting scenes in the life of Jesus, it contains an extensive collection of minerals and petrifications. It is believed to be the largest man-made cave in the world.

It is also considered the world's most complete man-made collection of minerals, fossils, shells, and petrifications in one place. The rocks and minerals are valued at over \$4,308,000. Over 100,000 people visit each year.

It includes a museum with precious and semi-precious stones from around the world and photos and artifacts about the shrine's construction.

**The West Bend Historical Museum** is a 5-building museum complex with the only full-size replica sod house in Iowa. Open Sat & Sun 1:30-3:30 from Memorial Day to Labor Day, anytime by appointment.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

## Conditions for the event

1A, Distance 5K,10k

Restrooms Yes. At the snack shop and library, post office, and bank

Strollers Easy

Pets Yes

Wheelchairs: Medium

### Event information

West Bend is a shady, picturesque town that straddles Palo Alto and Kossuth counties. Father Paul Dobberstein, a German immigrant ordained in 1897, started the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption. He became critically ill with pneumonia and promised to build a shrine to the Virgin Mary if she interceded for him. After his recovery, he began stockpiling rocks and precious stones. Construction of the Grotto began in 1912. For more info, <https://www.westbendgrotto.com/>

## How to get to the event

### Driving to the start

West Bend Historical Museum, 107 3rd St SE, West Bend, IA 50597 (2 blocks west of IA-15).

LAT: 42.957858, LNG: -94.444313

From IA 15, turn west on 3<sup>rd</sup> St SE for two blocks. West Bend Historical Museum will be on your R at 107 3rd St SE, West Bend, IA 50597 (2 blocks west of IA-15). On-St parking.

## Point of contact for walk related information

Diana Ronk [ronkdr@mchsi.com](mailto:ronkdr@mchsi.com), 515-491-8903

## In case of emergency

Contact 911.

# West Bend Grotto of the Redemption 2024

5K

**Start and Finish:** West Bend Historical Museum, 107 3rd St SE, West Bend, IA 50597 (2 blocks west of IA-15).

1. Start at the West Bend Historical Society.
2. Go 1 block west (R) on 3rd St SE to S Broadway Ave.
3. L onto S Broadway Ave for 3 blocks, *past the library, post office, and banks. (Restrooms)*
4. R onto 6th St SW for 2 blocks.
5. L onto 2nd Ave SW for 2 blocks.
6. R onto 8th St SW.
7. R onto 3rd Ave SW for 2 long blocks.
8. L onto 5th St SW.
9. R on 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SW.
10. R onto 4th Ave SW f
11. L onto 3rd Ave SW for 3 blocks.  
*3rd Ave SW turns R and becomes 1st St NW.  
1st St NW turns R and becomes 2nd Ave NW for 2 blocks*
12. L onto 1st St SW for 2 blocks.
13. L onto S Broadway Ave. for 2 blocks. *Look for the gazebo and statue on your L just after the train tracks.*
14. L onto 1st St NW.
15. 1st NW turns R and becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW.  
*Continue past the church. The back outside wall of the Grotto Gift Shop is pretty!*
16. R on 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW. *Enter the Shrine of the Grotto of the Redemption. Exit past the ice cream and snack shop and keep the lake on your left.*
17. L on Broadway Ave.
18. R on 4th St NW for 1 block.
19. R onto 1st Ave NE for 3 blocks. *At 212 1<sup>st</sup> Ave, you'll pass SueZee Soaps.*
20. R onto E Division St.
21. L onto S Broadway Ave and cross the tracks again.
22. Head south on S Broadway Ave toward 2nd St SE. *You pass the Wagon Wheel Cafe at 123 S Broadway Ave.*
23. L onto 3rd St SE. The start point is on your left. **Log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration by entering the participation date, distance, and any special programs.**





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## 10K ROUTE DIRECTIONS

**Start and Finish:** West Bend Historical Museum, 107 3rd St SE, West Bend, IA 50597 (2 blocks west of IA-15).

No	Km	Directions
1		Start on 3rd St SE
2	0.035	R onto 1st Ave SE
3	0.342	R onto 6th St SE
4	0.353	R onto 1st Ave SE
5	0.456	R onto 7th St SE
6	0.562	R onto S Broadway Ave
7	0.968	L onto 3rd St SW
8	1.172	L onto 2nd Ave SW
9	1.269	R onto 4th St SW
10	1.275	R onto 4th St SW
11	1.377	R onto 1st Ave SW
12	1.384	L onto 1st Ave SW
13	1.687	R onto 7th St SW
14	1.791	L onto 2nd Ave SW
15	1.930	L onto 8th St SW
16	2.040	R onto 3rd Ave SW
17	2.386	L onto 5th St SW
18	2.585	R onto 4th Ave SW
19	2.879	L onto 2nd St SW
20	3.016	R

21	3.258	R
22	3.527	Turn sharp left
23	3.541	Turn slight left
24	3.706	L onto 475th St
25	4.267	L onto 3rd Ave SW
26	4.941	L onto 2nd St SW
27	5.040	L onto 1st Ave SW
28	5.139	R onto 1st St SW
29	5.243	L onto S Broadway Ave
30	5.443	L onto 1st St NW
31	5.822	L onto 3rd St NW
32	5.956	R onto 2nd Ave NW
33	6.170	R onto 4th St N
34	6.423	L onto N Broadway Ave
35	6.814	R onto 2nd St NW
36	6.919	R onto 1st Ave NE
37	7.317	R onto 4th St NE
38	7.675	R onto 1st St NE
39	8.600	L onto N Broadway Ave
40	9.001	L onto 3rd St SE
41	9.067	FINISH

Log back into the OSB system to finish/complete your online registration by entering the participation date, distance, and any special programs.