

2024 Directory of Creche Exhibits in the USA

Prepared by Friends of the Creche, www.friendsofthecreche.org

Arizona - Mesa

International Nativity Exhibit at Mesa Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

A unique display of more than 100 nativities from around the world is hosted inside the Visitors' Center at the Mesa Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For more than four decades, the lighting of the Mesa Arizona Temple gardens has been a favorite holiday tradition in the Valley. The free event features thousands of twinkling lights and a variety of displays designed to tell the story of Christ's birth, including a large outdoor creche underneath a lighted star and other Biblical vignettes, including a shepherd's field, Mary and Joseph figurines, the prophet Isaiah, and three lighted wise men with their camels.

Dates: Nov 29-Dec 30

Hours: Open 5-10pm every day; TU & TH: 11am-1pm. Free Admission

Address: 455 E Main, Mesa

Website: <https://mesatemple.org/event/mesa-temple-christmas-lights-and-international-nativity-exhibit/>

Email: slryan@cox.net

Phone: 480-964-7164

Arizona - Tucson

Tucson Museum of Art

The Tucson Museum of Art presents El Nacimiento (the creche) on display in La Casa Cordova, an historic old 19th century house in what was once the walled presidio area of the city. The large, colorful diorama, created by Mexican American folk artist Maria Luisa Tena, depicts Mexican street market scenes, Old Testament scenes and the Holy Family. A Nacimiento of 600 miniature pieces is on display every year from late November to mid-March. Casa Cordova open: Tue-Sat 10-4, Sun 12-4. Closed Mon., major holidays. Building is under restoration 9/1/24 Tentative 2024 opening.

Dates: Late Nov - Mid-March

Hours: Open TU-SA 10am-4pm, SU 12am-4pm. Closed M. & major holidays

Address: 140 N. Main Ave, Tucson

Website: <https://www.tucsonmuseumofart.org/>

Email: education@tucsonmuseumofart.org

Phone: 520-624-2333

California - Rancho Palos Verdes

Mary & Joseph Retreat Center

Rotating theme with hundreds of nativities on display each year. Free self guided exhibit: Our gift to the community! Docent tours available: \$5/adult; School tours available: \$3/student, Stroll By Exhibit - Dec. 23, 2024 - Jan. 5, 2025 Open every day whenever you come and visit. Viewed from the breezeway.

Dates: Dec. 9-22, 2024

Hours: Open SU-TH 9am to 5pm; F & SA 9am - 9pm

Address: 5300 Crest Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes

Website: <https://maryjoseph.org/>

Email: sjongbloed@maryjoseph.org

Phone: 310-377-4867

California - San Francisco

Grace Cathedral, Episcopal

Nativity figures lightly polychromed of Swedish birchwood were carved by Antonio Sanjuan Villalba (1902-1996) of Valencia, Spain in 1956. The creche is set in a prepared niche low in the north wall of the north transept so children can see the details. There are 15 figures and nine animals, and the scene combines the Nativity with the arriving shepherds and the Magi of the Epiphany.

Dates: Dec 1 - Dec 31, 2024

Hours: Open Weekdays & SA & holidays 10am-5pm, open SU (tourists) 1-5pm. Admission is \$12 for adults and children over 12. Children under 12 are free. Admission for services or private prayer are free. Always check website for hours.

Address: 1100 California St. , San Francisco

Website: <http://www.gracecathedral.org>

Email: juliek@gracecathedral.org

Phone: 415-749-6300

California - Santa Clara

Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church

One large display with figures from Spain. Begins at the end of Nov. through Dec. and ends on Epiphany. Check online for dates and times. Featured in an issue of the Creche Herald in 2020.

Dates: End of Nov. - Dec. and ends on Epiphany. Check online for dates and times.

Hours:

Address: 2800 Mission College Blvd, Santa Clara

Website: <https://www.oloop-shrine.org/>

Email: **Phone:** 408-988-4585

Connecticut - Bethlehem

The Abbey of Regina Laudis

The Abbey of Regina Laudis, a community of contemplative Benedictine women, displays a lavish 18th century Nativity thought to have been created for the coronation of Victor Amadeus II, King of Sardinia, in 1720. The creche was donated to the Abbey in 1949 by philanthropist Loretta Hines Howard. A similar nativity set she gave to the Metropolitan Museum of Art is the centerpiece of the museum's Medieval Galleries each Christmas.

Dates: Open Daily, Closed Jan 7 until Easter

Hours: Open W-SU, weather permitting, from 10am-3pm.

Address: 249 Flanders Rd, Bethlehem

Website: <https://abbeyofreginalaudis.org/>

Email: **Phone:** 203-266-7727

Connecticut - New Haven

Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center (Knights of Columbus)

The Blessed Michael McGivney Pilgrimage Center carries on its tradition of showcasing Christmas in art and culture with its 2024 exhibition of more than 50 nativity scenes of Christmas in Africa.

Dates: Nov 9, 2024 - Feb 2, 2025

Hours: Open W-SU 10am-4pm Free parking and free admission.

Address: 1 State St, New Haven

Website: <https://www.michaelmcgivneycenter.org/>

Email: kathy.cogan@kofc.org **Phone:** 203-865-0400

Georgia - St. Simons Island

Epworth by the Sea Arthur J. Moore Methodist Museum

World Nativities - The many nativities in their vast international collection of 200 pieces are now displayed permanently in a new exhibit room.

Dates:

Hours: Open M-F 10am-4pm & SA 10am-1pm. Closed on SU and major holidays. Free admission/donations accepted

Address: 100 Arthur J. Moore Dr, St. Simons Island

Website: <https://www.epworthbythesea.org/moore-methodist-museum.php>

Email: apackard@epworthbythesea.org

Phone: 912-638-4050

Illinois - Chicago

Polish Museum of America

Among displays of Polish history and culture are large szopki from the collection of the Historical Museum of the City of Krakow shown on a rotating basis and one large szopka made here in the U.S. for the visit of Pope JohnPaul II in 1978. Check before going to be sure there are szopki on display.

Dates:

Hours: Open TU, TH, SA & SU 11am-4pm. Enter no later than 3:15pm.

Address: 984 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago

Website: www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

Email: pma@polishmuseumofamerica.org

Phone: 773-384-3352

Illinois - Chicago

St. John Cantius Church

Mid 18th century Neapolitan, presepio (Nativity and village scenes) in an 8' x 5 1/2' setting also 1/3 scale replica of Wit Stwosz altarpiece from the Bazylika Mariacka, Krakow, Poland with nativity scene on wings of the altar doors. In general the church is a repository of sacred art and relics.

Dates:

Hours: Church open 6am-7pm M-SU. Office open M-F 9am-4pm

Address: 825 N. Carpenter St, Chicago

Website: <https://www.cantius.org/post/the-art-of-the-christmas-creche>

Email: office@cantius.org

Phone: 312-243-7373

Illinois - Chicago

Art and Faith of the Creche: The Collection of James and Emilia Govan, Loyola University Museum of Art

LUMA's annual holiday exhibition, Art and Faith of the Creche: The Collection of James and Emilia Govan, continues each year with over 100 nativity scenes. These works represent only a small part of the Govans' gift that was donated in 2009. Over the course of almost forty years, the Govans amassed over 500 creches, representing over 100 countries. Many

are unique in their depiction of the nativity story and incorporate elements, such as architecture, clothing, animals, gifts, and materials, that are particular to the artist's native country.

Dates:

Hours: The website says the museum is temporarily closed. I am not sure.

Address: 820 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago

Website:

<https://www.luc.edu/luma/collections/thejamesandemiliagovancrechecollection/>

Email: luma@luc.edu

Phone: 312-915-7600

Illinois - Peoria

Peoria Community Festival of Nativities

Large display of many nativities

Dates: Dec 5 (3-9pm); Dec 6-7(10am - 9pm); Dec 8 (12-6pm), 2024

Hours: Free admission

Address: 3700 W Reservoir Blvd, Peoria

Website: <https://www.communityfestivalofnativities.com/>

Email: **Phone:** 309-361-9956

Indiana - Notre Dame

McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame

In 2014, the McGrath Institute for Church Life began partnering with the Marian Library at the University of Dayton, bringing to Notre Dame's campus an exhibit of creches, or Nativity scenes, from around the world. Since 2020, the institute has shared this sacred art in a different way, through a digital Advent and Christmas Creche Calendar - a beautiful selection including creches, or Nativity scenes, from previous six exhibits, as well as creches never before seen on the Notre Dame campus.

Dates:

Hours:

Address: 342 Geddes Hall, Notre Dame

Website: <https://mcgrath.nd.edu/events/creche-exhibit/>

Email: mcgrath@nd.edu

Phone: 574-631-5510

Louisiana - New Orleans

Friends of St. Alphonsus International Creche Exhibit

Exhibit of international creches.

Dates: Nov. 26 & Dec. 3, 2-4pm; Nov. 27-Dec. 2, 10am-2pm, 2024

Hours: Free and open to the public. Donations can be made at gofund.me/82221b89e

Address: St. Dominic Church, 775 Harrison Ave, New Orleans

Website: <https://www.friendsofstalphonsus.org/>

Email: comiskeyep@msn.com

Phone: 504-235-2931

Maryland - Kensington

Washington, DC Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Large display of international creches. Enter through the Visitor Center of the D.C. temple

Dates: Dec. 5-31, 2024

Hours: Open 10am-9pm. Free Admission

Address: 9900 Stoneybrook Dr, Kensington

Website: <https://churchofjesuschristtemples.org/washington-d.c.-temple/>

Email: **Phone:** 301-588-0650

Maryland - Laurel

Festival of the Nativity at First Lutheran Church of Bowie, MD

A special feature of the display is the Nativity Market Place featuring handmade nativity sets.

Dates: SA Dec 7 (11am-4pm) & SU Dec 8 (11am to 4pm), 2024

Hours:

Address: 12710 Duckettown Rd, Laurel

Website:

Email: sjhiller@aol.com

Phone:

Massachusetts - Attleboro

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette

The international creche museum showcases an impressive and diverse array of cultural interpretations of the nativity story, featuring some 2,000 nativity scenes from more than 100 countries worldwide. Among its treasures are 2 unique collections of 'Santons' from

Provence, France, offering visitors a captivating glimpse into the global and artistic celebration of Christmas. While admission is free, the museum appreciates free-will donations.

Dates: Festival of Light & Creches Nov. 23, 2024 - Jan. 1, 2025

Hours: Open M-SU 10am to 4:45pm

Address: 947 Park St, Attleboro

Website: <https://lasaletteattleboroshrine.org/>

Email: asalettेशrineSecretary@gmail.com

Phone: 508-222-5410

Massachusetts - Mashpee

Christ the King Parish

Display of large-size Fontanini Nativity figures set on pedestals in a vertical configuration in the chapel. Open M-F 9am-3pm, SA-SU 9am-12pm. If planning to come after 1 pm on a weekday it is best to call the parish office to see if the church would be open. The church & chapel are open all day Saturday until after the 4pm mass and Sunday until 5:30pm.

Dates:

Hours: Open M-F 9am-3pm, SA-SU 9am-12pm. If planning to come after 1 pm on a weekday it is best to call the parish office to see if the church would be open. The church & chapel are open all day Saturday until after the 4 pm mass and Sunday until 5:30pm.

Address: 5 Job's Fishing Rd, Mashpee

Website: <https://christthekingparish.com/>

Email: office@christthekingparish.com

Phone: 508-477-7700 508-477-8158

Michigan - Frankenmuth

Bronner's Christmas Wonderland

Billed as "The World's Largest Christmas Store," Bronner's lives up to its name when it comes to nativity sets. The store offers over 500 styles of nativities, ranging from ornaments, to advent calendars, to wall decor, to tabletop Nativities, half life-size, and life-size nativity sets. Every one of the more than 300 decorated trees have at least one nativity ornament. The Bronner family, who founded the store in 1945, exhibit their collection of over 100 nativities from around the world in the program center for guests to view. "Silent Night" Chapel, a replica of the Austrian church where the Christmas tune originated.

Dates:

Hours: Open M-SA 9am-5:30pm, SU 12pm - 5:30pm. July to Dec later closing times M-TH 7pm; F 8pm; SA 9pm Closed Jan 1, Easter, U.S. Thanksgiving, Christmas.

Address: 25 Christmas Lane, Frankenmuth

Website: <https://www.bronners.com/>

Email: wendy.taylor@bronners.com

Phone: 989-652-9935 or 989-652-9931

Michigan - Norway

Grace Methodist Church

This collection features nativities which were purchased in or reflect the Upper Peninsula of Michigan's northwoods, presented by Susanne & Bill Gay.

Dates:

Hours:

Address: 130 Odill Dr, Norway

Website: <https://www.gracemethodistnorway.org/>

Email: gumc@norwaymi.com

Phone: 906-563-8917

Michigan - Saline

Holy Faith Episcopal/Lutheran Church

Check the Parish website calendar for dates and times.

Dates: 2024 Dates TBD

Hours:

Address: 6299 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Saline

Website: <https://www.holyfaithsaline.org/>

Email: office@holy-faith-church.org

Phone: 734-429-2991

Minnesota - Minneapolis

Westminster Presbyterian Church

The Martha Spencer Rogers Creche Collection includes nearly 200 creches from over 80 countries around the world and presents the Christ child as belonging to each community. There are several dozen additional creches and a growing collection of Noah's Arks also on permanent view. Rogers, a Westminster member who began collecting creches in La Paz, Bolivia in the mid-1960s, donated both her collection and her custom display cases to the Westminster Collection in 2007. It now is on permanent view on the church's second floor and lower level.

Dates:

Hours: Open M-F 9am-5pm, SU 9am-12pm

Address: 1200 Marquette Ave, Minneapolis

Website: <https://www.westminstermpls.org/visit/>

Email: news@wpc-mpls.org

Phone: 612-332-3421

New Mexico - Santa Fe

Museum of International Folk Art

The Girard Wing of the Museum of International Folk Art contains some colorful and unique nativity sets in its "Multiple Visions: A Common Bond" display. Museum donors Alexander and Susan Girard collected nativity sets mostly from Europe and South America, and each one offers a fascinating look at the Holy Family and the night Jesus was born. The bright and open permanent exhibition appeals to children, and special guides and multimedia tours are available for families.

Dates: Nov. 1, 2024-April 30, 2025

Hours: Open 10am-5pm TU-SU. Closed M

Address: 706 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe

Website: <https://www.museumfoundation.org/museums/museum-international-folk-art/>

Email: patricia.sigala@dca.nm.gov

Phone: 505-476-1204

New York - Lackawanna

Our Lady of Victory Basilica

Many nativity sets from around the world, part of Father Roy Herberger's unique collection, will be on display in the lower level of the Shrine. This wonderful Christmas tradition is a must-see. The exhibit will run throughout Advent and be able to be viewed during regular Basilica hours.

Dates: Dec 1-Jan 15, 8am-6pm

Hours: Free Admission

Address: 767 Ridge Road, Lackawanna

Website: <https://www.olvbasilica.org/event/100676/nativity-set-exhibit>

Email: **Phone:** 716-828-9444

New York - New York

Church of St. Francis of Assisi

Perpetual Christmas Crib in lower church. Relic from the cave of the Nativity in Bethlehem set into rail in front of the crib. Check the website parish bulletins for annual seasonal display updates.

Dates:

Hours: Church is open M-F 7am-6pm; SA-SU 8am-6pm.

Address: 135 W 31st St, New York

Website: <https://stfrancisnyc.org/>

Email: bjordan@stfrancisnyc.org

Phone: 212-736-8500

New York - New York

Metropolitan Museum of Art

The Metropolitan Museum of Art has a longstanding tradition of presenting an 18th-century Neapolitan creche along with its Christmas tree in the Museum's Medieval Sculpture Hall. Christmas music and special lighting add to the special holiday display. At the base of a 20-foot blue spruce are 71 people and 50 animals representing a traditional 18th-century Italian village. The beautiful and detailed presepio also includes Roman ruins and a working Italian fountain. The figures, each a work of art on its own, range from six to 20 inches in height.

Dates:

Hours: Open SU-TU & TH 10am-5pm, Extended Hours: F-SA 10am-9pm; Closed W

Address: 1000 Fifth Ave, New York

Website: <https://www.metmuseum.org/>

Email: mettours@metmuseum.org

Phone: 212-535-7710

Ohio - Akron

Nativity of The Lord Jesus Catholic Church

The Nativity of the Lord Jesus Church has a museum adjacent to its chapel that displays on a rotating basis a collection of 500+ nativity sets from around the world. The church basement also includes The Bethlehem Cave, a replica of the cave where Jesus was born. Call to schedule a group or personal tour.

Dates:

Hours: Open weekdays 9am-4pm; SA-SU before and after Masses.

Address: 2425 Myersville Rd, Akron

Website: <https://nativityofthelord.org/tours>

Email: tours@nativityofthelord.org

Phone: 330-699-5086

Ohio - Cincinnati

Comboni Missionaries

The Comboni Missionaries hosted their first Nativity Experience in 1947, in the carriage house of their Sacred Heart Seminary on Beechmont Road. Called the "Crib" in those days, the outbuilding recreated the Italian tradition of celebrating Christmas with scenes of the Nativity. Seminarians gathered rocks and moss from the area and created an impressive diorama of the Palestinian countryside, complete with cardboard starry sky, rivers, hills, and villages. Imported statuettes of the Holy Family, the ox and ass, angels, shepherds, kings, sheep and even a dog all had a role as dramatic lights and music carried a magical retelling of the Christmas story.

Dates: Dec. 13 -29, 2024

Hours: Open: 2nd SU in Dec. until end of month, 6-9pm daily, excluding 24th & 25th; also M-F 8am-4pm, by appointment, for individuals and groups.

Address: 1318 Nagel Rd, Cincinnati

Website: <https://combonimissionaries.org/nativity/>

Email: meisman@combonimissionaries.org

Phone: 513-474-4997

Ohio - Dayton

University of Dayton, Marian Library

The Marian Library Creche Collection began in 1984 and was originally based on the generous contributions of friends and donors. It has grown into an extensive collection of over 3,600 Nativities from around the world. The Creche Collection celebrates diverse Nativity traditions, adapted in different materials and styles, from over 100 cultures. Visit the Creche Museum, a dedicated space showcases a semi-permanent display of Nativities from the collection and serves as the home of the popular Kevin Hanna "Mirror of Hope" art installation (Illustrated book available).

Dates: "Joy to the World!" Nov. 25, 2024 - Jan. 17, 2025 Weekends 12-4pm on Dec. 7-8 and 14-15

Hours: Marian Library hours. TU-F 9am-4pm

Address: 300 College Park, Dayton

Website: <https://go.udayton.edu/christmas-exhibit>

Email: marianlibrary@udayton.edu

Phone: 937-229-4214

Ohio - Kirtland

Historic Kirtland Visitors Center Nativity Exhibit

Since 2003, the Historic Kirtland Visitors Center has been home to a free annual Nativity exhibit assembled by the local congregations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints. With carefully cataloged sets in a permanent collection mixed with donations and displays on loan from residents, no exhibit is the same from year to year. Also on view is a collection of postcards of Christmas greetings featuring imagery of the Nativity, and several cards from the personal collection of Cleveland artist and designer Viktor Schreckengost. Children can also participate in arts and educational activities as well as a treasure hunt for finding certain elements in the Nativity displays.

Dates: December 2024

Hours: Open M-SA 11am-7pm; SU 1-7pm; Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve 11am-5pm, Closed Christmas Day & New Year's Day.

Address: 7800 Kirtland Chardon Rd, Kirtland

Website: <https://www.christmasinkirtland.com/>

Email: OHSites_Scheduler@ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Phone: 440-256-9805

Ohio - Mentor

Mosack's

Mosack's is a family-owned and family-operated Christian retailer with a 8,000-square-foot store in Mentor, which is about 25 miles east of Cleveland. In addition to other faith-based items on display, the store has a huge collection of Fontanini, Willow Tree, Joseph Studio, Precious Moments heirloom nativities.

Dates:

Hours: Open hours M-SA 10am-8pm Closed SU

Address: 7633 Mentor Ave, Mentor

Website: <https://mosacks.com/>

Email: info@mosacks.com

Phone: 440-525-5551

Ohio - Toledo

Global Nativity Festival at HeART Gallery

Based on a book by Kate DePalma, "Joy To The World" is our 2024 Nativity Festival theme. Dec 1-22 view a global themed exhibit of creches, themed trees, and costumes from celebrations around the world. Friday nights 5-6:30pm artist Julie LaBay painting live on stage. Beverages and snacks served. Concerts on Sundays at 4pm represents many styles of music and artwork. Family Activities: A mini-Bethlehem experience includes hands-on activities for kids of all ages. A scavenger hunt leads families through the entire four floor historical building and nine rooms. Snacks and beverages served. Clues can be found in the book by Kate DePalma. The Nativity Festival is free, but donations appreciated. A Free-Will offering will be taken at each concert.

Dates: Dec 1 - 22, FR-SA 4-7pm

Hours: Free Admission

Address: 428 N Erie, Toledo

Website: <https://www.heartgalleryandstudios.com/single-post/nativity-festival-joy-to-the-world>

Email: kate@stpaulstoledo.org

Phone: 419-270-3224

Oklahoma - Bartlesville

Bartlesville Festival of the Nativity

The Festival of the Nativity is a free interdenominational community Christmas event held each year in Bartlesville, Oklahoma at St. John Catholic Church. The anchor event is a display of hundreds of nativities representing the cultures of people throughout the world.

Dates: Dec. 6-8

Hours:

Address: 715 S. Johnstone Ave, Bartlesville

Website: <https://bartlesvillenativity.org>

Email:

Phone:

Pennsylvania - Bryn Athyn

Glencairn Museum

The Glencairn Museum, located in the castle-like former home of Raymond and Mildred Pitcairn, offers its annual "Christmas in the Castle" tours and other seasonal activities. The museum's permanent collection features nativity art, including paintings, manuscripts, sculptures and stained glass, dating to the medieval period. The museum is featuring a magnificent Neapolitan presepio from the collection of Elizabeth Anne Evans of Bucks County, Pa. The large, detailed creche, with pieces Evans collected over a period of 30 years, is on loan from the Samuel S. Fleisher Art Memorial in South Philadelphia. The annual exhibition of nativities collected from around the world features almost 50 scenes representing dozens of countries.

Dates: Begins just after Thanksgiving Dec. 1, 2024 and extends through the end of January

Hours: F, Nov 29, 2024 - SU, Jan 26, 2025 12-4pm; Exhibition access times can be pre-booked online at 12pm, 1pm,, 2pm, and 3pm, \$5 per person

Address: 1001 Cathedral Rd, Bryn Athyn

Website: <https://www.glencairnmuseum.org/exhibitions>

Email: nick.conte@glencairnmuseum.org

Phone: 267-502-2600

Pennsylvania - Chalfont

Byers' Choice

Located in historic Bucks County, PA, one room of Visitors' Center displays more than 200 creches from around the world, including an 18th century presepio.

Dates:

Hours: Open year round M-SA 10am-5pm, SU 12-5pm.

Address: 4355 County Line Rd, Chalfont

Website: <https://www.byerschoice.com/>

Email: melissa.palmer@byerschoice.com

Phone: 215-822-6700

Pennsylvania - Philadelphia

St. Mary's at the Cathedral

Chinese creche brought from China in 1943 by missionary, Deacon Katherine Putnam who served there for 33 years. Located inside chapel year round; moved into church during christmas season.

Dates:

Hours:

Address: 630 E Cathedral Rd, Philadelphia

Website: <https://stmaryscathedralroad.blogspot.com/>

Email: revpetermcarey@gmail.com

Phone: 215-482-6300

Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh

University of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms

The Nationality Rooms were designed to represent and celebrate the cultures of various ethnic groups that settled in Allegheny County. The thirty-one Nationality Rooms located on the first and third floors of the Cathedral of Learning are a community space where visitors are invited to experience the rich heritage of the communities who inspired and supported their creation. The Nationality Rooms are also in use as university classrooms, giving students the opportunity to engage in learning in a unique setting that helps them to explore the historic diversity of the Pittsburgh region.

The Nationality Rooms are decorated for the holidays and many include creches representative of the cultures.

Dates: Nov 17 - Jan 6; Mon, Wed-Sat 9am-4pm, Sun 11am-4pm. Closed Tue.

Hours: Paid tours only. Tours need to be scheduled in advance.

Address: 4200 Fifth Ave, Pittsburgh

Website: <https://www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu/tours>

Email: nationalityroomstours@pitt.edu

Phone: 412-624-6000

Pennsylvania - Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh Creche

This privately-owned manger at the US Steel Plaza is a larger-than-life nativity scene. It is the world's only replica of the Vatican's St. Peter's Square display in Rome. Louis D. Astorino, chairman of the Pittsburgh architectural firm L. D. Astorino Companies, was on a business trip in Rome. While there he visited the Vatican's Creche. He was so moved he felt compelled to bring a similar one to Pittsburgh. Astorino sought approval from Vatican officials and procured the actual plans for the creche. He then commissioned its gifted sculptor, Pietro Simonelli, to recreate the figures for Pittsburgh's creche.

Dates: Nov 23 - Jan 6

Hours: Always Open

Address: 600 Grant St, U.S. Steel Tower Plaza, Pittsburgh

Website: <https://positivelypittsburgh.com/creche-2/>

Email: mcmurraym@pghfdn.org

Phone: 412 391 5122

South Carolina - Moncks Corner

Mepkin Abbey

Annual Creche festival at the Abbey. The theme for 2024 is "Nativity: In Glass and Under Glass." There is no fee to attend but you must register in advance. Registration will be taken on the website starting Oct. 1.

Dates: Nov. 18-23, Nov. 29-Dec. 7, 9am-2:30pm, 2024

Hours: There is no fee to attend but you must register in advance. Registration will be taken on the website starting Oct. 1.

Address: 1098 Mepkin Abbey Rd, Moncks Corner

Website: <https://mepkinabbey.org/category/visit/>

Email: mepkincreche@gmail.com

Phone: 843-761-8509

Tennessee - Knoxville

Nativity Pageant of Knoxville, Knoxville Civic Coliseum

This is a live nativity pageant. The one-hour performance starts in darkness. Special music will begin 30 minutes prior to the pageant. 2024 Dates: Dec 14, 3pm; Dec 15, 3pm; Dec 16, 7pm. Free Admission

Dates: Dec 14, 3pm; Dec 15, 3pm; Dec 16, 7pm. 2024

Hours: Free Admission

Address: 500 Howard Baker Jr. Ave, Knoxville

Website: <https://www.knoxvillenativity.com/>

Email: nativitypageant@gmail.com

Phone:

Tennessee - McMinnville

Nativity Festival at McMinnville Stake Assembly Hall

Hundreds of nativities artistically displayed, artwork, live music, and children's room.

Dates: Dec 13-15

Hours:

Address: 562 Shangri La Lane, McMinnville

Website:

Email: Miriam Crawford mcrawford@benlomand.net

Phone: 931-273-0273

Tennessee - Pigeon Forge

The Incredible Christmas Place

Billed as "the South's largest Christmas shopping village," the Incredible Christmas Place is located in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains. From ornate to simple, from ceramic to wooden, from realistic to representational, this huge retailer displays and sells a wide variety of nativity sets. Founded as a small business in 1986 by Hurshel and Marian Biggs, the unique holiday shopping village has grown to include 43,000 square feet of shopping space..

Dates:

Hours: Open M-SA 9am-9pm; SU 10am-5pm

Address: 2470 Parkway, Pigeon Forge

Website: <https://www.christmasplace.com/>

Email: santa@christmasplace.com

Phone: 800-445-3396

Texas - Carrollton

The Community Nativity

Dates: Dec 6, 12-9pm; Dec 7, 9am-9pm; Dec 8, 9am-8pm; Dec 9, 9am-5pm.

Hours: Free Admission

Address: 4000 Nazarene Dr, Carrollton

Website:

Email:

Phone:

Texas - Del Rio

Del Rio Whitehead Memorial Museum

Cadena Nativity. Display is 32' long, 10' high, 20' deep and has 1287 items collected from California and Mexico over many years by Beatriz Rodriguez Cadena.

Dates:

Hours: Open year round TU-SA 10am-6pm; SU 1-5pm; closed M.

Address: 1308 S Main St, Del Rio

Website: <https://www.whiteheadmuseum.org>

Email: michael.diaz@whiteheadmuseum.org

Phone: 830-774-7568

Texas - Georgetown

United Methodist Churches of Georgetown, McKinney Christian Center

This exhibit features nativities on display from many counties and cultures. The annual Georgetown Christmas Stroll is a few blocks, which includes many activities and a holiday market.

Dates: FR, Dec 6 (5-7pm); SA, Dec 7 (10am-7pm)

Hours: Free Admission

Address: 1205 Ash St, Georgetown

Website:

Email: jwnoel19@yahoo.com

Phone: 512-799-6654

Texas - Houston

Creche Festival Houston, Parish Hall, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Rice Village

"Unique & Unexpected: A Creche Festival"

Dates: SA-SU Dec 14-15, 9am-6pm

Hours: Open to the General Public, Free Admission, Free Parking

Address: 2353 Rice Blvd, Houston

Website:

Email: zorn.daniel@gmail.com

Phone: 713-560-3628

Texas - Sanger

Bethlehem in Denton County

Bethlehem in Denton County is a small gallery built on a family farm Northern Texas. Judy Klein has amassed a large private collection of more than 3,500 creches and nativity scenes. Dating back to the early 19th century and representing over 60 countries and cultures, the depictions of the Holy Family vary in sizes from 6 ft. banners to the tiniest tables whose detail is best viewed with the aid of a magnifying glass on your tour. Guests are welcome to visit Bethlehem in Denton County year round by appointment only. Groups of 12 persons maximum.

Dates:

Hours: Call for Appointment

Address: 990 Milam Rd E, Sanger

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/JudyWKlein/>

Email: **Phone:** 940-231-4520

Utah - Midway

Midway Creche Exhibit

Dates: Dec. 6,7,8, & 9, 2024

Hours: Free Admission

Address: Town Hall 50 W Main, Midway

Website:

Email: **Phone:**

Utah - Midway

Zenger & Friends Nativity Experience

With 400 - 500 sets on display, you will see creche's that you have never seen before! Holly Zenger is a long-time creche collector and member of Friends of the Creche. This display draws from Holly's collection and several others'.

Dates: Dec Weekends - Dec. 6 to 22, 2024

Hours: Open FR-SU 1-8pm. Other dates/times by appointment. Free Admission.

Address:

Website: <https://www.facebook.com/zengercrecheexhibit>

Email: zengercreche@gmail.com

Phone:

Utah - Payson

Payson Community Creche

The 19th Annual Payson Community Creche will be home to our traditional indoor display of hundreds of nativities from all around the world. Enjoy beautiful musical performances while browsing the displays. Don't miss the opportunity to take your family to Bethlehem; you will find stunning hand-sewn costumes and a photo opportunity in our photo room. Our indoor display will be open to the public on Friday from 5-9 pm and Saturday from 2-8 pm. From the indoor displays, bundle up and head down to Memorial Park (300 S Main Street) at the heart of Payson. Here, you will walk through a series of exhibits depicting the story of Christ's birth. At the end of the walk-through, cross the street to the beautiful and historic Hope Baptist church for a selection of carols, a special Christmas message, and a delicious cup of hot chocolate. Parking for this event is located at Park View Elementary. Our outdoor event will be open from 6:30-8:30 pm both evenings. As part of this year's event, we will again host a blanket drive to collect blankets for warming centers across Utah County.

Dates: Dec 6 (5-9pm), Dec 7 (2-8pm)

Hours: Free Admission

Address: 608 W 1400 S, Payson

Website: <https://paysoncreche.com/>

Email:

Phone:

Virginia - Arlington

Nativity Scene Display

Bring your family and friends! All ages welcome!

Dates: By appointment Dec 1 to Jan 31, and Open House on Sun, Jan 5, 2025 from 1-8pm. Use Email to RSVP or arrange an appointment.

Hours:

Address: 5117 8th Rd, N, Arlington

Website:

Email: laurakirkconnell@yahoo.com

Phone:

Virginia - Leesburg

Leesburg Nativity Tour

See the Leesburg Nativity Tour on Parade as part of the Leesburg Christmas and Holiday Parade. Free Nativity Tour ornaments will be given away while supplies last along with other treats. Leisurely stroll through historic Leesburg visiting shops and restaurants displaying the Nativity Tour sign or use the "Loudoun Awakening" mobile app (download from any app store). Sometimes the nativity will be displayed in a front window, other times venture into the store to search for it. Pick up the promotion card and get it stamped at merchants. Fill up your card and get a free hot beverage from Trinity House Cafe. In honor of the 800th anniversary of the first nativity by St. Francis of Assisi, we have expanded the number of merchants and secured many new nativities never on display before.

Dates: Dec 1 - 31, 2024

Hours:

Address:

Website: <https://www.loudounawakening.org/leesburgnativitytour>

Email: info@loudounawakening.org

Phone:

Washington DC - Washington

Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America

Grotto of Bethlehem - Replica of the Holy Manger. Based on docent availability, Franciscan Monastery tours are scheduled for TU - SA at 1pm and pm and on SU at 12 noon and 1:30 pm. Tours must be booked online in advance and are limited to a maximum of 30 people. Walk-ins are welcome to join a scheduled tour if space is available however, please note that a scheduled tour will not take place if there are no advance online registrations.

Dates: 2024 Dates - Dec 1 - Jan 12, 6am-4pm. (except for Dec 25 & 26 and Jan 1 when closed at the conclusion of morning Mass) Free Admission.

Hours: Free Admission

Address:

Website: <https://myfranciscan.org/>

Email: mail@myfranciscan.com

Phone: 202-526-6800

Wisconsin - Green Lake

Green Lake Conference Center in the Roger Williams Inn

Some 250 Nativities from the collection of Merrill and Elaine Luman on display. Viewing hours vary, so check before visiting.

Dates:

Hours:

Address: W2511 State Rd 23, Green Lake

Website: <https://www.glcc.org/index.html>

Email: krisgolz@glcc.org

Phone: 920-294-3323

Wisconsin - Menomonee Falls

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

"The Joy to the World Nativity Collection". Over 500 nativities from more than 65 countries, collected by Bill and Susanne Gay.

Dates:

Hours: Open TU-TH 1-3pm; SU 8-11am. Guided tours by appointment.

Address: W156N8131 Pilgrim Rd, Menomonee Falls

Website: <https://holycrosslutheran.org/resources/nativity-collection/>

Email: holycross1@holycrosslutheran.org

Phone: 262-251-2740

Wisconsin - Oshkosh

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church

Mildred Turner, a retired kindergarten teacher, donated her 1,000-plus nativity sets to the church, and the collection is now on permanent display on the church's lower level. Guided and unguided tours are available. After the death of her mother, Turner pledged to not allow grief to overcome her spirit. "I feel God pushed me to begin this collection," Mildred said in an article on the church website. "Otherwise it would have been impossible to find so many sets in such a short time."

Dates:

Hours: Nativity Hours: By appointment only. Call the church office at 920-231-2800 to arrange a guided tour. Office hours: M-TH 8am-1pm.

Address: 1174 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh

Website: <https://www.abumc.org/nativity>

Email: admin@abumc.org

Phone: 920-231-2800