

## *Sojourn to the Rhoda Wise Home*

**What:** Advent Pilgrimage and/or Day of Reflection

**When:** Wednesday, December 8, 2021, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.  
Last day for the year of St Joseph as declared by Pope Francis

**Plan:** Begin with 8:30 Mass at St Joseph. **OR**  
Leave St Joseph Parking Lot at approximately 10:00 am.

There is an 11:00 am reservation at the Rhoda Wise House in Canton.  
Allow 60-90 minutes for tour and prayer/reflection time.

**Option:** Lunch, Dutch treat, with the group at Bob Evans, 3400 Lesh St, NE, Canton.  
Carpooling if desired, as parking is limited.

We do need the number of people attending as we have to notify the representative at the Rhoda Wise House, plus giving the restaurant a more concise count.

Please call the church office (330-628-9941) so the count of those attending can be kept updated. Please make every effort, if this is a journey you want to make, to respond by Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, St. Nicholas Day.

Also, please let me know if you will begin the day with Mass or if you will just be meeting in the parking lot. We wouldn't want anyone to get left behind.



**Rhoda Wise** was an American Catholic stigmatist and mystic from Canton, Ohio. Between 1939 and her death in 1948, Wise reported seeing regular visions of Jesus Christ and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux in her Canton home. Wise has been associated with a number of sudden and unexplained healings, including the healing of Mother Angelica, the founder of the Catholic television network EWTN, from a painful stomach ailment. In 2016, Bishop George V. Murry of the Diocese of Youngstown declared Wise a Servant of God as a first step towards her possible canonization as a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

There probably would not have been a Mother Angelica without a Rhoda Wise. It's a radical statement that Mother Angelica's biographer, Raymond Arroyo, EWTN's *The World Over* news anchor, surmises based on the dramatic transformation following her encounter as a teenager with Rhoda Wise.

"Rhoda is the person who initiated Mother Angelica in her faith," Arroyo said. "Mother talked a lot about her to me. They were friends."

According to Arroyo, Rhoda is a "key part" to the Mother Angelica story. "I would argue that she was Mother Angelica's spiritual director and shaped her approach to spirituality," he told the Register.

These two women from working-class neighborhoods in Canton, Ohio, both had hard-luck lives, but would come to impact the world.