

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

With Father Anthony Gerber

Sainte Genevieve Catholic Parish

Tiberias ✝ Nazareth ✝ Cana ✝ Capernaum ✝ Mt. Tabor
Jericho ✝ Abu Ghosh ✝ Bethany ✝ Jerusalem ✝ Bethlehem ✝ The Holy
Sepulcher ✝ Caesarea Philippi ✝ The Sacred Tomb ✝ Mt. Carmel
Garden of Gethsemane ✝ Mt. Beatitudes

February 19 - March 1, 2024

Spiritual Directors

Father Anthony Gerber



Monday, February 19 - We depart from our home city for an evening connecting overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Dinner and breakfast served aboard. **D (dinner) & B (breakfast)**

Tuesday, February 20 - We land at Ben Gurion Airport in the afternoon. We clear customs & board our Motor Coach where we take a leisurely ride up the Mediterranean coast. Our first stop is in **Caesarea Maritima**, capital of the Roman Province of Judea. We recall that St. Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea before being sent to Rome. Also in this city **St. Peter** baptized the first Gentile converts. We will see the Crusaders' Moat and fortifications built by **St. Louis the King**. We will also see the well preserved Roman Amphitheater. After, we head east to our end destination, **The Scots Hotel**. But before our arrival, we **CELEBRATE OUR OPENING MASS OF OUR PILGRIMAGE at ST. PETER IN TIBERIAS**. After celebrating Holy Mass, we will have dinner together then retire for a well deserved rest. **D TIBERIAS**



Wednesday, February 21 - This morning we ascend the heights of **Mt. Tabor**, where Jesus took Peter, James and John and was gloriously Transfigured in their sight. We celebrate **HOLY MASS IN THE BASILICA OF THE TRANSFIGURATION**. Following, we head to **Nazareth**. Shortly before our destination we stop in **Cana**. Here we recall the scene of Our Lord's first miracle, remembering His Blessed Mother's words, "Do whatever He tells you." Couples in our group will have the opportunity to renew their Marriage Vows. Arriving in Nazareth, where Jesus spent most of His Life, we go to the beautiful **Basilica of the Annunciation**. There in the **Grotto of the Annunciation** we venerate the very spot where the Word Was Made Flesh. We will also visit the nearby Church of St. Joseph's Workshop, Mary's Well as well as the Site of Jesus being rejected. After a lunch break Soon thereafter we drive to Haifa where we will visit the **Carmelite Chapel at the Stella Maris Monastery**. The Stella Maris Monastery is a Catholic Christian monastery for Discalced Carmelite monks, located on the slopes of **Mount Carmel** in Haifa, Israel. The main church inside the Stella Maris Monastery is said to contain the **Cave of Elijah**. Here we have the opportunity for the Investiture of the Brown Scapular. Back at our hotel we have dinner together. **B & D TIBERIAS**



Thursday, February 22 - This morning we celebrate **HOLY MASS on MOUNT BEATITUDES** at an outdoor altar overlooking the Sea of Galilee, we remember Our Lord's profound teaching of the Eight Beatitudes. Later, we drive to the north rim of the Sea of Galilee to **Caesarea Philippi**, where in response to the profession of faith spoken by Peter, Jesus promised him leadership in His Church—that He would give him the "Keys to the Kingdom." We then drive South to the Sea of Galilee and at a lunch stop we are provided with a local favorite called "**St. Peter Fish**." We then venture to **Tabgha (Seven Springs)**, where our first stop is at the site of the **Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes**. Next we visit the Church of the **Primacy of Peter**, the place where Our Lord bestowed upon Peter the role of leadership of the Church. Here we will pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. At the end of the afternoon we are again at the shore of the Sea of Galilee, where we embark on a boat ride, remembering the scripture passages of Jesus and His apostles on this lake. **B, L (lunch) & D TIBERIAS**



Friday, February 23 - We check out of our hotel this morning, and head to **Capernaum**, known as the Second City of Jesus, where we will see the ruins of the second century Synagogue (John: 6). In this city Our Lord called a number of the Apostles, he taught the Good News of our Redemption and he cured many people of their afflictions. At this site, we **Celebrate HOLY MASS at the HOUSE OF PETER**. After, we drive south through the fertile **Jordan River Valley**, arriving just above the place where the Jordan empties into the Dead Sea. We will stop and visit the excavations at **Beit She'an**. Here we will see the excavations of the city where the **Philistines** hung the bodies of **Saul and Jonathan**. We then go directly to the bank of the **Jordan River** and recall that here, when **St. John** was baptizing those who responded to his call for repentance, he heard Our Lord and obediently Baptized Jesus Himself. We will renew our own Baptismal Promises at the river. Then we reach **Jericho**, the most ancient city in the Holy Land. We recall its prominence for events in both the Old and the New Testaments. We will see the foundations of this city and **Elisha's Spring**. Before arriving at the Holy City of **Bethlehem**, we will stop at **Bethany**, home of **Martha, Mary and Lazarus**, for a visit to its beautiful little church. **B & D Bethlehem**



Saturday, February 24 - Traveling a short distance south of Jerusalem, we arrive in **Bethlehem**. Our visit begins in the countryside at the **Shepherds Fields of Boaz**, remembering the angels' glad tidings to the shepherds. We celebrate our **MASS in a GROTTA OF SHEPHERDS FIELDS**. Within the Town of Bethlehem at Holy Nativity Church we go to venerate the **Holy Grotto of the Nativity** and the adjacent **Holy Manger**, as well as the **Grotto of St. Jerome**, the setting where this early saint translated the Bible into the **Vulgate** (into the Latin language). We also will be in the Franciscan church of St. Catherine, scene of Bethlehem's Christmas Midnight Mass. For lunch we are treated to a **special lunch with Christian families**. Here you are prepared a local meal and interact with the families to gain an understanding of what it is like to be a Christian in the Holy Land. Time permitting, we will stop at a Bethlehem store that offers olive wood religious carvings and many other items. We return to our Hotel for dinner and overnight.

B, L & D Bethlehem

Sunday, February 25 - This morning we drive to the Summit of Mt. Olives to visit the **Chapel of the Ascension** and the **Church of Pater Noster (Exterior only)**. Walking the Palm Sunday Road, we visit and celebrate **MASS IN DOMINUS FLEVIT CHAPEL**. There, too, we have a wonderful panoramic view of the City of Jerusalem. At the base of Mt. Olives we enter the **Garden of Gethsemane**, scene of Our Lord's Agony in the Garden. This afternoon we travel to Ein Karem. **Casa Nova for Lunch**, then visit the **Church of St. John the Baptist** and the **Visitation Church**, where Mary came to visit her cousin Elizabeth and spoke praise of God with her *Magnificat*. After the point of our re-entry into Jerusalem we stop at the **Israel Museum**, which houses the **Dead Sea Scrolls** and features an outdoor display of the **City of Jerusalem and the Second Temple** as it was in the time of Our Lord. After, we have dinner and overnight in the Hotel.

B & D JERUSALEM

Monday, February 26 - Our first stop this day is the traditional site of the **Upper Room**, and there prayerfully recall that this was the setting for Holy Thursday, the Easter Sunday appearance of Our Lord as well as the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. We have time for prayer and reflection of our Mother. Just across the road we are at the entrance of the **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu**. This church is built over the spot where Jesus was held in the dungeon of **Caiphas' house**, and the site of St. Peter's triple denial of Our Lord. **Here, we celebrate our Holy Mass**. After, we take a **walking tour of the Old City Starting at Zion Gate**. One of our first stops is a small excavation called the **Jerusalem Archaeological Park** that will enlighten us regarding the area of the **Second Temple**. Thereafter, our walk takes us to the sacred Jewish Temple area of the **Western Wall or Wailing Wall**. Prayers are offered up at these remaining holy stones of the glorious second temple. We are aware that now the only structures standing above on the **Temple Mount itself** are the **Moslem Shrines of the Dome of the Rock and Mosque al Aqsa**. We make a stop for a bite to eat on our own in the **Old City**. After, we regather and go towards the **Church of St. Anne** and the **Pools of Bethesda**, where Jesus heals the paralytic man in the Gospel of John. After rest & dinner at our hotel, we go to the base of Mt. Olives to the **Church of All Nations at Gethsemane** for a **Holy Hour** from 8:00 to 9:00 PM with an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

B & D JERUSALEM

Tuesday, February 27 - Early this morning in preparation for making the **Way of the Cross**, we visit the **Chapel of Flagellation**. Carrying a wooden cross and praying the **Way of the Cross** along the streets and among the markets and shops as Jesus did on His journey to Calvary, we follow the **Via Dolorosa** to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. Within the church, we visit Golgotha and complete our devotions at the Sacred Tomb of Jesus. We celebrate **HOLY MASS AT THE HOLY CRUCIFIXION / or TOMB depending on numbers** in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. This truly will be a privilege and the highlight of our entire pilgrimage. Returning to The Notre Dame Hotel for breakfast. The rest of the day is free for exploration on your own. We have dinner together.

B & D JERUSALEM

Wednesday, February 28 - After breakfast we drive a short distance to the **Dormition Abbey Church** where this honors the passing of Our Lady from this life to Heaven. Here we **celebrate Our daily Mass in Honor of our Mother Mary**. Soon, our drive east takes us below Sea Level and then south along the shoreline of the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth. We reach **Masada**, a popular Israel tourist attraction accessed by cable car, on which we ascend to its



ancient settlement atop a rock plateau. Here the Jewish rebels resisted the onslaught of the Roman occupying troops, but finally ended the siege by their own suicide. We can find a bite to eat in the cafeteria here. We drive to **Qumran** for a tour of the site of the ancient **Essene Community**, important because of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery. Here, we have the opportunity for a buffet lunch. Next we go to the **Dead Sea**, where we can even take the opportunity for a dip in these mineral rich waters. We have dinner together back at our hotel. This evening as our **farewell** to the Holy Land we go out to be served a **special Middle East Dinner**.

B & D JERUSALEM

Thursday, February 29 - After a late breakfast at The Notre Dame, we check out. We then venture to the **Abu Gosh Monastery**. Abu Gosh is an active Monastery where we recall the two disciples walking to **Emmaus** & encountering our Lord. Once at their destination, they finally recognize him in the breaking of bread. Driving west, we reach **Deir Rafat Monastery**. This Monastery is dedicated to **Our Lady of Palestine**. The facade in the Convent Church bears the Latin inscription "**Reginae Palaestinae**", meaning "**to the Queen of Palestine**". A large statue of the Virgin Mary dominates as does the painted ceiling of the Church. The Latin Patriarchate, Luigi Barlassina, established this Monastery in 1927. Today, the Little Sisters of Bethlehem serve in the Shrine bringing forward a project of prayer, care and support for young people in difficulty. **Here we Celebrate our Daily Mass**. Soon after, we arrive at the coastline and reach the old city of **Jaffa**, now a suburb to the south of modern Tel Aviv. In biblical history we read that Jonah sailed from this port city in his flight from God. In Acts we read that here St. Peter stayed at the house of **Simon the Tanner** and also performed the miracle of raising Tabitha from the dead. In **St. Peter Church in Jaffa** is where we have an opportunity for prayer and reflection. Soon after, we return to our hotel for a final overnight and dinner.

B & D Jerusalem

Thursday, March 1 - Our flight reaches the U.S. this morning, where we pass through Customs and connect to a flight that will bring us to our home city this same day.

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