

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

With Father Anthony Gerber

January 11 - January 21, 2026

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

Spiritual Director
Father Anthony Gerber



Sunday, January 11 - We depart from our home city for an evening connecting overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Dinner and breakfast served aboard. **D (dinner) & B (breakfast)**



Monday, January 12 - We land at Ben Gurion Airport in the morning. We clear customs & our next stop is in **Caesarea Maritima**, capitol 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. Soon thereafter we drive to Haifa where we will celebrate the **Opening Mass** of our Pilgrimage at **the Carmelite Chapel at the Stella Maris Monastery**. Here we have the opportunity for the **Investiture of the Brown Scapular**. In the afternoon we transfer by motor coach north to the city of **Tiberias** to our hotel, located directly on the Sea of Galilee. We check in to our hotel and have dinner together. **D TIBERIAS**



Tuesday, January 13 - This morning we drive to the north and reach **Caesarea Philippi**, where in response to the profession of faith spoken by Peter, Jesus promised him leadership in His Church - that He would give to him the **"Keys of the Kingdom."** We then return to the north rim of the Sea of Galilee to a site called 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. We celebrate **HOLY MASS at the PRIMACY OF PETER**. We then drive around to the west side of the Sea of Galilee and at a lunch stop we are provided with a local favorite called **"Pilgerhaus."** Coming back along the lake shore we visit **Kursi** where Jesus delivered and healed a man possessed by demons. We then enter **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. We return to our hotel for dinner. **B, L (lunch) & D TIBERIAS**



Wednesday, January 14 - This morning 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. After a lunch break 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**. 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. Back at our hotel we have dinner together. **B & D TIBERIAS**



Thursday, January 15 - We check out of our hotel this morning, and head back north a short distance to ascend a hill called **Mount of Beatitudes**. Here, as 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**. After Mass, we experience the solitude of prayer and reflect on the ministry of Jesus in the Galilee area. At about Noon, we drive south through the fertile Jordan River Valley, arriving just above the place where the Jordan empties into the Dead Sea. We go directly to its bank 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. Upon reaching Bethlehem we check into our hotel, our lodging for the next two nights. We have dinner together. **B & D BETHLEHEM**



Friday, January 16 - 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 GROTTO 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. As a special experience in Bethlehem, we dine for lunch with Christian Families of Bethlehem. Time permitting, we will stop at a Bethlehem store that offers olive wood religious carvings and many other items.

B & D BETHLEHEM



Saturday January 17 - This morning we drive to the Summit of Mt. Olives to visit the **Chapel of the Ascension** and the **Church of Pater Noster**. 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. On our way down the hill, we have an opportunity to venerate the **Tomb of Mary**. At the base of Mt. Olives we enter the **Garden of Gethsemane**, scene of Our Lord's Agony in the Garden. We board our bus again and go to a Gate of the Old City where we enter and are at 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 Muslim Shrines of the Dome of the Rock and Mosque el Aqsa. This afternoon we travel to **Ein Karem** to 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 checking in and dinner 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



Sunday, January 18 - This morning we celebrate **HOLY MASS in the FRANCISCAN CENACLE CHAPEL**, located near Zion Gate. Then a few steps away we pay a visit to 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. 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 **Caiaphas' house**, and the site of St. Peter's triple denial of Our Lord. Nearby we see Dormition Abbey Church that honors the passage of Our Lady from this life to Heaven. We drive back to Our Hotel and have time for lunch on our own. This afternoon we enter the Old City of Jerusalem at St. Stephen's Gate where our first stop is at the **Church of St. Anne** and the **Pools of Bethesda**. Nearby, in preparation for making the Way of the Cross (tomorrow morning), we visit the **Chapel of Flagellation**. The rest of the day is on your own in exploration or in prayer.

B & D JERUSALEM



Monday, January 19 - Very early this morning, we start at 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**. Early this morning we celebrate **HOLY MASS AT THE TOMB OF JESUS** in the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**. This truly will be a privilege and the highlight of our entire pilgrimage. Returning to our Hotel for breakfast and a little rest, we find that we have the rest of the day to ourselves for visiting the Holy City, prayer, shopping or rest.

B & D JERUSALEM



Tuesday, January 20 - This morning we will have breakfast, make our walk to **Dormition Abbey and Celebrate Mass.** Dormition Abbey, situated on Mount Zion in Jerusalem, is an important Catholic site that commemorates the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven, known as the "Dormition" or "falling asleep" in Catholic tradition. The abbey, which belongs to the Benedictine order, was completed in 1910 and stands as a place of reverence and pilgrimage for Catholics worldwide. Today we have time to pray and reflect in the City of David. This evening as our **farewell** to the Holy Land we go out to be served a **special Middle East Dinner.** **B & D JERUSALEM**

Wednesday, January 21 - After early checkout, we board our motorcoach that takes us to the airport for our flight to the United States. Our flight reaches the U.S. this evening, 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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Sequence of itinerary can change due to crowds and guide recommendation.
You will see all as listed in this brochure and more.

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Please be aware that **walking** may be involved in this pilgrimage.

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