

Footsteps of Paul with Father Freddy

September 14 - 25, 2026

Thessaloniki ✝ Philippi ✝ Troas
Luke, the Evangelist ✝ St. Paul
Kavala ✝ Athens ✝ Meteora Monasteries
Cruising Mykonos & Greek Islands ✝ Ephesus
Patmos ✝ Crete ✝ Santorini ✝ Corinth

Spiritual Leader: Father Freddy Devaraj



Monday, September 14: Depart St. Louis, MO for overnight flight to Athens.

Tuesday, September 15: ARRIVAL ATHENS (D)

We arrive at 9:25 AM at **Athens** International airport. Here we will meet with our English-speaking Tour Manager and transfer to Athens City Center for our opening **Mass at Catholic Cathedral Basilica of St Dionysius the Areopagite**. After, we have lunch, then take a panoramic drive of Athens. Following, we will check into our hotel to refresh ourselves before we transfer to a Restaurant with an Acropolis View for a Welcome Dinner.

Overnight Athens



Wednesday, September 16: ATHENS - Sightseeing tour / Ancient Corinth Tour (B/L/D)

After breakfast, we depart for **Ancient Corinthia**. (Acts 18.1-18). It was in ancient Corinth where Paul came and worked, established a thriving church and wrote two of the Epistles, which are now part of the New Testament. We will see all the sites that are associated with his ministry: the Agora, the Temple of Apollo, the Roman Odeon, the Bema and Gallio's Seat, the Pillars, Stairs, and the place of public worship, where Paul preached. This visit will certainly enhance our understanding of **Corinthians I and II**. **In Corinth, we Celebrate Mass outside**. After lunch we return to Athens for a sightseeing tour. We will go on a city tour where we will visit the main points of interest in the city: Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Royal Palace, Pan-Athenian Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and visit the world famous Acropolis, as well as Monastiraki (the Old Flea Market) and Mars' Hill (Areopagus) where Paul preached the truth to the Gentile Nation.

Overnight Athens



Thursday, September 17: ATHENS - ARACHOVA - DELPHI - KALAMBAKA (B/L/D)

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Our first stop is our daily **Mass at St. Denis Cathedral**. We depart towards **Delphi**. Delphi is the location of the famous oracle where the priestess of **Apollo, the Pythia** influenced with her prophecies the history of cities and states of antiquity. We will visit the archaeological site and the museum. The museum contains an impressive collection associated with ancient Delphi, including the earliest known notation of a melody, the famous **Charioteer**, plus the golden treasures discovered beneath the **Sacred Way**, and fragments of reliefs from the **Siphnian Treasury**. Close to the exit is the inscription that mentions the **Roman proconsul Gallio**. The reference to **Proconsul Gallio** in the inscription provides an important marker for developing a chronology of the life of Apostle Paul by relating it to the trial of Paul in **Achaëa** mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles (18:12-17). As we depart for **Kalambaka**, we pass through **Thermopylae** where we learn of the famous **Spartan battle of 300**. Arriving late in the afternoon for dinner and overnight.

Overnight Kalambaka



Friday, September 18: KALAMBAKA METEORA - VERIA - VERGINA - THESSALONIKI (B/L/D)

After breakfast, we will visit the spectacular **Meteora**, the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is a mountainous region of stunning scenery. We will see centuries old **Byzantine monasteries** on top of huge rocks, first built in the 14th century by monks seeking isolation and salvation. We will visit two monasteries, where we admire impressive icons, old manuscripts, unique mosaics and frescoes. After, we depart to **Veria (Berea)**, another town evangelized by Paul (Acts 17.10-14). When Saint Paul visited this town in AD50, he came across a more noble Jewish community where he preached and created an important Church. This is where Paul met **Sopatros**, who would later become a valuable partner who followed him on his return journey to Asia. We will visit the ancient synagogue where we will see the



Byzantine mosaic in the monument commemorating his preaching. According to tradition it was at this place where he preached. **We celebrate Mass at the Bema (Podium) of Saint Paul the Apostle.** This will be an outdoor Mass. Then we will head to Vergina, the legendary burial site of the Macedonian kings. This place is considered a World Heritage Site, also known as the Royal Tombs and houses the tomb of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. He was conqueror of Greek territories which resulted in the expansion of Hellenism. After, we depart to Thessaloniki for hotel check-in and dinner.

Overnight Thessaloniki



Saturday, September 19: THESSALONIKI - KAVALA - PHILIPPI (B/L/D)

After breakfast, we depart for a day trip to Philippi, the town where Paul delivered his first sermon in Europe, sowing the seeds of Christianity. “And from there (He went) to Philippi, which is the leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman Colony. We remained in this city some days...” (Acts 16:12- 18). Paul arrived here with Silas and Luke on the winter of AD 49 to AD50. There the first Christian baptism was performed, of a woman named Lydia. **Here, we Celebrate and Outdoor Mass at the Baptistry.** Although they were prosecuted and arrested, they received God’s help to escape from prison (Acts 16: 11-23) where there was the conversion of the jailer (Acts 16: 23-26). We will visit the Roman Theatre and the probable site of the prison where Paul and Silas were arrested. We will continue towards the city of Kavala and the ancient city of Neapolis (Acts 16:11) where Paul landed with his disciples, Timothy and Silas. It was later renamed Christopoulos, meaning city of God, because it was the first European city to accept Christianity. We will visit the Roman Aqueduct and the ruins of the Acropolis. We then return to Thessaloniki late in the afternoon for dinner and overnight.

Overnight Thessaloniki



Sunday, September 20: June 14 THESSALONIKI - ATHENS (B/L/D)

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and Celebrate an **early Mass at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception.** The trip continues with exploring the city of Thessaloniki where Paul preached the Gospel in the second and third missionary journeys. For the early Christians of this city he wrote the Epistles “To the Thessalonians”. We will visit the Cathedral of St Demetrius, the Protector Saint of the city, the church of Agia Sofia, the White Tower and the Byzantine Fortress of the city. We then enjoy a coastal short cruise of Thessaloniki. After lunch, we depart to Athens and arrive late in the afternoon. Tonight we delight in a dinner at a restaurant with Music.

Overnight in Athens



Monday, September 21: ATHENS-EMBARKATION TO THE CRUISE / MYKONOS (B/L/D)

Before embarking on a wonderful 4-night cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey, **we will celebrate Mass at St. Barbara church at Lavrio** near the Athens Port. near the Athens Port. Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands, is our first stop. This charming, mountainous island is known for the hundreds of tiny chapels, white-washed buildings and beautiful windmills that dot its landscape. Don’t miss taking a stroll down the Mykonos Town, where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. Here, we enjoy free time to explore this little paradise in the middle of the Aegean Sea. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are served daily while on board.

Overnight on board



Tuesday, September 22: KUSADASI (EPHESUS) - PATMOS (B/L/D)

After an early breakfast and stop at the Turkish port of **Kusadasi** to the ruins of **Ephesus** the Greek colony founded by the Athenians. Here history truly comes to life; walking towards the ancient harbor down a marble road rutted by the wheels of countless chariots. You pass architectural masterpieces like the **Magnesian Gate** and the **Library of Celsus** before arriving at the **Great Amphitheater** where **Paul spoke to the Ephesians**. During AD 52-54 Saint Paul lived here working with the congregation and organizing his missionary activity and taught the Word of God (Acts 20:31) **This is where he wrote the Epistle to Corinthians I**. Additionally this was one of the seven cities found in the **Book of Revelation (Acts 2:1-7)**, indicating a strong church. We will then visit **the house of Virgin Mary where she lived with John, on the hill behind the city**. **Here we celebrate Mass**. Soon, we return to the cruise ship for lunch and sail to the **Island of Patmos**. A beautiful and spiritual island where **In 95 AD, St. John the Theologian was sent into exile**. St. John remained on the island for eighteen months during which time he lived in a cave below the hilltop temple of Diana. In this cave exists a small hole in the rock wall, from which derived a series of oracular messages that Prochoros, a disciple of St. John, transcribed as the Biblical chapter of Revelations. **During his time in the sacred cave, now known as the Holy Grotto of the Revelation, St. John also composed the Fourth Gospel**. You will visit also the **Monastery of St. John the Theologian UNESCO World Heritage Site**. After boarding the ship, we sail to the Island of Rhodes and enjoy dinner onboard.



Overnight on board

Wednesday, September 23: RHODES (B/L/D)

After an early morning arrival in the magnificent island of **The Roses** situated in the southeastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, **Rhodes Island** is visited by hundreds of tourists every year since it offers a combination of great historical sites, marvelous beaches, and great shopping areas. Impressive sceneries, colorful and traditional villages, challenging landscapes and cultural monuments under the medieval spirit of the aristocrat. The city is divided into the parts of the medieval city and the new city of Rhodes. The most important monuments include the **Palace of the Grand Master, the Hospital of the Knights and the Colloquium building**. The **Acropolis of Lindos** was one of the three ancient cities of Rhodes. At the top of the site, one can admire the imposing temple of **Athena Lindia, the Propylaea and the Roman temple of Diocletian**. (This is an optional Tour or you can visit the Island on your own) **Mass will be celebrated at 3 PM at Santa Maria on the Island Rhodes**. A transfer to and from the ship has been arranged. After, return to the port for re-embarkation and sail to the island of Crete.



Overnight on board

Thursday, September 24: HERAKLION-SANTORINI (B/L/D)

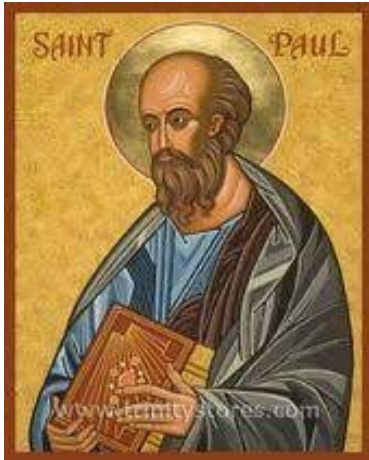
In the morning the ship will dock at the port of **Heraklion** on the island of **Crete**. In **Heraklion Paul met the owner and captain of the ship, who warned him about continuing his journey to Rome**. **Mass will be at the Catholic Church of St John the Baptist in Crete**. You can take a tour (optional tour) to the **Palace of Knossos, the center of the Minoan civilization**. After lunch, the ship will travel to the most beautiful island in the Aegean Sea known as the **“Black Pearl of the Aegean”, the volcanic Santorini** where we will enjoy the breathtaking Panoramic View. Latest excavations have suggested that Santorini might be the lost sight of Atlantis. **Visit Oia Village** (optional tour), an excellent example of Cycladic architecture. Explore the village walking along the cobblestone streets and the white washed houses with blue shutters where one gets the impression



that they are a beautiful travel poster. After, we are back on board the ship to set sail back to the port of Athens around 21:30. **Overnight on board**

Friday, September 25: DISEMBARKATION (ATHENS) - DEPARTURE (B)

After disembarkation at 7 AM, you will transfer to Athens International airport for your flight back home that departs at 11:30 AM arriving the same day.



TravelTyme Pilgrimages
2474 Taylor Rd
Wildwood, MO 63040
636-391-1000 ✚ 800.886.2151
w: traveltymepilgrimages.com
e: info@traveltyme.com



- Round-trip airfare from St. Louis to Greece **(Air fare coming in November 2025)**
- Daily buffet breakfast & dinners (Wine with Dinner outside the Hotels)
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- Most places will have baggage Handling in & out at Hotels (1 Piece)
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For further information contact **TravelTyme Pilgrimages: 636.391.1000**

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Wildwood, MO 63040

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