

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & ROME

With Father John Vien

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 † St Peter's Basilica
St John Lateran † St Mary Major † Chiesa del Gesù
2025 will be a Jubilee Year † The Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica

February 3 - February 17, 2025
Spiritual Leader: Father John Vien
Pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland



Monday, February 3 - 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 4 - We land at Ben Gurion Airport in the morning. 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 Hotel in Galilee. But before our arrival, we **CELEBRATE OUR OPENING MASS OF OUR PILGRIMAGE AT THE BOAT CHAPEL AT MAGDALA**. After, we will be treated to a tour of the Synagogue and Paintings at the site. After celebrating Holy Mass, we will have dinner together then retire for a well deserved rest. **D TIBERIAS**



Wednesday, February 5 - This morning 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**. Following, we head to **Nazareth**. Arriving in Nazareth, where Jesus spent most of His Life, we go to the beautiful Basilica of the Annunciation. We arrive in time for the **Angelus Procession at 12 PM**. After, near the **Grotto of the Annunciation** we venerate the very spot where the Word Was Made Flesh. **In the Basilica, we celebrate holy Mass**. 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**



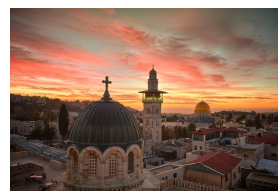
Thursday, February 6 - This morning we celebrate **HOLY MASS on MOUNT BEATITUDES** at an outdoor altar overlooking the Sea of Galilee, we remember Our Lord's profound teaching of the Eight Beatitudes. Later, we drive to the north rim of the Sea of Galilee to **Caesarea Philippi** (entrance included), 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**." at **Pilgerhaus**; A German Dominican administered Guest House. 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. **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 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 7 - We check out of our hotel this morning, and ascend the heights of **Mt. Tabor**, where Jesus took Peter, James and John and was gloriously **Transfigured in their sight**. Here, we **Celebrate Mass in the Basilica of the Transfigurations**. 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**. Then we reach **Jericho**, the most ancient city in the Holy Land. **Lunch at Al Rawda Restaurant**. 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**. **B, L & D Bethlehem**

Saturday, February 8 - Today we will visit 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. **Lunch at Casa Nova.** Time permitting, we will stop at a Bethlehem store that offers olive wood religious carvings and many other items. **For dinner we are treated to a special meal 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. We return to our Hotel for overnight.

B, L & D Bethlehem



Sunday, February 9 - Before driving down to the Judean Wilderness, we will stop at Bethany, home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, to visit the Church of St. Lazarus and also the Tomb of Lazarus. Here we **Celebrate Our daily Mass in the Crusader Chapel.** 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. 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 or In Qumran (entrance included). 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 (not included). 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.

B & D JERUSALEM



Monday, February 10 - 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. 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, L & D JERUSALEM



Tuesday, February 11 - Our first visit today will be **Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu.** This church is built over the spot where Jesus was held in the **dungeon of Caiphass' house**, and the **site of St. Peter's triple denial of Our Lord.** **Here, we celebrate our Holy Mass.** Next we visit 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. A short distance to the **Dormition Abbey Church** where this honors the passing of Our Lady from this life to Heaven. We stop in for devotions to our Mother Mary. 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

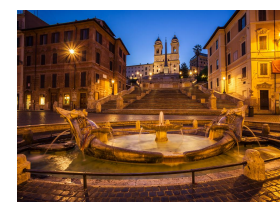


are the **Moslem Shrines of the Dome of the Rock and Mosque al Aqsa**. We make a stop for a bite to eat on our own in the Old City. After rest & dinner at our hotel, we go to the base of **Mt. Olives to the Church of All Nations at Gethsemane for a Holy Hour** from 8:00 to 9:00 PM with an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **B & D JERUSALEM**

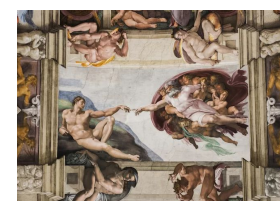
Wednesday, February 12 - Early this morning in preparation for making the **Way of the Cross**, we visit the **Chapel of Flagellation**. Carrying a wooden cross and praying the Way of the Cross along the streets and among the markets and shops as Jesus did on His journey to **Calvary**, we follow the 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. We return to The Notre Dame Hotel for breakfast. 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. Proceed to the **Ecce Homo**. The rest of the day is free for exploration on your own. This evening as our farewell to the Holy Land we are served a special **Middle East Dinner** at the **Eucalyptus Restaurant**. **B & D JERUSALEM**



Thursday, February 13 - This morning after breakfast, we check out, then venture to the **Abu Gosh Monastery**. **Abu Gosh** is an active Monastery where we recall the two disciples walking to Emmaus & encounter our Lord. Once at their destination, they finally recognize him in the breaking of bread. **Here we have Our Holy Mass**. (This is considered the most plausible location of Emmaus). Soon after we drive to Ben Gurion Airport for a flight to **Rome**, where we clear Italian Customs and board a motor coach to our hotel in the **Eternal City**, arriving in time for dinner. **B & D ROME**



Friday, February 14 - This morning we celebrate **HOLY MASS in the magnificent Basilica of St. Peter**. As we walk through and pray, our thoughts are flooded with events that have taken place here and the people who have worshiped in this great center of our Church. Next we will enter the world-famous Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel with its awesome frescos by Michelangelo. The tour concludes with an inside visit to the Basilica. **2025 will be a Jubilee Year**. It will include the opening of the **Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica**. Pilgrims who pass through the door - which is only opened during Jubilee years, ordinarily every 25 years or when a pope calls for an extraordinary Jubilee - can receive a **plenary indulgence** under the usual conditions. The four major basilicas in Rome all have Holy Doors. Jubilees have biblical roots, as the Mosaic era established jubilee years to be held every 50 years for the freeing of slaves and forgiveness of debts as manifestations of God's mercy. Pope Francis said, "In passing through the Holy Door, then, may we feel that we ourselves are part of this mystery of love, of tenderness." After lunch, we drive to the Old Appian Way, reaching the **Catacombs of St. Domitilla** for a tour. As we walk through these hallowed burial grounds of the early Christians, by the symbols we see inscribed in various places along the walls, we recall the fundamentals of our Faith. Next we arrive at **St. Paul Outside the Walls** to see this beautiful Basilica dedicated to the Apostle of the Gentiles. We return to the heart of Rome and have a festive dinner adjacent to the Palatine Hill and the Roman Forum. On our way back to the hotel we stop for a visit at the **Trevi Fountain**. **B & D ROME**



Saturday, February 15 - We drive across the city to reach the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**. A few steps away from the Basilica is the church of **St. Alphonsus** where we can venerate the original icon of **Our Mother of Perpetual Help**. Then in **St. Mary Major** we celebrate **HOLY MASS in the BORGHESE CHAPEL**. Our guided tour begins after Mass. This Basilica is the world's most illustrious church dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. In the *Confessio* beneath the high altar we can venerate the relics of the Crib that held the Infant Jesus. We see an ornate ceiling composed of gold from the new world as well as a beautiful mosaic apse. We drive to the church of **St. Peter in Chains**, where we see the masterpiece sculpture of **Moses** by



Michelangelo. There will be eating places nearby for lunch on our own. After that we visit **St John Lateran**. Near by, we experience an interesting inside tour of the **Coliseum**, scene of gladiator clashes and even martyrdom of early Christians. Our tour concludes with a panoramic view of the **Palatine Hill and Roman Forum**. Our Tour concludes at **Trevi Fountain**. You will have the option to either walk the streets or take our motor coach back to the Hotel. The remainder of the afternoon and evening we have ample free time. Much can be discovered about Rome by walking this city of ancient history. *Rome - the Center of the Roman Empire and the Center of the Church*. There are many shopping opportunities as well. This evening we can sample delicious Italian cuisine on our own. **B ROME**

Sunday, February 16 - Early this morning, **we celebrate Mass at Chiesa del Gesù**. After, we take a walking tour of the **Pantheon and Piazza Navona** on our way to the **PAPAL BLESSING**. The Pope will appear from the window of his apartment where he gives a short speech followed by the **Angelus** and ending with a blessing. He may also greet the crowds in various languages and the whole event usually lasts around 15-20 mins. He will impart the **Apostolic Blessing** at the end of the prayer. There is some time this afternoon for last minute shopping, and then we prepare for our evening together, celebrating a **Farewell Dinner with wine and music**. **B & D ROME**

Monday, February 17 - We check out of our hotel and transfer to the Rome airport for our return flights to the U.S., arriving this same day in our home cities.

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You will see all as listed in this brochure and more.

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U.S.citizen(s)? Yes No Physical accommodation needed _____

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

Name: _____ Date of birth _____ Airline Seating _____

AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT

WINDOW/AISLE

Passport Number: _____ Exp. date _____ (Must not expire earlier than 6 months

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Check the following: I (We) request: Single Room _____ Double Room (2 people) _____ Triple Room _____

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Enclosed is a \$400 deposit _____ person(s) = \$ _____ Or, If reservation is within 65

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