

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

With Father John Brennell

Tiberias ✝ Nazareth ✝ Cana ✝ Capernaum ✝ Mt. Tabor
Jericho ✝ Abu Gosh ✝ Bethany ✝ Jerusalem ✝ Bethlehem ✝ The Holy
Sepulcher ✝ Dead Sea ✝ The Sacred Tomb ✝ Mt. Carmel
Garden of Gethsemane ✝ Mt. Beatitudes ✝ Calvary

February 12 - 22, 2023

Spiritual Leader: Father John Brennell
Seven Holy Founders Catholic Church



Sunday, 2/12/23 - We depart from St. Louis for an evening connecting overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Dinner and breakfast served aboard. **D (dinner) & B (breakfast)**

Monday, 2/13/23 - We land at Ben Gurion Airport in the evening. Here we pass through passport control, gather our bags and make our way to our Motorcoach. After a very brief drive, we make our way to our Hotel in Tel Aviv for dinner and overnight. **D & B Tel Aviv**

Tuesday, 2/14/23 - This morning after breakfast, we reboard our motorcoach. 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. 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 into our hotel and have dinner together. **D & B Magdala**

Wednesday, 2/15/23 - 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. This evening, we make our way to a local favorite in Tiberias called "**The Hermitage**". A special dining experience. **B & D Magdala**

Thursday, 2/16/23 - This morning, we 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. Here we celebrate **Holy Mass at St. Peter's Memorial**. 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 then drive around to the east side of the Sea of Galilee and along the lake shore we visit **Kursi** where Jesus delivered and healed a man possessed by demons. Soon, we are provided lunch at a local favorite called "**Pilgerhaus**." For our final journey of the day, 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 return to our hotel for dinner. **B, L (lunch) & D Magdala**

Friday, 2/17/23 - 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**. Then 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. We then go to the shore of the **Dead Sea**, the lowest spot on earth. We can even take the opportunity for a dip in these mineral rich waters. We can find a light snack here. Then we drive through **Jericho**, the most ancient city in the Holy Land. We recall its prominence for events in both the Old and the New Testaments. Driving up to Jerusalem, but before arriving to this Holy City, we will stop at **Bethany**, home of Martha, Mary and Lazarus, to visit the **Church of St. Lazarus** and also the **Tomb of Lazarus**. In **Jerusalem** we check in to our hotel, which is a couple of blocks from the Walls of the Old City of Jerusalem, and our lodging for the next four nights. We have dinner together.

B & D JERUSALEM



Saturday, 2/18/23 - This morning we drive to the Summit of Mt. Olives to visit the **Chapel of the Ascension** and walk past 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. 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*. Dinner will be served at our Hotel.

B & D JERUSALEM



Sunday, 2/19/23 - 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. As a special experience in Bethlehem, we dine at the **The Shepherds Nai**. A terrific restaurant that overlooks the Shepherds Fields of Bethlehem. Time permitting, we will stop at a Bethlehem store that offers olive wood religious carvings and many other items.

B, L & D JERUSALEM



Monday, 2/20/23 - 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 **Caiphas' 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. After a light lunch in the Old City. This afternoon we re-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**. Next, 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**. After 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



Tuesday, 2/21/23 - 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 or we can venture out our own and explore the Old City. Later, 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. Here we explore the Byzantine Church as well Vespers with the Monks and Nuns. After, we come back to our Hotel for a final dinner on the rooftop overlooking the Old City of Jerusalem.

B & D JERUSALEM

Tuesday, 2/22/23 - After checking out of our Hotel in the morning, we head to the airport for our flight home. After we pass through customs and connect to a flight that will bring us to our home city this same day.



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