

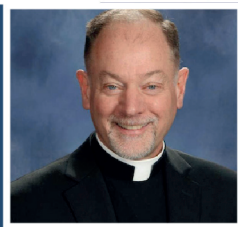


ASCENSION
TOURS TRAVEL



PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

September 11-21, 2023



Italy Pilgrimage Details

Group Leaders: Fr. Joe Dailey &
Fr. Ryan McMillin

September 11-21, 2023

11 Days – 9 Nights

Price per person: \$4,250

* Price is Based on double occupancy

* Single Supplement/ Private Room Additional \$695

Included

- Round-trip Airfare
- Airline taxes and fuel Surcharges.
- Accommodation for 9 nights at 4 Star Hotels.
- Breakfast and Dinner Daily.
- Professional English-Speaking Tour guides.
- Transportation as per Itinerary.
- Sightseeing and entrance fees as per Itinerary.
- Private boat transfers in and out central Venice.

Not Included

- Lunches.
- Tips.
- Travel Insurance.

Itinerary

DAY 1 | Depart USA

Depart for your overnight flight to Italy. Meals will be served on board.



Day 2 | Arrival

According to the arrival time, (if within 2 pm) it might be possible to stop at the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, to visit the Abbey and to celebrate Mass. Drive to your hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day 3 | Rome: Papal Audience – Fountains & Squares

Early morning transfer to St Peter's square to join pilgrims from all over the world who are coming to Rome to attend the weekly Papal Audience and blessing. After lunch, we will enjoy a walking tour through the imposing baroque squares, fountains and churches of Rome. Celebrate Mass at the Church of St Augustin where art lovers have a chance to see the masterpiece by Caravaggio "Madonna dei Pellegrini" and the tomb of Santa Monica. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.





DAY 4 | Rome: Church of San Teodoro - Imperial Rome – Castel Gandolfo

Start the day at the Orthodox Church of San Teodoro. We will see the magnificent result of a single project by Michelangelo, a copy of the most famous equestrian statue in the world, the statue of Marcus Aurelius. Stop at a panoramic point over the valley of the Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill. Continue the tour by walking through the valley of the Roman Forum, the great Rome, with its important buildings will revive before our eyes; the Curia, seat of the Roman Senate, the State Archive, the basilicas, palaces of justice, and the House of the Vestals, temples, columns and arches of triumph erected to commemorate gods of Roman history. Leaving the Roman Forum, we'll find the Arch of Constantine erected to commemorate the victory of the emperor over Maxentius in the 4th century. In the afternoon we will drive outside Rome, along the Ancient Appian way. Stop to visit the Catacombs of Santa Domitilla. Many modern depictions of the catacombs show them as hiding places for Christian populations during times of persecution. Continue driving to Castel Gandolfo which served for centuries as a summer residence and vacation retreat for the pope, the leader of the Catholic Church, and is afforded extraterritorial status as one of the properties of the Holy See.



DAY 5 | Rome – Vatican Scavi – Vatican Museums

This morning, we drive to San Peter's Basilica and celebrate Mass. Continue to the Vatican Crypt to see the tomb of St. Peter and where numerous pontiffs are buried. In the afternoon we walk a short distance and meet the local guide to visit the greatest art collections in the world, the Vatican Museums. Walk through the richly decorated galleries. Continue to the Sistine Chapel, the private chapel of the Popes, where Michelangelo best expressed his genius in monumental frescoes. Tour continues in St. Peter's Basilica. See the awesome architecture and the statuary adorning this largest of all Christian churches, including Michelangelo's magnificent "Pieta." among incredible works of art. Dinner at the hotel and overnight.



DAY 6 | Rome – Assisi

This morning, we drive for approx 3 hours to reach Assisi. Upon arrival, we enjoy a full day of touring the hometown of St. Francis. We will start the tour at St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, where we will celebrate Mass. Visit the Porziuncola where St. Francis founded his order of the Friar Minor (Franciscans), and the Capella del Transito, which is the place of St. Francis' death. During this visit, we will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful Rose Garden where St. Francis and other friars lived, as well as the cave where the Saint retired to pray. After visiting this beautiful Basilica, we will enjoy some free time on our own for lunch. Continue to the Church that honors St. Clare, the foundress of the Poor Clare Sisters. This Saint followed the teachings of St. Francis very closely by also living a life of poverty and humility. We continue to see the tomb of St. Francis at his Basilica. Drive to the hotel, check in, dinner and overnight.



DAY 7 | Assisi - Florence

After breakfast, we continue to Florence. Meet our local guide and discover Florence which is the undisputed cradle of the Renaissance era. Enjoy a walking tour to see Baptistery of St. John (from outside), the religious historic jewel of the city with Michelangelo's Gates of Paradise, so called because of their exquisite beauty. Visit the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Piazza della Signoria. A site not to be missed is the Ponte Vecchio, a bridge covered since medieval times with goldsmiths' shops featuring a Florentine specialty—handcrafted gold jewelry, with other unique creations. Celebrate mass at a local church. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight.

DAY 8 | Florence - Bologna - Venice

Today we will depart our hotel and drive to Bologna (1.5 hours drive). The bread basket of Italy. Known as the ultimate Italian foodie city, it houses the oldest university in Europe, the unfinished Basilica of San Petronio, 21 remaining medieval towers, and most importantly, some of the world's most-loved foods. Visit the Basilica of San Domenico, where St. Dominic founder of the Dominican Order is buried. Celebrate mass at the Basilica. In the afternoon, we will continue to Venice (3,5 hours drive). Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight.



DAY 9 | Venice

After breakfast, we will leave our hotel by bus to reach the dock. From there, by private motorboat, we reach Venice in 30 minutes by sea. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a guided tour in this fascinating town to see the Doge's Palace (outside) and the Basilica of St. Mark the Evangelist (inside). Celebrate Mass. In the afternoon, free time for an optional Gondola ride, or for shopping. Then, we will board a private boat back to our bus and drive to our hotel for dinner and overnight.



DAY 10 | Venice - Milan

This morning we will drive to Milan (approx. 4hrs drive). After lunch, we will celebrate Mass. Then we will enjoy a walking tour including the Duomo, which is the third largest church in the world after St Peter's in Rome and the Cathedral of Sevilla. Then we will see also the Galleria Emanuele, La Scala Opera House (from outside) and Montenapoleone Street. Some free time before going to our hotel. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight.



DAY 11 | Return to USA

After breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport to take our flight to USA.



Contact Information

Tour Operator: Bissan Abufarha

 **(800) 351-9893**

 **5445 Ali Dr. Grand Blanc, MI 48439**

 **ascensiontourstravel@gmail.com**