

# A 13-Day Grand Italy Pilgrimage

with Fr. Victor Maristela - St. Michael Catholic Parish  
November 3rd, 2025 - November 15th, 2025

## Day 1

Depart on your overnight international flight from your local USA international airport. Today we board our overnight flights to Rome with snacks and beverages served aloft.

## Day 2

Upon arrival, we are greeted by our Holy Land Tours and Travel representative who will accompany us throughout our tour. We will transfer to San Paul Outside the Walls, one of the four major basilicas in Rome, where we will celebrate Mass and visit the tombs of St. Paul. After Mass, we will retire to our hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight: Rome (Dinner)

## Day 3

Transfer to the Vatican City to join pilgrims from around the world for an audience with His Holiness the Pope (subject to the Holy Father's schedule and health). After lunch at a local restaurant (included) we will enjoy a walking tour through the imposing baroque squares, fountains, and churches of Rome. We will start from Castel Sant'Angelo, then we cross the river Tiber and reach Navona Square with the famous Bernini fountain of the Four Rivers. Continue to the Pantheon and the Basilica of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, where we can celebrate Mass- Balance of the afternoon at our leisure. Overnight: Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 4

This morning we visit St. Peter's Basilica, the largest Catholic Basilica ever built, and celebrate mass there. Its soaring dome was engineered by Michelangelo and the artist's famous Pieta sculpture and countless other artistic wonders making St. Peter's church one of the most awe-inspiring buildings in the world. We visit the Vatican Museums. (Scavi Tour if possible) Overnight: Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 5

St. Mary Major & Walking Tour: In the morning, we visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the oldest basilica in the Western World. We then visit the Holy Stairs, believed to be those that led to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem, and the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. We will also be celebrating mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major. In the afternoon we go on a walking tour passing by the famous Colosseum – the largest ancient amphitheater in the world and the site of countless gladiator games. Continue to the Roman Forum, the administrative capital of the Empire and the site of some of the most famous speeches in history by the likes of Julius Caesar, Mark Anthony, and Cicero. We continue walking to marvel at the sight of the illuminated Trevi Fountain before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight: Rome (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 6

Eucharistic Miracle of Orvieto: We depart Rome and drive to Assisi via Orvieto, where we visit the Gothic Cathedral built to house the holy relics of the Eucharistic Miracle of Orvieto. It was this miracle that occasioned the proclamation of the Feast of Corpus Christi and inspired St. Thomas Aquinas to write the famous hymn "Tantum Ergo." Here we celebrate Mass if possible. We enjoyed lunch in a local restaurant with a tasting of the Orvieto and Orvieto Classico wine that this region is famous for. We proceed to Assisi and settle into our hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight: Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 7

In Assisi, we will visit the Basilica of St. Francis, the upper Basilica with Giotto's frescoes representing the life of St. Francis, then the lower Basilica and the Tomb of St. Francis. We will be celebrating mass in the Lower Basilica and the Tomb of St. Francis. We then proceed to the Basilica of St. Clare for a tour. After lunch, we will transfer to the Convent of San Damiano, where St. Francis received his call to rebuild the Church and where St. Clare lived and died. Overnight Assisi (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 8

This morning we checked out, followed by a scenic drive to the Tuscan city of Siena. (2 hrs. drive) This medieval city is the birthplace of St. Catherine "Doctor of the Church", and the Apostle of Italy, St. Bernardine. Visit the Basilica of St. Catherine (which is also known as the Basilica of St. Domenico), St. Catherine passed a large part of her life inside the walls of this Basilica which today houses relics of the Saint. After, visit the Shrine of St. Catherine, which occupies the site of her family home. Afterward, we visit the Basilica de San Francesco for the Eucharistic Miracle of hosts. Enjoy your walking tour through the Siena including a visit to its Cathedral (Duomo di Siena). Conclude at one of Italy's finest squares, the Piazza Del Campo, where we will be given free time to spend at leisure. There are several restaurants surrounding the square to have lunch, as well as shops for gifts and souvenirs. We then transfer to our home in Florence for the night. Overnight: Florence (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 9

Today we have a full-day tour of the Renaissance city of Florence. Free time during lunch to explore the famous San Lorenzo market. In the afternoon, we will explore the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, with its great representation of Tuscan Gothic Architecture, like the giant dome of the church, designed by Brunelleschi. We will see Giotto's Bell Tower, a 14th-century masterpiece that rises to a height of 292 feet, and the Baptistry of San Giovanni, with East Door which is called the Gates of Paradise. The doors took artist Ghiberti 27 years to complete. Then we will visit Michelangelo's parish church, Santa Croce, where Dante is buried. We then visit the Piazza della Signoria and potentially take a bus to Piazza Michaelangelo if possible. We celebrate mass potentially at the Duomo before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight: Florence (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 10

Today we depart for Padova, stopping first in Pisa. Pisa is a city in Italy's Tuscany region best known for its iconic Leaning Tower. Already tilting when it was completed in 1372, the 56m white marble cylinder is the bell tower of the Romanesque, striped marble Cathedral that rises next to it in the Piazza dei Miracoli. Also in the piazza is the Baptistry, whose renowned acoustics are demonstrated by amateur singers daily, and the Caposanto Monastery. We then continue to Padova to visit the Basilica of St Anthony. We will see his uncorrupt tongue over 760 years ago, more than 30 years after his death. This scientifically inexplicable phenomenon is what faith calls a miracle, seeing that the relic of the tongue, the instrument used by St Anthony for preaching, is still visible and uncorrupt after many centuries. The relic may be venerated in the Chapel of the Treasury in the Basilica, which is visited each year by millions of pilgrims.- We celebrate Mass and continue to the hotel for dinner and overnight. Overnight Padova (Breakfast, Dinner)

*\*Mass/Service will be celebrated daily if possible\**

*\*If you are satisfied with the services of your local team and would like to tip, we recommend \$7.00 per day per person to the Tour Guide, \$5.00 per day per person to the Bus Driver, and \$3.00 per day per person to the Hotel Team.*

## Day 11

After breakfast, we will depart our hotel by bus to reach the dock. From here, by private motorboat, we reach Venice in 30 minutes by sea. Upon arrival, we celebrate Mass, then we will enjoy a guided tour of this fascinating town to see the Doge's Palace (outside) and the Basilica of St. Mark the Evangelist (inside). If we can, we will also visit to view the Last Supper by Da Vinci. Enjoy free time for an optional Gondola ride, or shopping. In the afternoon, we will board the private boat back to our bus and drive to the hotel. Overnight Padova (Breakfast, Dinner)

## Day 12

After breakfast we check out and drive approx 3 hours to Milan It is a vibrant city, rich in cultural events, artistic masterpieces, design and fashion shopping, and great food. With our expert guide, you will enjoy a walking tour starting from Castello Sforzesco, the imposing castle built by the Duke of Milan, Gian Galeazzo Visconti, in 1558. Next, we will visit the Duomo, the third-largest Gothic cathedral in the world, to admire the intricate architecture of statues, spires, and gargoyles. Proceed to the majestic glass-roofed Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (one of the world's most glamorous and oldest shopping malls - it was built in 1867) and get to Piazza della Scala, where we can see the world's most famous opera house. Break for lunch. After lunch, we will have time at leisure, before celebrating Mass. Continue to the hotel for check-in, dinner, and overnight (BD)

## Day 13

Prepare to drive back to the airport for a safe flight back home to share the memories you've carried from your pilgrimage with your loved ones.



**\$5,495** per person

*on double occupancy basis*

*\*\$989 extra per single room*

*\*Trip Room Upgrade: \$500*

**-This Price Does Include:**

- Round trip airfare, including all airline taxes
- Meet and assist upon arrival and departure at Rome airport
- Accomodation in 4-star hotels on H/B basis
- Transportation in a Modern Coach for all the tour days with Wi-Fi
- Excellent English and/or Spanish speaking tour guide
- Entrance fees to all sights, as mentioned in itinerary
- European adapter/transformer
- Portage at hotels
- Trip brochure, itinerary, and name tag
- Daily Mass/Service (if requested)
- Transportation to and From US Airport

**-This Price Does NOT Include:**

- Health, cancellation, or baggage insurance
- Items of personal use (laundry, phone calls, and charger)
- Meals not mentioned in the program
- Items not mentioned above on the itinerary
- Lunch on road, beverages (alcohol), gratuities for hotel, guide, or driver
- Passport/Visa costs (if any)
- Trip cancellation protection
- Travel insurance
- Professional pictures taken
- Food purchased at airport/room service

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