

Our 75th Anniversary celebration is around the corner. In 2025 our parish will be 75 years old. We are planning a yearlong celebration. To mark the beginning of this celebration, we are organizing a 12-day Pilgrimage to Italy in 2024 and to conclude the celebration with another 12-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 2025.

Below is a proposed pilgrimage to Italy. This is a kind of save-the-date announcement. More details will come.

PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

Day 1: Monday, October 7: Los Angeles to Rome

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our flight from Los Angeles to Rome. Meals and refreshments will be served on board.

Day 2: Tuesday, October 8: Rome

Arriving in Rome. We'll

meet our tour manager who will remain with us until the end of our trip. We will transfer to our hotel. After Mass, the remainder of the day will be free. Dinner and overnight. **(Dinner)**

Day 3: Wednesday, October 9: Rome

This morning we will experience a highlight of our Roman stay as we attend the Papal Audience at St. Peter's (subject to the Holy Father's schedule). Join thousands of pilgrims from throughout the world to listen to the Holy Father and receive His Blessing. This afternoon we'll

drive to Saint John in Lateran Basilica and the nearby Scala Santa which according to tradition was the staircase that Jesus climbed to be judged by Pontius Pilate. Next, visit the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, which is decorated with the very first gold ever collected in the new world, and which hosts the relic of the holy manger where Jesus was born. Our last visit of the day will be Santa Maria in Trastevere, this church is dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Dinner on our own. **(Breakfast)**

Day 4: Thursday, October 10: Rome

Today we'll visit the Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains which features statues of the unfinished funerary monument of Pope Julius II by

Michelangelo including the famous statue of Moses. We'll then walk to the Colosseum, which we'll visit from the outside, along with the Roman and Imperial Forums. Then we'll embrace the breathtaking panorama from the terrace on the Capitoline Hill where the political seat of the city of Rome has been for almost 3,000 years. After lunch drive to the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Wall where we celebrate Mass. Under the main altar lies the tomb of the Apostle Paul and along the walls of the Basilica are the portraits of all the Popes. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Day 5: Friday, October 11: Rome

This morning we will stroll through the Vatican Museums where among the many treasures we'll admire the rooms of Rafael and, of course, the Sistine Chapel with the frescoes of Michelangelo, Botticelli, Perugino, Pinturicchio, Ghirlandaio, and Signorelli. Then we'll enter the Holy Door into St. Peter's Basilica to see the Pieta by Michelangelo and marvel at the countless works of art. The underground of the Basilica hosts the remains of some Popes, including Pope John Paul II. After Mass at St. Peter's, we will enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Day 6: Saturday, October 12: Rome / Orvieto / Assisi

This morning we will depart Assisi and drive south to Orvieto, home to Italy's most stunning Gothic Cathedral, where the Feast of Corpus Christi began. After a brief visit, we will continue to Assisi. Dinner and overnight will be at your hotel. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Day 7: Sunday, October 13: Assisi

This morning, we will visit St. Mary of the Angel's Basilica, the site of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where St. Clare began her religious life. Proceed to the Basilica of St. Francis where the saint lies in rest and the Basilica of St. Clare. For those with stamina, take a walk up Monte Subasio to Eremo delle Corcheri, the Saint's favorite retreat. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Day 8: Monday, October 14: Assisi /Siena / Florence

In the morning we will depart Florence and drive south to Siena, home of St. Catherine. Our first stop this morning and a highlight of our tour will be the Basilica of St. Francis where we'll venerate the Eucharistic miracle of Siena. Then we'll celebrate Mass at St. Dominic's, St. Catherine of Siena's parish church where she attended daily Mass and went into ecstasy. Adjacent to the church is her home, which we'll tour and see the cell where she fasted and prayed. Then we'll stroll along the ancient Gothic streets which converge on the Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in the world, where we can stop for lunch. Continue our drive to Florence. **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Day 9: Tuesday, October 15: Florence

Our tour of Florence this morning is an artful experience as we take in the Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, the Baptistery with its renowned bronze doors, the replica of the famous statue of David by Michelangelo outside the Palazzo Vecchio, Santa Maria Novella Church, and Santa Croce Church. This afternoon we will admire the artistic treasures of the world's oldest gallery on a private guided tour of the

Uffizi Gallery. Commissioned by the distinguished Medici family, the museum contains a vast collection of priceless Renaissance pieces including works by Leonardo da Vinci, Titian, and Raphael. Dinner on our own. **(Breakfast)**

Day 10: Wednesday, October 16: Florence / Milan

This morning we drive to Milan. We will visit the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie - a UNESCO World Heritage site and feast our eyes on the Last Supper painted by Leonardo da Vinci (optional, upon availability). This exquisite and incredibly famous mural is thought to have

been completed the end of the 15th century and depicts Jesus' last meal with His disciples. Mass Celebration. Dinner. Overnight **(Breakfast and Dinner)**

Day 11: Thursday, October 17: Milan

We will visit the Basilica of St. Ambrose, where St. Ambrose baptized St. Augustine and where the saint's relics can be found. We will then drive to visit the Duomo, the most magnificent Gothic building in Northern Italy. Continue to the La Scala Theater, considered by many to be one of the world's most famous opera houses which has hosted many famous singers including Italy's Luciano Pavarotti. Then wander around the chic boutiques and luxury stores of the glamorous Galleria Vittorio Emanuele shopping arcade. Dinner on our own. **(Breakfast)**

Day 12: Friday, October 18: Milan / USA

Transfer to the airport for our return flight home. **(Breakfast)**

Garro has informed me of a price reduction for your pilgrimage based on 25 paying persons.

*The price is **\$4,742.00 per person in a double room**, and the single supplement is \$1,180.00 for a group of 25-29. That is to say, for two people in a room, it is **\$4,742.00 per person**. For single occupancy add \$1,180.00 to the base price.*

The above rates include:

- * Round trip airfare in Economy Class from Los Angeles to Rome and return from Milan on Delta Airlines
- * Airport taxes and fuel charges of \$541.00 per person as currently levied and subject to change at the time of ticketing
- * Ten nights hotel accommodation. All rooms are twin-bedded with a private bathroom or shower.
 - Four nights in Rome - Twenty-One hotel or similar
 - Two nights in Assisi – Grand Hotel or similar
 - Two nights in Florence - Mediterraneo Hotel or similar
 - Two nights in Milan - Best Western Antares Concorde hotel or similar
 - Meals as indicated on our itinerary (Buffet Breakfast and Dinners at restaurants)

near your hotel in Rome, Florence, and Milan)

- * English-speaking tour manager throughout
- * Guiding by English-speaking local guides
- * Private air-conditioned, touring motorcoach for all sightseeing and transfers
- * Admission costs to all sites as per our itinerary
- * Porterage of baggage at airports and hotels (recommend one bag per person)
- * Value Added Taxes of around 22% is included
- * Daily Mass and Audience with the Pope
- * Headphones or whispers.

Items not included in our price:

- * Tips or gratuities to tour manager, tour guides, driver, and hotel staff
- * Lunches and Dinners not specified on our itinerary, cold and hot drinks with meals, extras at hotels, and any expenses of a personal nature
- * Travel Insurance
- * Covid Test if necessary