



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

WITNESS THE LIVES OF THE SAINTS

You're invited

**ON A PILGRIMAGE TO THE
SAINTS AND SHRINES OF**

ITALY

Dec. 27, 2021 - Jan. 5, 2022



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 20 years. Working closely with your priest to create thoughtfully planned itineraries, we help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life by taking you to the heart of our Mother Church today. Although we visit numerous sites in this holy and historic region, daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

We use only experienced Christian or Catholic guides, so you receive truthful explanations of scripture and the places we encounter. When the disciple Philip asked the Eunuch (who was reading Isaiah) if he understood what he was reading, the man responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:35) Just as Philip guided the Eunuch with "the good news of Jesus," your Tekton pilgrimage will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. Our prayers, service, and love of our Lord go with you.

- **Day 1 - Monday, December 27**
Depart USA

Our pilgrimage begins as we depart on our overnight flight to Florence. Meals and refreshments will be served aloft.

- **Day 2 - Tuesday, December 28**
Arrive Rome / Orvieto / Assisi

After our morning arrival in Rome we will drive north to Orvieto a walled town high on a hill that holds one of the greatest Eucharistic Miracles in its cathedral. In nearby Bolsena, a priest doubted the Eucharistic Presence during Mass and the host turned to real flesh and the wine to real blood during the consecration. The priest brought the blood-stained Corporal to Pope Urban in Orvieto, and it is now kept in a special reliquary for the faithful to view. See the steps of the Papal summer residence where Pope Urban IV held up the blood-stained corporal and announced his intention to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi. After venerating the sacred Eucharistic miracle, we will continue our drive through the beautiful Umbrian countryside to Assisi, a town which welcomes us in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare, and our home for the next two nights. Upon arrival we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, site of the Porziuncola, the tiny church in the woods where St. Francis began his ministry and where St. Clare began her religious life. We will then proceed to our hotel for check-in and dinner. (D, Mass)

- **Day 3 - Wednesday, December 29**
Assisi

This morning we will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, the site of the beloved Porziuncola the tiny chapel rebuilt by St. Francis and his fellow friars after Francis took the commandment from the Lord



Basilica of St. Francis - Assisi

to "rebuild my church" literally, and where St. Clare began her life as a nun. On our tour of Assisi, we will witness where the power of the Eucharist turned away an army. The invading Saracen army was about to attack the Convent of San Damiano where St. Clare lived with her nuns in 1241. Even though bed-ridden, St. Clare got up and held the Blessed Sacrament in the air and saw the advancing army flee in terror establishing "The Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi." Also in the convent, we will visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix, then visit the Basilica of St. Francis to venerate his burial place. Afterwards is the Basilica of St. Clare, which holds the famous San Damiano Crucifix that spoke to St. Francis, and where the golden locks of St. Clare's hair and St. Francis' poor patched tunic are kept. This afternoon we will travel up Mt. Subasio to L'Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), St. Francis' favorite retreat center, where he could remain in seclusion and prayer. Enjoy some personal prayer time in this peaceful location before descending back into Assisi for the evening. (B, D, Mass)



Shrine of St. Rita

- **Day 4 - Thursday, December 30**
Assisi / Cascia / Greccio / Rome

This morning we will depart Assisi and journey south, stopping in Cascia to visit the Shrine of St. Rita and venerate the Eucharistic Miracle of Cascia. We then proceed to the medieval town of Greccio. Greccio itself, set on a beautiful mountaintop, is famous for its cool summer climate and its mineral springs. However, it is even more renowned for its connections with St. Francis of Assisi and as the birthplace of the Christmas crèche. On Christmas Night 1223, St. Francis led shepherds to the top of a nearby hill where they gathered together in a stable sheltering an ox and a donkey. According to legend, the Baby Jesus miraculously appeared in the manger. On this spot the Franciscan convent of Greccio was built, and the Chapel of the Crib was erected in 1228, the year St. Francis was canonized. Continue on to Rome, our home for the next six nights. (B, D, Mass)

- **Day 5 - Friday, December 31**
Rome

We begin our day in the heart of the Vatican: St. Peter's Basilica, where we contemplate centuries of history of the Catholic Church. Here we see the life-like Pieta statue by Michelangelo, stunning paintings, and the importance of Eucharistic Adoration at the chapel renovated under the direction of St. John Paul II. We then tour the Vatican Museum that hosts artifacts from around the world, some of the greatest depictions of the Eucharist in art, papal apartments, hand-woven intricate tapestries, and the stunning hallway of maps from the 1500s. The most famous ceiling in the world awaits us inside the Sistine Chapel. Popes are elected under this ceiling and the faithful have continued to come and be awed by its splendor for centuries. (B, D, Mass)

● **Day 6 - Saturday, January 1**

Rome

The Scala Santa, or Holy Stairs, are prayed this morning by climbing them on your knees because they are so sacred. Christ walked on these 28 marble stairs at the home of Pontius Pilate to be condemned to death. For those who cannot climb the stairs on their knees there are other stairs available for walking up that also lead to the chapel at the top. Our prayerful experience continues with a visit to St. John Lateran, the Mother Church of the Roman Catholic faithful and the oldest basilica in Europe. Afterwards, it's on to Rome's lovely Trastevere District with medieval cobblestone streets and religious shrines decorating doorways. The main square is dominated by the 12th century Basilica di Santa Maria, a church full of classical wonders from glittering mosaics to the relics of the Holy Sponge and St. Apollonia. Our day continues with a visit to the Basilica di Santa Cecilia built atop her former home. One of the earliest martyrs of Rome, St. Cecilia survived a near-decapitation for three days and was the first saint whose body was found to be incorrupt. Enjoy dinner on your own at one of the many restaurants in this charming area. *(B, Mass)*

● **Day 7 - Sunday, January 2**

Rome

Today we join thousands of other pilgrims at St. Peter's Basilica to pray the Angelus with Pope Francis and receive his blessing – as his schedule allows (and only possible if reinstated). Afterwards, travel to St. Lawrence Outside the Walls, commemorating the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, one of the first deacons of Rome. Peek through one of the grates under the altar and you might see some of the ancient tunnels that led to a catacomb where he was first buried. The remains of the martyrs St. Justin and St. Stephen are also beneath the altar. This gem of a church also holds the body of Pope Pius IX who declared the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. *(B, D, Mass)*



St. Paul Outside the Walls

● **Day 8 - Monday, January 3**

Rome

Our morning begins at St. Paul Outside the Walls, the great church built by Constantine over the tomb of St. Paul. We journey into the lives of the martyrs as we visit the Catacombs of St. Callixtus. Here Christians celebrated the Mass in secret and buried the martyrs, including several popes. This afternoon we visit Santa Maria Vallicella the mother church of the Oratorians founded by St. Philip Neri in 1561. See its vaulted ceilings painted in golds and heavenly blues with outstanding frescos. Afterwards, we visit Sant'Agostino, built in honor of St. Augustine. It holds the tomb of his steadfast and faithful mother, St. Monica. Enjoy a walking tour of some of Rome's other famous sites, including the Piazza Navona, with Bernini's lavish fountains, and the Pantheon with its unique dome that inspired Michelangelo. Guarantee another visit to Rome by throwing the traditional coin over your shoulder into the Trevi Fountain, then venture out on your own for dinner. *(B, Mass)*



St. Mary Major

● **Day 9 - Tuesday, January 4**

Rome

We go to the heart of ancient Rome to the Mamertine Prison where St. Paul was kept in chains for his preaching of the Gospel. We have outside visits to the Forum, an ancient Roman marketplace, and the Coliseum, before visiting St. Clement's Basilica. Built over the home of the fourth Pope, it holds great historical significance especially in its ancient fresco depicting Eucharistic worship at the end of the first century. At St. Peter in Chains, we see the actual chains that held St. Peter when he was imprisoned in Rome and view Michelangelo's magnificent statue of Moses. At St. Mary Major we venerate the crib of Christ, view the famous icon painting attributed to St. Luke, and see inestimable artwork that makes Rome renowned throughout the world. Enjoy the rest of your last day in Rome with free personal time before coming together once more for a farewell dinner this evening. *(B, D, Mass)*

● **Day 10 - Wednesday, January 5**

Rome / U.S.A.

Today we say "Ciao" to Italia and transfer to the airport for our return flight home, cherishing all of the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner

** Please note that all rates and services are subject to availability and confirmation. We cannot be responsible for any increase in these rates or changes in services or flight and land arrangements in the event that government regulations change due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

BASE PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare **\$2,895.00**

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL EXPENSES (applied to final invoice)

Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges **\$527.34**

(subject to change until final ticketing)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST \$3,422.34

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$130.00**

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: **add \$632**
- Land-only option: **\$2,486** (no flights or gratuities included)

Final Payment Due

September 2021

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy airfare from Indianapolis on Delta Airlines
- 8 nights' accommodation, including taxes and service charges
- Porterage of one piece of luggage at airports and hotels
- Knowledgeable, friendly, Catholic/Christian guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner as per itinerary (excluding drinks)

Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms a part of your final payment which is due 75 days prior to departure. Reservations made within 74 days of departure must be accompanied by payment in full. Payments made by credit card will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. This pilgrimage is based upon a minimum of 21 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for a smaller group size.

Cancellations from NEW registrations: All cancellations must be in writing. The following per person cancellation charges will apply to any NEW registrations received after April 21, 2021 in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, a \$150.00 administrative fee will be charged. If canceled 90 - 31 days prior to departure, \$300.00 will be charged. If canceled 30 - 15 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 14 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Cancellations by those registered on the previously scheduled group: All cancellations must be in writing. Cancellation penalties will be based upon restrictions in effect at the time of initial postponement. Some refunds will be in the form of credit for future travel.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for Italy. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Air travel is in economy class on Delta Airlines. Fares are based upon levels in effect at the time of printing and fares and flight schedules are subject to change without notice. Note that any ticketing changes made within 120 days of your departure date will incur airline penalties.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Travel Insurance: We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in Base Price: Airline taxes/fuel surcharges (currently \$527.34 per person, but subject to change until the time of ticketing), gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing

the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.



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