



TEKTON MINISTRIES

Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage



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WITNESS THE LIVES *OF THE* SAINTS

**YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO
THE SAINTS AND SHRINES OF**

ITALY

January 4-15, 2027



A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages for more than 30 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, January 4 *Depart USA*

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

• Day 2 – Tuesday, January 5 *Arrive Florence*

Upon arrival in Florence, we are met at the airport by our pilgrimage manager, who will be with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. Time permitting, we will celebrate Mass and then check in at our hotel, our home for the next two nights. (D) *Overnight Florence*

• Day 3 – Wednesday, January 6 *Florence*

Florence is a city of masterpieces. We'll enjoy a full day tour of this magnificent Renaissance city on the Epiphany. Florence celebrates the Epiphany with the "Cavalcade of the Magi", a grand parade in the historical center that celebrates the Magi and gifts they brought to the baby Jesus. Then visit the Chapel of the Magi, the private chapel for the Medici family. Explore Dante's House Museum, learning about the life and legacy of Dante Alighieri, whose Divine Comedy stands as one of the greatest works of Christian literature. Set in the poet's own neighborhood, the museum offers a reflective space to appreciate how Dante's vision of Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise continues to shape Catholic imagination and Italy's spiritual heritage. (B, D) *Overnight Florence*



• Day 4 – Thursday, January 7 *Florence / Siena*

We will depart Florence today and travel to Siena, where we visit St. Dominic's, St. Catherine of Siena's parish church where she attended daily Mass and went into ecstasy. The people of Siena wanted St. Catherine to be buried in her home church, but they were only able to procure her head, which is preserved for veneration in a reliquary in St. Dominic's. Adjacent to the church is her birthplace and childhood home, which has been renovated throughout the centuries into a museum, including several chapels and a cloister. Visit the cell where she fasted and prayed, then experience a highlight of our day in the Basilica of St. Francis: venerating the Eucharistic miracle of Siena. Explore the majestic Gothic Cathedral of Siena, also known as the Duomo di Siena, built in the 13th and 14th centuries and dedicated to the Assumption of Mary. This evening we check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D) *Overnight Siena*



• Day 5 – Friday, January 8 *Siena / Assisi*

This morning we depart Siena and continue to Assisi, a town which welcomes you in the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare into its peaceful interior. Upon arrival, we will begin in the Basilica of St. Francis, where the saint lies in rest and where we will celebrate Mass at the Tomb of St. Francis. Afterwards, we'll 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 he consecrated St. Clare. This afternoon we'll tour the Convent of San Damiano where the miracle of the Eucharist of 1240 took place and visit the chapel where Jesus spoke to St. Francis from the crucifix. (B, D) *Overnight Assisi*

• Day 6 – Saturday, January 9 *Assisi*

This morning begins with Mass at the Basilica of St. Clare, after which we will view and venerate her incorrupt body. Then we will take a taxi up to Monte Subasio to L'Eremo delle Carceri (the Carceri Hermitage), the Saint's favorite retreat. There are many caves here that St. Francis and his followers retreated to for seclusion and prayer. After some free time for personal prayer in this retreat-like setting, we descend to the valley once more for a wine-tasting experience. This evening we will enjoy dinner out on our own. (B) *Overnight Assisi*

• Day 7 – Sunday, January 10 *Assisi / Orvieto / Rome*

Depart this morning for Orvieto where we journey by cable car up the hill to the city center. Here we visit the Chapel of the Corporal in the Cathedral and venerate the sacred Eucharistic miracle. 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 Mass, continue to Rome to check into our hotel, our home for the next five nights. (B, D) *Overnight Rome*



St. Mary Major

• Day 8 – Monday, January 11 Rome

Begin our first full day in Rome with a tour of St. Peter's including the Pieta and the Adoration Chapel. We will venerate St. Simon's relics which are buried under St. Joseph's altar along with St. Jude. Afterwards, we walk through the Vatican Museums which house artifacts from around the world and Eucharistic art to prepare ourselves for the greatest masterpiece yet: The Sistine Chapel. One is always looking up at the masterwork of art that explains the theology of God. This afternoon, we will split up into small groups for tours of the Scavi – the necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica, pending confirmation, followed by free time to relax or explore other sections of the city and enjoy dinner on your own this evening. (B) Overnight Rome

• Day 9 – Tuesday, January 12 Rome

We begin today in Santa Croce in Gerusalemme where we find a little piece of Jerusalem thanks to Constantine's mother, St. Helena, who brought relics of the True Cross and the plaque that hung on the cross. At one time, soil from Jerusalem covered the Basilica's floor, so it truly was the Holy Land. After venerating the relics of Our Lord's crucifixion, we climb the Scala Santa (Holy Stairs), which our Lord climbed on His way to His condemnation, followed by the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Afterwards, we continue to St. Clement Basilica, which houses an original fresco depicting St. Clement celebrating the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, giving us a picture of Eucharistic worship at the end of the first century or the beginning of the second. Finally, we proceed to St. Mary Major where we venerate the crib of Christ, view the famous icon attributed to St. Luke, and see inestimable artwork that makes Rome renowned throughout the world. (B, D) Overnight Rome

• Day 10 – Wednesday, January 13 Rome

This morning we will attend the weekly Papal Audience held by His Holiness, Pope Leo XIV (pending the Holy Father's schedule). This afternoon, we travel to the last of the four major basilicas of Rome – St. Paul Outside the Walls. Though it was destroyed by a fire in 1823, it was originally built by Constantine in the fourth century over the site of St. Paul's tomb and was rebuilt in the 19th century exactly as it was before the fire. After some time for prayer here, we visit the Tre Fontane, site of three fountains and three churches, where St. Paul was beheaded. We complete our day with a visit to the Capuchin Crypt (Bone Chapel). It is a subterranean ossuary

consisting of several small chapels decorated with the bones of over 3,000 Capuchin friars as powerful meditation on death and the hope of the Resurrection. (B, D) Overnight Rome

• Day 11 – Thursday, January 14 Rome

This morning we enjoy a walking tour in the heart of Rome, including outside visits to the Colosseum and Forum, followed by the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, Spanish Steps, and the Trevi Fountain – where a coin thrown over your shoulder will guarantee you another visit to Rome. You will then have the afternoon free to explore sections of the city not on our itinerary, or perhaps revisit one of your favorite sites from earlier in the pilgrimage. This evening, we will enjoy a farewell dinner at Ristorante Abruzzi to celebrate the end of our Italian pilgrimage. (B, D) Overnight Rome



St. Peter's Basilica

• Day 12 – Friday, January 15 Rome / USA

Our time steeped in the history and faith of Italy comes to a close. We transfer to the airport for our return flight home, cherishing all the wonderful memories and graces of this pilgrimage. (B)

Note: This pilgrimage is physically challenging, encompassing long days and lots of walking and standing at the holy sites – sometimes waiting in line for an hour or more. Pilgrims must be comfortable walking long distances across varied terrain, including steps on and off the bus and along uneven surfaces.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



ITALY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

PRICE PER PERSON

Double occupancy with base airfare	\$4,690.00
Current airline taxes/fuel surcharges	\$759.03

(subject to change until final ticketing)

ESTIMATED TOTAL COST **\$5,449.03**

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$180.00**
(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add \$1,137
- Land-only option: \$4,228 (no flights included)

Final Payment Due

October 2026

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Memphis on Delta Air Lines / Air France
- 10 nights' accommodation, including taxes and service charges
- Portage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- Knowledgeable, friendly, Catholic/Christian guides; whisper headsets; deluxe motor coach transportation to holy sites; all entrance fees listed on itinerary
- Farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Rome on day 11
- Breakfast and dinner per itinerary (excluding drinks)

Rates do not include: lunches, drinks with meals

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure - after receiving the final invoice. All pilgrimage registrations must be made online through our website. Reservations made within 89 days of departure (or after the final invoices are sent) must be accompanied by payment in full. Any credit card payments other than the deposit will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. Late payments may be subject to a late fee and/or possible removal from the pilgrimage. Pilgrimage prices are based upon a minimum number of 21 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for smaller group sizes.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing (email or letter). The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, \$300 will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$2000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 30 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.

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. U.S. citizens may also be required to apply for ETIAS (start date TBD) to enter Europe. 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 Air Lines / Air France. 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 or cancellations 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 \$759.03 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 co-operating 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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