



## A PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

# Experience Faith & Hope

*With Deacon Bill Hamlin, Our Lady Star of the Sea, Bremerton, WA*

*From September 14<sup>th</sup>, to 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021*

**DAY 1** - Arrive Venice Airport. Meet Tour Escort, board private bus and drive to the city center of Padova. Upon arrival, we will visit the Basilica where St. Anthony is buried. We also see the Saint's tongue. Here we will celebrate Mass. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

**DAY 2** - This morning we depart our hotel by bus, to reach the dock. From here, by private motorboat, we reach Venice in 30 minutes by sea. Full day of excursion in this fascinating town. In the morning, there will be a guided tour to see the Doge's Palace (outside) and the Basilica of St. Mark the Evangelist (inside). Celebrate Mass. Balance of the day at leisure for an optional "Gondola ride", or to discover the city on your own. Return to our bus and drive back to Padua. Dinner at the hotel and overnight. (B, D)

**DAY 3** - Drive to Florence. Here we will start with a walking tour through the streets of Florence stopping to visit the Duomo. See also Giotto Bells Tower and the Baptistry Doors, Gates of Paradise. Continue to Signoria Square considered as an "open-air museum". Then we visit the franciscan church of Santa Croce, which houses the tombs of many Italian artist, among which Galileo and Michelangelo. Celebrate Mass. Time at leisure for shopping at Ponte Vecchio. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

**DAY 4** - In the morning, we will explore the city of Siena with the guide. See the Gothic Duomo, the famous Piazza del Campo, one of the most beautiful squares in all of Italy, the church Saint Francis Basilica, site of the Eucharistic Miracle and of St. Domenico, site of the relic of St. Catherine of Siena. Celebrate Mass. In the afternoon we will drive to Assisi, where upon arrival we can visit the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, to see the Porziuncola, the rose bush and the cave where the Saint retired for prayer. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight. (B, D)

**DAY 5** - This morning we celebrate Mass in one of the chapels of St. Francis Basilica and see the tomb of the saint. We then walk across the hilltop town of Assisi to the Basilica of St. Clare to see where St. Clare is buried. We will visit also San Damiano convent, to see where the Miracle of the Eucharist of Assisi took place in 1241, twelve years before St. Clare died. Visit the church where St. Francis wrote the "Canticle of the Sun", and see where St. Clare lived. Visit the castle and the hermitage of Cerceri to pray in the same peaceful spot where St. Francis prayed. Balance of the day at leisure. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)





**DAY 6** - Drive to Cascia, upon arrival we visit the monastery where St Rita lived and then we celebrate Mass at the Basilica where her incorrupt body is preserved. Some time at leisure for lunch. We will continue our drive to Loreto. Upon arrival we will visit the Shrine of Holy House. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (B, D)

**DAY 7** - Drive to Lanciano, where will celebrate Mass at the Eucharistic Miracle shrine. Then we will drive to Roma. Upon arrival check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight (BD)

**DAY 8** - Early morning transfer to St Peter's square to join pilgrims from all over the world who coming to Rome to attend the weekly Papal Audience and blessing. After lunch, we will visit the major Basilicas of Rome: San John Lateran, Holy Stairs and Saint Mary Major - Before the end of the tour, Celebrate Mass. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

**DAY 9** - We start from the church of San Peter in chains, which houses the chains that held St. Peter when he was imprisoned in Rome and in Jerusalem. Then walk down to the Coliseum (visit from outside) and walk passing by the Roman Forum, the Traian Forum and column, till the Capitol Hill and Venice square. Break for lunch. Then we continue with a guided tour of the Catacombs of St Callistus and Basilica of St Paul outside the Walls. Celebrate Mass. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (B, D)

**DAY 10** - Visit the Vatican Gardens, we then continue visiting the Museums which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. After lunch, we will enjoy a walking tour through the imposing baroque squares, fountains and churches of Rome. We start from Trevi Fountain. Then we continue to the Pantheon and, finally, we reach Navona Square with the famous Bernini's fountain of the Four Rivers. Celebrate Mass at the Church of St Augustin that houses the Caravaggio's painting "Madonna dei Pellegrini" and the tomb of Santa Monica. Farwell dinner in a typical restaurant. Return to the hotel for overnight.

**DAY 11** - Depart Rome to Montecassino to visit the Abbey founded by Saint Benedict in 529. Here we Celebrate Mass - In the afternoon, we continue to Monte Sant' Angelo to visit the shrine consecrated by St. Michael. At this grotto, St. Michael appeared to a Bishop to assure him that his diocese would not be annihilated as he feared- Continue to our hotel in San Giovanni Rotondo, for dinner and overnight (BD)

**DAY 12** - We will enjoy a guided tour of the convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Here we will celebrate our mass. We will visit also the crypt where the body of San Pio is preserved. Return to the hotel for lunch, then we check out and depart towards north. We will spend the night in the village of Frascati (B, D)

**DAY 13** - In the morning, transfer to the airport. Departure.

LIMITED  
SEATING

**\$3,995 per person**  
on double occupancy basis  
\*\$899 extra per single room

*The price includes*

- Round-trip airfare, including all airlines taxes/fuel surcharges
- Accommodation in superior hotels including all hotel taxes and portages
- Meals as per itinerary (Breakfast and Dinner with water and WINE)
- Land Transportation by deluxe motor coach and entrance Fees
- Comprehensive sightseeing as per itinerary with a licensed Christian Guide.
- Private boat transfers IN and OUT central Venice
- Private taxi in Assisi to reach San Damian's heritage

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