

**0224 Pilgrimage to the Holyland & Jordan led by Fr. Gregg  
Gorczyca & Deacon Mike Benoit  
Feb 27 - Mar 08, 2024**



**Tuesday, February 27**

Depart ORD on our way to Tel Aviv Ben Gurion Airport.

**Wednesday, February 28**

Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport where an Ami Travel representative greets us and gives us an introduction about the forthcoming trip - travel north to Galilee. Dinner and overnight at our Galilean hotel.

**Thursday, February 29**

Tour the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of the Beattudes and Tabgha - the site of the Feeding of the Multtudes and the Church of St. Peter's Primacy. Visit Capernaum and Simon Peter's house for Mass celebraton. We shall take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee and enjoy a lunch of St. Peter's Fish. Visit the newly excavated Magdala. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

**Friday, March 01**

Start the day by celebrating Mass in Nazareth at the magnificent Church of the Annunciation built on top of the Virgin Mary's house. On to Cana – where we shall renew our marriage vows and continue through the Valley of Armageddon to ascend to the top of Mount Tabor – the site of the Transfiguration. Explore Caesarea Maritima where Cornelius was Baptized and St Paul was imprisoned for two years - see the remains of the Roman city - amphitheater and aqueduct. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

**Saturday, March 02**

Enter into the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Drive via the Kings Highway to Petra - the Red Rock City - for dinner and overnight.

**Sunday, March 03**

Visit Petra, the rock-cut capital city of the Nabateans, chosen as one of the Seven World Wonders, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We shall spend most of the day in Petra exploring the temple architecture, the

water channels, tombs, and the Roman 1st-century theater, carved almost entirely in the rock. Following our time at this site, we return to our hotel to relax prior to dinner and overnight.

### **Monday, March 04**

Depart Petra to Mt Nebo - where Moses viewed the promised land. Celebrated Mass at the Franciscan church. Re-enter Israel via the Allenby border crossing. Ascend to the Holy via Mt of Olives: site of Ascension - walk and re-enact the Palm Sunday Road. Dinner and overnight in our Jerusalem hotel.

### **Tuesday, March 05**

Depart for Bethlehem. Celebrate Mass at the Shepherds' Fields. Visit the Basilica of Nativity and the Cave of St. Jerome. Lunch and shopping at the local catholic gift shop. We continue to visit Mt. Zion, the Upper Room, and the Tomb of David. We will see the remaining foundation stones of the Church of the Apostles, the Hagia Zion. See the Dormition Abbey (Church of Assumption of the Virgin). We will walk to Peter in Gallicantu - house of Caiaphas – site of the Imprisonment of Jesus and denial of St Peter. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

### **Wednesday, March 06**

Early departure for the Church of Holy Sepulcher to celebrate Mass at the Tomb of Jesus. Visit Mt Calvary and other sections of the Holy Sepulcher. Walk inside the Old City of Jerusalem - the various quarters and re-enact the Stations of the Cross - Via Dolorosa. End our day at the Wailing Wall. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

### **Thursday, March 07**

Morning Mass at the Garden of Gethsemane. Descend into the Jordan Valley into the Jordan River to renew baptismal vows. Drive to Masada - site of the Jewish Zealots' last stand against the Romans. See the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and enjoy a floating experience in the Dead Sea. Visit Jericho to view Zacheus's Tree, Elisha's Spring, and the Mount of Temptation. Return to Jerusalem for our last dinner and overnight stay.

### **Friday, March 08**

Morning transfer to the airport for our flight back to Chicago. Same day arrival home.