

0623 Fr Johnpaul Cafiero Holyland Retreat
Jun 02 - Jun 11, 2023



Friday, June 02

Depart Chicago on your way to Tel Aviv.

Saturday, June 03

Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport where an Ami Travel representative greets us and gives us an introduction about the forthcoming trip - Travel north to Caesarea Maritima where Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius baptized, see the Roman Theater, the aqueduct, and the Crusader ruins. Continue via Lower Galilee valleys to our hotel in Nazareth for dinner and an overnight stay. (Candlelight procession).

Sunday, June 04

Tour the Sea of Galilee; visit the Mount of the Beatitudes; continue to Capernaum and Simon Peter's house. Celebrate Mass on the Sea shore. Tabgha - the site of the Feeding of the Multitudes and the Church of St. Peter's Primacy. Explore at the newly discovered Magdala. We shall enjoy a lunch of St. Peter's fish and take a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee. Return to Nazareth for dinner and overnight.

Monday, June 05

Ascend to the top of Mount Tabor – the site of the Transfiguration – where we celebrate Mass. and continue through the Valley of Armageddon to Mt. Carmel- where the Prophet Elijah confronted the pagan priests (1st Kings 18). Walk in “old town” Nazareth to the Synagogue where Jesus stood to proclaim and preach the stirring words of Isaiah (Luke 4:16-27) and visit the magnificent Basilica of the Annunciation and the Carpentry of St Joseph. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

Tuesday, June 06

Start the day by celebrating Mass in Cana – where we shall renew marriage vows. Explore Sephorris the multicultural center of Roman Galilee and the traditional hometown of Sts. Anne and Joachim with its recently discovered exquisite mosaic floors. Return to Nazareth - ascend to "the brow of the hill" known as "Mt. Precipice". Dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

Wednesday, June 07

Celebrate Mass in Nazareth at the Church of the Annunciation built on top of the Virgin Mary's house. Following Breakfast depart the Galilee via the Jordan Valley to the Jordan River to renew baptismal promises and make our way to the Dead Sea and to Masada - the site of the Jewish zealots' last stand against the Romans. See the Qumran Caves - where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered and enjoy a footlong experience in the Dead Sea. Drive by Jericho - the oldest and the lowest city in the world. Ascend to the Holy City - Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, June 08

Begin our journey in nearby Bethlehem to visit the ancient Church of Nativity where we shall celebrate Mass. Enjoy your shopping in a Bethlehem bazaar and later visit Manger Square and the beautiful Shepherds' Fields. Afternoon visit Yad Vashem (Holocaust Memorial), Ein Karem - the birthplace of St John the Baptist and site of the Visitation. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. (Western Wall Tunnels).

Friday, June 09

Morning Mass inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Continue to Mt of Olives: Chapel of Ascension and Palm Sunday Road. Walk Inside the Old City. Walk the Stations of the Cross; visit the various quarters and the underground excavations. See the Temple ruins and the Western Wall amidst the buildings of old Jerusalem. Explore Mt. Zion: David's Tomb, the Room of the Last Supper, and the Dormition Abbey - the site of the Assumption of the Virgin. End the day at St Peter in Gallicantu (cock-crowing) built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.

Saturday, June 10

Celebrate Mass at the Garden of Gethsemane. Drive down the Jerusalem mountains to visit the historical "bullet factory". Our last visit will be to Jafa where Jonah set sail on his way to Nineveh and where St Peter revived Tabitha and had the vision on the rooftop. Return to Jerusalem for our farewell dinner.

Sunday, June 11

Morning depart to the airport for our flight back home.

* Itinerary is subject to change