

APRIL 23 – MAY 3, 2018

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

A Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

www.travelillumine.com/trc/bhy



Father Maurice Mamba and Deacon Greg McNabb invite you to join them for an inspiring pilgrimage to the Holy Land. The Holy Land is often referred to as the 5th Gospel, a place where the people, places and events of the Bible come to life. We will be traveling during a beautiful time of the year when spring flowers are in bloom and temperatures are pleasant. Our program balances archaeological visits, religious visits and opportunities to learn more about the rich cultural life of local people – enjoying their hospitality, food and art. We will celebrate Mass each day at sites where Jesus and his early disciples gathered and/or where pilgrims have gathered over the centuries. We will be staying in nice 4-star hotels in locations that give us access to the amenities of Israel during our free time. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus along the shores of Galilee and through the historical streets of Jerusalem. Come join us!

We are all members of a global community that is increasingly interdependent. The future of our world depends on our cultivating a spirit of hospitality, respect, understanding and compassion for one another.

Enlightenment comes in many forms, but we believe that there are few life experiences more moving than exploring other cultures, meeting people of diverse backgrounds, and becoming a citizen of the world – leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life.

Our Program

Monday, April 23: We depart Seattle for Tel Aviv.

Tuesday, April 24: Arrival Tel Aviv. We will meet our tour manager at the airport and transfer together by private motorcoach to our hotel in the Sea of Galilee area. En route, we will visit Caesarea Maritima, Mt. Carmel, and Jaffa. We will check into the hotel in Tiberias with some time to relax before a nice welcome dinner at the hotel. Overnight Tiberias.

Caesarea Maritima was built by King Herod and later became the seat of government of the Roman governors including Pontius Pilate who sat in judgment on Jesus Christ and sentenced him to be crucified. We shall visit the extensive excavations of the site including the harbor, the Crusader City, the theatre, the hippodrome and the Roman aqueduct.

The Carmelite order was founded on Mt. Carmel. It is the home of the Wadi-ain-es-Siah Carmelite Monastery which was inhabited by hermits as a place of worship. "Elijah's cave" is found below the current "Stella Maris" monastery. Elijah defeated the pagan prophets of Baal: both Elijah and the prophets of Baal set up sacrifices, but only Elijah's burst into flames proving who the true God was (1 Kings 18: 17-40). The Old Testament prophets were significantly impacted by Mt. Carmel and they used it as a symbol for strength, beauty (Song of Songs 7:5) and fertility.

Jaffa is an ancient port now part of metropolitan Tel Aviv, which has remains dating back to the 20th century B.C. It is a prosperous town, surrounded by old ramparts which form a double enclosure. According to the Bible, it was founded in the wake of the great flood by Noah's son Japheth. It was at Jaffa that Jonah embarked, abandoning the mission to Nineveh which God had sent him on. Excavations have turned up artifacts as many as 4,000 years old. St. Peter raised Tabitha from the dead here.

Wednesday, April 25: Breakfast. Today we will travel to nearby Nazareth to visit sites associated with Jesus' childhood, including the Basilica of the Annunciation (with Mass), the Church of St. Joseph, and Mary's Well. We will continue to nearby Cana for a marriage renewal ceremony at the site of Jesus' first miracle. This afternoon, we will visit Sepphoris and then Mt. Tabor to celebrate the Transfiguration, with a prayer service here. Dinner and overnight Tiberias.

Nazareth is Jesus' home town. The city was a modest size village during the time of Jesus and suffered during the Jewish revolt against the Romans in the 1st century. Today it is inhabited by Christians, Jews and Muslims and includes a medieval architectural center as well as a covered souk.

The main attraction here is the Basilica of the Annunciation – a modern church built over the ruins of a Byzantine church built over a cave where the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, announcing that she had been chosen by God to be the mother of the Messiah. There are also ruins nearby of a site believed to be the home and workshop of Joseph.

Cana is the site where Jesus performed his first miracle at the wedding feast (John 2:1-11). There is a church here that commemorates the miracle and a nice place where married couples renew their marriage vows.

Sepphoris was once the capital of Galilee. This is now one of the most important archaeological parks in the region. The hilltop includes a Roman theatre that seated 5000, the remains of a Crusader citadel and sections of the ancient water supply. Joseph of Tiberias, a Jewish convert, built the first Christian church around 306-37 in Sepphoris. The Crusader Church is dedicated to Mary's parents, Anne and Joachim.

Mt. Tabor is the site associated with Jesus' Transfiguration. It is a beautiful and serene location where a basilica built in the ruins of a 12th century fortress commemorate the event.

Thursday, April 26: Breakfast. We will visit the new archaeological site of Magdala, continuing after with a visit Nof Ginosar. From here, we will take a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum. Afterwards, we will visit nearby Tabgha to celebrate the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, with Mass. We will conclude with a visit to the Mt. of Beatitudes, where we will make the Beatitudes stations (with walking meditation, ending with vespers). Dinner and overnight Tiberias.

Magdala is a new archaeological site on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. In preparation for a new conference center, the foundations for the ancient city of Magdala were found. This is the home town of Mary Magdalene. Archaeologists have found remnants of a 1st century synagogue. This is extremely impressive and rare. Since the Gospels talk about Jesus stopping in synagogues along the shore of Galilee to pray and teach, this archaeological site is one of the most certain we have of a place Jesus actually was present at. There are foundations of other structures that have been excavated as well. A beautiful new chapel dedicated to women of the scriptures has been built here with a view overlooking the Sea.

At Nof Ginosar, visitors can see a 1st century fishing boat, the same kind Jesus' disciples would have used. It was found in the mud of the Sea during a drought. It has been preserved. The exhibit here allows visitors to consider the life of fishermen during the 1st century and further understand the make-up of Jesus' first community of followers.

Capernaum is one of the most important sites along the shores of Galilee. There is an extensive archaeological park here with ruins from the 1st century. This was the city where many of Jesus' first disciples lived. A church is built over the ruins believed to be the house of Simon Peter where Jesus cured his mother-in-law. The ruins of a 4th century synagogue underscore the long-term importance of this city for Jewish life in the region.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS: A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Friday, April 27: Breakfast. Today we will travel to Jerusalem. En route, we will stop at Qasr Al-Yahud for a baptism renewal ceremony. Upon arrival in Jerusalem, we will visit Mt. of Olives for a panoramic view of the Old City, followed by Mass in Dominus Flevit. This is adjacent to the Garden of Gethsemane. After our visits, we will check into hotel with some free time to relax before dinner. Overnight Jerusalem.

Qasr Al-Yahud is a site along the Jordan River on the Israeli side of the river. It sits across from a site in Jordan - Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan. The area is near the actual site of John the Baptist's ministry in the Judean desert and along the Jordan River. The site provides an opportunity to mark John's ministry, his baptism of Jesus, and the renew/commemorate our own Baptism.

The Mount of Olives rises to the east of the Old City of Jerusalem. It has been a burial site for 4500 years – with acres of tombs covering the hillsides. It is believed that this is where the Messiah will first beckon the faithful to the resurrection. There are breathtaking views from the Mount of Olives of the Old City of Jerusalem including an unobstructed view of the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock.

The Mount of Olives is associated with Jesus' agony and betrayal. Nearby is the Chapel of the Ascension, built on the site where Jesus is believed to have ascended into heaven after his resurrection. The road nearby is called the Palm Sunday Road – the route Jesus would have taken from Bethphage to Jerusalem during his triumphal entry into the city. The Pater Noster Church commemorates the place when Jesus taught his disciples to pray. The Chapel of Dominus Flevit is built around a rock in the garden believed by medieval pilgrims to have been the place where Jesus wept over his impending passion. The Church of All Nations was built over the site where Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to his arrest.

Saturday, April 28: Breakfast. This morning we start with visits to St. Anne's and the Pool of Bethesda, then walk along the Via Dolorosa to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre, with Mass here. We will enjoy a

light lunch in the Old City, followed by the afternoon at leisure for shopping and exploring in the Old City. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

The Pool of Bethesda consists of two cisterns from the 8th and 3rd century BC used to collect rain water for the city. It is believed that this is where Jesus cured a paralyzed man (John 5:1-15). The Church of St. Anne is built over the site where Anne and Joachim, the parents of the Virgin Mary, lived.

The Via Dolorosa is a route through the Old City of Jerusalem that traces the path of Jesus' journey from his trial and flagellation to his crucifixion and burial. Christians stop at 14 stations to remember important moments of that journey and to pray. The Via Dolorosa ends at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was first built by Emperor Constantine and his mother Helena in the 4th century. In the 11th century it was rebuilt and has been enlarged and repaired over the centuries. It encloses two important sites – Golgotha, the site of Jesus' crucifixion and the tomb of Jesus, where he was laid to rest after his death and where he resurrected. Disputes over access to the most important pilgrimage site for Christians led to a resolution under the Ottoman Turks, dividing custody among Armenians, Greeks, Cops, Roman Catholics, Ethiopians and Syrians.

The Old City is a living museum. Around every corner there are important historical sites, buildings, monuments and shrines. The rich fabric of languages, peoples and faiths makes the city both exotic and oddly familiar as one realizes he/she is a citizen of the world and belongs in this sacred place. Those who live in the Old City of Jerusalem strive to make it a place of welcome and strive to model compassion and respect so that the city lives up to its name. Walking through its gates is like stepping into another world. This is a journey that is as much outward as inward, one that forever changes perspectives and nurtures faith.

Sunday, April 29: Breakfast. Today we will travel to nearby Bethlehem for Mass and a visit to the Basilica of the Nativity. Afterwards, we will visit with a local Palestinian Christian organization to learn

more about their challenges and hopes. We will enjoy lunch in Bethlehem and then return to Jerusalem to make a visit to the Western Wall. There will be some free time later this afternoon before dinner. Overnight Jerusalem.

Bethlehem is the traditional birth place of Jesus. The town is not far from Jerusalem and attempts have been made to preserve some of the pastoral feel it must have had in the 1st century. In the 4th century, Constantine built a church over the site of Jesus' birth. The church has been enlarged and rebuilt several times. A star marks the place of Jesus' birth in the Grotto of the Nativity.

The Western Wailing Wall is one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Jews. The Wall is part of the retaining wall for the Temple Mount built by Herod the Great. Over the centuries it has become a place of Jewish pilgrimage where Jews lament the destruction of the temple and pray (placing small written prayers in the cracks of the large stones).

Monday, April 30: Breakfast. We will begin with Mass at Dormition Abbey, followed by a free day in Jerusalem. The tour can help in facilitating optional visits. This evening, we will have a visit with a local interfaith group that will meet us after dinner for a presentation and a Q&A session. Dinner and overnight Jerusalem.

The Church of the Dormition is built on the site believed to be where Mary entered into eternal rest. According to tradition, Mary was the first to enjoy the fruits of Jesus' redemption. Thus, she would not have died – but would have been “assumed” into heaven. The current church and abbey were built in the 20th century in the style of Carolingian architecture. It sits on a strategic site and is a striking feature of the landscape.

Tuesday, May 1: Breakfast. This morning we will celebrate Mass at the Church of All Nations. Afterwards, we will go on an excursion to the Dead Sea. Time and interest permitting, we will visit Qumran, Masada, a site for bathing in the Dead Sea, and Ein Gedi. We will return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS: A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Qumran is the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written over 2000 years ago.

Masada was a breathtakingly beautiful desert plateau overlooking the Dead Sea and used by Herod the Great to build a retreat and palace. During the final revolt against the Romans, a group of Jewish resisters hid there and held out against the Romans. Ultimately the Romans breached their defenses and entered the fortress only to find that the Jews had committed mass suicide.

The Dead Sea is the lowest point on Earth – 1348 ft below sea level. The water, rich with minerals, creates an unusual degree of buoyancy for those who go into it. There are a number of spas in the area where people spread therapeutic mud on themselves.

Wednesday, May 2: Breakfast. We will begin with a very early morning visit to the Harm esh-Sharif (Temple Mount) area. If it can be arranged, there will be a presentation for the group on why Jerusalem is considered the 3rd most sacred site in Islam. Afterwards, we will visit St. Peter in Gallicantu, which is built over the ruins of Caiphas' house and has steps upon which Jesus walked toward the Garden of Gethsemane. We will continue with visits to the Upper Room and Ein Karem. This afternoon, we will travel to Abu Gosh or a farewell liturgy. Afterwards, we will enjoy a farewell dinner at a restaurant followed by a transfer to the airport for our return flight to the USA.

Harm esh-Sharif is the large platform rebuilt by the Muslims in the 8th century. It was originally the site of the Jewish temple and traditionally believed to be the place where Abraham went up to sacrifice his son (and was given a goat instead). The Dome of the Rock sits here. It is a magnificent shrine built by the Muslims to commemorate the site and to mark Muhammad's mystical ascent.

The Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu is built over some 1st century caves and buildings. According to tradition, this is where Jesus was held prisoner prior to his trial and where Peter denied knowing Jesus when he was accused of being one of his followers.

A crusader building houses the "Upper Room," place where the disciples dined with Jesus – the so-called "Last Supper." It is here that Jesus washed their feet and announced his impending death. Jews believe that in the lower level of the building, amongst a series of chambers, is the Tomb of King David. This continues to be an important Jewish pilgrimage site.

Ein Karem is a beautiful village where John the Baptist was born. Several churches and monasteries were built here to commemorate his life, including the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth.

Abu Gosh is the site where Christians commemorate the appearance of Jesus after his resurrection at the place of Emmaus (Luke 24). There are two sites traditionally believed to be Emmaus. One is Latrun - where older legends place the breaking of the bread and appearance of Jesus. In Latrun there is a crusader church, a Cistercian monastery and a templar fortress. But, the Crusaders shifted emphasis to Abu Gosh (a place associated with the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant just before King David took it to Jerusalem) based on a more accurate distance from Jerusalem given in Latin Bibles and the presence of a caravanserai (a watering place along the highway) that was more evocative of the scene from Luke. A beautiful church was built here in the 12th century and is the place where groups come to celebrate the appearance of the resurrected Jesus in the Eucharist.

Thursday, May 3: We arrive back in Seattle today.

Inclusive Features

- Roundtrip air from Seattle to Tel Aviv
- Accommodations in central 4-star hotels :
 - Tiberias - 3 nights
 - Jerusalem - 5 nights
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- 2 lunches
- A full time tour manager
- Guided visits with local experts per the itinerary
- Local transportation via deluxe private motorcoach

Travel Resource Center

Visit www.travelillumine.com/trc/bhy for details and registration information.

With questions please contact:

Deacon Greg McNabb
206 720-7270
gregm@st-therese.cc

Complete Program Prices

Includes group airfare and airport transfers

\$3975 per person based on double occupancy

+\$575 additional - airline taxes, airport fees, security fees, fuel surcharges (estimate as of August 9, 2017)

\$850 supplement for single occupancy

Land Only Program Prices

Excludes all airfare and airport transfers

\$3275 per person based on double occupancy

\$850 supplement for single occupancy

Please note: Single rooms for single use are limited to 10% of the total number of rooms reserved. Should additional single rooms be requested, hotels may impose a higher supplement for all single rooms. If you have selected double occupancy but no roommate is available due to uneven numbers or if your roommate should cancel, you will be in a single room and responsible for the single room supplement.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS: A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

All prices listed are discounted for payment by check. When paying with a credit card you will be charged the standard base price which is 5% higher.

All program prices are based on availability of services at the time registration material is received; currency exchange rates in effect August 9, 2017—and on 2017 land and air tariffs—and are subject to change. All services are provided subject to Illume's Conditions and Clauses.

The program prices will be reviewed before the invoices for the final payment are mailed, and will reflect the current prices.

Travel Protection

Illume suggests that you purchase travel insurance to help protect your trip and your investment from unexpected circumstances. Please read the illume Conditions and Clauses attached to the Program Registration Application to review the charges that will apply in the event that you cancel your program participation. Illume offers you the option of purchasing a Group Deluxe Travel Protection Plan for your program. If you wish to purchase the plan, **the premium should be paid with your initial deposit on the same check.**

Travel Protection Rates

Group Deluxe

\$319 per person – double occupancy

\$353 per person – single occupancy

Group Deluxe – Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)*

\$478.50 per person - double

\$529.50 per person – single

*CFAR coverage is 75% of the nonrefundable trip cost. Trip cancellation must be 48 hours or more prior to scheduled departure. CFAR is not available to residents of New York State.

This Travel Protection Plan is provided by Travel Insured International. All questions concerning covered reasons for cancellation, coverage while traveling, benefits and filing claims can be best answered by calling Travel Insured. Travel Insured International's customer care phone number is **1-(844)-440-8113**.

To download the Plan Document, please visit the "Travel Protection" link on your program's Travel Resource Center.

Program Registration

Complete the Application and forward with your **\$800.00** deposit per person (and travel protection payment, if purchasing) by **October 1, 2017** to:

Deacon Greg McNabb
St. Therese Parish
3416 East Marion St.
Seattle, WA 98122
206 720-7270
gregm@st-therese.cc

Registrations will be accepted after October 1, 2017 on a space-available basis. Additional costs may apply. Contact illume for pricing and availability after October 1, 2017.

Checks should be made payable to illume.

A second non-refundable deposit of **\$1800** per person due to illume not later than: **November 15, 2017**

Balance of payment due to illume not later than: **January 9, 2018**

Note: Any changes to the program will be outlined in the final documents which you will receive one month prior to departure. If changes are made that affect the program price, you will receive an invoice or a credit accordingly.

Program No. 18.10452