**Pilgrimage to Rome**

**Itinerary**

Your guides and group leaders will give specific instructions on a daily basis

**Day 1: Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

Depart Chicago O’Hare Airport on flight to Rome Fiumicino Airport. Everyone is responsible for arriving at the airport on their own and on time unless the Parish organizes bus transportation. The flight will have a brief connection/layover in a major European City. Two meals (typically dinner and breakfast) will be served in flight.

**Day 2: Thursday, October 22, 2020**

Your flight arrives in Rome late morning. After gathering your luggage a professional guide and comfortable coach bus will meet the group and we will head immediately to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. One of the four Major Basilicas in Rome, our group will receive a professionally guided tour and have the opportunity to pray where St Paul’s remains are in repose. The bus will then take us to our hotel where we will have time to unpack, refresh and get settled before we walk to St Peter’s, the second Major Basilica of our trip, and the largest Catholic Church in the World. On our guided tour we will see Michelangelo’s Pieta, pray at the tombs of Popes St John Paul II and St John XXIII, absorb the overwhelming beauty of every side altar, mosaic, and statue and have the chance to pray at the tomb of the prince of the apostles, our first pope. On our walk back to the hotel we will stop and enjoy a “Welcome to Rome” traditional Italian meal. Lunch on your own **(D)**

**Day 3: Friday, October 23, 2020**

After enjoying an early breakfast at the hotel, we will walk to St Peter’s for a private Mass in a chapel in the papal crypts beneath the Basilica. After Holy Mass we will take a short walk to the entrance of the Vatican Museums. Here we will enjoy a guided tour of one of the greatest museums in the world and storehouse of many of the world’s most stunning masterpieces. This tour includes the Sistine Chapel. After lunch (on your own), we will break into smaller groups of 15 for a guided tour of the Scavi excavations under St Peter’s Basilica. The Scavi necropolis houses the tomb of St Peter himself and is one of the most sought after tours in Rome. After a long day of touring we will return to the hotel. Lunch and Dinner on your own **(B)**

**Day 4: Saturday, October 24, 2020**

After breakfast at the hotel our coach bus will take us to the catacombs of St Callixtus for a tour and Holy Mass. After this tour and Mass, we will enjoy a group lunch at a local restaurant. After lunch our bus will transport us to the town of Anzio, about forty miles south of Rome. In Anzio we will visit the 2nd largest US Military cemetery outside of the United States. After this visit the bus will take us to the nearby church of St Maria Goretti where the remains of this child saint rest beneath the altar in the crypt. This church sits directly on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.After the tours we walk to our hotel for the evening. Dinner on your own (**B/L)**

**Day 5: Sunday, October 25, 2020**

After a delicious breakfast at the hotel, we will walk to St Peter’s Basilica to participate in this structure’s highest purpose – praise and worship of God. The group will attend the concelebrated and multi-lingual 10:30am Mass at the Altar of the Chair. Following Holy Mass our group will gather back in St Peter’s Square where we will join thousands of others and Pope Francis for the Angelus at noon. After a group lunch at a local restaurant by St Peter’s square, the guide will lead us through the streets of Rome to see Castel Santangelo, Piazza Novona, the Church of San Luigi Francese and the Pantheon. In the early evening we will walk as a group to the Pontifical North American College to join in solemn vespers and enjoy one of the most stunning views of Rome. Dinner on your own (**B/L)**

**Day 6: Monday, October 26, 2020**

After breakfast at the hotel our coach bus will take us from the hotel to the third major Basilica, St Mary Major for Holy Mass in one of the side chapels. After Holy Mass we will be met by our guide for a tour of this beautiful Basilica. The guide will then take us on a short walk to the ancient minor Basilicas of St Prassede and St Pudenziana to see some of the oldest mosaics in Rome. Our group will then walk to the Church of St Peter in Chains to see Michelangelo’s sculpture of Moses and the very chains which tradition says held St Peter bound in Rome. Following a group lunch, we then have a guided tour of the incredible Colosseum and Roman Forum. After these tours, the group will walk back to our hotel, visiting local churches en route. Dinner on your own **(B/L)**

**Day 7: Tuesday, October 27, 2020**

A day trip to Assisi. After a quick breakfast, the bus will leave at 7:30am for the approximate two and a half hour drive to Assisi. The group will begin its guided tour in the lower town at the church of Santa Maria degli Angeli, which played a significant role in St Francis’ life. The bus will then take the group to the upper town for a tour and Holy Mass in the Basilica of St Clare. After a group lunch we enter the upper level of the Basilica of St Francis to view the frescoes depicting key moments of his life by the artist Giotto. We then tour the lower level of the Basilica and venerate the tomb of St Francis. We depart for Rome at approximately 6:00pm. Dinner on your own **(B/L)**

**Day 8: Wednesday, October 28, 2020**

The day starts with breakfast at the hotel. We’ll depart around 8:45 making our way to St Peter’s Square to attend the Papal Audience. Following the audience we will make our way to the bus for the short trip to St John Lateran, the fourth major Basilica in Rome for a tour and Holy Mass. The group will then visit Scala Santa which attracts pilgrims from all over who wish to honor the Passion of Christ, followed by Santa Croce en Gerusaleme, which houses relics of the cross of Christ. The day will end with the option of a walking tour of two additional churches in the heart of the city: Il Gesu where St Ignatius of Loyola is buried and San Andrea della Valle. Our Pilgrimage concludes with a wonderful farewell group dinner (**B/D)**

**Day 9: Thursday, October 29, 2020**

Check out from the hotel and transport to the Airport for our return to Chicago