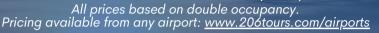
Jubilee Year Pilgrimage FAITH & FOOD IN ITALY May 12 - 22, 2025



\$7,179 per person from San Antonio (SAT)





<u>Spiritual Director:</u> Fr. Philip Mahalic



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Your Pilgrimage Includes: • Round-trip airfare

- Round-trip airfare
 All airport taxes & fuel surcharges
 9 nights accommodation at centrally located hotels in double occupancy: (or similar)
 3 nights: May 13 16: Hotel Della Conciliazione, Rome
 2 nights: May 16 18: Hotel Giotto, Assisi
 1 night: May 18 19: Hotel Athena, Siena
 3 nights: May 19 22: Hotel Adler Cavalieri, Florence
 Breakfast and dinner daily

- 3 lunches with local wine's

- Wine and mineral water with dinners
- Wine and food tasting/making, cooking class in Florence
- Transfers as per itinerary
- Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- Whisper headsets Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
- Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary Tips to Hotel Staff and Restaurants

- Mass daily & Spiritual activities Luggage handling (1 piece per person) Flight bag & Digital PDF confirmation of all travel documents

Sample Daily Itinerary

Day 1, Mon, May 12: Depart for Rome Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Your meals will be served on board.

Day 2, Tue, May 13: Arrive in Rome

Dinner at a local restaurant

Welcome to Rome, also known as, "The Eternal City". Upon arrival at Rome airport, you will be greeted by a tour escort and/or driver. Transfer to your hotel, and have free time to relax or explore Rome on your own. Your group will meet in the hotel lobby for a "Meet and Greet" with your fellow pilgrims and depart for Mass. Following Mass, you will attend a welcome dinner. After dinner, you may walk to St. Peter's Square as a group for the Rosary (optional).

Day 3, Wed, May 14: Rome: Papal Audience - Basilica of St. John the Lateran - Holy Stairs - Basilica of St. Mary Major

Breakfast & Dinner at your hotel

After a nice breakfast at your hotel, we begin by attending the Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square! The Audience is celebrated each Wednesday by His Holiness (pending the papal schedule). Following the Audience, there will be free time for lunch or shopping. Visit the oldest of the four major Basilicas in Rome, and the home to the relics of Peter and Paul, the Basilica of St. John the Lateran. Next, we visit the Holy Staircase. Tradition states that this staircase is from Pontius Pilate's palace of Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. It is also said that this Staircase was brought to Rome by St. Helen in the 4th century. You may climb the steps on your knees, in memory of Christ's agonizing Passion. Proceed to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. It contains a relic from the Manger of the Infant Jesus. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4, Thu, May 15: Rome: St. Peter's Basilica - Vatican Museum - Appian Way - Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls - Catacombs Breakfast & Dinner at a local restaurant

This morning, you will enjoy an early breakfast before making your way to the largest Christendom Church, St. Peter's Basilica; built on the site where St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, was martyred. View Michelangelo's Pieta. This stunning marble sculpture depicts the Virgin Mary holding Christ after His crucifixion, death, and removal off the cross before being placed in the tomb. Proceed to the Vatican Museums. Observe the Tapestry Gallery, Raphael Rooms, Sistine Chapel, and Michelangelo's Masterpiece, the restored mural of the Last Judgment. Pray at the tomb of Saint John Paul II. Afterward, you will be transferred to the Fontana di Trevi (Trevi Fourtain), where you may enjoy some free time on your own for lunch. Continue on your short journey down the Appian Way, the earliest road of Ancient Rome. This road leads to the Domino Quo Vadis Chapel, the Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Drusus, the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, and the catacombs of St. Callixtus. Conclude at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Originally founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th Century, this Basilica is the burial place of Saint Paul the Apostle. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. Following dinner, explore Rome or return to the hotel for overnight.

Day 5, Fri, May 16: Rome: Orvieto - Assisi Breakfast, Lunch with Umbrian fare and Orvieto Classico wines, Dinner at your hotel

Áfter an early breakfast, head north through the Roman countryside of vineyards and villas. Your tour escort will share very interesting information regarding the spiritual, historical, and cultural aspects of Italy. Arrive in Orvieto, a city known for its Duomo and considered one of the most architecturally important in Europe, for its Etruscan roots, and for the museums where one finds collections and displays that range over 2,500 years of history. Walk through Orvieto's charming, narrow alleys, and small squares. Enjoy an Umbrian meal and a glass of Orvieto Classico wine. After lunch, board the coach and continue to Assisi. Enjoy a tour of the hometown of St. Francis. St. Francis is the "Patron Saint of Animals and the Environment." Visit the tomb of St. Francis at his Basilica, see a series of frescoes depicting his life, as well as a few of the saint's possessions. Visit the Church of San Damiano. Kneel before the crucifix where Jesus asked St. Francis, "to rebuild His church." Your group will visit St. Mary of the Angels Basilica. This Basilica is where St. Francis spent most of life and is made up of two structures; both of which you will visit. The Porziuncola is where St. Francis founded his order of the Friar Minor (Franciscans), and the Capella del Transito, which is the place of St. Francis' death. Visit the beautiful Rose Garden where St. Francis and other friars lived, as well as the cave where the Saint retired to pray. Your group will enjoy some free time on your own. The last stop on your tour will be to the Church that honors St. Clare, the foundress of the Poor Clare Sisters. Lastly, your group will transfer to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 6, Sat, May 17: Umbria Touring - Bevagna - Trevi - Montefalco Olive Oil Tasting and Lunch in Trevi at an Oil Mill, Afternoon Wine tasting of the Sagrantino grapes of the area & Dinner at your hotel Drive to the town of Bevagna, where ancient Roman monuments date back to the

1st century B.C. Just a few steps from the Forum, see the remains of a temple and check out the thermal baths which are still decorated with frescoes.

Explore the medieval heart of the city, including the 13th-century Palazzo dei Consoli, and the 19th-century theater with decorations by Domenico Bruschi and a ceiling of dancing muses by Mariano Piervittori. Transfer to Trevi, the town famous for its olive oil, and enjoy a guided visit with light lunch at an oil mill. Visit the medieval city of Montefalco. Tour the Museo di San Francesco (Museum of St. Francis). Admire the 13th to14th-century Palazzo Comunale (Town Hall), and the former church of San Filippo Neri, now a town theater. Other historic churches include Sant' Agostino and Santa Illuminata. See handsome 16th-century residences in Santa Maria di Piazza. Visit a local wine producer, to taste the local wines, and especially the deep red Sagrantino wines. Return to the hotel in Assisi for dinner and overnight.

Day 7, Sun, May 18: Assisi - Siena and San Gimignano After an early breakfast, celebrate Mass and depart Assisi for Siena, stopping at Romanesque and Gothic architecture, frescoes, towers, and more. Meet your local guide who will show you first to the medieval city of Siena. Siena is also the city of Saint Catherine of Siena: she is one of the two patron saints of Italy. Begin with a private tour of the Siena Cathedral, admiring the unique marble stripes of its interior as well as the Piccolomini Library, which hosts illuminated choir books and frescoes. Your tour will continue to the Piazza del Campo, the famed site of the Palio di Siena. Explore independently or purchase lunch. Continue to Siena for dinner at a local restaurant and overnight.

Day 8, Mon, May 19: Montalcino - Orcia Valley - Pienza & Montepulciano Breakfast, Wine Tastings (2), Food Tasting, Wine Tour, Cheese Tasting, Dinner in a local restaurant in Florence

After breakfast, you will depart for a full day's Tuscan tour. The tour begins with a drive through the rolling, grape-clad scenery leading you to Montalcino. The town is the home of the world-famous Brunello wines. Visit a famous wine cellar set on an estate with a rich history. Here you can taste these rich and aged wines and receive expert advice and suggestions from a connoisseur. The next stop is one of the hidden gems of Tuscany - the Orcia Valley. Stop at San Quirico d'Orcia and you use your free time to visit the Romanesque Collegiate, a UNESCO historical site. Continue on to the home of Pecorino cheese: Pienza. Taste the best of the cheeses. The last stop is Montepulciano. Home to the highly esteemed Vino Nobile. Take part in your second wine tasting session. Visit the wine celllar. Head to Florence for dinner in a local restaurant and overnight.

Day 9, Tue, May 20: Florence & Cooking Breakfast, Cooking Class with dinner

After breakfast, meet your local guide and travel first to the neighborhood of San Lorenzo, a popular spot with visitors and locals alike for its open-air market, which sells a wide array of goods. Your guide will discuss the rule of the Medici family and their significant impact on the city's politics and art during the Renaissance. Head past the Medici Chapels, designed by Michelangelo and Matteo Nigetti, and check out the Basilica of San Lorenzo, where members of the Medici family are buried. Next, see the Duomo, where Brunelleschi's Dome famously sits. Visit the Baptistery and Giotto's Bell Tower while learning the history of the architecture. Continue through the bustling square of Piazza Della Signoria, home to the Palazzo Vecchio, outdoor cafes, and a collection of famous sculptures, including Giambologna's Rape of the Sabine Women. Visit II Porcellino. Visit the Academia

and experience this world-renowned museum. Meet your Chef and get ready for a traditional Tuscan cooking lesson. Learn the principles of Tuscan produce, tips on how best to prepare it, and the fine art of creating pasta from scratch. Enjoy feasting on your dishes, complemented by local wine. After dinner, return to the hotel for overnight.

Day 10, Wed, May 21: Chianti Region and the Tuscan Countryside - Greve -Castellina

Journey through the beautiful Tuscan countryside, viewing the olive groves, vineyards, and rolling hills of one of the most prestigious winemaking regions in the world before arriving in Chianti Fiorentino. Stop for the visit to a distinguished castle and wine estate, where you'll tour the historical cellars. Learn the winemaker's secrets as you see where the grapes are crushed, and where the wine is matured and bottled. Then, get to tasting! Enjoy a glass of Chianti Classico, Chianti Reserve, Tuscan dessert wine, or a prominent white wine. Learn the complex character of each from your expert guide while you taste. Later, enjoy a typical Tuscan lunch, and afterward, head to the medieval village of Greve, where the most important wine fair of the Chianti region is held each year. Explore the main square and pursue the local artisan shops. Then make your way to Castellina a hilltop village characterized by its large fortress and Etruscan settlements. Stroll past the medieval street of Via Delle Volte and explore the local shops and squares before returning to Florence. Farewell dinner in Florence, before returning to your hotel for overnight.

Day 11, Thu, May 22: Departure OR Extend your stay! Extend your stay! Or, transfer to the airport in Florence for our return flights home! After breakfast, board the coach and transfer to Florence International airport for your return flight. Arrivederci, Italia!

*206 Tours Disclaimer: Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.