

## *Pilgrimage to Holy Land April 29 - May 8th (3550Cad)*



**Spiritual guidance of Fr. Eugene Chianain CFIC, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Woodbridge.**

**Day 1: Departure from Toronto to Tel-Aviv (Apr29)**

**Day 2: Tel-Aviv – Galilee (Apr30)**

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport. Exit the terminal at the sign marked “groups” & meet your guide. Transfer to your hotel in Nazareth, with a stop on the way at **Caesarea Maritime**. Dinner & lodging in Nazareth

**Day 3: Haifa – Nazareth (May1)**

This morning we drive to Haifa and the Carmel Mountains, heading for the place where Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal at a site now called Mukhraka. Up on the Carmel Mountains we also visit the church of Stella Maris, where we will have a panoramic view of the city Haifa. In the afternoon we visit the Basilica of the Annunciation starting at the Grotto where the Annunciation took place, and then we will visit the house of the Holy Family under the Church of St. Joseph, the Fountain of Mary and the Synagogue. Dinner and lodging at your hotel.

**Day 4: The ministry of Christ in the Galilee (May2)**

This morning we drive to the Sea of Galilee to visit the Mt. of Beatitudes where our Lord gave the Sermon on the Mount. Continue to Tabgha to see the splendid mosaic of the loaves and fishes with which he fed the Five Thousand. Visit the Church of St. Peter’s Primacy and then go to visit Capernaum to see the house of St. Peter and the Synagogue where our Lord preached. You will have to try the St. Peter’s fish for lunch that day. One of today’s highlights is a boat ride across the Sea of Galilee, and a visit to the ‘Jesus Boat’ - a 2000 year old boat found on the shores of Magdala. We finish our day with a visit to the Jordan River to renew our Baptismal Vows. Then drive back to the hotel for dinner and lodging.

**Day 5: Cana of Galilee – Transfiguration – Jericho – Jerusalem/Bethlehem (May3)**

Drive to Cana of Galilee to visit the church of the wedding where Jesus performed the first of his signs, changing water to wine. Here couples can renew their wedding vows. Next we head towards Mount Tabor, the Mount of the Transfiguration, and visit the beautiful Basilica and the rock under the altar where the Transfiguration took place. We will spend some time on this peaceful mountain for meditation and reflection. Leaving the mountain, we drive via the Jordan Valley to Jericho, where we view the Mount of Temptation and the Sycamore tree that Zachaeus climbed in order to see Jesus. We continue our drive up to Bethlehem and check into the hotel for dinner and lodging overnight.

**Day 6: Bethlehem – Ein Karem (May4)**

This morning we drive to Bethlehem to visit the place of our Lord’s birth in the Basilica of the Nativity. We will see the Grotto of the Nativity, the Church of St. Catherine, where the Midnight Mass is celebrated, and

the Caves of St. Joseph and St. Jerome underneath the church. Visit to the Shepherds 'Fields, where the Angels appeared to the shepherds who were watching over their flocks during the night. In the afternoon we drive to the nearby village of Ein Karem to visit the birth-place of St. John the Baptist and the Church of the Visitation, where Mary came to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth and proclaimed the 'Magnificat'. Dinner and lodging in Bethlehem

**Day 7: Introduction to Jerusalem (May5)**

After breakfast we drive to the top of the Mt. Olives for a panoramic view of Jerusalem and a better understanding of its geography and some of the key sites surrounding the area. Visit the Church of Pater Noster where Jesus taught his disciples how to pray, and then proceed down the Palm Sunday route to the Church of Dominus Flevit, where our Lord wept over the city. We continue our walk on the Palm Sunday route to the Garden of Gethsemane, where we find the Rock of Agony where Jesus prayed before his betrayal. Before going back to the hotel, we will have free time at the dimly-lit church for prayer and reflection. This afternoon we go on Mount Zion to visit the Church of the Dormition Abbey, where our Blessed Mother fell asleep. Next we go to the Cenacle, the place of the Last Supper and Pentecost. Today we also visit the Church of Saint Peter in Gallicantu, which commemorates the house of Caiphas, the high priest of the Jews, where Jesus was imprisoned for the night and here Peter denied our Lord. After this we return to our hotel for dinner and lodging.

**Day 8: Jerusalem, The Passion of Jesus' last hours (May6)**

Early this morning we start at the Western Wall, the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, including St. Anne's Church and the Pools of Bethesda. From there we continue to the Judgment Hall known as the Antonia Fortress where Jesus was led to be condemned to death by Pontius Pilate. At that place we start following the Via Dolorosa through the markets of the Old City, praying at the Stations of the Cross: we reflect on the greatness of His sacrifice, stopping at each of the fourteen Stations of the Cross until we reach the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. There we will visit Calvary and the empty Tomb of our Lord, and the different sections of the church. We will have free time at the church for prayers and reflection before going back to the hotel for dinner and lodging.

**Day 9: Qumran - Bethany - Dead Sea - Bethlehem (May7)**

After Breakfast, we head East to towards the Jordan Valley. Visit Qumran, where the Dead Sea scrolls were found with biblical inscriptions. We drive down to Masada, the prominent hilltop in the Judean Desert and the Dead Sea Area - where the Roman Legion were lead to conquer the mount. Continue to the Dead Sea for a nice relaxing float on the saltiest sea in the world. Back to Hotel for Dinner and Overnight.

**Day 10: Bethlehem - Airport (May8)**

Have Breakfast. Depart for Ben Gurion Airport for flight back home

**\$3550.00.00Includes:** Daily Mass.; All transportation, taxes and surcharges. Two meals daily, Breakfast and Dinner.

Hotel accommodations based on double occupancy. (Single room supplement is US \$650.00)

All sightseeing as per itinerary with English speaking guide.

Direct flights; All tips included.

**Not included:** Meals not specified & Travel insurance required for Israel.

**To Book: \$500.00 nonrefundable deposit due at time of booking with passport copy valid six months from day of departure. Final payment due Jan12,2024.**



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