

Itinerary for Fall Tourgrimage of Italy

October 18 – 26, 2024



With your hosts, Fr. Greg Plata, OFM and Dr. Manuela Manfré

Friday, Oct 18: Departures from American airports.

Saturday, Oct 19: Arrive in Florence. After getting a good cup of espresso or cappuccino, we will visit the beautiful Church of Santa Croce. There are plenty of good places to eat lunch nearby for lunch. Then we will regroup to continue our tour of this beautiful city. Later, we check into our hotel where dinner will be served. A good time to rest up for tomorrow's activities!

Sunday, Oct 20: After Mass and breakfast, we will visit the Academia, home of Michelangelo's "David," and continue to visit other historic sites in Florence. After lunch, there will be plenty of time to explore Florence's outdoor markets and leather shops. Dinner will feature a delicious Tuscan specialty at a nearby restaurant.

Monday, Oct 21: Following breakfast, we will head to beautiful and peaceful Assisi on our private bus. After lunch at our hotel, Fr. Greg and Manuela will give a walking tour of the various shrines in Assisi, including the Tomb of St. Francis with the possibility of celebrating Mass there. In the evening, we will experience a wine and cheese tasting event, followed by dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Tuesday, Oct 22: After breakfast, we will head to the Our Lady of the Angels Basilica for Mass, visiting the Porziuncola and see the site where St. Francis had his *transitus*, meaning his embrace of Sister Death. A quick lunch can be found nearby. We will pass by Rivo Torto, where the early friars ministered to the leper colony outside of Assisi. Our group will then head to Greccio, where the first Christmas creche was introduced into the Western world by St. Francis. Later in the afternoon, we will head to Rome.

Wednesday, Oct 23: This day will involve an early morning wake up as we head to St. Peter's Square to see the Pope. If the Pope is not available, we will go to the Sistine Chapel. A tour of St. Peter's Basilica is a must! After lunch, we will tour the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, where Mass will be offered. Dinner will be at our hotel in Rome. After dinner, join Fr. Greg for a less crowded view of St. Peter's Square.

Thursday, Oct 24: After Mass and breakfast, we will walk to see the Vatican Museums. Following lunch, we will have a tour of the Major Basilicas, including St. Paul Outside the Walls, Santa Maria Maggiore and St. John Lateran. We have arranged a festive Roman dinner, and Fr. Greg will offer a walking tour of the hip and famous *Trastevere* (meaning “across the Tiber”).

Friday, Oct 25: Mass will be offered, followed by breakfast. Then we begin a tour of the famous (or infamous!) Colosseum. From there we head to the Spanish steps. You will have free time to explore and pick up those last-minute souvenirs for someone special back home. Dinner back at the hotel. Time to pack all those gifts into your suitcases!

Saturday, Oct 26: After a quick breakfast, we board the bus to head to the, savoring the wonderful experiences of our trip.