

0724 Fr. Rob Schultz and the Diaconate Office of Chicago
Jul 09 - Jul 18, 2024



Tuesday, July 09

Depart ORD Airport on your way to Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, July 10

Wednesday, July 10 Arrive at Ben-Gurion Airport where an Ami Travel representative greets us and gives us an introduction about the forthcoming trip - dive along the coast to Caesarea where Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius baptized, see the Roman Theater, the aqueduct, and the Crusader ruins. Travel North via the Lower Galilee valleys to our hotel in Nazareth for dinner and an overnight stay.

Thursday, July 11

Tour the Sea of Galilee. Celebrate Mass on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Explore Capernaum and Simon Peter's house. Ascend the Mount of the Beatitudes - site of the Sermon on the Mount. Visit to Tabgha - the site of the Feeding of the Multitudes and the Church of St. Peter's Primacy. Continue to the newly excavated Magdala. Enjoy a lunch of St. Peter's Fish. We shall end the day sailing across the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight in Nazareth.

Friday, July 12

Ascend to the top of Mount Tabor – the site of the Transfiguration – where we celebrate Mass. Continue through the Valley of Armageddon to Mt. Carmel- where the Prophet Elijah confronted the pagan priests (1st Kings 18). Drive to Cana – where we shall renew our marriage vows. Walk through "old town" Nazareth; the synagogue where Jesus stood to proclaim and preach the stirring words of Isaiah (Luke 4:16-27). End the day at the Basilica of the Annunciation - home of the Virgin and one of the largest churches in the Middle East. Dinner and overnight in Galilee. (evening procession)

Saturday, July 13

Start the day by celebrating Mass in Nazareth at the magnificent Church of the Annunciation built on top of the Virgin Mary's house. Continue via the Coast to the ancient port city of Jaffa - Home of Simon the Tanner. Visit Emmaus and ascend to the Holy City of Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.

Sunday, July 14

Begin our journey in nearby Bethlehem to visit the ancient Church of Nativity where we shall celebrate Mass. Enjoy your shopping in a Bethlehem bazaar and later visit Manger Square and the beautiful Shepherds' Fields. Return to Jerusalem to explore Mt. Zion: David's Tomb, the Room of the Last Supper, and the Dormition Abbey - the site of the Assumption of the Virgin. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem. (Evening Western Wall Tunnels)

Monday, July 15

Early morning Mass inside the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. Walk Inside the Old City of Jerusalem to St Anne the Pool of Bethesda. Walk the Stations of the Cross; visit the various quarters and the underground excavations. See the Temple ruins and the Western Wall amidst the buildings of old Jerusalem. End the day at St Peter in Gallicantu (cock-crowing) built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas. Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.

Tuesday, July 16

Celebrate Mass at Bethpage. On Mt of Olives visit the Chapel of Ascension and Dominus Flevit (The Lord Wept). Walk Palm Sunday Road. Afternoon visit to the birthplace of St John the Baptist and view the site of the Visitation. Enjoy our farewell dinner Dinner and overnight stay in Jerusalem.

Wednesday, July 17

Morning Mass in the Garden of Gethsemane followed by our journey to the lowest point on Earth; the Dead Sea area. Renew baptismal vows at the Jordan River. Continue to Masada, the site of the Jewish zealots' last stand against the Romans. See the Qumran Caves, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, and enjoy a floating experience in the Dead Sea. Visit Jericho to view Zacheus's Tree, Elisha's spring next to the Mount of Temptation. Back to Jerusalem for our farewell and overnight.

Thursday, July 18

Morning transfer to the airport for our flight back home. Same day arrival at ORD