



# Saint Anastasia CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## RETREAT & PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Spiritual Leader: Father Richard George

January 3 - 13, 2018

### Itinerary

**Wednesday, January 3rd** - We depart from the U.S. for our evening connecting flight overnight to Tel Aviv. Dinner and breakfast served aboard.

**Thursday- January 4th** - In the afternoon we arrive at Ben Gurion Airport, clear customs and transfer by motor coach to the Guest House on Mt. Beatitudes, arriving just before dinner. In the evening we will celebrate the opening Mass of our Retreat on Mt. Beatitudes. Then dinner will be served at the Guest House.

**Friday, January 5th** - Friday & Saturday will be the two days of a Spiritual Retreat on site overlooking the Sea of Galilee where Jesus preached His Sermon on the Mount. We will be hear retreat talks and will have time for our own contemplation . In the morning we will be driven to a site along the sea shore named the Primacy of Peter, and here celebrate Mass at this place where Our Lord bestowed upon Peter the role of leadership of the Church. We will return to Mt. Beatitudes for lunch and the remainder of our day and will have dinner together in the evening.

**Saturday, January 6th** - This morning's Retreat Mass will be just a five minute drive away at an altar along the Sea of Galilee at a site named the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes. This is the place where Our Lord fed the crowd of five thousand. Later this morning we will visit Capernaum, known as the Second City of Jesus, where we will see the ruins of the second century Synagogue (John:6), and the ancient structure of the House of Peter. In this city Our Lord called a number if the Apostles, he taught the Good News of our Redemption and he cured many people of their afflictions. We will return to the Guest House for lunch and to spend the rest of our second day hearing further presentations and in our own contemplation and dine together at the Guest House.

**Sunday, January 7th** - Having completed our two days of Retreat we continue on our visits to important sites of our Lord's Ministry in the Galilee area. We ascend the heights of Mt. Tabor, where Jesus took Peter, James and John and was gloriously Transfigured in their sight. We celebrate Holy Mass in the Basilica of the Transfiguration. We can find a place for a light snack on our own, and then we head to Nazareth, where Jesus spent most of His Life. We will go to the beautiful Basilica of the Annunciation, especially to pray at its venerable Grotto of the Annunciation, the very place where the Word was made flesh. A few steps beyond the Basilica we visit the Church of St. Joseph's Workshop. A short distance from Nazareth we reach Cana. Here we recall the scene of Our Lord's first miracle, remembering His Blessed Mother's words, "Do whatever He tells you." During our visit couples in our group will have the opportunity to renew their Marriage Vows. We will return to our Guest House for dinner and overnight.

**Monday, January 8th** - Today before departure we celebrate Holy Mass on Mt Beatitudes at an outdoor altar overlooking the Sea of Galilee. Then we will drive south through the fertile Jordan River Valley and just above the place where it empties into the Dead Sea, we go directly to its banks and recall that here, when St. John was baptizing those who responded to his call for repentance, he heard Our Lord and obediently Baptized Jesus Himself. Then we will reach Jericho, the most ancient city in the Holy Land. We recall its prominence for events in both the Old and New Testaments. Next we go to Qumran, site of the Dead Sea Scrolls discovery and ancient ruins of the Essene Community. After time for lunch on our own and a tour here we go to the shore of the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth. We can even take the opportunity for a dip in these rich mineral rich waters. Driving up to Jerusalem, but before arriving to this Holy City, we will stop at Bethany, home of Martha, Mary & Lazarus. It was here that Jesus raised His dear friend Lazarus from the tomb. In Jerusalem we will check into our hotel, the Notre Dame Center and have dinner.

**Tuesday, January 9th** - Traveling a short distance south of Jerusalem, we arrive in Bethlehem. We begin our visit in the countryside at the Shepherds Fields of Boaz, remember the angels' glad tidings to the shepherds. We celebrate our Holy Mass in a Grotto of Shepherds field. Within the Town of Bethlehem we go to venerate the Holy Grotto of the Nativity, as well as the Manger and the Grotto of St. Jerome. We will also be in the Franciscan church of St. Catherine, scene of Bethlehem's Christmas Midnight Mass. After a break for lunch on our own, in the afternoon we will drive to a town just outside of Jerusalem called Ein Karem. The Blessed Mother went in haste here to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Our devotions will be within the Church of Visitation and the Church of St. John the Baptist, and we will praise God with the Magnificat. Upon our return to Jerusalem we stop at the Israel Museum to see the Model of the Holy City of Jerusalem and the Second Temple as it was the time of Our Lord. We will have dinner together at Notre Dame.

**Wednesday- January 10th** - On this morning we drive to the Summit of Mt. Olives to visit the Chapel of the Ascension and the Church of Pater Noster. Walking the Palm Sunday Road, we visit and celebrate Mass in the Dominus Flevit Church. There, too, we have a wonderful panoramic view of the City of Jerusalem. We continue down the road to the Garden of Getsemane and visit the Church of All Nations here. We will return to Bethlehem for lunch and we will have the opportunity to shop in a store that features many religious items. In the afternoon we return to Jerusalem and the remainder of the afternoon is free for your own activities. We return to the Notre Dame center for Dinner.

**Thursday, January 11th** - At 6:30am we celebrate Mass at the Tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre with the Franciscans chanting the common hymns. After breakfast we enter the Old City at the Western Wall or Wailing Wall, where devout Jews offer up prayers at these remaining holy stones of the glorious Second Temple. Next we are on the edge of the Old City to visit the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, built over the spot where Our Lord was held in the dungeon of Caiphas' house, and is the site of St. Peter's triple denial of Our Lord. After a break for lunch on our own, we enter the Old City of Jerusalem at St. Stephen's Gate. Our first stop is the church of St. Anne and the Pools of Bethesda. Next we visit the Chapel of Flagellation in preparation for making the Way of the Cross. Carrying a wooden cross and praying the Way of the Cross along the streets and among the markets and shops as Jesus did on His to Calvary, we follow the Via Dolorosa to the church of the Holy Sepulchre. Within the church we visit Golgotha and complete our devotions at the Sacred Tomb of Jesus. We will dine together at Notre Dame in the evening.

**Friday, January 12th** - We go to Mt. Zion by the Old City to celebrate Last Supper Mass in the Franciscans' Cenacle Chapel. After Mass we visit the adjacent traditional site of the Upper Room, recalling the Last Supper, Easter Sunday and Pentecost. Then nearby we enter Dormition Abbey Church that honors the passage of Our Lady from this life to Heaven. The balance of this day is for our own person activities or shopping and we have dinner together at our hotel.

**Saturday, January 13th** - Very early on in the morning we depart for Ben Gurion Airport to board a flight that begins our journey home. We take a connecting flight that brings us to the U.S. and home by mid-afternoon.

### **Included Features**

- \* Round-trip air fare from Miami
- \* 9 nights in First Class Hotels:  
4 nights at Tiberius & 5 nights in Jerusalem
- \* Breakfast & dinner daily & 3 lunches
- \* Baggage handling in/out hotels
- \* Daily Mass at the Holy Sites
- \* Private deluxe motor coach
- \* Fully guided by a Christian guide
- \* All sightseeing & admission fees

### **Not Included**

- \* Gratuities to guide and driver
- \* Your own beverages (wine or soda)
- \* Room charges
- \* Personal items

**Price: \$3395 per person, based on double occupancy and additional cost will be airline taxes of \$152  
For a single room, add \$825**

**NOTE: Early reservation encouraged! There is a heavy demand for Holy Land pilgrimages and a limited number of places are available on this one.**

**More detailed brochures are available in the back of the church or in the Parish Office.**

**For more information please contact John Lange at Travel Tyme at 636-391-1000.**