

MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED DAILY

Prior to travel, Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre are asked to contact John Schlageter.

The itinerary is a general outline and is intended to be flexible. Modifications may be made as needed and other events might be added to the schedule.

Wednesday September 1, 2021 TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS
The motor coach will pick up the group at 6:00 PM from the Ben Gurion Airport. We transfer to the hotel in Tiberias on the Sea of Galilee. After check-in, we gather for Mass and a welcome dinner and toast to our journey in the footsteps of Jesus. Overnight in Tiberias. [D]

Thursday 9/2, TIBERIAS / CAESAREA PHILIPPI / CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / TIBERIAS
This morning we trek north to the foothills of Mount Herman to visit **Caesarea Philippi**, also called "Banias". Caesarea Philippi is the location where Jesus declared Peter "Rock" and entrusted him with the keys to the kingdom of Heaven. During our visit, we will see one of the three springs that feeds the Jordan River. On our way back toward Tiberias, we stop in **Capernaum**. This is the town where Peter lived and within which Jesus made his base of operations for His Galilean ministry. As we visit the ruins of the town you will find out why Jesus focused his ministry here, where ancient Judaism flourished. We will visit the Synagogue where Jesus healed and taught, and also Peter's house. Nearby, we stop at **Tabgha**, location of the miracle of the loaves and fish and the **Church of St. Peter's Primacy**, where Jesus appeared after the Resurrection. We return to our hotel for dinner and an overnight. [B,D]

Friday 9/3, TIBERIAS / MT TABOR / CANA / NAZARETH / AKKO / TIBERIAS



MT TABOR

We begin today at **Mt. Tabor**, the mountain that early fathers of the church believed was the site of the Transfiguration of Jesus when Jesus spoke to Moses and Elijah. The church has two altars: one dedicated to the symbolism of Our Lord on earth and the other is dedicated to Jesus in Heaven. From there, we make a brief stop in **Cana**, the place where Jesus performed his first miracle. Couples may renew their wedding vows at the place where Jesus changed the water into wine at the wedding in Cana. From there, we continue a short distance to **Nazareth**, where Jesus played, grew up amongst the other children of the city, and later worked with Joseph in carpentry. It is here in the **Church of the Annunciation** just behind the altar where you can see the grotto where Mary said "yes" to the angel of the Lord. Next, we drive to **Akko (Acre)**, home to one of

the oldest ports in the world. Surrounded by crusader-era fortified walls, Akko is one of a small handful of preserved-Ottoman-towns still in existence. The town, both ground level and subterranean, boasts of beautiful Crusader architecture. We visit the **12th-century crusader fortress** that contains, on both levels, many rooms or halls. The underground level, formerly the command-post for the Crusader Army, is compact and houses the crypt and the tunnel. We visit the **Crusader Tunnel**, discovered as recently as 1994, which was used as an underground escape passage between the Templar Palace and the harbor. Today, it offers a glimpse into the architecture and history of the Crusaders. We enjoy a **group dinner in Akko (Acre)** before we return to our hotel in Tiberias. [B,D]



AKKO PORT

Saturday 9/4, TIBERIAS / MT OF BEATTITUDES / SEA OF GALILEE / BET SHEAN / BETHLEHEM
After breakfast, we head to the **Mount of Beatitudes**, site of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. In prayer, we enjoy tranquil and contemplative time. Then, we reach the shore of the Sea of Galilee where we embark on a relaxing **boat ride**. Next we travel south, parallel to the Jordan River, to Bet Shean (or the Scythopolis), which is a strategic junction between the Jezreel and Jordan River Valleys. It was here where Jewish King Saul faced-off with the Philistines in a battle at nearby Mount Gilboa (1004 BC). The victorious Philistines hung the bodies of King Saul and his sons on the walls of Bet Shean. Later, brilliant military strategy enabled King David to free Bet Shean of the Philistines and send them back to their strongholds in and around the Gaza region. We see **ruins of Bet Shean's ancient theatre, Circus Maximus (chariot racing stadium) and Cardo Maximo (main street)**. We proceed to **Bethlehem** to check in at our hotel for dinner and overnight. [B,D]

Sunday 9/5, BETHLEHEM
This morning, we join the local Catholic community for **Sunday Mass at Saint Catherine Church** and have a **walking tour** of the city. We visit the **Church of the Nativity, the Manger, the Crusader's Cloister and the Grotto of St. Jerome**. We then visit the **cave in Shepherd's Field** and view the Fields of Boaz. From there, we stop in at **Milk Church**. Tradition says that Mary and Joseph stopped in a cave so that Mary could nurse the infant Jesus and a droplet of milk fell to the floor and whitened the stone. In 385 AD, the first structure was built to protect the grotto. A church was built around the grotto in 1872 and then in 2007 a modern chapel was opened with a tunnel connecting to the grotto. The grotto has become a site of veneration. This afternoon, we stop at **Holy Family Hospital to experience the work of the Order of Malta in providing first rate maternity care in Bethlehem**. Then, this evening, we will **join the Christian Brothers at Bethlehem Univer-**

sity for an evening reception to welcome our visitors to campus. Overnight in Bethlehem. [B,D]

Monday 9/6, BETHLEHEM (DEDICATION OF CARDINAL FOLEY HALL)



CARDINAL FOLEY

Bethlehem University has joyfully anticipated two important dedications: one takes place today and the other tomorrow. Today, we **join the community at Bethlehem and dignitaries from around the world for the blessing and dedication of Cardinal Foley Hall**. Cardinal Foley Hall is the new home of the School of Nursing and Health Sciences at Bethlehem University. A priest of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Cardinal Foley was the Grand Master of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre. **We will join with the Knights and Dames from around the world in celebrating this tremendous gift to Bethlehem University.** The day will start with **Mass at Saint Catherine followed by a procession to Bethlehem University. We will join for the formal dedication followed by the reception.** We will spend the afternoon interacting with the students and faculty of Bethlehem University and will end the day with **dinner in Bethlehem followed by an evening cocktail reception at the Walled Off Hotel.** Overnight in Bethlehem. [B,D]

Tuesday 9/7, BETHLEHEM (DEDICATION OF THE ZBIERSKI LIBRARY) / JERUSALEM



ZBIERSKI LIBRARY

We **again join the community at Bethlehem University for the blessing and formal dedication of the Zbierski Library.** The library is being named after the parents of Suava Salameh, a Regent of Bethlehem University, following her and Ghassan's generous gift to Bethlehem University. Ghassan is a member of the Board of Directors of the Foundation. We will **join the community for the celebrations that follow. There will be time for personal tours of Bethlehem and shopping following the dedication.** That evening we make our way to **Jerusalem** for the final chapter of our journey together. **For those up to it, John Schlageter**

will lead us on a walking tour of the Old City. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem. [B,D]

Wednesday 9/8, JERUSALEM

We start our day with a **visit to the Apostolic Nunciature on the Mount of Olives** (to be confirmed) where we will **join the Nuncio for Mass and a visit.** Archbishop Girelli is the Chancellor of Bethlehem University. Next, we walk down the hill to **Dominus Flevit Chapel** where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Just a bit farther down the hill we visit the **Garden of Gethsemane**. Beside the garden is the **Church of All Nations**, built over the location where Jesus endured his Agony. We stop at the **Church of St. Anne and the Pool of Bethesda, Lithostrotos, the Arch of Ecce Homo ("Behold the Man"), and the Convent of the Sisters of Zion.** From there and subject to confirmation, we pay a visit to the **Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem where Knights and Dames of the Equestrian Order receive their pilgrims shell.** **Knights and Dames of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre are asked to vest for this meeting (prior to travel, please contact John Schlageter for instruction).** We have an **audience with the Apostolic Administrator of the Latin Patriarchate, Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzabala.** Our day concludes as we check in at our hotel in Jerusalem for dinner and overnight. [B,D]

Thursday 9/9, JERUSALEM

Early this morning, we prayerfully follow the **Via Dolorosa** (Stations of the Cross) through the old city to the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**, where we pray on top the Rock of Calvary and inside the Lord's tomb. **After Mass, we return to our hotel for breakfast.** We proceed from there to the **New City of Jerusalem to Mount Zion, the Upper Room, the tomb of King David and Dormition Abbey.** We visit the beautiful **Church of St. Peter of Gallicantu** (The Cock Crows), location where Jesus was held in the house of the High Priest Caiaphas. Next, we visit the **Davidson Center, the Southern Steps, the Western (Wailing) Wall** and view, in passing, **Dome of the Rock** on the Temple Mount. Then, we enjoy a **group farewell dinner at a local restaurant.** Overnight in Jerusalem. [B,D]



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Friday, September 10, 2021, JERUSALEM / TEL AVIV / FLIGHTS UNDER OWN ARRANGEMENT

This morning, the **coach pick-up at the hotel is at 4:30AM and will take the group from Jerusalem to the Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv.** Your air travel is under your own arrangement. Our journey in the footsteps of Jesus offers the mind and soul a new and treasured canvas of memories inspired by God's majestic landscape and a world we explore one pilgrimage at a time. [B]

