



**Cross Catholic  
OUTREACH**

Delivering Food, Shelter and Hope to the Poorest of the Poor



PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

## *Join Cross Catholic Outreach on* **A Catholic Pilgrimage to Italy**

The itinerary features seven nights in Rome and three nights in Florence, with a day trip to Orvieto included as well. Daily Mass – the cornerstone of each day – will be complemented by a rich Catholic touring program designed to bring the pilgrims face to face with the great saints, martyrs, Eucharistic Miracles and cultural heritage of Roman Catholicism. Highlights include St. Peter's Basilica, the Papal Basilicas, the Catacombs, private tour of the Vatican Museums, the Colosseum, the Basilica of San Marco in Florence, the Uffizi Gallery, Michelangelo's David and many more incredible saints, churches, basilicas and holy sites throughout these cities.

Beautiful and centrally located five-star hotels will be arranged. A ProRome tour manager will accompany the group throughout the trip, and private bus transportation, Catholic tour guides, all tours and tickets, daily breakfast and either daily lunch or dinner are included in the price.

**October 1 - 12, 2026**

**\$8290 per person, Land Only**

If a pilgrim opts for a single occupancy room, there will be a surcharge of \$3,690.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.prorometours.com/crosscatholicoutreach](http://www.prorometours.com/crosscatholicoutreach) or contact ProRome Tours directly at (434) 953 1112 or by email at [office@prorome.com](mailto:office@prorome.com).

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime Catholic pilgrimage through the heart of Italy with Cross Catholic Outreach. This October, join us on a sacred journey that will deepen your faith and connect you more profoundly to the spiritual roots of our Catholic tradition. Throughout history, pilgrimages have served as a powerful expression of the Christian life—an outward journey that mirrors an inward conversion. This pilgrimage will be no different.

Explore the sacred sites of Rome, including St. Peter’s Basilica, the Vatican, and the ancient Catacombs, where the early Christians lived and witnessed to their faith. Continue on to Florence, a city rich in Catholic history, sacred art, and beauty that lifts the soul to God, where faith and culture have been woven together for centuries.

As we journey together, you will have the opportunity to participate in daily Mass, moments of prayer, and spiritual reflections designed to nourish your soul and strengthen your relationship with Christ. This pilgrimage is not simply a tour, but a sacred encounter—an invitation to renewal, deeper discipleship, and a more intentional living of the Gospel.

I invite you to join us for this extraordinary pilgrimage and to open your heart to all that the Lord desires for you through this experience. May this journey inspire your faith, deepen your love for the Church, and leave a lasting imprint on your heart. I look forward to walking with you on this sacred path of faith.

- Michele Sagarino, President, Cross Catholic Outreach

*Michele Sagarino*



# THE ITINERARY



Each day of pilgrimage will include the celebration of Holy Mass, locations to be determined based on availability. Additionally, each day will include breakfast and either lunch or dinner. Please note that Mass, meal and tour bookings listed in this itinerary are subject to change based on availability at the time of booking. Although these items listed will be included in the tour, the order in which they occur is subject to change.

## Thursday, October 1

### Departure

Pilgrims depart from their home cities for Rome on individual flights. Participants should book flights arriving at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Fiumicino Airport (FCO) no later than 2:00 PM on October 2.

For those who prefer to arrive a day earlier, we can arrange an additional night's stay in Rome and private transfer from the airport.

## Friday, October 2

### Arrival In Rome

Pilgrims arrive at Rome's Fiumicino Airport. A ProRome tour manager will be waiting to welcome group members and escort them to their private Mercedes transfer to the five-star Bernini Bristol hotel, located in the heart of Rome. Upon arrival at the hotel, pilgrims check in and

have time to rest and refresh before the evening program.

In the early evening, the group gathers for Mass at a nearby church. This is followed by a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel. The Tour Manager will review the schedule and answer questions about the days ahead.

## Saturday, October 3

### St. Peter's Basilica And Vatican Museums

The day begins with a guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica. Built over the tomb of Saint Peter, the basilica is the largest church in the world. The tour includes Michelangelo's Pietà, the bronze statue of St. Peter worn smooth by centuries of pilgrims touching its foot, Bernini's massive bronze baldacchino marking Peter's tomb, and the Cathedra Petri representing the teaching authority given to Peter.

For those who wish, there is an option to climb Michelangelo's dome (551 steps, or 320 steps if taking the elevator to the first level). The view from the top, 452 feet above St. Peter's Square, provides a panorama of Rome.

After the basilica, there is free time for lunch and personal exploration in the Borgo neighborhood near the Vatican.

In the late afternoon, the group has a private "after-hours" tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel (pending availability). The museums will be closed to other visitors, allowing the group to view the collections without crowds. The tour includes the Pio-Clementino Museum's classical sculptures, the Gallery of Maps, and the Raphael Rooms with frescoes including the School of Athens.

The tour ends in the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo painted the ceiling between 1508-1512, depicting scenes from Genesis including the Creation of Adam. The altar wall features his Last Judgment. Experiencing the chapel in the quiet of evening, without other visitors, allows time to absorb both the artistry and spiritual significance of the space.

After the museums, the group departs for a classic Roman dinner together. After dinner, consider a visit to the terrace at Residenza Paolo VI for drinks and a breathtaking view of Saint Peter's at night.

## Sunday, October 4

### Angelus & Centro Storico

Pilgrims will have the morning free to rest, explore and do as they wish. We will then journey to St. Peter's Square to join the Holy Father in praying the Angelus at noon and receiving his papal blessing. Afterward, pilgrims will be given free time to enjoy an independent lunch.

The afternoon continues with a visit to the Chiesa Nuova, where the tomb of Saint Philip Neri resides. We will then proceed with a guided walking tour exploring Rome's historic center. The route includes the Pantheon, the best-preserved Roman building, which has served as a Catholic church since 609. While near the Pantheon, we will also visit the Basilica of Sopra Minerva, where we will see both the relic of St. Catherine of Siena and the grave of Fra Angelico. The tour continues to Piazza Navona, built on the site of the Stadium of Domitian, and visits the Church of Sant'Agnes in Agone, built over the site where Saint Agnes was martyred.

The tour includes several Baroque masterpieces: the Church of Sant'Ignazio with its trompe-l'oeil ceiling by Andrea Pozzo, the Church of the Gesù (the mother church of the Jesuits), and San Luigi dei Francesi with Caravaggio's paintings of the life of Saint Matthew. The tour concludes at the Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps.

The evening features a group dinner together at one of Rome's many authentic trattorias.

## Monday, October 5

### St. Paul, Tre Fontane, And Catacombs

The morning begins at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the second largest church in Rome, built over the tomb of Saint Paul. Mass will be celebrated here, followed by a guided tour. The basilica features medallion portraits of all the popes running along the upper walls. Beneath the altar, the tomb of St. Paul can be seen through a window in the floor, with the Latin inscription 'PAULO APOSTOLO MART' ('To Paul, Apostle and Martyr').

After St. Paul's, the group visits the Abbey of Tre Fontane (Three Fountains). According to tradition, this is where Saint Paul was beheaded. Legend says that when Paul's head was severed, it bounced three times on the ground, and a fountain sprang up at each spot. Three small chapels now mark these locations.

Following a group lunch, the group visits the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, underground burial tunnels used by Christians from the 2nd through 4th centuries. The tour shows burial galleries decorated with early Christian symbols—fish, anchors, and Chi-Rho monograms. Walking through these passages where early Christians were buried provides a connection to the early Church.

After the catacombs, the motorcoach returns to the hotel for a free evening. Pilgrims can rest or explore the neighborhood near the hotel.

## Tuesday, October 6

### Ancient Rome

The morning begins with a visit to the Basilica of San Clemente, a unique church built in layers spanning nearly 2,000 years. The current 12th-century basilica sits atop a 4th-century church, which in turn sits above a 1st-century Roman house and Mithraic temple. A guided tour descends through these layers of history, showing the development of Christianity in Rome.

After San Clemente, the motorcoach drives to the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill area. The group has a guided tour of Ancient Rome, walking through the ruins where Julius Caesar was cremated, senators debated, and emperors ruled. The Palatine Hill, where Romulus supposedly founded Rome, offers views over the Forum and Circus Maximus.

The tour continues to the Colosseum. Built in 80 AD, this amphitheater held 50,000 spectators for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles. The tour includes the arena floor and underground passages where gladiators and wild animals waited before entering the arena. Many early Christians were martyred here, and the site holds particular significance as a place of witness to the faith.

After the Colosseum tour, there is a group lunch in one of Monti's famed dining establishments.

The afternoon is free for rest at the hotel or personal exploration. The evening is also free for independent dining.

## Wednesday, October 7

### Papal Audience & Free Day

For those interested in joining, we will have an early breakfast before proceeding to St. Peter's Square where we will participate in a General Papal Audience with Pope Leo XIV.

## ITINERARY CONTINUED



At the conclusion of the audience, the day is free for personal exploration, rest, or optional activities.

In the early evening, Mass will be celebrated at one of the local churches near the Vatican. After Mass, the group gathers for a final dinner together in Rome.

#### Thursday, October 8

##### Santa Maria Maggiore And Lateran Basilica

The morning begins with a tour of the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, one of Rome's four major basilicas. Built in the 5th century, it preserves its original mosaics depicting scenes from the Old Testament. The basilica houses a relic of the manger from Bethlehem and features a coffered ceiling decorated with the first gold brought from the Americas. Here we will also pray at the burial place of Pope Francis.

Afterward, the group visits the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano (St. John Lateran), the cathedral church of Rome and the Pope's cathedral as Bishop of Rome. The basilica predates St. Peter's and holds the title "Mother and Head of All Churches." The tour includes the Scala Santa (Holy Stairs), which tradition holds are the stairs Christ climbed to be judged by Pontius Pilate. Pilgrims may climb the stairs on their knees in prayer.

After the morning program, there is free time for lunch.

In the afternoon, the group visits the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (Holy Cross in Jerusalem), which houses significant relics of the Passion: fragments of the True Cross, a nail from the Crucifixion, two thorns from the Crown of Thorns, and the titulus (the inscription that hung on Christ's cross). Saint Helena, mother of Constantine, brought these relics from Jerusalem.

The evening includes a group dinner at a local restaurant, followed by free time to rest at the hotel or explore the neighborhood.

#### Friday, October 9

##### Rome To Florence Via Orvieto

After breakfast and checkout, the motorcoach departs Rome for Florence. The route includes a stop in Orvieto, a medieval city perched on volcanic cliffs. The main attraction is the Duomo of Orvieto, one of Italy's finest Gothic cathedrals.

We will then receive a guided tour of the Duomo. The cathedral houses the Corporal of Bolsena, the linen cloth that was soaked with Christ's Blood during the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena in 1263. A priest who doubted the Real Presence witnessed the consecrated Host begin to bleed during Mass. The miracle prompted Pope Urban IV to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi. The bloodstained corporal is displayed in the Chapel of the Corporal.

After the tour, there is free time for lunch in Orvieto. The city offers numerous restaurants and cafés.

In the late afternoon, the motorcoach continues through the Tuscan countryside to Florence. Upon arrival, the group checks into their five-star hotel, located in the heart of Florence and within walking distance of the Duomo and major sites. After settling in, the group departs for a local dinner.

#### Saturday, October 10

##### Florence: San Marco & Historic Center

After breakfast, the day begins with a visit to the Basilica and Monastery of San Marco. This Dominican monastery, dating to the 15th century, is renowned for its extraordinary frescoes by Fra Angelico. The group will receive a guided tour of the monastery and its stunning artwork, including the famous Annunciation fresco. Group lunch follows.

In the afternoon, a guided walking tour takes the group through Florence's historic center. The tour includes the magnificent Duomo (Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore) with its iconic dome by Brunelleschi, a walk through the city center to Piazza della Signoria with the Palazzo Vecchio, and across the famous Ponte Vecchio, the medieval stone bridge lined with jewelry shops spanning the Arno River.

In the late afternoon, there is an optional privately guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery (included in the trip price). Participants can decide on the day whether

they wish to join the gallery tour or have free time for personal exploration. The Uffizi houses one of the world's finest collections of Renaissance art, including masterpieces by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael.

After the gallery or free time, the group enjoys a free evening in Florence.

#### Sunday, October 11

##### Florence Free Day

After breakfast, pilgrims have the morning to experience Florence at their own pace.

For those who wish, there is an optional visit to the Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's David (included in the trip price). This is one of the most famous sculptures in the world, carved from a single block of Carrara marble. Participants can decide on the day whether they wish to join this visit. The tour includes not only the David but also Michelangelo's unfinished Prisoners sculptures and other Renaissance masterpieces.

For the rest of the day, pilgrims have free time to explore Florence independently. Options include visiting additional churches, browsing the leather markets of San Lorenzo, exploring the Oltrarno artisan quarter, or simply enjoying a leisurely lunch and gelato in one of Florence's beautiful piazzas.

In the evening, the group gathers for a farewell reception followed by dinner at the hotel, reflecting on the pilgrimage and the spiritual journey shared together.

#### Monday, October 12

##### Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, pilgrims gather their luggage and prepare for departure. The ProRome Tour Manager will accompany the group on the motorcoach to Florence's Amerigo Vespucci Airport, assisting with check-in and security procedures.

Pilgrims depart on their individual flights home.

## More Details

### ► Final Cost

- \$8290 per person, Land Only
  - If a pilgrim opts for a single occupancy room, there will be a surcharge of \$3,690.

### ► Payment Schedule

- \$300 - ProRome Registration Fee - Due upon Registration
- 50% First Installment - Due April 1, 2026
- 50% Second Installment - Due June 1, 2026
- \$3690 - Single Occupancy Surcharge (If Applicable) - Due June 1, 2026

### ► Price Inclusions

- 10 nights lodging in double occupancy room
  - Seven nights lodging at the five-star Bernini Bristol in Rome
  - Three nights lodging at the five-star Porta Rossa Hotel in Florence
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- Meals as specified in the itinerary (Unlimited water, previously selected wine, beer and soft drinks at meals)
- Welcome and farewell receptions with wine and hors d'oeuvres to be served
- Soda and other non-alcoholic drinks
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach for the entire pilgrimage
- Professional English-speaking driver
- Airport transfer from FCO to Rome on October 2 (for those arriving on group schedule)
- Airport transfer from Florence to FLR on October 12
- ProRome Tour Manager accompanying the group throughout the pilgrimage
- Professional English-speaking guides for all tours
- Entrance fees to all museums, churches, and sites listed in itinerary
- Private evening 'after-hours' tour of Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel
- Privately guided tour of Uffizi Gallery (optional participation, included in price)
- Visit to Accademia Gallery to see Michelangelo's David (optional participation, included in price)
- Reservation fees for Masses at basilicas
- 24/7 support from ProRome staff
- Pre-departure orientation materials
- Hotel taxes and service charges

### ► Price Exclusions

- Round-trip international airfare, into Rome and out of Florence (participants book their own flights)
- Meals not specified as included in the itinerary
- Beverages other than those listed under inclusions (i.e. cocktails, etc.)
- Personal expenses (souvenirs, laundry, telephone, snacks, etc.)
- Travel Insurance (available upon request)
- Gratuities for tour manager, driver, and guides (suggested 20-30 EUR per person for both driver and guide)
- Passport fees
- Any items or services not explicitly mentioned as included
- Optional early arrival night and private transfer from FCO



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