



PROROME



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A Catholic Pilgrimage to Italy

The journey begins in Orvieto, where pilgrims encounter the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena—the 13th-century miracle that prompted Pope Urban IV to establish the Feast of Corpus Christi. From there, the group travels to Assisi for three nights exploring the birthplace of Saints Francis and Clare. Highlights include the magnificent Basilica of Saint Francis with Giotto's renowned frescoes, the Basilica of Saint Clare housing the San Damiano crucifix that spoke to Francis, and the tomb of newly canonized Saint Carlo Acutis.

A day excursion to Loreto brings pilgrims to the Holy House of the Annunciation, where Mary spoke her world-changing "fiat" to the Angel Gabriel. Before departing for Rome, the group visits the Porziuncola—the tiny chapel where Francis died and the spiritual heart of the Franciscan Order.

In Rome, pilgrims spend six nights at the Hotel Michelangelo from where they set out and explore the apostolic foundation of the Church. They will pray and tour St. Peter's Basilica and St. Paul Outside the Walls, both built over apostolic tombs. The itinerary includes ancient Christian Rome (Colosseum, Forum, Catacombs), the Lateran Basilica, the Holy Stairs that Christ ascended, and precious Passion relics including fragments of the True Cross.

The pilgrimage also includes a Papal Audience with Pope Leo XIV, a guided tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel, and concludes with a special Thanksgiving Mass and Turkey Run at the Pontifical North American College.

Throughout the journey, daily Mass at sacred sites and expert guides ensure a profound spiritual experience that transforms pilgrims' faith and connection to the universal Church.

November 16 - 27, 2026

\$3,690 per person + airfare (TBD)

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



The Itinerary

Please note that while all sites listed in this brochure will be visited, the order in which they will be visited is subject to change based on availability at the time of booking

Every day of pilgrimage will include the celebration of Holy Mass, locations to be determined based on availability. Lastly, every day will include breakfast and either lunch or dinner. Thus pilgrims will be provided two meals daily, with the exception of their arrival and departure days.

Monday, November 16, 2026

The pilgrimage begins with departure from the United States. Pilgrims gather at the designated airport for their transatlantic flight to Rome. Departure details including specific flight information, check-in procedures, and meeting location will be provided as soon as they become available.

Tuesday, November 17, 2026 Arrival | Orvieto | Assisi

Upon arrival at Rome's Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport, pilgrims are greeted by their ProRome Tour Manager who will accompany the group throughout the entire pilgrimage. After collecting luggage and clearing customs, the group boards a private,

air-conditioned motorcoach for the scenic journey to Assisi.

The pilgrimage begins with a profound spiritual encounter in the beautiful hillside city of Orvieto, perched dramatically atop volcanic cliffs in Umbria. This medieval city is home to one of Italy's most magnificent Gothic cathedrals, the Duomo of Orvieto.

Inside this stunning cathedral, pilgrims encounter the Eucharistic Miracle of Bolsena, one of the most significant miracles in Church history. In 1263, a German priest traveling to Rome stopped at the nearby town of Bolsena to celebrate Mass. Plagued by doubts about the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, he witnessed an astounding miracle during the consecration. As he pronounced the words "This is My Body," the Host began to bleed. Blood dripped down his trembling hands onto the corporal—the white linen cloth on the altar—and onto the altar stone itself.

The bloodstained corporal was immediately taken to Pope Urban IV in Orvieto, who was so moved by this miracle that he commissioned the construction of the magnificent Duomo to house this precious relic. More significantly, this miracle prompted the Pope to institute the Feast of Corpus Christi for the universal Church. The bloodstained corporal remains in the Cathedral's Chapel of the Corporal, where pilgrims can venerate this tangible testimony to Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist.

Following lunch in Orvieto, the group continues through the rolling hills of Umbria to Assisi. As the motorcoach winds up the mountainside, pilgrims catch their first glimpses of this enchanting medieval city, crowned by the imposing Rocca Maggiore fortress. Upon arrival, the group checks into their hotel, situated within walking distance of the Basilica of Saint Francis. The evening concludes with a welcome dinner.

Mass: Duomo of Orvieto, Orvieto
(pending availability)

Wednesday, November 18, 2026 Assisi: The Franciscan Legacy

After breakfast at the hotel, the group embarks on a comprehensive walking tour of Assisi, the birthplace of Saints Francis and Clare and the cradle of the Franciscan movement. This full day of exploration immerses pilgrims in the life, spirituality, and enduring legacy of these two great saints whose radical embrace of poverty and devotion to Christ transformed medieval Christianity.

The morning begins at the magnificent Basilica of Saint Francis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most important pilgrimage destinations in Christendom. The guided tour begins in the solemn crypt beneath the lower Basilica, where the body of Saint Francis rests in a simple stone tomb. Here, pilgrims have the opportunity to pray at the final resting place of il Poverello—"the little poor man"—who renounced worldly wealth to follow Christ in radical poverty.

Ascending to the lower Basilica, pilgrims encounter extraordinary frescoes by the greatest artists of the 13th and 14th centuries, including Cimabue, Simone Martini, and Pietro Lorenzetti. The tour culminates in the soaring upper Basilica, where Giotto's revolutionary fresco cycle depicts 28 scenes from the life of Saint Francis. These vivid frescoes bring to life Francis's conversion, his mystical experiences, his stigmata, and his complete conformity to Christ.

The group walks through Assisi's medieval streets to the Basilica of Saint Clare. In the crypt, pilgrims

venerate the incorrupt body of Saint Clare, displayed in a glass reliquary. Clare, born into nobility in 1194, was so moved by Francis's preaching that she fled her family home on Palm Sunday 1212 to embrace a life of radical poverty. The basilica also preserves one of Christianity's most treasured relics: the original San Damiano crucifix. This 12th-century painted cross spoke to the young Francis in 1205, saying, "Francis, go and repair my house, which as you see is falling into ruin." Following the morning tours, pilgrims enjoy free time for lunch in Assisi's charming piazzas and trattorias.

The afternoon tour includes the Cathedral of San Rufino, where both Saint Francis and Saint Clare were baptized, and the Chiesa Nuova, built on the site of Francis's childhood home. The day culminates with a visit to the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, where pilgrims will have the opportunity to pray at the final resting place of Saint Carlo Acutis, the young Italian teenager canonized by Pope Leo XIV in 2025. His famous quote, "The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven," challenges us to live authentic, Christ-centered lives.

Mass: Basilica of Saint Francis, Assisi
(pending availability)

Thursday, November 19, 2026 Loreto: The Holy House

Following breakfast, the group boards the motorcoach for a day excursion to the Adriatic coast and the town of Loreto, home to one of Christianity's most venerated shrines: the Holy House of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The sanctuary houses what tradition holds to be the actual house from Nazareth where Mary lived and where the Angel Gabriel appeared to her, announcing that she would conceive and bear the Son of God. Modern archaeological investigations confirmed that the stones and construction techniques of the Holy House match those found in 1st-century Nazareth.

The Holy House now resides within a magnificent Renaissance basilica. Pilgrims enter the small rectangular room measuring just 31 feet long and 13 feet wide. At one end stands a cedar statue of the Black Madonna of Loreto, holding the Christ Child. As pilgrims stand within these ancient walls, they contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation that began here. This is where Mary heard Gabriel's greeting: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you." And this is where Mary spoke her world-changing "fiat": "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." Following the guided tour, pilgrims have time for private prayer in the basilica and to explore the treasury museum. After lunch in Loreto, the group returns to Assisi in the early evening.

Mass: Basilica of the Holy House, Loreto
(pending availability)

Friday, November 20, 2026 Assisi To Rome

After breakfast and morning checkout, the group bids farewell to Assisi and begins the journey to Rome. Before departing, there is one final essential Franciscan site to visit.

The motorcoach travels to the plain below Assisi to the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, built to house and protect the tiny Porziuncola chapel—the geographic and spiritual heart of the Franciscan movement. This tiny stone chapel was in ruins when Francis and his companions restored it around 1209. Here, Francis gathered his first followers, welcomed Clare on the night she fled her family, and

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here he died on October 3, 1226. Pilgrims can enter the Porziuncola and pray in this space where Francis prayed and where he received from Christ the Pardon of Assisi—a plenary indulgence granted to all who visit this chapel with proper disposition.

Continuing to Rome, the group stops at the Basilica of Saint Mary Major before arriving at their hotel. This ancient basilica holds the distinction of being Rome's oldest church dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, founded in the 5th century. The guided tour highlights precious relics including wooden boards believed to be from the manger in which the infant Jesus was laid in Bethlehem, the Salus Populi Romani icon (venerated by every pope), and the tomb of Pope Saint Pius V. The group checks into the four-star Hotel Michelangelo and enjoys dinner together.

Mass: Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli (Porziuncola) (pending availability)

Saturday, November 21, 2026 **St. Peter & St. Paul**

Today's pilgrimage focuses on the two great Apostles who gave their lives for Christ in Rome: Saint Peter, the rock upon whom Christ built His Church, and Saint Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. Both men were martyred in Rome during Nero's persecution (circa 64-67 AD), and their tombs have been sites of Christian pilgrimage for nearly two millennia.

After breakfast, the group walks to St. Peter's Basilica, the greatest church in the world and the spiritual center of Catholicism. Built directly over the tomb of St. Peter, this massive structure stands as a testament to Christian faith and artistic genius. The guided tour highlights Michelangelo's Pietà, the bronze statue of St. Peter with its right foot worn smooth by centuries of veneration, Bernini's massive bronze baldacchino marking Peter's tomb, and the Cathedra Petri representing the teaching authority Christ gave to Peter.

For pilgrims who wish, there is an option to ascend Michelangelo's famous dome (551 steps, or 320 with elevator to first level). From the cupola's summit, 452 feet above St. Peter's Square, pilgrims enjoy the single most spectacular panorama in Rome. Free time is provided for lunch in the Borgo neighborhood near the Vatican.

In the afternoon, the group visits the Basilica of St.

Paul Outside the Walls, the second largest church in Rome, built over the tomb of St. Paul. The tour recalls the story of Paul's missionary journeys, his martyrdom by beheading, and his burial along the Via Ostiense. The basilica features a remarkable series of medallion portraits of all 266 popes running along the upper walls. Beneath the altar, visible through a window in the confessorio, lies the tomb of St. Paul with the simple Latin inscription: PAULO APOSTOLO MART ("To Paul, Apostle and Martyr").

Following St. Paul's, the group will return to the hotel for some time to freshen up, before departing by foot for dinner. On the way there, we'll duck into two great churches, San Giovanni dei Fiorentini (where the relic of St. Mary Magdalene's foot lies) and the Chiesa Nuova (where St. Philip Neri is buried). After dinner, everyone returns to the Michelangelo on foot.

Mass: St. Peter's Basilica or St. Paul Outside the Walls (pending availability)

Sunday, November 22, 2026 **Ancient Rome**

Today's pilgrimage traces Rome's story from its legendary founding through its transformation from pagan empire to Christian capital. The day begins on the Capitoline Hill in the church of Ara Caeli, where the great St. Helena is buried and where legend tells us the Emperor Augustus once received a prophecy that one greater than he - the Real God - Jesus Christ, would be coming soon.

After Mass in Ara Caeli, enjoy a stroll down the Via dei Fori for a glimpse of the political and religious heart of the ancient city in the Roman Forum. Prepare to encounter ruins of temples, basilicas, and government buildings that once governed an empire stretching from Britain to Mesopotamia. The Colosseum rises before them—the most iconic symbol of both Roman engineering and Christian martyrdom. Following a tour of the Colosseum, group lunch in the lovely neighborhood of Monti.

After lunch, the tour continues with a visit to the nearby Basilica of San Clemente, one of Rome's most fascinating churches. Descending through three levels reveals a 12th-century church built over a 4th-century basilica, which in turn was built over a 1st-century Roman house where early Christians likely gathered for worship. The contrast between

the dark pagan Mithraic temple on the lowest level and the bright Christian church above powerfully symbolizes Christianity's triumph. The day concludes with free time in the Eternal City.

Mass: Santa Maria in Ara Caeli (pending availability)

Monday, November 23, 2026 **Scavi Tour | Catacombs | The Lateran | Holy Stairs | Holy Cross In Jerusalem**

Following breakfast, the group will enjoy a guided tour deep beneath the Basilica of Saint Peter to the very tomb of Saint Peter, the Rock on which the Church is built. This exclusive tour takes the group in sub-groups of 14 to the most important and sacred site in Rome. **The Scavi Tour is limited in availability and booking times, so this tour may be moved to another day or date based on availability at the time of booking.**

The group then travels along the ancient Via Appia for a group lunch. After lunch, pilgrims descend into the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, underground burial tunnels that served as Christian cemeteries from the 2nd through 4th centuries. The catacomb tour reveals burial galleries decorated with early Christian symbols and explains the theology of death and resurrection that these underground cities represent. Mass to follow in the Basilica above. Nearing 4:00 PM, the remainder of the afternoon is optional. For those preferring to rest, the coach will bring you back to the hotel.



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Optional Late-Afternoon Tour:

The group then visits the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, which bears the title "Mother and Head of all churches of the city and the world." This is the cathedral of Rome, the official seat of the Bishop of Rome (the Pope), and thus the highest-ranking church in Catholicism. The basilica's history stretches back to 313 AD when Emperor Constantine donated the Lateran Palace to Pope Miltiades. The Papal Altar contains relics of Saints Peter and Paul.

Across the piazza stands the Sanctuario della Scala Santa, housing the very stairs that Jesus Christ ascended when brought to trial before Pontius Pilate. Saint Helena brought these 28 marble steps from Jerusalem to Rome in 326 AD. For over 1,600 years, pilgrims have ascended these stairs on their knees in honor of Christ's Passion. Pilgrims who wish may participate in this powerful devotion.

The group will then visit the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, which preserves extraordinary treasures of the Passion: a substantial fragment of the True Cross, three nails from the Crucifixion, fragments of the crown of thorns, part of the inscription (titulus) that Pilate ordered placed on Christ's cross, and a finger bone of Saint Thomas the Apostle. Following adoration of these relics, the group return to the hotel for a well-deserved free evening.

Mass: Basilica of Saint Sebastian
(pending availability)

Tuesday, November 24, 2026 Monte Cassino | Vatican Museums

Today's pilgrimage ventures to Monte Cassino, the mountaintop monastery that gave birth to Western monasticism and preserved Christian civilization. In the early morning the group boards the motorcoach for the approximately 2-hour journey south to Cassino. The massive abbey comes into view—an imposing hilltop fortress-monastery rising 1,700 feet above the valley.

Around 529 AD, Saint Benedict established the monastery at Monte Cassino and wrote his Holy Rule—one of the most influential documents in Western civilization. The Rule provided a balanced way of life centered on prayer (the Divine Office), manual labor (ora et labora), and sacred reading. Benedict lived at Monte Cassino until his death around 547 AD, and he is buried with his sister Scholastica beneath the high altar of the abbey church.

Monte Cassino was completely destroyed by Allied bombing in 1944 and faithfully rebuilt between 1948-1956. The tour includes the basilica, multiple cloisters, and the museum displaying artifacts and photographs documenting the abbey's history. Following Mass and a guided tour, pilgrims have time for personal prayer and to explore the abbey. If timing allows, pilgrims may attend part of the Divine Office with the resident Benedictine community.

The group will then return to Rome, stopping for lunch along the way. Nearing 4:00 PM, those who would like may continue on the bus to the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. For those feeling like they need a break, the bus will escort back to the hotel.

Optional Late-Afternoon Tour:

In the late afternoon, the group will enjoy a privately guided tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. 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.

Mass: Abbey of Monte Cassino
(pending availability)

Wednesday, November 25, 2026 Papal Audience | Centro Storico

The pilgrimage reaches a spiritual high point: encountering the successor of Saint Peter and exploring the Vatican's artistic treasures. The day begins early as pilgrims gather in St. Peter's Square for the weekly General Audience with the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. This represents one of the pilgrimage's most anticipated moments—the opportunity to see, hear, and receive the blessing of the successor to Saint Peter, the visible head of the universal Church. The audience typically begins at 9:30 or 10:00 AM.

The Pope arrives in the popemobile, processing through the crowd. The audience program includes readings in multiple languages, catechesis by the Pope, greetings to special groups, and the final apostolic blessing. For many pilgrims, this moment of being in the presence of Peter's successor represents a profound experience of the Church's universality and apostolic continuity.

Following the Audience, a walking tour of Rome's historic center takes place. The route includes Piazza Navona with Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers and the church of Sant'Agnese, built where Saint Agnes was martyred. The group visits San Luigi dei Francesi, which contains three Caravaggio paintings depicting scenes from the life of Saint Matthew. The Basilica of Sant'Agostino is also included, known for Caravaggio's painting of the Madonna of Loreto. Free time for lunch is provided near the Pantheon, where numerous restaurants and cafés are located.

In the afternoon, the tour continues with visits to the Pantheon, the only fully intact building from ancient Rome, consecrated as a church in 609 AD. Following the Pantheon the group turns a corner and discovers one of Rome's greatest Gothic treasures, the church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva where Saint Catherine of Siena is buried. Nearing 4:30 PM, group members will now have the choice to continue touring or to get on the bus and return to the hotel. Keep in mind that the remainder of the day will involve a lot of walking and standing for about 2-3 hours.

Optional Late-Afternoon Tour:

The group moves on to even more great saints in the churches of Sant'Ignazio, a baroque church with a famous trompe-l'oeil ceiling by Andrea Pozzo, and the Gesù, the mother church of the Jesuit order. These churches preserve the remains of some of Catholicism's greatest heroes, such as Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Saint Francis Xavier, Saint Robert Bellarmine, Saint John Berchmans and Saint Aloysius Gonzaga. The day concludes with a toss of

coins in the Trevi Fountain. Group dinner nearby the hotel.

Mass: TBD

Thursday, November 26, 2026 Thanksgiving Day

Happy Thanksgiving! Today is a special celebration combining American tradition with the spiritual journey in Rome. The morning begins with the traditional Turkey Run sponsored by the Pontifical North American College (PNAC). This beloved Thanksgiving tradition brings together Americans in Rome for a fun run through the city streets. Participation is optional but provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with the American Catholic community in Rome.

Following the Turkey Run, pilgrims attend Thanksgiving Day Mass at the PNAC chapel, joining the American seminarians for this special liturgy. The Mass provides a moment to give thanks for the blessings of this pilgrimage and to pray for loved ones back home.

The afternoon features a hands-on pasta-making class where pilgrims learn the art of Italian cuisine from a local chef. This interactive cultural experience allows the group to create traditional Roman pasta dishes together.

Following the pasta class, pilgrims have free time for shopping, exploring Rome's neighborhoods, or an optional walking tour with Father Ivan through areas of personal interest in the city. This flexible afternoon allows pilgrims to rest, reflect, and enjoy Rome at their own pace.

Mass: Pontifical North American College Chapel
(pending availability)

Friday, November 27, 2026 Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, pilgrims gather their luggage and bid farewell to Rome and to the companions who have shared this sacred journey. The ProRome Tour Manager accompanies the group to Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport, assisting with check-in procedures and ensuring smooth passage through security.

As pilgrims board their flights home to El Paso, they carry with them not just memories and photographs, but spiritual graces received through encounters with saints, martyrs, and the living presence of Christ in the Church's sacraments and sacred sites. They have walked where Peter and Paul walked, prayed where Francis and Clare prayed, and stood in the presence of Peter's successor. They have touched relics of the True Cross, climbed the stairs Christ ascended, venerated Eucharistic miracles, and celebrated Mass at the tombs of apostles.

The pilgrimage concludes, but its impact endures. Pilgrims return home to the Diocese of El Paso transformed by their encounter with the living heart of the Catholic Church. Safe travels, and may God bless the journey home.



More Details

► Cost

\$3690 per person, Land Only
(Airfare will become available in January 2026)

► Payment Schedule

- \$300 - ProRome Registration Fee - Due upon Registration
- 50% First Installment - Due six months prior to trip
- 50% Second Installment - Due four months prior to trip
- \$1190 - Single Occupancy Surcharge (If Applicable) - Due four months prior to trip

► Inclusions

- Three nights in a centrally-located hotel in Assisi (double occupancy)
- Seven nights at the four-star Hotel Michelangelo in Rome (double occupancy)
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- Daily lunch OR dinner (see itinerary)
- Private, deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach for entire pilgrimage
- Professional English-speaking driver
- Airport transfers in Italy (arrival and departure - only for those who fly with group)
- ProRome Tour Manager accompanying group throughout entire pilgrimage
- Professional English-speaking guides for all tours
- Entrance fees to all museums, churches, and sites listed in itinerary
- Papal Audience tickets
- Reservation fees for Masses at major basilicas
- 24/7 support from ProRome staff
- Comprehensive pre-departure orientation materials and meetings
- Hotel taxes and service charges

► Exclusions

- Round-trip international airfare from El Paso (or connecting city) to Rome (TBD)
- One daily meal (either lunch or dinner - see itinerary)
- Beverages with included meals
- Personal expenses (souvenirs, laundry, telephone, additional snacks, etc.)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended and available through ProRome)
- Gratuities for tour manager and local guides (suggested \$20-30 per person for both driver and guide)
- Passport fees and any visa costs (if applicable)
- Any items or services not explicitly mentioned as included



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