



PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

*A Spring Pilgrimage to Northern Italy*

## Join Us on the Trip of a Lifetime

May 20 - 30, 2027

This pilgrimage takes you through Northern Italy's greatest Catholic cities over ten days — Milan, Padua, Venice, Bologna, and Turin. You'll pray at the tombs of Saint Dominic, Saint Anthony, and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, venerate the Holy Shroud, and see The Last Supper and Scrovegni Chapel frescoes.

Along the way, you'll visit the shrine of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, the motherhouse of Salesians of Don Bosco founded by Saint John Bosco, and the thousand-year-old mountaintop abbey of Sacra di San Michele. There's a day trip to Venice, a boat ride on Lake Maggiore, and time to wander through Verona and Bologna — two of the most beautiful cities in Italy.

Accompanying the pilgrimage, which is sponsored by Christendom College and open to all pilgrims, is retreat master Fr. Joseph Mary Brown, a priest of the Community of St. John and a graduate of Christendom College, known for his thoughtful preaching and deep commitment to the spiritual life. Mass is offered daily at pilgrimage churches. Four-star hotels, private motor-coach, and experienced Catholic guides throughout.

**\$3660 per-person, land-only**

For more information or to register, please visit [www.prorometours.com/northern-italy-2027](http://www.prorometours.com/northern-italy-2027) or contact ProRome Tours directly at (434) 953-1112 or by email at [office@prorome.com](mailto:office@prorome.com).

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## DETAILED DAILY ITINERARY



*Holy Mass will be celebrated each day at pilgrimage churches and chapels, with specific locations confirmed closer to departure. Two meals are provided daily — breakfast plus either lunch or dinner — with the exception of arrival and departure days. Please note that Mass locations, meal arrangements, and tour bookings listed in this itinerary are subject to change. While all items described will be included in the pilgrimage, the order in which they occur may be adjusted.*

**DAY 1****Thursday, May 20****Departure from the United States**

We depart this evening for Milan. Flights TBD.

**Mass:** At your home parish or departure airport prior to boarding.

**DAY 2****Friday, May 21****Arrival in Milan**

Milan is the capital of Lombardy and one of the oldest episcopal sees in the Western Church — seat of bishops whose influence on Catholic Christianity rivals that of Rome itself. After checking in, we take an evening orientation walk through the historic center:

the Piazza del Duomo, the Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II (completed 1877, one of the world's earliest shopping arcades), the façade of La Scala, and the Castello Sforzesco, the 15th-century ducal fortress that now houses one of Michelangelo's last works, the Pietà Rondanini. The goal tonight is simply to get oriented and rest well. The serious work begins tomorrow.

Dinner together as a group.

**Mass:** At a local parish in Milan (TBD).

**DAY 3****Saturday, May 22****Milan: City of Saints**

Milan's claim on Church history is anchored by two figures above all others: Ambrose and Charles Borromeo.

We begin at the Cathedral — construction began in 1386 and continued for nearly six centuries, making it one of the longest building projects in architectural history. The rooftop terraces offer an unobstructed view of the Po Valley and, on clear days, the Alps. We then descend to the crypt to pray at the tomb of St. Charles Borromeo (1538–1584), Archbishop of Milan and the principal architect of Tridentine reform in northern Italy. His *Acta Ecclesiae Mediolanensis* and his relentless pastoral visitation of his enormous diocese established a model of post-Tridentine episcopacy that shaped the Catholic Church for centuries.

From there to the Basilica of Sant'Ambrogio, founded by Ambrose himself in 379 A.D. on the site of a Roman cemetery. Beneath the high altar, in a single porphyry sarcophagus, lie the remains of Ambrose alongside the martyrs Gervase and Protase — whose relics Ambrose himself discovered and translated in 386. It was in this church, or its predecessor on the same site, that Ambrose baptized Augustine in 387. The theological and intellectual consequences of that event for Western Christianity are difficult to overstate.

The afternoon brings us to Santa Maria delle Grazie for Leonardo's Last Supper (1495–1498), painted in experimental tempera on a dry plaster wall — a technique that began deteriorating almost immediately, making its survival through five centuries a minor miracle in itself. We close the afternoon at San Maurizio al Monastero Maggiore, a former Benedictine convent church whose interior is entirely frescoed by Bernardino Luini and his workshop, completed around 1530.

**Mass:** In the crypt of the Duomo, at the tomb of St. Charles Borromeo.

**DAY 4****Sunday, May 23****St. Gianna Beretta Molla & Lake Maggiore**

This morning we drive to Mesero, the small Lombard town where St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922–1962) was born and where her relics are now enshrined in the parish church. A pediatrician by training and a tertiary of the Franciscans, she is one of very few canonized saints whose cause for beatification was formally opened during the lifetime of her husband — Pietro Molla attended her canonization by John Paul II in 2004. Her decision in 1961 to refuse any surgical intervention that would have endangered her fourth child, at the cost of her own life, makes her one of the most theologically significant lay saints of the twentieth century. We will have time for private prayer at her relics and a brief presentation on her life.

From Mesero we drive north to Lake Maggiore, where the Borromeo Islands — named for the same family that produced St. Charles — sit in the middle of the

lake. Lunch on the shore, then a boat to

Isola Bella, whose Baroque palazzo and terraced gardens were constructed by Count Carlo III Borromeo beginning in the 1630s. The gardens, descending ten terraces to the waterline, are among the finest examples of Italian Baroque garden design in existence.

**Mass:** At the parish church of St. Gianna Beretta Molla in Mesero.

**DAY 5****Monday, May 24****Verona & Padua**

We drive east to Verona, Roman Verona Augusta, a city that retains more of its ancient urban fabric than almost any other in northern Italy. The Basilica of San Zeno Maggiore, consecrated in the 12th century, is among the finest Romanesque churches in Italy and houses Mantegna's altarpiece of the Madonna Enthroned (1456–1459) — the predella panels of which were removed by Napoleon and are now in the Louvre and the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Tours. We visit the cathedral and the Piazza delle Erbe, built over the ancient Roman forum, before taking time for independent lunch.

In the afternoon we continue to Padua, the Urbs Sancti Antonii, for an early arrival and a restful evening before a full day tomorrow.

**Mass:** At a parish in Verona or Padua (TBD).

**DAY 6****Tuesday, May 25****Venice**

Venice — the Serenissima — is arguably the most theologically interesting city in Italy after Rome. The Republic of Venice maintained an extraordinary and often contentious relationship with the Holy See for over a thousand years, and the city's art and architecture reflect both its genuine piety and its jealously guarded ecclesiastical independence.

We begin at the Basilica of San Marco, built to house the relics of the Evangelist brought from Alexandria in 828 — a translation whose irregular circumstances the Venetians preferred not to examine too closely. The basilica's Byzantine plan and its mosaic program, accumulated over four centuries, constitute one of the most ambitious theological visual programs in the Christian West. We visit the Doge's Palace before taking free time for lunch and independent exploration — the Rialto market area, the calli, the lesser churches that reward wandering.

In the afternoon we visit Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, the great Franciscan conventual church, to see Titian's Assumption of the Virgin (1516–1518), installed over the high altar and considered by many the finest altarpiece of the Italian Renaissance. We return to Padua by early evening.

**Mass:** At Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari or another church in Venice (TBD).

**DAY 7****Wednesday, May 26****Padua: St. Anthony & St. Luke**

Padua has been a major pilgrimage destination since the death of Anthony of Lisbon — universally known as Anthony of Padua — in 1231. He was canonized by Gregory IX less than a year after his death, one of the fastest canonizations in Church history, and the basilica built over his tomb became within decades one of the principal shrines in Christendom. We will pray at the tomb, venerate the relics — the incorrupt tongue and vocal cords among them, preserved as a testimony to the lingua miraculosa — and have time



for quiet prayer.

We then walk to the Cappella degli Scrovegni, Giotto's fresco cycle completed around 1305. Commissioned by Enrico Scrovegni as an act of reparation for his father's usury (Dante placed the elder Scrovegni in the *Inferno*), the chapel represents a decisive break from the Byzantine pictorial tradition and a foundational moment in the history of Western painting. The program covers the lives of Joachim and Anna, the life of the Virgin, and the life and Passion of Christ, culminating in the Last Judgment on the entrance wall.

The afternoon takes us to the Basilica of Santa Giustina, where — among many other relics — the body of St. Luke the Evangelist has been venerated since his translation here from Constantinople in the tenth century. DNA analysis conducted in 2001 confirmed significant probability of authenticity. The Prato della Valle, just outside, is the largest piazza in Italy.

**Mass:** At the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua.

## DAY 8 Thursday, May 27 Bologna & Turin

We drive west to Bologna — La Dotta, the learned city — home to the oldest university in the Western world, founded in 1088, and a city whose spiritual geography rewards serious attention.

We begin at the Basilica of San Domenico, where Nicola Pisano, Alfonso Lombardi, and a young Michelangelo contributed to the elaborate marble Arca enclosing the tomb of St. Dominic de Guzmán (1170–1221), founder of the Order of Preachers. From there to the Santo Stefano complex — seven interconnected churches built over a Roman temple to Isis, reconstructed through the early medieval period to evoke the sacred topography of Jerusalem. The 5th-century baptistry reproduces the dimensions of the Holy Sepulchre.

A short walk brings us to the Chiesa del Corpus Domini, a modest Clarissan convent church that holds one of the more remarkable sights in Italy: the incorrupt body of St. Catherine of Bologna

(1413–1463), painter, musician, mystic, and author of *Le sette armi spirituali*, displayed seated in a side chapel in the position in which she was found when her tomb was opened in 1500. The contrast between her unassuming surroundings and the theological weight of her presence is striking.

We close at the Basilica of San Petronio on the Piazza Maggiore — the fifth-largest church in Christendom, whose construction, begun in 1390, was never completed. Inside, the world's longest sundial, a meridian line 67 meters long installed by Giovanni Domenico Cassini in 1655, runs the length of the nave floor.

After lunch, we drive west toward Turin, arriving in the evening.

**Mass:** At a church in Bologna (TBD).

## DAY 9 Friday, May 28 Turin: Witnesses of Faith

Turin — Augusta Taurinorum — is today one of the most saint-dense cities in the Catholic world. We have a full day.

We begin at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, which houses the Shroud of Turin in the Royal Chapel built by Guarino Guarini between 1668 and 1694. Whatever one's position on the question of its authenticity — and the debate among historians, scientists, and theologians remains genuinely open — the Shroud has been an object of intense veneration for centuries and repays careful, prayerful attention. We will also pray at the tomb of Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901–1925), beatified by John Paul II in 1990 and canonized by Leo XIV in 2025 — a young man of aristocratic background and radical charitable commitment whose short life has become a touchstone for Catholic youth worldwide.

From the Cathedral we go to the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, the mother church of the Salesian Congregation and the center of Don Bosco's apostolate to working-class youth in 19th-century Turin. The relics of Don Bosco and Domenico Savio are venerated here. The Salesian motherhouse and museum provide essential context for understanding one of the most

consequential religious foundations of the modern era.

The afternoon includes the Piccola Casa della Divina Provvidenza — the Cottolengo, founded in 1832 by St. Joseph Cottolengo as a home for the sick, disabled, and abandoned, and still operating today — and the Santuario della Consolata, Turin's principal Marian shrine, whose history on this site extends to the 5th century. We conclude at the Basilica of Corpus Domini, built on the site of the 1453 Eucharistic miracle in which a consecrated Host was flung from a fallen cart and rose into the air before the assembled crowd.

Farewell dinner this evening.

**Mass:** At the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians or the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

## DAY 10 Saturday, May 29 Sacra di San Michele & Departure for Home

Our last day in Italy features a stop at the Sacra di San Michele, a Benedictine abbey built into the rock of Monte Pirchiriano at an elevation of 962 meters above the Val di Susa. Construction began around 983 under the direction of St. Giovanni Vincenzo; the abbey was expanded through the 12th and 13th centuries and became a major station on the Via Francigena, the pilgrimage route from Canterbury to Rome. Umberto Eco is said to have drawn on the Sacra as a partial inspiration for the abbey in *The Name of the Rose*. The approach up the ancient stone stairway, the Scalone dei Morti, is a fitting close to the pilgrimage.

Mass is celebrated here before we return to Turin for dinner and overnight.

## DAY 11 Sunday, May 30 Arrival Home

Today we depart for the USA on return flights home.



## More Information

### ► Payment Schedule

- \$300 Deposit - Due at Registration
- 50% First Instalment - Due 180 Days Prior to Departure
- 50% Second Installment - Due 150 Days Prior to Departure
- 50% Second Installment - Due 120 Days Prior to Departure
- \$1190 Single Occupancy Room Surcharge - Due 90 Days Prior to Departure

### ► Inclusions

- Nine (9) nights' accommodation in four-star hotels (3 nights Milan, 3 nights Padua, 3 nights Turin)
- Daily breakfast at the hotel
- Nine (9) group meals as indicated in the itinerary
- Private, air-conditioned motor-coach throughout the pilgrimage
- Professional English-speaking ProRome Tour Manager for the entire duration
- Licensed local guides in Milan, Venice, Padua, Bologna, Verona, and Turin
- All entrance fees: Duomo rooftop, The Last Supper, Scrovegni Chapel, Doge's Palace, Isola Bella, Sacra di San Michele
- Vaporetto (water bus) tickets in Venice
- Boat excursion to the Borromean Islands on Lake Maggiore
- All Mass bookings and donations
- Private headsets for audio during tours and Masses
- 24/7 support from ProRome Tours staff
- Comprehensive pre-departure orientation materials
- Hotel portorage, taxes, and service charges

### ► Exclusions

- Round-trip international airfare to Milan (MXP) – will be quoted separately once dates are confirmed
- Meals not specified as included in the itinerary (approximately 8 lunches and 1 dinner)
- Beverages other than water and house wine at included meals
- Personal expenses (souvenirs, laundry, telephone, snacks, etc.)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended and available through ProRome Tours)
- Gratuities for tour manager, driver, and local guides (suggested guidelines will be provided)
- Passport fees
- Any items or services not explicitly listed as included



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