



PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

Join Fr. Peter Mary Vecellio OCD, Fr. Robert Barcelos OCD, &
St. Therese Catholic Church in Alhambra CA

In the Footsteps of St. Therese Pilgrimage in France

This pilgrimage will immerse you in the vast cultural and Catholic heritage of France. The itinerary features three nights in Lourdes, one night in Dijon, one night in Alençon, five nights in Lisieux, and one night in Paris, with day trips to Mont Saint-Michel, Caen and Langrune included along the way.

Daily Mass - the cornerstone of each day - will be complemented by a rich Catholic touring program bringing pilgrims face to face with the many shrines, sacred sites and relics found throughout the course of the itinerary. Roundtrip airfare and centrally-located accommodations will be arranged. A ProRome Tour Manager will accompany the group throughout the course of the trip, and private bus transportation, Catholic tour guides, all tours and tickets, daily breakfast and daily dinner are included in the price.

September 21 - October 3, 2025

\$3530 per person, Land Only (airfare will be booked November 2024)

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



The Itinerary

Sunday, September 21

Departure

Departure information TBD.

Monday, September 22

Arrival | Toulouse | Lourdes

Bienvenue en France! Upon our arrival in Toulouse we will be welcomed at the airport by our ProRome Tour Manager and bus driver. We will then depart immediately for the beautiful town of Lourdes, where we will enter into the life of St. Bernadette Soubirous. Upon our arrival, we will check into our hotel and take some time to get settled and freshen up. We will then conclude our day with the celebration of the Holy Mass together and then enjoy a delicious dinner before returning to our hotel for some much needed rest.

Tuesday, September 23

Lourdes

Following breakfast, we will begin our day with a tour of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is here that the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous as the Immaculate Conception in 1858. Today the grotto, the location of the Blessed Mother's apparitions, is a place of devout prayer for all pilgrims who flock here, many of whom are sick and seeking healing. We will continue our tour, walking in the footsteps of Bernadette and visiting the places she and her family lived, both the Boly Mill and the Cachot. We will also have the opportunity to walk the Way of the Cross, visit the miraculous baths, go to confession and participate in the candlelight procession in the evening.

After our morning tour, we will break for free time for an independent lunch and time to rest or explore. Later in the afternoon, we will all rendezvous to celebrate Holy Mass before proceeding to dinner together. We will enjoy a delicious dinner before retiring for the evening.

Everything began with a young girl, Bernadette, who was born in 1844. Bernadette lived in a former prison room with her parents, her sister and her three brothers. One day she said "it is because I was the poorest and the most ignorant that the Holy Virgin chose me." It was on February 11, 1858, and several times after that, that the Virgin appeared to her and revealed messages to her. The young girl, at the Virgin's direction, found a spring from which the water provided healings. Bernadette later entered into religious life in Nevers. Today Lourdes is the third most visited pilgrimage site in the world and the second most visited town in France, after Paris.

Wednesday, September 24

Lourdes

Following breakfast, we will begin our day with the celebration of Holy Mass before beginning our morning tour. We will return to the Sanctuary, taking advantage of the opportunity to spend more time at the grotto, the three basilicas, or at the perpetual adoration chapel. After our morning tour, we will enjoy the afternoon at leisure to pray, explore and rest as we wish. In the evening we will again reconvene with the group at our hotel for a delicious dinner and relaxing overnight stay. Again, there will be the opportunity to participate in the beautiful outdoor candlelight rosary procession through the Sanctuary with thousands of other pilgrims this evening as well.

Thursday, September 25

Dijon

After enjoying our breakfast, we will celebrate Holy Mass together. After Mass we will gather our belongings, board our motorcoach and depart Lourdes for the city of Dijon, known for both its art and wine. However, this place of significant importance to us as it was the home of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. This journey will take much of the day on the motorcoach so we will be sure to break for an independent lunch along the way, giving us also the opportunity to stretch our legs. Upon our arrival in Dijon, we will check into our hotel and take some time to get settled and freshen up. We will then enjoy a group dinner before getting some much needed rest after a long travel day.

Friday, September 26

Dijon | Alençon

Following breakfast, we will begin our tour by visiting the local Carmelite Monastery where we will learn about the remarkable life of Elizabeth Catez who entered in 1901 and would become St. Elizabeth of the Trinity. We will also visit the sixteenth-century St. Michael's Church, which was the home parish of the saint and where she attended daily Mass before entering Carmel. We will celebrate Holy Mass together before continuing on. The group will then depart Dijon for Alençon, which will prove to be a lengthy journey. Alençon was where St. Therese of Lisieux was born and thus here we will visit her family home, her father's clock shop, and even the bridge where Zelie and Louis, Therese's parents, met. In a special way we will enter into the life of the Martin family and bring our intentions to St. Zelie and St. Louis. After our tour, we will check into our hotel, get settled and then enjoy a leisurely dinner before retiring for the evening.

A small town in Normandy, Alençon is where Saint Therese spent her early childhood up to the time when the family moved to Lisieux. The sanctuary is an opportunity to discover Therese's childhood and the life of her Blessed parents, Louis and Zelie Martin. Given as an example by the Church and the first to be beatified as a couple, it is in Alençon that their story of love began. During their first meeting on the bridge, Zelie immediately felt that the Lord had saved Louis to be her husband. Later, they would have the joy of welcoming four girls into their family, including Therese. But they also had to cope with much sickness and the loss of five children. They would suffer the hardships of the cancer that would take Zelie and the mental illness that affected Louis in his old age. These difficulties would not keep them from their desire for holiness and by putting God in the center of their lives.

Saturday, September 27

Lisieux

Following breakfast, we will depart Alençon for Lisieux, where we will enter more deeply into the life of St. Therese of Lisieux. Here in her hometown, Therese reached the heights of sanctity within the cloister of the Lisieux Carmel. As a group, we will visit the "Buissonnets," the family home where Therese spent her childhood, as well as the Cathedral of St. Pierre, where Therese attended daily Mass for ten years of her life. We will also visit the final resting place of St. Therese in the Carmel Convent chapel. There will be the opportunity to participate in Eucharistic Adoration in the Carmel as well. Additionally, we will also visit the Basilica of St. Therese, which was constructed in honor of her canonization, and is where our group will celebrate Holy Mass together. After a full day of prayer and touring, we will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Born in Alençon, Thérèse spent more than 10 years in Lisieux in the house called "les Buissonnets." At the age of 15, she told her father of her desire to become a Carmelite nun. She went all the way to Rome with him to make the request directly to Pope Leo XIII and became a Carmelite two years later. It is at the request of the prioress that she began to write "History of a Soul" telling her history before her "entry into life" at the age of 24. Thérèse was quickly beatified and canonized. Many healings and answered prayers have come to those who pray at her tomb. A large basilica was constructed to welcome the crowds coming from the four corners of the world after discovering her "Little Way" of holiness. Pope John Paul II came to pray here during his trip to France in 1980. Today, pilgrims can come to pray for the intercession of this saint who promised to spend her time in heaven doing good on earth.

Sunday, September 28

Caen | Langrune

Today we will learn about some of those who were close to St. Therese. Following breakfast we will board our motorcoach for a day trip to Caen, where we will pray at the tomb of Leonie Martin, St. Therese's sister who is buried in the Chapel of the Visitation Monastery. If possible, here we will celebrate Holy Mass before breaking for some free time to explore, pray and enjoy an independent lunch.

After lunch, we will depart Caen for the town of Langrune, where we will have the unique opportunity to pray at the tomb of Father Maurice Belliere, a



missionary priest who was spiritually adopted by St. Therese who prayed for his vocation and corresponded with him in letters. After enjoying time to pray, reflect and explore, we will board our motorcoach and return to our hotel in Lisieux where we will enjoy dinner and an overnight stay.

Monday, September 29 **Mont Saint Michel**

Departing Lisieux for the day, the group will journey to the jaw-dropping Abbey of Mont Saint-Michel. Known for its majestic beauty, the abbey is built on a rock off the coast of Normandy and surrounded by one of the world's largest bays, known for its incoming tide that "comes in with the speed of a galloping horse." The village and the bay are listed as one of Unesco's World Heritage Sites. Upon our arrival, we will celebrate Holy Mass together followed by a guided tour of Mont Saint-Michel. After concluding our tour, we will enjoy a free afternoon to explore and pray. Concluding our time at Mont Saint-Michel, the group will return to our Lisieux hotel and share a dinner together and then overnight.

In the year 709, after the first apparitions of Michael the Archangel, the first chapel was built on the mount and dedicated to Saint Michael the Archangel. Nearly 300 years later, the Benedictine monks established their community. They reorganized the existing buildings so as to make it into a monastery and to welcome pilgrims. The pilgrimage to Mont Saint-Michel then became one of the most famous in the Christian world. Transformed into a prison during the French Revolution, the abbey was then restored and was listed as a national historical monument, before a religious community was again established. Today the Monastic Fraternity of Jerusalem lives here, a renewal community that has an apostolate to be an oasis of prayer in the

heart of towns. Their liturgy is sung in two parts (men and women) and goes perfectly with the beauty of the church. Among the pilgrims who come today are those who wish to follow in the footsteps of those of the middle ages by crossing the bay on foot.

N.B.: From the parish church begins the "Grand Degré," about a 350-step climb up to the abbey. There is no elevator but you have the possibility to enjoy the view from the village and to walk in the charming streets instead.

Tuesday, September 30 **Lisieux**

Following breakfast and the celebration of Holy Mass, everyone will have the day at leisure to enjoy as they wish. We expect many preparations and festivities in anticipation of St. Therese's feast day tomorrow. Today is an excellent day to revisit sites where one may have wanted more time to tour or pray. In the evening we will all return to our hotel for a delicious group dinner together and an overnight stay.

Wednesday, October 1 **Lisieux**

Happy Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, Doctor of the Church! Today will be a day of joy and gratitude as we enter into the local festivities and celebrations! We will begin our day with the celebration of Holy Mass at the Basilica. The schedule for the feast day will become more solidified as we near the dates of the pilgrimage. In the past, the feast has been celebrated with nine days of events which have included the procession of Therese's relics, a Marian procession, Masses, concerts, vigils of prayer, showers of rose petals and more! We will enter fully into these local celebrations and then in the evening we will return to our hotel for dinner and an overnight stay.

Thursday, October 2 **Paris**

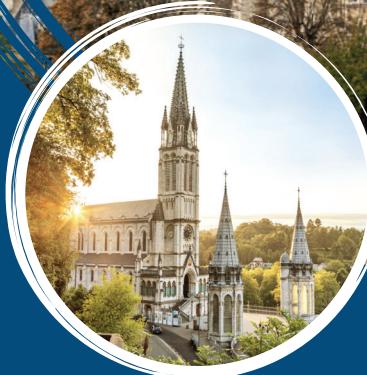
Following breakfast, we will board our motorcoach and depart Lisieux for Paris. Upon our arrival, our tour begins with a visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Victories which houses the relics of the parents of St. Therese, Louis and Zelie Martin, who had a great devotion to Our Lady of Victories. If possible, here we will celebrate Holy Mass and then break for an independent lunch.

We then proceed to the Notre Dame Cathedral before continuing on to the hill of Montmartre to visit the Basilica of Sacre Coeur. The Montmartre section of Paris retains vestiges of the village feel that would have once existed in other parts of the city as well. Many of Montmartre's residences retain charming private gardens, and a vineyard still adorns the hill. But the crowning glory of Montmartre is the Basilica of Sacré Coeur, built atop the highest point of the city. The gleaming white basilica (1885-1912) was begun during the Pontificate of Blessed Pius IX, when the Pope was a "prisoner of the Vatican." Its name comes from Saint Denis, the first bishop of Paris, who died as a martyr in the 3rd century. Tradition holds that he and his companions died here giving it its name, that is of Montmartre, "the mount of martyrs."

If time allows, there will be the opportunity to visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rue du Bac (the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity) where Our Lady appeared to St. Catherine Labouré. We will then enjoy a farewell dinner to celebrate our last night in France before retiring for the evening.

Friday, October 3 **Departure**

Following breakfast, we will board our motorcoach and depart for the Paris Airport to fly back to the USA. Safe travels!



► **Final Cost**

\$3530 per person, Land Only
(airfare will be booked November 2024)

► **Payment Schedule**

\$200 - ProRome Registration Fee - Due upon Registration
\$1,665 First Installment (Land Only) - Due March 21, 2025
\$1,665 Second Installment (Land Only) - Due May 16, 2025
\$895 - Single Occupancy Surcharge - Due May 16, 2025

► **Price Inclusions**

- ProRome Tour Manager throughout the course of the trip
- Transfer from Toulouse airport to Lourdes on day 1
- Private motor coach from September 22 - October 3, 2025
- Airport transfer on the last day on October 3, 2025
- City taxes, tolls and parking fees for the coach
- 11 nights in 3-star hotels or Religious Houses in twin or double shared rooms in Lourdes, Dijon, Alençon, Lisieux and Paris
- 11 breakfasts
- 11 dinners (3 courses)
- English-speaking guide/tour leader
- Tourist taxes
- 20 % VAT
- Entrance fees : Mont Saint Michel Abbey
- Audiophones all along the trip
- Donations for Lourdes, Alençon and Lisieux sanctuaries
- Round Trip cable car ticket for Montmartre Basilica
- Meals and accommodations for the bus driver
- Organization of the Masses

► **Price Exclusions**

- Any personal expenses
- Daily lunch
- Beverages
- Trip Insurance (available for purchase through ProRome)
- Gratuities for the Tour Manager and Driver - Suggested \$20-\$30 per person for both the tour manager and the bus driver



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