



PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

## An Easter Pilgrimage to Italy

Join Father Eric Bergman & St. Thomas More Parish

This pilgrimage features six nights in Rome and three nights in Assisi. Daily Mass - the cornerstone of each day - will be complemented by a touring program that will immerse the pilgrims in the incredible history, heritage and relics of our Catholic Faith. Highlights include an Audience with the Holy Father in Saint Peter's Square, the Papal Basilicas of Rome, the Catacombs, Colosseum, Roman Forum and Pantheon, Monastery of Monte Cassino, Basilicas of Saint Francis and Saint Clare of Assisi, and the Sanctuary of the Holy House of Loreto. Roundtrip airfare and centrally-located accommodations have been arranged. A ProRome Tour Manager will accompany the group throughout the course of the pilgrimage, and private bus transportation, Catholic tour guides, all tours, tickets and gratuities, and daily breakfast and an additional daily meal are included in the price. One daily meal (either lunch or dinner) is the only item not included in the price.

**April 21 - May 1, 2025**

\$3610 per person (includes airfare from JFK Airport)

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

# THE ITINERARY



## **Easter Monday, April 21** **Departure**

Departure information TBD.

## **Tuesday, April 22** **Arrival In Rome | Saint Paul Outside** **The Walls**

Upon our arrival in Rome, we will be met by our Tour Manager and private bus and depart immediately for the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, the burial place of Saint Paul and the second-largest Catholic church in the world. Located just south of the historical center on the banks of the Tiber River, Saint Paul's is a peaceful refuge and the perfect place to begin our pilgrimage. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica followed by a private Mass in one of the Basilica's chapels.

Following our time at Saint Paul's we will depart for our centrally-located religious guesthouse. Here we will check-in and enjoy free time for lunch. Take some time to freshen up and relax before meeting the group in the lobby. From there we will depart for a walking tour of the local neighborhood, visiting along the way the

Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps and the Via del Corso. In the evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner together at the hotel.

**Holy Mass: St. Paul Outside the Walls**  
**Meals Included: Lunch and Dinner**

## **Wednesday, April 23** **Papal Audience | Vatican Museums &** **Sistine Chapel**

Following breakfast we will attend an Audience with the Holy Father in Saint Peter's Square. Make sure to bring religious articles, which the Pope will bless at the conclusion of the Audience! Afterward, we will attend Mass in the church of San Lorenzo in Piscibus, followed by a group lunch together at La Vittoria, a lively trattoria just a stone's throw from the Vatican.

In the afternoon we will rendezvous in St Peter's Square and depart for the Vatican Museums. Here our guide will take us through the most incredible collection of ancient, medieval and sacred art found anywhere in the world, which concludes in the Sistine Chapel. We will then return to our guesthouse for a free evening.

**Holy Mass: San Lorenzo in Piscibus**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch**

## **Thursday, April 24** **Basilica Of Saint Mary Major |** **Catacombs | The Lateran | Holy Stairs |** **Basilica Of Saint Clement**

Today we will visit the Basilica of Saint Mary Major where we will receive a guided tour of this magnificent church. Following our time here we will make our way "outside the walls" to the catacombs of St. Sebastian. Prepare for a subterranean tour that will take you back nearly two thousand years into the history of the Church! Following the tour we will enjoy a group lunch together at Cecilia Metella, a wonderful restaurant nestled in a garden just across the street.

Following lunch we are off to the Cathedral of Rome, "the Lateran." Built by Constantine in the 4th century, this church is known as the "Mater et Caput" - the mother and head of all the churches in the entire world, as it officially became the seat of the Bishop of Rome upon the legalization of Christianity under Emperor Constantine the Great. After the tour everyone will have the opportunity to climb the Holy Stairs - the very stairs that Christ once walked in the Praetorium of Pontius Pilate. The stairs must be climbed on one's knees out of respect for Our Lord and the suffering He endured. Our day will then conclude with another subterranean tour - this one to 1st century Rome - found two levels below the Basilica of San Clemente. Here, we will celebrate Holy Mass together before returning to our guesthouse for dinner and overnight.

**Holy Mass: Basilica of San Clemente**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner**

## **Friday, April 25** **Saint Peter's Basilica | Colosseum |** **Roman Forum**

Following an early breakfast, we depart for Saint Peter's Basilica for Mass followed by a guided tour of the Basilica. Following the tour, you might consider climbing to the top of Michelangelo's dome - nearly 450 feet above the streets below! There will then be free time for lunch.

After lunch we will depart for the Colosseum for a guided tour. This incredible amphitheater once hosted gladiator games, mock sea battles, and public executions. Christians were repeatedly martyred here, and the Colosseum is therefore a sacred place, a reminder for us that the blood of the martyrs is indeed the seed of the Faith. For those who would like, we will then visit the Roman Forum and Palatine Hill, the beating heart of the ancient Roman Empire. We will then return to our guesthouse for dinner and overnight.

**Holy Mass: Saint Peter's Basilica**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner**

## **Saturday, April 26** **The Centro Storico & Counter** **Reformation**

Today we will learn all about the Catholic Counter-Reformation, highlighting the saints, religious orders, art and architecture that all played a part in this great movement. This tour will take us through the "Centro Storico," the historic center of Rome, where you will explore Rome's most favorite and photographed places.

Our morning features visits to the Chiesa Nuova, the site of the laughing saint, Philip Neri's tomb. Then on to the Church of Sant'Agnese, built on the site of Domitian's Stadium, where the child, St. Agnes was martyred, framing the Piazza Navona and its famed Bernini fountains, and finishing with the Basilicas of San Luigi dei Francesi and Sant'Agostino to get a taste of Carravaggio's striking artwork. We will conclude this portion of our tour with Holy Mass at the Basilica Sant'Andrea delle Fratte. Following Mass we will enjoy a group lunch at Il Barroccio, a local favorite operated by a family of Calabrians. After lunch we'll pay a visit to arguably the greatest building of ancient Rome, the Pantheon. The Pantheon is the only fully intact building from Roman antiquity. It is a masterpiece of architecture and yet no architecture degree is necessary to appreciate the simple beauty of this, now Catholic, basilica.

Following our tour of the Pantheon, there will be a free afternoon for you to enjoy your last full day in Rome as you wish. If you would like, you might consider joining an optional tour through two of Rome's greatest churches: the Basilica of Saint Ignatius and the Chiesa del Gesu. Or perhaps you may consider visiting the Venerable English College only a short walk away. We will then enjoy a free evening on our own.

**Holy Mass: Basilica Sant'Andrea delle Fratte**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Lunch**

## **Sunday, April 27** **Monte Cassino | Basilica Of Saint Cecilia**

## ITINERARY CONTINUED



Today we will take our first day trip to the mountain-top monastery of Monte Cassino. Monte Cassino is the motherhouse of the Benedictine Order (OSB) and the burial place of Saint Benedict and his sister, Saint Scholastica. Here we will have time for personal prayer and receive a guided tour of the monastery. We will then have free time for lunch and exploring. We will then conclude our time in Monte Cassino and return to Rome. On our way back we will

stop at the Basilica of Saint Cecilia in Trastevere. Here we will celebrate Holy Mass together and then have free time to experience the charm of Trastevere on our own. We will then regroup for dinner together before packing our things to be ready to leave Rome the following morning.

**Holy Mass: Basilica of St. Cecilia**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner**

### **Monday, April 28** **Assisi**

After an early breakfast, we depart Rome for the beautiful town of Assisi. Upon arrival we visit the original home of the Franciscan Order and the place of St. Francis's death: the Papal Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. Following the tour we will continue our journey up to the medieval center of the town of Assisi. We will begin with the Basilica of Saint Francis where we will celebrate Holy Mass. We will then enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica with a Franciscan friar, beginning in the crypt where Saint Francis is buried and culminating in the upper Basilica where we will explore in detail the life of Saint Francis, vividly displayed in Giotto's great frescoes that adorn the walls of the church. There will then be free time for lunch.

Following lunch our tour of Assisi continues, first with the Basilica of Saint Clare where we will venerate the incorrupt body of Saint Clare, as

well as the San Damiano crucifix from which Christ spoke to Saint Francis more than 800 years ago, asking him to "repair the Church which is falling into disrepair." Our tour then features visits to the church of the Chiesa Nuova, built over the childhood home of Saint Francis, the church of Santa Maria Maggiore where Blessed Carlo Acutis is entombed, and the Cathedral of San Rufino, where Saint Francis and Saint Clare were baptized. There will then be free time in the city before rendezvousing for dinner together and overnight at Hotel Pax (or similar).

**Holy Mass: Basilica of St. Francis**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner**

### **Tuesday, April 29** **Siena**

Following breakfast we will depart by bus for the city of Siena. Once we arrive we will enjoy a walking tour through Siena, found in the heart of the Chianti region of Tuscany. Here we will explore the life and legacy of Saint Catherine of Siena, the great mystic and Doctor of the Church. Saint Catherine helped to restore the faith of the people of Europe following the 14th century Black Death, through her incredible preaching, miracle work and mission to bring the Pope back to Rome. Our morning tour in Siena features the Basilica of San Domenico (where we will have Holy Mass), the Sanctuary House of Saint Catherine and the Basilica of San Francesco, which is home to another Eucharistic miracle.

Following our morning tour, the group will enjoy free time for lunch in the Piazza del Campo, Italy's most celebrated medieval square known for the famous "Palio," a horse race in which ten of Siena's neighborhoods send a jockey and a horse to compete in a bareback race three times around the square. We will then rendezvous for an afternoon tour through the Duomo of Siena,

one of Europe's greatest Cathedrals which is full of incredible works of sacred art. We will then return to our guesthouse in Assisi for our group dinner and overnight.

**Holy Mass: Basilica di San Domenico**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner**

### **Wednesday, April 30** **Loreto**

Following breakfast we will depart for the coastal city of Loreto, which is home to one of Europe's most sacred and revered sanctuaries: the Holy House of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Here we will experience the mystery of the Annunciation in a most profound way, as this is the very place in which the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, announcing the beginning of the end of salvation history. So how did the Holy House come to Italy? It is likely that in the Middle Ages, crusaders would have brought this holy relic back to Italy along with many other sacred relics of our Faith. Indeed, studies done on the building techniques and designs found on this house match those found at the site of the Holy House in Nazareth! Upon arrival in Loreto we will celebrate Holy Mass followed by a guided tour. We will then have the rest of the afternoon free to explore, pray, or rest. In the evening we will board our motorcoach and return to Assisi where we will enjoy a celebratory farewell dinner for our last night in Italy.

**Holy Mass: Holy House of Loreto**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast and Dinner**

### **Thursday, May 1** **Departure**

Following breakfast we will depart for Rome FCO airport for our return flight home. Buon viaggio!

**Holy Mass: TBD**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast**



### ▶ Final Cost

\$3610 per person, airfare included

### ▶ Payment Schedule

\$200 - ProRome Registration Fee - Due upon Registration

50% First Installment - Due six months before departure

50% Second Installment - Due four months before departure

TBD Single Occupancy Surcharge (If Applicable) - Due four months before departure

### ▶ Price Includes

- Roundtrip airfare on American Airlines in Economy Class
  - One checked-bag, one carry-on and one personal item permitted
- Nine nights lodging in a double occupancy room
  - Six nights at the three-star Nova Domus Aurelia Hotel in Rome
  - Three nights at Hotel Pax (or similar) in Assisi
- ProRome Tour Manager throughout the course of the trip
- Professional English-speaking guides for all visits according to the above itinerary
- Tours and all entry-tickets
- Daily buffet breakfast (without choice of menus)
- Daily lunch OR dinner without choice of menus (see itinerary for included meals)
- Water at meals
- Deluxe A/C coach when required (note that we will still walk 4-8 miles per day)
- Audio guiding system throughout the course of the trip
- All tips or suggested gratuities

### ▶ Price Exclusions

- Any personal expenses
- Daily lunch or dinner (see itinerary for included meals)
- Beverages other than water at included meals
- Trip Insurance (available for purchase through ProRome)



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