



**ST. MARY'S PARISH
8 CHURCH ST.
HOLLISTON, MA 01746**

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**DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER, 2019**

*** ADVENT STARTS THIS
COMING SUNDAY, DEC. 1**

*** CHRISTMAS MASS
SCHEDULE ENCLOSED**



*** BLESSING OF THE
ANIMALS PHOTOS BELOW**



14th ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS:

Christmas will soon be upon us and animals play a part in the Nativity Story. An ox and ass were present in the stable where Jesus was born. We read in Isaiah: *"The ox knows its owner, and the ass its master's crib; but Israel does not know, my people does not understand."* (1:3) Biblically, the ox and ass represent awareness, and in that stable all humanity was given a new awareness – a perfect revelation of God in the person of Jesus.

Even today, animals can help make us more aware of God, Who is love. When we care for them, we are being good stewards of the creation entrusted to us by God. Their loving devotion speaks to us of God's own faithfulness. And the affection we feel for our animals brings out what is best and most noble in the human soul.

On Sunday, October 27, the parishioners of St. Mary's gathered again to ask God's good blessing upon their animal friends. Deacon John Barry presided, and "Crispin", our new Parish Pooch, was among the ninety or so animals blessed. Afterwards, Deacon John blessed some latecomers in the parking lot, as well as several beautiful horses brought by the Scruton Family. There were no oxen or asses this year, but anyone who saw the love between animals and people this day knows that the grace of God is still at work through them.

St. Mary's Parish Newsletter

December, 2019 ~ Volume 45, Number 4

St. Mary's Parish
8 Church Street
Holliston, MA 01746

Rectory: 429-4427, 879-2322
Religious Education Center: 429-6076
Fax: 429-3324 ~ Music: 429-4427

Religious Education Email: st.marysre1870@gmail.com
Parish Email Address: st.marys1870@gmail.com
Website: www.stmarysholliston.com

Mission ~ "To Know Christ and to make Him Known."

Parish Clergy

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor
The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance
Rev. James Flynn, Weekend Assistance
Deacon John Barry, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon

COMING TOGETHER ~

On Saturday, November 9, the Knights of Columbus Council #14224 hosted St. Mary's Annual Parish Pasta Night. Families of all ages came to enjoy delicious food from Bertucci's and good company with each other. Families new to the parish were invited for free as our special guests. Live music was provided by Tom Pendergast on guitar. Thank you to all the Knights (and their Ladies), who made this evening of food and fellowship possible. It is important that our parishioners have chances like these to get to know each other better.





In the Catholic Church, Advent is a period of spiritual preparation extending over four Sundays before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin “advenio,” “to come to,” and refers to the Coming of Christ. This refers, first of all, to our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas; second, to the coming of Christ in our lives through grace and the Sacrament of Holy Communion; and finally, to His Second Coming at the End of Time. Advent is marked by increased prayer, fasting and good works. It is a time to renew our love of Jesus and through Him our love of others. It is a time in which we ask God’s mercy and rededicate ourselves to His joyful service. In this way, even as we mark the birth of Jesus, we ourselves are making a new beginning as children of God.

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ~

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, Masses at 9 AM & 6:30 PM. (Transferred to Monday because Dec. 8 falls on a Sunday this year). The Immaculate Conception is that sacred moment when Mary was conceived in her mother Anna’s womb and specially protected by God from any touch of original sin. In this way, Mary became the new Eve, a new beginning for the human race and a pure vessel to receive the Son of God and bear Him into the world. This is the Patronal Feast of the United States of America, a nation consecrated to Mary under her title as the Immaculate Conception.



CLASSICAL VESPERS ~

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 7-7:30 PM. Join our talented Youth Choir for this Sung Service on the first Wednesday of Advent. Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, takes place as dusk begins to fall. Evening Prayer gives thanks for the day just past and makes an evening sacrifice of praise to God. Vespers is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, part of the daily prayer of the Universal Church worldwide. It consists of the singing of psalms, intercessions, and prayers. Come share the beauty!

CONTEMPORARY VESPERS ~

TUESDAYS, DECEMBER 3, 10, & 17, 7:00 PM. Bring your day to a restful end with this twenty minute experience of the Psalms, calming your spirit and letting go of distractions and anxieties. The Liturgy of the Hours connects you to the Universal Church in prayer.

COOKIE WALK ~

DECEMBER 7 & 8, AFTER ALL WEEKEND MASSES. Long rows of tables will be set up in the lower church – tables loaded down with over 2,000 delicious homemade cookies baked by St. Mary’s Middle School Youth Group Members. For \$6, you may purchase an empty cookie bag, then “walk” down the rows of tables and select a dozen cookies which youths (wearing plastic gloves) will place in your bag. All proceeds will benefit the poor of Haiti. Photo right: A happy customer eats his cookies!





GIVE A GIFT ~

DECEMBER 7 & 8 AT ALL MASSES. Once again we ask the people of St. Mary's to help make Christmas truly a season of sharing. All items go to needy families in Boston, and are distributed through two inner city Catholic parishes. Please bring an article of new clothing and a new toy, unwrapped together in a plain bag or gift bag with a tag stating "Boy" or "Girl" and size or age up to age 18. No adult gifts please. Kindly place your gift in front of St. Mary's altar at any Mass the weekend of December 7 & 8.

Gift bags only please - no wrapping as they need to see what the gift is for proper distribution.



ORGAN, LESSONS & CAROLS ~ SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 5-6 PM IN THE

CHURCH. Join us for an evening of beautiful music and scripture, anticipating the wondrous birth of our Lord Jesus. This year's Lessons and Carols will feature the combined choirs and ensembles of St. Mary's Church, as well as nationally renowned organist Brandon Santini, who will also offer a 30-minute organ concert at 4:30 PM. The program will include familiar carols as well as choral music by Praetorius, Harris, Stanford, Rutter, Pearsall and others. Bring your family, and don't miss this opportunity to fill your Christmas preparations with plenty of holiday cheer!



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

at St. Mary's Church in Holliston



December 15, 2019, 5:00 PM

Join us for an Advent and Christmas celebration through scripture and music. St. Mary's Choirs and Ensembles will join together to present choral music by Praetorius, Harris, Stanford, Rutter, Pearsall and others, as well as traditional Christmas carols to sing along!

Nationally acclaimed organist Brandon Santini will present a 30-minute organ recital at 4:30 PM, and will accompany the service.



This event is free and open to all.

Christmas Mass Schedule



Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4 PM Masses in both the Church and Fr. Haley Hall ~ (Hall Mass includes the Christmas Pageant)

5:30 PM Mass in the Church

7:30 PM Mass in the Church

11 PM Midnight Mass in the Church ~
(Caroling starts at 10:30 PM)

Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day

9:30 AM Mass in the Church

11:30 AM Mass in the Church



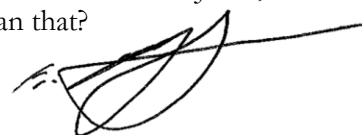
From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family: The story of the Nativity is filled with peril for the Christ Child to be born. The dangerous journey to Bethlehem with a heavily pregnant Mary, the struggle to find lodging for the birth, and of course the flight to Egypt to protect the newborn Jesus from wicked King Herod's wrath. God provided Mary and good St. Joseph, "Guardian of the Redeemer," to protect His Son when Jesus was small and vulnerable. And this is a role to which we are all called – to protect the young and innocent from both physical and spiritual harm. Much attention has rightly been paid in recent years to physical protection from abuse. This is critical and essential. But we must not forget the spiritual dangers that abound.

Two current examples: The Dark Materials series on HBO and the movie Maleficent. Dark Materials is presented as an epic fantasy story. But did you know that the author, Phillip Pullman, once said of the Catholic Church, "*I hope the wretched organization will vanish entirely.*"? Or that he despised C.S. Lewis' use of fantasy to foster Christian faith and wrote his Dark Materials series to undermine it? It's not by accident that the evil organization in his books is called the "Magisterium" – a word that refers to the teaching authority of the Catholic Church.

We might expect Disney to be safer, but in Maleficent, the Christian Church building is used as a place of ambush and destruction, while the pipe organ therein is employed to murder the innocent. During a battle, the Evil Queen stands beneath a parasol held by a woman dressed like a nun who wears a Cross on a badge on her robes. These are subtler items than in the Dark Materials - but think of the impact such negative associations will have on the minds of the young. Let us, therefore, be on guard to protect our children from cultural attacks on their religion. And let us explain our religion so well, and witness it so faithfully, that they will discover the true face of Jesus, and know the joy and peace that living in Him provides. What could be a better Christmas gift than that?

God bless you.



Celebrating 150 years!



ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

1870 to 2020. Those 150 years represent untold moments of ministry and grace that have blessed generations of Catholics in Holliston and the surrounding communities. We give thanks to God for this beautiful family of faith and ask Him to watch over and guide us into the future. There will be many special events to mark this Anniversary, including a new History of St. Mary's Book, the commissioning of an original St. Mary's Hymn, Children's Activities, and a new partnership with a Parish in the Holy Land to support the Christians there. Additionally:

From February 9-11, 2020, Mr. Jon Leonetti will lead St. Mary's in a 3-night Parish Anniversary Mission entitled, "Surge of the Heart." Jon is a nationally known Catholic speaker, best-selling author and radio host who conveys a message of lasting fulfillment in Jesus Christ. Through Jon's keynote presentations and parish missions, thousands of Catholics each year discover the freedom Christ offers by way of his life and love.



From March 6-15, St. Mary's parishioners may take part in an Anniversary Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Details at: <http://www.pilgrimimages.com/frcoiro/>

On Sunday, May 10, 2020, at 11:30 AM, our Archbishop, Cardinal Sean O'Malley, will celebrate Sunday Mass at St. Mary's in Holliston for the first time, joining us to mark our 150th year as a Parish Family. We are honored to welcome His Eminence. Save the date for this highlight of our Anniversary Celebrations!



On Friday, May 22, come enjoy our Anniversary Concert, "Sing of Mary," a night of the greatest music written in honor of Our Lady. St. Mary's Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs will perform, accompanied by Orchestra.



On Saturday, October 10 – Sunday, October 11, St. Mary's parishioners may take part in a Retreat at Miramar in Duxbury, MA. <https://miramarretreat.org/wp/>

Saturday, November 14, is the date of St. Mary's 150th Anniversary Gala in the Regency Ballroom, DoubleTree Inn, Milford. There will be dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a Keynote Address by His Excellency, Robert P. Reed, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Boston and President of Boston Catholic Television. Join us! Did you know? Tuesday, November 29, 1870 was the day that St. Mary's Parish was officially established.

2019 GRAND ANNUAL NOW UNDERWAY

- \$88,951.78 Replacement of tile flooring and carpeting for church, including materials and installation. Also, installation costs for the new kneeler pads and hardware.
- \$9,832.59 Replacement hardware, bumpers and pads for the church kneelers, 600 seats.
- \$3,844.36 Church sound system upgrades and repairs. St. Mary's old wireless system becomes illegal in 2020 as the FAA has purchased those channels.
- \$47,371.27 Staff Salaries: The eight men and women of St. Mary's Staff are hardworking, dedicated individuals. This portion of the Grand Annual will go toward their salaries.



Photos from top to bottom: The old, damaged church floor tile, now replaced. The torn and worn pew kneeler pads, now replaced. The disintegrated, old pew kneeler bumpers, now replaced. The old, splitting church carpet, now replaced.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR 2019 GRAND ANNUAL GIFT

Please carefully review the Grand Annual information provided to you by the St. Mary's Finance Council.

Pray about it and decide as a family what gift you can make according to the means with which God has blessed you.

If you have children, make them aware of your Grand Annual support so that they can learn good stewardship by your example.

Please return the orange Grand Annual envelope you were mailed. Extra Grand Annual envelopes are provided at the doors, but for tax purposes the one coded for your family should be used.

Your 2019 Grand Annual gift may also be made at any time by mailing it in to 8 Church St., dropping it off at the Parish Office, or placing it in any Mass collection basket.

If put in a Mass offertory basket, however, the special orange envelope, or an envelope clearly marked "Grand Annual" must be used.

Thank you for doing your part to support this essential annual stewardship effort!

"Every person shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you." Deuteronomy 16:17

Thank you for doing your part to support this essential annual stewardship effort!

2019 Grand Annual goal to cover operating expenses:	\$150,000.00
Grand Annual parishioner support received as of Nov. 24, 2019:	- \$ 71,435.00

Parishioner support still needed to reach 2019 Grand Annual goal: \$ 78,565.00

% of 2019 Grand Annual achieved to date:	48 %
% of St. Mary's families who have now made their Grand Annual gift:	34%





KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Mary's Council #14224 December, 2019

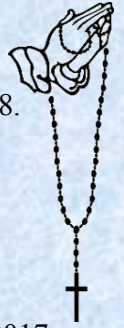
Grand Knight: Albert Scaramella
Deputy Grand Knight: Tom Anguish

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS VETERAN'S DAY DONATIONS:

Knights Anthony Alexander, Frank Caron, and Cornelius McGaffigan presented checks to representatives from Homes for Our Troops and I-PODS for Wounded Veterans at the Holliston Lion's Club 11th Annual Veteran's Day Luncheon. Proceeds for the donations came from the Council's annual raffle. Photo below.

MONTHLY ROSARY:

The next Rosary will be Wednesday, December 18. The Council recites the Rosary every third Wednesday of the month in St. Mary's Church at 7:00 PM.



As quoted in the March 2017 Columbia magazine, "Knights need to be men of prayer." **ALL PARISHIONERS are invited** to share in this beautiful and powerful prayer with our Council.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CHRISTMAS POSTER CONTEST:

The Council is conducting a poster contest on "Keep Christ in Christmas" for elementary school boys and girls. Instructions for entering your poster are available in the Religious Education Office. Posters are due for judging by December 9. Student winners will have the opportunity to compete state-wide and nationally.

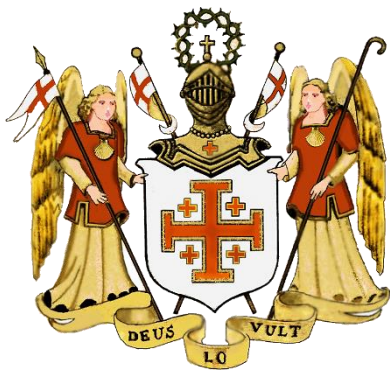
LOSS OF SIR KNIGHT JOHN HAND: The Council mourns the death of brother Sir Knight John Hand on November 1, All Saints Day. May he now join the great family of the saints in heaven. John joined St. Mary's Council in April of 2007 and was a Fourth Degree Knight of McSweeney Assembly.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SPONSORING RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE:

On Saturday, January 18, 2020 in St. Mary's Father Haley Hall, the Council will sponsor its annual Red Cross Blood Drive. Hours are from 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are strongly encouraged. To schedule an appointment, contact 1-800-REDCROSS or visit redcrossblood.org and search by zip code (01746) in the "Search for Blood Drive" field. For further information, contact the Knights Blood Drive coordinator, Rodman Burgett at 508-653-6130.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FOR 2019: All good St. Mary's men eighteen and older are invited to join our Council. The Knights of Columbus is the largest Catholic men's lay organization in the world. Our Council respects members' limited time but needs new members to share our faith journey as Catholic men. For membership information contact Grand Knight Albert Scaramella at 508-561-0584 OR ajscaramella@comcast.net OR you can now join ON-LINE by going to the Supreme K of C website kofc.org. On-line membership allows you to obtain all K of C benefits including outstanding insurance plans and optional membership in our St. Mary's Council.





On Saturday, November 2, the Feast of All Souls, St. Mary's Parishioner Michael Roberto was Invested by Cardinal O'Malley as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of The Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. The Equestrian Order is a worldwide Catholic Order of Knighthood that is comprised of lay and clerical members who have distinguished themselves in their adherence to the teachings of the Catholic Church and in meritorious service to their parish and diocese.

One of the oldest international Catholic Orders of Chivalry, it was founded in 1099 to safeguard the Holy Sites in the Holy Land, especially the Tomb of Christ. Today, members of the Order commit themselves to continue growing in their knowledge and love of Jesus, and to support the Church's works of mercy in the Holy Land - particularly through schools, hospitals, clinics and the Latin Patriarchate. They assist in the preservation of a living and viable Christian presence in the Holy Land held dear by all Catholics as the land where Our Lord was born, preached, died and rose to save us.

Cardinal O'Malley celebrated the Solemn Mass of Investiture at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross. In the top right photo, Michael Roberto kneels as Cardinal O'Malley uses a sword to knight him. Cardinal O'Malley serves as Grand Prior of the Order's Northeastern Lieutenancy. The middle photo shows "Sir" Michael being congratulated by Cardinal O'Malley. The bottom photo shows Cardinal O'Malley with Michael and the other six St. Mary's Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. We know that Michael will bring great credit to the Order and strengthen this Apostolate of our Church, more critical than ever as Christians in the Holy Land today are under terrible duress.

A powerful moment of this year's Investiture Weekend was a presentation earlier that Saturday by Rev. David Neuhaus, SJ, an Israeli Jew who converted to Catholicism. At age 15 he got to know an elderly Russian Orthodox nun named Mother Barbara. He was impressed by her joy and serenity. As he tells the story:

"One day, I plucked up the courage and asked her: Why are you so joyful? She knew I was a Jew and she was hesitant at first, but then as she began to speak of the great love in her life, the words came tumbling out and she became ever more radiant. She told me about Jesus Christ, about God's love expressed in him, about her life of joy with him in the convent. I was struck and know today that in her radiant joy I saw the face of Jesus for the first time."



He became a Catholic and eventually entered the Jesuits. Father Neuhaus is today the Pastor for Hebrew-speaking Latin rite Catholics in Israel. He presented the particular challenges to Christians by location – in Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. He offered a vision for peaceful, respectful coexistence in the Holy Land, and thanked the Order for their essential efforts there.

women in
WINGS
God's spirit

Fall 2019 "Trusting God with all your Heart"
Speaker Quotes

"Trust is an act of the will and the heart."

"How can prayer NOT lead us closer to God?"

"Faith develops from a strong prayer life."

"We need to be witnesses to our youth and model a living faith by our daily behavior."

"God chooses specific Saints to be in our lives and intercede for us. We need to *trust Him* and be open to these heavenly friends who help us on our journey."

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit..." Jn 15:16

"Give God a set amount of time each day and He will multiply the hours in your day."

"We discern when we turn our consciousness within - noticing what thoughts or actions bring, joy, happiness & contentment and which ones leave us disquieted and unfulfilled."

"The Holy Spirit is our Advocate with God. He helps us get to heaven so call on him every day for help."

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear." Lk 12:22

"A saint is someone who gives God a chance with her heart."

"Let your children and grandchildren see you pray!"

WINGS Winter Season begins on 1/22/20
Contact betty.febo@gmail.com for details



Troop 14 Holliston

Boy Scouts of America

St. Mary's Parish * December, 2019

Meetings: Monday Nights 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Lower Church Hall

Contact: Chris Baribeau, Scoutmaster
508.579.4357

Email: Troop14Holliston@yahoo.com

Website: www.Troop14Holliston.com

SCOUTING FOR FOOD: What can Troop 14 Holliston do when they come together and spend a few purposeful hours over two Saturday mornings? *They can collect 434 bags (which equals 4340 pounds) of food for the local families that use the Holliston Pantry Shelf.* On Nov. 2, Troop 14 took to the streets for BSA's & Troop 14's annual "Scouting for Food" service project distributing over 1,800 flyers throughout 15 neighborhoods in Holliston. On Nov. 9, thirty Scouts collected and delivered the food to the Holliston Pantry Shelf. This year, with expanded routes, we doubled the volume of food collected from any prior year. Thanks to all that donated food. (Photo Below)



CAMPOUT: Troop 14's annual **Turkey Roast Campout and Dinner** was held November 1 - 3 at the Holliston Sportsmen's Association. The Troop invited the Webelos from the Holliston Cub Scout Packs (future recruits), and over a dozen Webelos and families enjoyed a Saturday afternoon of activities including setting up tents, knot tying, and Dutch-oven cooking. That evening, a turkey dinner with all the fixings was served to over 100 Scouts, Scout families and Webelos families. After dinner, many of the Webelos stayed for a campfire, told stories and camped overnight with the Troop.



FALL POPCORN FUNDRAISER & DAY AT THE RECYCLING CENTER:

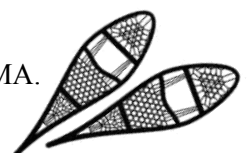
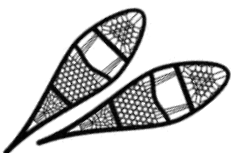
Troop 14 Scouts wrapped up our annual Popcorn fundraiser - spending a second day, Saturday November 16 at the Holliston Recycling Center to help unload vehicles of leaves, brush and cardboard, and selling a variety of popcorn



products to raise money for Troop activities and equipment. Thanks to the community for supporting our Troop!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Early winter weekend campout in December at Squanto Scout Camp in Plymouth, MA.
January snow-shoe backpacking trip to Lonesome Lake in the White Mountains.





St. Mary's Parish Middle School Youth Group

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746 508-429-4427 www.stmarysholliston.com



HAUNTED MANSION: Saturday, October 19, found 98 MSYG teens at Barrett's Haunted Mansion in Abington. This year featured post nuclear apocalypse rooms, with mutant families happy to welcome guests for "dinner." Even outdoors there were scary clowns and nightmare creatures to make the waiting line anything but boring. Next Domino's delivered piles of pizza, and then it was off to Peaceful Meadows Ice Cream for a sweet ending to a scary night.



DECEMBER MEETING:

Sunday, Dec. 1, 6:30 – 8 PM, With sign-ups for December 13 Caroling, Pizza Party, Christmas Lights Trip, and the Jan. 18 Snow Tubing Trip. Final Celtics payments due.



DECEMBER EVENTS:

Saturday, Dec. 7 / Sunday, Dec. 8: Cookie Walk for the Poor of Haiti at All Masses.

Friday, Dec. 13: Christmas Caroling & Shrine Light Walk, 5:30 – 9:00 PM.



St. Mary's EPIC

High School Youth Ministry



Pictures from the
EPIC Meeting Nov. 10,
Zip Line/ Ropes Course
trip to
TreeTop Adventures,
and Mini Golf/ Ice Cream
Trip to Trombetta's Farm.



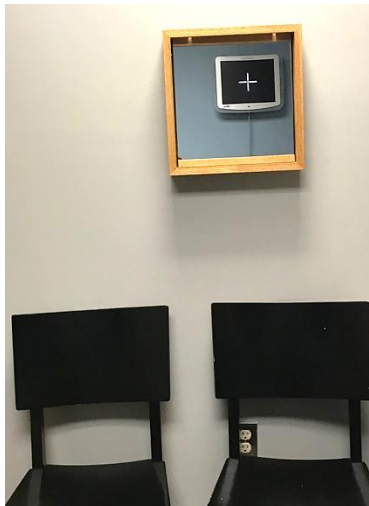
Contact Youth Minister Jake Thiringer at
stmarysym1870@gmail.com for more information

EPIC December Events – Open to all High Schoolers!

- Sunday, Dec. 8, General Meeting in FHH from 7:15 - 8:45 PM, \$5 Dues, Christmas Sing-Along, Games, Fun, Food, Faith, Friendship + More!
- Saturday, Dec. 14, Hosting Christmas Singalong Party at Doolittle Nursing Home in Foxboro from 1:10 – 4:45 PM, Sign ups on Dec. 8.

Cross Walk

Finding His presence this week in three simple moments. *By Cathy Stenquist*



“You are going to laugh,” I said to my eye doctor as she reached to turn out the lights to begin my exam. “I collect crosses that I find in unusual places and if you don’t mind I’d like to snap a picture of your screen.” She laughed and got a kick out of the new

view of this image that she must have seen a hundred times this week. How lovely to think of my doctor reminded of Christ, not only in the crucifix she wore around her neck, but now in the ordinary things of her work day. Buckling my seat belt, I whispered, “Thank you God,” thinking of some of the little everyday moments of evangelization that can happen if we keep our eyes and hearts open to His whispers.



This past week, Grammy Day was complicated by a sniffly granddaughter and an empty diaper bag. An outing seemed to be just the ticket; a little fresh air and supplies for the afternoon. Walking through Walmart, the icy blue sparkles caught my older granddaughter Miller’s attention. Frozen II was everywhere. Rounding the corner, the larger than life Olaf and Minnie Mouse danced, bumping their heads on the ceiling. The smell of heavy pine and cinnamon signaled that we had entered the commercial Christmas zone. Thousands of items twinkled on their shelves, each purchased months ago by buyers to assure that our Christmas would be all it could be. I was caught off guard seeing so much, so soon, even before all the left over Halloween candy had been eaten.

In an effort to entertain my little one, we slowly browsed the aisles. Certainly there must be some items here that had to do with the real meaning of Christmas...the birth of Baby Jesus, when light came back into the world. With each step, I found wreaths, candles, faux Christmas trees, decorative containers for cookies and tree skirts. But no nativity story books, just head to toe Elf on a Shelf. No wise men among the ornaments, just cows outfitted in plaid, not even the cliché ‘Jesus is the Reason for the Season’ signs were to be found.

I paused, looking at Miller’s eyes lighting up at the textures, colors and Disney characters holding candy canes and delighted in her reaction, but inside



Scott, Cathy, Hadleigh and Miller

was reminded of my early days as a young mom trying to keep Christ in Christmas. The pressures were enormous, and were made harder with the latest toys and gadgets that commanded my kid’s attention. Here are a few ways I tried to remind them of what Christmas was really about.

- Frosting a birthday cake for Baby Jesus and singing him happy birthday.
- We had a small plastic nativity scene that could handle the smallest of hands. The crèche was on the mantle waiting for Christmas. During Advent we put Mary and Joseph in the farthest window sill and each morning the kids had to see where they had traveled, as they made their way closer to the manger. Baby Jesus appeared on Christmas morning and the wise men on Epiphany.
- Picking out a present to give to the Give-a-Gift program at church.
- Caroling around the neighborhood. Attending the nativity Mass when young and then the grand Midnight Mass as they got older.

Is there a new tradition you can share with your family this year?

Every good and perfect gift
is from above ~JAMES 1:17

When the Facetime call came, my heart leapt for joy. Anxiously swiping to answer, my son Mark appeared, larger than life and more joyful than I had ever seen him. Incredulous at what had just happened, he whispered that he was in a room with his new daughter Ella, having his first daddy daughter chat. "Do you want to see her?" he asked. "Yes!" Scott and I replied. Panning the camera over to her, my eyes burst into tears; swaddled warm in her bassinet, her big blue eyes slowing blinking as if to say, "Where am I?". Small little sweet movements. Her lips pursed in a cute pucker, velvet soft skin, button nose. Perfection, fresh from God.



Ella Shea Stenquist

Already a month has passed and it is hard to imagine life without her. There is such a peace that comes over me as I hold her. So precious and delicate. Held softly against my warm sweater, she slowly closes her eyes, trusting that whoever has her will keep her safe. The outside world disappears and a profound inner peace settles in.

With the season of advent beginning, seeing her sleeping quietly, her tiny perfect fingers coiled around my finger, my thoughts can't help but turn to our precious Lord being held by his mother Mary, safe and trusting in her love.



Kissing the Face of God by M. Weistling

The profoundness Mary and Joseph must have felt has been felt by mothers and fathers since time began. I imagine baby Jesus filling the hearts of Mary and Joseph with the same quiet contentment that I feel when I hold Ella. Even as they worried about His safety and what the future might bring, their first days were probably much like Ella's, spending precious time together as a new family.

Seeing my son in the role of a father is truly amazing. I look forward with great joy to watching their journey together unfold and bond strengthen.



Mark and Ella

On a video I took, Mark comments moved me so. As he studies each tiny feature of this gift he had been given, he said, "I'm still getting used to this 'Dad thing'." I imagine Joseph had the same insecurities, knowing how important his job was to guide and teach his little one about the world and this was certainly compounded by knowing who his son was.

I hope this Advent you and your family will find ways to slow down, be still and connect with the real meaning of Christmas as you share your own family traditions. The simplest of moments can lead your heart back to Him. Think of God, who came as a tiny vulnerable little baby, celebrating His own birthday, growing in strength, wisdom and love; experiencing all it is to be human and then giving us the greatest gift of all. We are truly blessed to know and love Him.

Merry Christmas everyone and the happiest of New Years to you and yours!

Walking in His name,

Cathy

JOIN FR. MARK J. COIRO IN CELEBRATION OF THE
150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S PARISH, HOLLISTON



MARCH 6 - 15, 2020
\$3,719 FROM BOSTON (BOS)
Price is Per Person Based on Double Occupancy

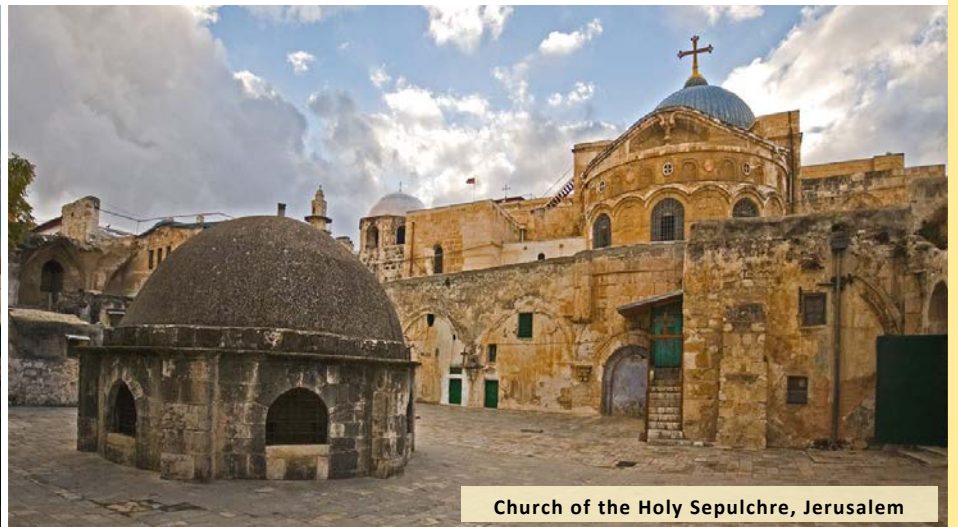


Fr. Mark J. Coiro

www.pilgrimages.com/frcoiro



Church of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem



Church of All Nations, Jerusalem



Dead Sea

SAMPLE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1, Fri, Mar 06: Depart for the Holy Land

Make your way to your local airport where you will board your overnight flight. Your meals are served on board.

Day 2, Sat, Mar 07: Arrive in Tel Aviv and continue to Tiberias

Upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrival's hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Transfer to your hotel in Tiberias in time to check-in. Enjoy dinner at the hotel before retiring for the evening.

Day 3, Sun, Mar 08: Caesarea - Stella Maris - Nazareth - Tiberias - Cana

Theme: The Annunciation

Depart Tel Aviv to Caesarea Maritima, one of the three largest ports in the Roman world, next to Alexandria and Piraeus "Athens", which were built by Herod the Great between 21 B.C. and 9 B.C. It was in Caesarea where St. Peter baptized the first gentile convert Cornelius, and where St. Paul gave his defense of the church. From here, we will see the Roman Theater, Herod's Palace, view the Hippodrome, and the harbor from where St. Paul sailed on his journeys. Continue north to Haifa, located on Mt Carmel, where we will visit the Carmelite Shrine dedicated to Our Lady of Mt Carmel, and pray at the cave which Elijah the prophet took refuge. Continue on to Nazareth for lunch, and then visit the Church of the Annunciation. Visit the museum and archaeological garden where we can see the remains of Nazareth at time of Christ, as well as St. Joseph's workshop – which is now known as St. Joseph's Church. Within the Church of the Annunciation, you will make our way down to the Grotto to see the remains of the house of the Blessed Mother, and where the Angel of the Lord announced the good news to Mary. Celebrate Mass in this Church, and then continue on to Cana. It was here that Jesus performed His first miracle, changing water into wine. During your visit at the Wedding Church, married couples will have the chance to take part in the ceremony and renew their wedding vows. From there, we continue on to Tiberias, located on Sea of Galilee, for dinner and overnight.

Day 4, Mon, Mar 09: Tiberias: Sea of Galilee

Theme: The Ministry of Christ in the Galilee

Today begin this day with breakfast at the hotel, followed by a boat ride on the beautiful and scenic Sea of Galilee (Luke 5:1). Upon docking the boat, you will have the opportunity to view the remains of a boat that dates back to the time of Jesus. Following the Sea of Galilee, we continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus proclaimed His great Sermon on the Mount (Luke 6:20-49). Near the Mount, is Tabgha, one of Jesus' miracle sites. At Tabgha, Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 people from five loaves of bread and two fish (Luke 9:10-17). Also, in Tabgha is St. Peter's Primacy where Jesus bestowed church leadership upon Peter (John 21:9). Continue to visit the birthplace of Mary Magdalene in Magdala. During the time of Jesus, this village was a prosperous fishing village that exported fish and garum (a fish sauce reduction; popular in Roman cooking). Your day concludes at Capernaum, the launching place of Jesus' ministry. In Capernaum, see the Synagogue where Jesus taught (Mark 1:21-29) and gave His sermon on the Bread of Life. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 5, Tue, Mar 10: Jordan River - Mt. Tabor – Jericho – Jordan River - Jerusalem

Theme: The Transfiguration

After breakfast, we will drive to the site of the Transfiguration, Mount Tabor (Matthew 17:1-50). At this site, you will have some time to reflect on Christ's Humanity and Divinity. Celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the Transfiguration. Continue south to the Jordan Valley to the oldest inhabited city in the world, Jericho (Joshua 6:12-25). In Jericho, you view the exact location, the Mount of Temptation, of where the Devil tempted Jesus during his forty-day fast (Luke 4:1). Following the visit to this mountain, continue to Jesus' baptismal site on the River Jordan (Matthew 3:13-17). After some time at the Jordan River, we will transfer to Jerusalem to check-in to your hotel and enjoy dinner and overnight.

Day 6, Wed, Mar 11: Jerusalem: Temple Model - Ein Karem - Bethlehem

Theme: The Visitation and Nativity

This morning, enjoy breakfast before we start our day in Jerusalem, which houses the temple to which Jesus was Presented (Luke 2:22). Visit a model of the Second Temple as it was in the time of Jesus. Following this visit, we will take a short drive to the village of Ein Karem, the birthplace of John the Baptist. It is known that there are two churches in Ein Karem, both representing the two homes of Zechariah and Elizabeth. The first is in a valley where the birth of St. John the Baptist is commemorated (Luke 1:39-80) in the Church of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. The second is on a hill where Elizabeth spent five months in seclusion (Luke 1:24) at the Church of the Visitation. You will have a chance to visit both of these churches and have the opportunity to pray the Mystery of the Rosary as you walk up the hill to the Church of the Visitation. In the afternoon, transfer to Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus. In Bethlehem, you will have the opportunity to view the Shepherd's Fields (Luke 2:8). In the caves of these fields, you are still able to see the soot marks of fires that shepherds lit to

keep warm. The tour concludes at the Manger Square which stands in front of the Church of the Nativity. As you enter the Church, you will proceed down to the Grotto of the Nativity which marks the spot of Our Savior's birth (Matthew 2:1-18). Beneath the altar, there is a silver star and a Latin inscription that states: HIC DE VIRGINE MARIA JESUS CHRISTUS NATUS (Here Jesus Christ was born to the Virgin Mary). Following Mass in this Sacred space, return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 7, Thu, Mar 12: Bethany - Dead Sea

Theme: Early Years in Jerusalem & the Wilderness

Following breakfast at your hotel, we will travel down the Jordan Valley to Qumran. Qumran is made up of 2,000 year old ruins from the days of the Second Temple and also the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were written and discovered (Ezekiel 47:8-10). These writings have helped further the understanding of Jewish background in Christianity. Time and weather permitting, you will have the opportunity to take a float in the Dead Sea, the lowest and saltiest spot on Earth. Continue as you travel through the Judean wilderness, the site where Jesus spent His 40 days of fasting. The day of touring culminates with a transfer to Bethany. Bethany is the site where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead which foreshadows His own Resurrection (John 11:38-44). Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 8, Fri, Mar 13: Jerusalem: Mt. Of Olives - Gethsemane - Mt. Zion (Upper Room) - Western Wall

Theme: Palm Sunday and the Agony in the Garden

After breakfast, we will make our way to the Mount of Olives where you will be able to take in the beautiful, panoramic view of Jerusalem. Historically, the Mount of Olives was a mandatory transit point for Jesus during many iconic moments. Visit the Pater Noster Shrine where Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer (Pater Noster) (Luke 11:1-4). You will have the opportunity to stop at Dominus Fleuit which is a Church that commemorates where Jesus wept for Jerusalem (Luke 19:41). Continue on to Gethsemane, a garden at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Jesus brought His disciples here to pray the night before He was crucified (Luke 22:29-53). The Garden still contains trees with roots that date back to the time of Jesus. Your next stop, the Church of All Nations, built over the "Rock of Agony". This is where Jesus prayed alone on the night of His arrest. Throughout this time, you are invited to remain in prayer and to reflect on Christ's agony that He experienced. You will have the opportunity to visit the Western Wall, which is the last remnant of the Jewish Temple after it was destroyed in 70 A.D. Continue with a visit to the house of the High Priest Caiaphas (Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu). This Church commemorates where Jesus was examined and eventually imprisoned before the Council in Jerusalem. It also commemorates Peter's Denial of Christ (John 18:15-18), Peter's repentance, and Jesus' forgiveness of Peter. You will also visit the Upper Room on Mt. Zion. The Upper Room is where Jesus and His disciples celebrated the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30) and where Jesus appeared to His disciples after His Death and Resurrection (Mark 16:14). In addition, visit the nearby Benedictine Church of the Dormition. Tradition tells us that this Church is where Mary, the Mother of Jesus, "fell asleep." At the end of this prayerful day, return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 9, Sat , Mar 14: Jerusalem: Via Dolorosa - Holy Sepulchre

Theme: The Way of the Cross, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection

This morning you will have a very early wake-up to begin the Via Dolorosa (The Way of the Cross) at the Antonia Fortress. This is the spot where Jesus was condemned to death by Pontius Pilate (John 18:28-19:16). Following His condemnation, He was taken (on the Road to Calvary) to His place of Crucifixion. Reflect upon the Stations of the Cross as you travel through the markets of the Old City to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Luke 23:26-33). This sacred destination is the site of Calvary (Jesus' crucifixion place) and His tomb (Luke 23: 50-55). Celebrate Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Following Mass, we will return to the hotel to enjoy breakfast. We will continue our day with a visit to the Church of St. Anne's, the home of Jesus' maternal grandparents (Anne and Joachim); and the Pool of Bethesda, where Jesus healed the crippled man (John 5:1-9). This afternoon, enjoy a revisit to the Old City. Following this visit return to the hotel to enjoy dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Day 10, Sun, Mar 15: Return Flights Home

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, transfer to the Tel Aviv airport for return flights home.

***206 Tours Disclaimer:**

Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.

INCLUSIONS & RESERVATION APPLICATION

YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- + Round-trip air from Boston (BOS)
- + Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- + 8 nights Holy Land at centrally located first class hotels: (or similar)
 - ~ 3 nights: Mar 07 - 10: Leonardo Plaza, Tiberias
 - ~ 5 nights: Mar 10 - 15: Notre Dame, Jerusalem
- + Transfers as per itinerary
- + Breakfast and Dinner daily
- + Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- + Wi-Fi on motor coach
- + Wireless headsets where needed
- + Assistance of a professional local guide(s)
- + Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- + Tips to Hotel Staff and Restaurants
- + Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- + Flight bag & Portfolio of all travel documents



Not Included:

- Lunches, Beverages not mentioned, Tips to your guide & driver
- Optional:**
 - *Travel Insurance optional (www.206tours.com/insurance)
 - *Extended Cancellation Protection Plan @ \$299 (www.206tours.com/cancellationprotection)

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BOOK, PLEASE VISIT: www.pilgrimages.com/frcoiro
 Contact Cara: (Tel) 800-206-TOUR (8687) ext. 1229 or Email: cara@206tours.com

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND WITH FR. MARK J. COIRO MARCH 6 - 15, 2020 | \$3,719 FROM BOSTON (BOS)

****Items indicated in RED are mandatory****

(*please indicate country of passport - if not US)

Last Name/ First Name, Middle Name (as it appears on passport)	Date of Birth	US Passport #	Passport Exp.
1 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	MM ___ DD ___ YY ___	_____	_____
2 _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	MM ___ DD ___ YY ___	_____	_____
Address _____	City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Home Tel # _____	Work/Cell Tel # _____	E-mail (s) _____	

Departure City: _____ Nickname / Name tag _____

Seat Selection: Aisle Window With Travel Companion

Flight bag: Tote Backpack Messenger

OPTIONAL:

Business Class Upgrade: Round -Trip: Additional \$3,700 One - Way Eastbound: Additional \$1,850 One - Way Westbound: Additional \$1,850
 (*Business upgrade is subject to availability)

Private Room: \$1,199 (If traveling alone) or Roommate Request: _____

I want to purchase Travel Insurance (as per www.206tours.com/insurance)

I am purchasing Extended Cancellation Protection Plan for an additional \$299.

For details please review back of flyer and or go to: www.206tours.com/cancellationprotection

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PAYMENT OPTIONS: (www.206tours.com/payments)

Please enclose \$400 per person (include additional cost of travel insurance premium if purchasing travel insurance)

*select One of the Payment Options Below

Check: x _____ people = \$ _____ | *Please make checks payable to: 206 Tours*

Electronic Check: (ACH): Routing # _____ Account # _____
 First set of digits on the left side Second set of digits after the routing number

Credit Card: American Express Visa Master Card Discover

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Sec. Code _____

*Please Select from the Options Below

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Process the \$400 per person registration deposit | <input type="checkbox"/> Process the \$400 per person deposit & insurance premium |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Automatically process the balance 60 days prior to departure | <input type="checkbox"/> Process the total trip costs now |

*Full payment is required **60 Days** prior to date of departure: **January 6, 2020**

*Signature _____ Date _____

Enrollment in/payment for this tour constitutes your acceptance of all terms and conditions as stated on page 4 and as per: www.206tours.com/terms

Please Mail Reservation & Payments to:
206 Tours, 333 Marcus Blvd, Hauppauge, NY 11788

HIGHLIGHTS OF TERMS & CONDITIONS (FOR COMPLETE TERMS & CONDITIONS PLEASE VISIT WWW.206TOURS.COM/TERMS)

DEPOSIT AND REGISTRATION A \$400 per person deposit is required at the time of booking with a completed reservation application. Fax, internet, e-mail, or phone reservations are welcome. Deposit and/or payment in full must be received within 7 days of booking or reservation will cancel. Full payment is due 60 days prior to the departure date. If a booking is made within 60 days of departure, full payment is required at the time of booking. If payment is received less than 30 days before departure, please include a \$50 late fee. Packages shipped outside of the USA will incur additional shipping charges.

FORM OF PAYMENT Bank/Certified/Checks, Money Orders, ACH (check by phone) or Wire Transfers (please fax a copy of bank confirmation when wiring funds) are accepted forms of payment at any time. Personal checks are acceptable if received more than 30 days prior to departure date. 206 Tours accepts PayPal payments (send to: info@206tours.com). You may also make Direct Credit Card Payments to 206 Tours (American Express, Discover, Visa and Master Card). In order to speed the processing of deposits and final payments, please note the departure date on deposit and balance of payment checks. Every reservation must be accompanied by a signed application. Returned checks will incur a \$50 service fee. In case of computer or human billing error, we reserve the right to re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

PRICE GUARANTEE Rates shown on website are based on double or twin occupancy and are as per each program's inclusions. All prices are shown in U.S. Dollars and are calculated on currency rates and fares in existence on July 9, 2019. 206 Tours reserves the right to alter prices at any time prior to departure and without prior notice if circumstances so warrant. Any devaluation or revaluation of currencies may effect published price. **NOT INCLUDED** Items of a personal nature, such as telephone calls, mini bar, laundry, food, beverages or alcohol not included and not on regular d/hote menu (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel or restaurant); room service, optional activities, and laundry. Insurance, Extended Cancellation Protection Plan @ \$299, portage at airports, excess baggage fees and passport or visa fees.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & DOCUMENTS A valid US passport is required for US citizens. If you do not have a valid passport please contact your closest passport office or see Passport Information. Passports must be valid at least 6 months after return date. US or Canadian citizens do not need to obtain visas for most countries 206 Tours services. For all other nationalities please consult the country of your consulate. When and if visa is required it is passenger's responsibility to obtain one. Cancellations due to lack of appropriate documents will incur usual penalties.

FINAL DOCUMENTS Final documents are issued upon receipt of final payment only and within 3 weeks of departure. Documents are not guaranteed if final payment is not received on time. Upon receipt of your documents you are responsible to check your itinerary, spelling of your name, dates, times and other important information to insure their validity. Should your final documents have any errors it is the passenger's responsibility to contact 206 Tours immediately.

PARTICIPATION 206 Tours and suppliers contacted for services reserve the right to refuse to accept or retain any person whose behavior is deemed likely to affect the smooth operations of a tour, or adversely affect the enjoyment or safety of other passengers. 206 Tours, its agents, and suppliers shall be under no liability to any such person for refund, compensation, repatriation or any other matters arising.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS Once a deposit or partial/full payment has been made, cancellations will only be accepted in writing. Cancellation terms will be applied based on the date that the written cancellation is received. In addition to a \$300 per person administration fee, the following charges apply:

- 60 - 46 days prior to departure 10%
- 45 - 21 days prior to departure 50%
- 20 - 03 days prior to departure 80%
- 02 days prior to departure or less no refund

Additionally, once tickets are issued the ticket value is non-refundable. Requests for a refund must be in writing (mail, fax or e-mail). Phone calls cannot be used as a form of cancellation. Refunds will be issued within 30 to 60 days of receipt of written notice. No change of names or substitutions are permitted. No refund or cancellation fees will be waived due to death or sickness. *Special trips & events such as Canonizations, WYD or Oberammergau have additional cancellation penalties such as a \$400 non-refundable deposit. Please carefully review the terms and conditions for each trip as per the trip website prior to reservation.

TRAVEL INSURED INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE 206 Tours suggests the purchase of travel protection to protect you and your trip investment. Travel Insured International Insurance offers a waiver of the pre-existing medical condition exclusion if insurance is purchased within 21 days of initial trip deposit. Travel protection cannot be purchased after your trip is paid in full and protection plan premiums are non-refundable.

Please find plan rates below:

Trip Cost	Plan Cost Per Person
\$1,001 - \$1,500	\$150
\$1,501 - \$2,000	\$170
\$2,001 - \$2,500	\$180
\$2,501 - \$3,000	\$196
\$3,001 - \$3,500	\$210
\$3,501 - \$4,000	\$225
\$4,001 - \$4,500	\$240
\$4,501 - \$5,000	\$253
\$5,001 - \$5,500	\$280

This is a partial description of benefits. For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions of the plan, please refer to the Description of Coverage, which is available at www.206tours.com/insurance. If you do not have internet access 206 Tours is happy to provide a copy of the Description of Coverage (DOC), upon your request. Travel Assistance & Concierge Services are provided by the designated provider as listed in the Description of Coverage. This plan provides insurance coverage for a covered trip. The purchase of travel insurance is not required to purchase any other product or service from the travel retailer. You may already have coverage that provides similar benefits and you may wish to compare the terms of this coverage with your existing coverage. If you have questions about your current coverage, call your insurer or agent. The travel retailer is not qualified to answer questions about the benefits, exclusions or conditions of the travel insurance. Travel Insured International, 855 Winding Brook Dr PO Box 6503 Glastonbury, CT 06033. Phone # 1-844-228-3679.

SUPPLEMENTAL CANCELLATION PROTECTION 206 Tours offers an optional additional protection plan for \$299 which permits travelers to cancel for any reason up until 24 hours prior to departure without penalty. You MUST file a claim with Travel Insured International insurance if you cancel your reservation, and if you are denied reimbursement from Travel Insured International for any reason 206 Tours will refund your losses in cash in full (not including the insurance and cancel protection premiums). You MUST select this option at the time of booking and it must be paid with your deposit. You MUST purchase standard insurance in order to purchase the cancel for any reason protection plan (unless you are a resident of NY). Claims MUST be filed NO LATER than six (6) months after initial cancellation. After six months, no reimbursement can be provided. Insurance is Non refundable and Non Transferable.

AIR TRANSPORTATION Air transportation is in economy class on IATA-approved carriers. Ticketing must be completed no later than 14 days prior to departure. Fares are based on levels in effect at the time of printing and prices and schedules are subject to change without notice. All is subject to the airlines terms of carriage. 206 Tours is not responsible for any cancellations, loss, delays, injury, illness, or expenses incurred due to actions made by the airlines. Business class is based upon availability and at additional cost for the Trans-Atlantic portions of your ticket. For any issues which arise in relation to airline service complaints and compensation should be addressed to the specific carrier.

AIRPORT TAXES, FEES & FUEL CHARGES Airport taxes are included in our tour packages. Airport taxes are based on departure city and government fees (airport taxes include Federal Inspection Fees for the U.S. Customs and Immigration; International Air Transportation Tax; Agricultural tax; security fees, and other airport related taxes).

SEAT ASSIGNMENT Random seats are assigned for all group participants. If you would like to secure a specific seat, or sit with a companion please advise us of such request at the time of booking, we will make an effort to accommodate you, however we cannot guarantee. If you must have specific seat we recommend you to be at the airport at least three hours prior to departure and arrange the seat assignment with your airline's gate agent. Bulkhead and exit row seating can never be requested prior to the day of departure. 206 Tours can never guarantee specific seats, which are at the discretion of the airline & are pending availability, subject to aircraft/seat map changes.

LAND ONLY Transfers are NOT included in Land Only costs. From time to time, a tour may be canceled due to non-materialization. If you chose to purchase a Land Only package and arrange your own domestic or international flight independently of us, be advised that 206 Tours is not responsible for domestic or international flights or transfers of any kind. Booked or purchased items outside of 206tours are sole responsibility of client.

TRANSFERS Our programs include group round-trip transfers. Pilgrims or passengers who did not purchase "all-inclusive tour" or who purchased land only package and are arriving or leaving independently must transfer at their own expense. Expenses incurred for transfers due to lateness of flights are at the expense of the passenger and may be claimed for reimbursement from the airlines. No smoking is allowed on motor coach.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel accommodations are based on twin-bedded or double rooms. 206 Tours reserves the right to substitute similar category hotels without prior notice.

PRIVATE ROOMS and SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

A limited number of single rooms is available (on request basis only) at the supplement price. Single rooms provide privacy, but they are in some hotels smaller than twin or double rooms and sometimes may be poorly located, especially in the older hotels. As a general ratio we are able to confirm 10% of the total number of group participants in single rooms. If ratio is higher special supplements may be implemented for something referred to "single in double room" at an additional rate to the single supplement rate listed. If passengers are traveling alone and wish to have 206 Tours assign a roommate we will do our best, however, if we do not succeed in assigning a same sex roommate for you, you will be responsible for the additional Single Supplement fees.

TRIPLE ROOMS In most hotels (other than Paris) triple accommodation is possible, however, no reduction in cost is available. Due to pace of our pilgrimage schedule it's a challenge to open up all 3 suitcases and everyone's hand luggage; take showers and be on the move within appropriate time. First Class and Superior Tourist Class Hotels in general are not set up for triple rooms. Hotels usually either add a third bed which is like a fold up bed or a sofa bed. At times such as in Paris it is either impossible or worse it's the "Murphy bed". For that reason we discourage booking triple rooms. **MEALS** Most trips includes two meals per day (breakfast and dinners) which are served at your hotel or local restaurants. Beverages are not included with dinners where not indicated. In case you chose not to have a meal, there is no refund for unused meals. Although we cannot guarantee, we will try and accommodate each special meal request on flights as well as at hotels. Please advise of such a request at the time of booking. We can not guarantee that special meal/diet requests can be met.

BAGGAGE Each tour participant is permitted to bring one checked suitcase, one small carry on bag (8" x 14" x 22"), and one personal item (i.e. purse, laptop case). In general, the airlines permit 1 checked bag weighing up to 50 lbs (23 kg) and maximum dimensions of 62 in (158 cm) calculated by adding the length + the width + the height of the bag. Please check with your specific airline to verify the size and weight allowances. 206 Tours is not responsible for the loss of, theft of, delay, or damage to a participant's belongings.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE 206 Tours acts as a tour operator. The suppliers providing transportation, sightseeing arrangements and hotel accommodations for the tour program are independent contractors and are not agents or employees of 206 Tours. All coupons, receipts and tickets issued are subject to the terms and conditions specified by suppliers. By utilizing the service of the suppliers, you agree that 206 Tours will not be liable for any change in flight or itinerary schedule, strikes, delay, acts of governments, fires, riots, theft, pilferage, epidemics, quarantine, medical or customs regulations, accident, loss, injury, or damage to you or to those traveling with you in connection with any accommodations, transportation or any other services or resulting directly or indirectly from any occurrence or

conditions beyond its control, including defects in vehicles, breakdown in equipment, thefts, delay or cancellation of or changes in itinerary for any act, omission, or event during the time you are on board the aircraft. Neither 206 Tours and/or agents of the airlines concerned are to be held responsible for the late arrival of passengers at airports or hotels due to inclement weather, nor are they to be held liable for payment or any refund for transfers or unused hotel accommodations or meals occasioned by such late arrivals at the hotels holding rooms as confirmed itineraries. Passengers must bear all such losses or expenses. To guard against unforeseen health or other circumstances, we recommend you purchase our optional insurance. 206 Tours is not responsible for circumstances beyond its control. In circumstances where trip cancellations resulting from the inability for trip to depart as scheduled, such as cancellations due to acts of war and/or terrorism, war, God, or nature takes place, 206 Tours is not liable for restitution. Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication of the tour, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits. We will have daily Mass and strive to be in places as indicated. However, sometimes this is not possible as the site may not be available for Mass or itinerary changes are forced upon us. In this case an alternative site for Mass will be arranged.

SPECIAL MEDICAL CONDITIONS THOSE WHO NEED SPECIAL ASSISTANCE You must report any disability requiring special attention to 206 Tours at the time of registration for any tour. We make every effort to accommodate disabled passengers by reserving for them wheelchair assistance at airports and handicap accessible rooms where available, however, we cannot guarantee and are not responsible for any denial of services by carriers, hotels, restaurants, or other independent suppliers. Be aware that all of our tours are operated outside the U.S. where the Americans with Disabilities Act is not applicable and facilities for disabled individuals are limited. Most transportation services, including the touring motor coaches, are not equipped with wheelchair ramps or lifts. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to any tour participant for walking, dining, while in their room, on flight, getting on and off motor coaches and other vehicles, or other personal needs. A qualified and physically able companion(s) must accompany passengers who need special assistance. It is the passenger Traveler's responsibility to arrange for such assistance prior to making their reservations. Motorized scooters are unsuitable and impossible to accommodate. 206 Tours is not responsible for any medical condition that occurs prior, during or after the tour. Additionally, airlines are not able to guarantee or provide assistance for disabled passengers including special seating. Pregnancy, Breast-Feeding, and Pregnant women considering international should be advised to evaluate the potential problems associated with international as well as the quality of medical care available at the destination and during transit. A pregnant woman is advised to travel with at least one companion; during her pregnancy, her level of comfort may be adversely affected by traveling.

YOUNG TRAVELERS Travelers who are less than 18 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by an adult. Due to heightened security, many countries have adopted practices to prevent international abductions of children. If a child will be traveling with adults other than the parents or with only one parent, it is recommended that a notarized letter be written by the parents or non-traveling parent granting authorization to including the dates of. We also suggest that you contact the appropriate consulate and airlines because they may have additional requirements. For the purposes of 206 Tours trips an infant is defined as anyone who is under the age of 24 months for the entire duration of their trip. A child is defined as any one between the ages of 24 months and 11 years for the entire duration of their trip.

SAFETY Please be aware that during your participation on tours operated by 206 Tours, certain risks and dangers may arise beyond our control including, but not limited to, the hazards of being in undeveloped areas; by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation; the forces of nature, political unrest and accident or illness in remote regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. 206 Tours does not have liability regarding provisions of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered. 206 Tours is not responsible for compensation for cities/sites omitted from the itinerary due to circumstances beyond it's control.

PHYSICALITY OF OUR TOURS Please note that almost all destinations serviced by 206 Tours require physical fitness and a lot of walking, sometimes up/or down the hills and at times very rough terrain. You may certainly stay behind for certain parts of the journey, however, it is suggested that 3 to 4 weeks before your departure one should begin preparing physically begin walking "briskly" 1-2 times a day; build up to 2-3 miles with no discomfort. **SERVICE INQUIRIES AFTER THE TRIP** If upon returning from your trip, you wish to inquire about any services provided, please ensure that all correspondence is received by 206 Tours, 333 Marcus Blvd - Hauppauge, NY 11788, within 45 days of the tour completion date. This will enable us to make a timely investigation.

TOUR CANCELLATION BY OPERATOR Be clearly advised that from time to time a tour departure may be cancelled due to lack of participation. In such case, the operator's sole responsibility is to provide a full refund. 206 Tours is not responsible and does not assume responsibility for any additional costs or any fees relating to the issuance and/or cancellation of air tickets or other arrangements not made through 206 Tours. Cancellations due to state advisories and/or state warnings, Acts of War, War, Terrorism, Acts of God, Natural Disaster or any other circumstance outside the control of 206 Tours, are not the fault of 206 Tours. Great effort will be made to accommodate or to another trip or to revise itinerary, however, cancellation for any of these reasons will not be eligible for refund.

PRINTING DISCLAIMER 206 Tours is not responsible for typographical or print Traveler's errors including errors in trip cost. We reserve the right to re invoice or correct billing at any time.

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