



**JOIN FR. MATHUR AND  
YOUR FELLOW STM  
PARISHIONERS ON AN  
EIGHT-DAY PILGRIMAGE  
TO THE HOLY LAND  
OCTOBER 23, 2012**

Tour will include Tel Aviv, Caesarea Maritima, Haifa, Mount Carmel, Tiberias, Sea of Galilee, Mount Tabor, Nazareth, Cana, the Jordan River, Capernaum, Tabgha, Mount of Beatitudes, Jericho, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Mount Zion, Bethany, Emmaus, and Ein Karem. Cost per person is \$2,795 double occupancy. For information contact Deacon Jim Toolan, 610-433-7413 or [jim@stmchurchallentown.org](mailto:jim@stmchurchallentown.org). Tour is under the spiritual direction of Fr. Keith Mathur. Tour company is Pilgrimage Tours 610-799-5125

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**October 23, 2012 - Tuesday  
ALLENTOWN / NEWARK / TEL AVIV**

Tour members gather at St. Thomas More for our bus ride to Newark International Airport for our direct flight to the Holy Land. Meals are served onboard.

**October 24, 2012 - Wednesday  
TEL AVIV / CAESAREA / HAIFA / MOUNT CARMEL / TIBERIAS**

Today we arrive in Tel Aviv. We are met by our Pilgrimage Tours' tour escort, board our motor coach, and begin our tour of the Holy Land. We drive north along the sand dunes of the Mediterranean coast to Caesarea by the Sea, built by King Herod just a decade before the birth of Jesus. The spectacular ruins were once the home of Pontius Pilate and the site of the trial of the Apostle Paul. Next we visit Haifa, where we see the St. Peter by the Sea Shrine. Ascending the heights of Mount Carmel for one Israel's best views high above the Mediterranean we see the place where the prophet Elijah was instrumental in the defeat of the prophets of Ba'al. Here we visit the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel and see Elijah's Cave. Next we enjoy our own celebration of Mass at the Stella Maris convent. Our day concludes with a drive to our hotel on the Sea of Galilee. Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

**October 25, 2012 - Thursday****TIBERIAS / MOUNT TABOR / NAZARETH / CANA / JORDAN RIVER**

After breakfast, we drive to and ascend Mount Tabor- the Mount of Transfiguration. We see the place of the transfiguration in one of the most beautiful churches in the Holy Land at the summit of the dome like mountain. Next we continue on to Nazareth where Jesus grew up, and celebrate Mass at the Basilica of the Annunciation, where the archangel Gabriel told Mary that she would “*bring forth a son.*” Here we see Mary’s Well and the Church of St. Joseph, site of Joseph’s carpentry shop. Next we proceed to Cana for a renewal of wedding vows where Jesus performed his first miracle by turning water into wine at the wedding feast. We depart Cana for the Jordan River and see the place where Jesus was immersed by John the Baptist and where pilgrims renew their baptismal promises to this day. We end of our day with a classic boat ride across the tranquil waters of the Sea of Galilee recalling the miracle of walking on water and calling on Peter and Andrew to become ‘fishers of men.’ Dinner and overnight in Tiberias.

**October 26, 2012 - Friday****CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / MOUNT OF BEATITUDES / JERICHO / JERUSALEM**

This morning we visit the town where Jesus’ ministry was centered, Capernaum, where we see the remains of an early Church, the ruins of Peter’s House, and the ancient synagogue where Jesus preached. We leave Capernaum to visit Tabgha, where the multiplication of the loaves and fishes is commemorated in the mosaic floors of the historic church. We visit the nearby Church of the Primacy on the shore of the Sea of Galilee where Peter received his commission from Jesus to “feed my lambs.” Finally, we depart for the Mount of Beatitudes where we retell the “Sermon on the Mount” while standing on the Mount of Beatitudes looking out over the Jordan Valley and the Sea of Galilee. Here we celebrate Mass. Following Mass, we enjoy our “St. Peter’s Lunch” on the Sea of Galilee. Next we drive to Jericho in the Judean desert, where we view the Mount of Temptation where, after 40 days of fasting, Jesus was tempted by Satan and prevailed. We continue on to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

**October 27, 2012 - Saturday****JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM**

This morning we depart Jerusalem for Bethlehem. Along the way, we stop at the Shepherd’s Field with its caves that were typical of the stables of Jesus’ time. It is here where the angel appeared to the shepherds and led them to Bethlehem. Next we arrive in Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus, where we will spend some time in prayer at the site of Jesus’ birth inside the Church of the Nativity. While here we also see, the Grotto of the Holy Family, the Cave of St. Jerome and next door St. Catherine’s. We celebrate Mass in Bethlehem. As we depart Manger Square we enjoy some free time shopping the local religious gift shop where you will see many interesting articles for sale, including native Olive wood carvings. We return to Jerusalem for dinner and overnight.

**October 28, 2012 - Sunday**

**JERUSALEM / MOUNT ZION**

Our day begins with a dramatic view of the walled Old City of Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives where we participate in a group photo. This is followed by a visit to the Church of Pater Noster where Jesus taught the "Our Father," and the Chapel of the Ascension, from where Jesus returned to His Father. Next we walk down the hill known as the "Palm Sunday Road," to Dominus Flevit Chapel on the site where Jesus wept over Jerusalem and then arrive at the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus endured his Agony. We also visit the adjacent Church of All Nations. Next we visit the Temple Mount, site of the first and second Jewish temples and now the Dome of the Rock. We pay a visit to St. Anne's, where the Virgin Mary was born. Next we recall the final hours of Jesus' life at Pilate's Judgment Hall. We see the Chapel of Flagellation and the Arch of the Ecce Homo "Behold, the Man," as well as the Lithostrotos where we see the ancient carvings in the stone floor of the basement. From here we will walk and pray along the Via Dolorosa – the "Stations of the Cross" where Jesus carried and fell beneath the weight of his cross to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will celebrate Mass in this most holy of places followed by some time to explore this place of Jesus' tomb. Next we enjoy a walking tour of the Old City to include the Christian and Armenian quarters of Jerusalem as well as the Wailing Wall. Finally, our day ends with a visit to Mount Zion and the Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu - the House of Caiaphas, we see the place of the trial of Jesus and where Peter denied Christ three times. Next we visit The Upper Room (Room of the Last Supper) where Jesus instituted the Eucharist, as well as the Dormition Abbey which represents Mary having passed into eternal life, asleep, in grand Byzantine décor. Nearby we also see King David's tomb. Dinner and overnight in Jerusalem.

**October 29 & 30, 2012 –Monday & Tuesday**

**JERUSALEM / BETHANY / EMMAUS / EIN KAREM / TEL AVIV /  
NEWARK / ALLENTOWN**

This morning we will visit the Israeli Museum and see its model of the Second Temple as it was in the time of Jesus, as well as the "Shrine of the Book," with its Dead Sea Scrolls exhibit. Next we visit Bethany and see the home of Mary and Martha and the Tomb of Lazarus where Jesus "*cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth'*" and Lazarus was risen from the dead. Next we arrive in the traditional location of Emmaus, in the town of Abu Ghosh where we visit its beautiful church. Finally, we arrive in Ein Karem for a visit to the birthplace of John the Baptist, and to the Church of the Visitation, where we celebrate Mass. It is here where the Blessed Virgin Mary proclaimed her famous hymn of thanksgiving known as the Magnificat. The remainder of our afternoon is free for some final shopping in Jerusalem prior to this evening's "Farewell Dinner." Following dinner, we proceed to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion airport for our late night return flight to the United States. We arrive back home the following morning and board our bus for our return to Allentown. Though we come to the end of our time of pilgrimage, our faith is deepened, our hearts stirred. Reading our Bible and seeking Christ as pilgrims in this life will forever take on new meaning for every one of us.