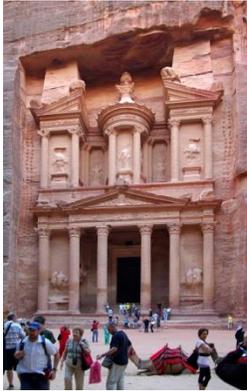


# VISIT THE LANDS OF THE BIBLE

## HOLY LAND TOUR TO JORDAN AND ISRAEL

\*\*\*14 days, November 5-18, 2020\*\*\*



*Petra*



*Jerusalem from the Mt. of Olives*



*Sea of Galilee*

### Hosts:

Fr. Tom Krieg, Pastor, St. James Parish,  
2502 11<sup>th</sup> St., Eau Claire, WI 54703  
Phone: 715.835.5887 x4, [tom4664@aol.com](mailto:tom4664@aol.com)

Fr. John Manohar, Pastor, St. Joseph Parish,  
910 Wilson Avenue, Menomonie, WI 54751  
Phone: 715.232.4922, [frmano78@gmail.com](mailto:frmano78@gmail.com)

**and** Pam Sirinek, Director of Adult Faith Formation  
St. Joseph Parish, Menomonie, WI  
[Pam.sirinek@menomoniecatholic.org](mailto:Pam.sirinek@menomoniecatholic.org)

Jordan Highlights: Mount Nebo where Moses saw the Promised Land before dying, The Baptism Site of Jesus at "Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan," Mt. Mukwir where John the Baptist was martyred, and the Valley of Moses in Petra, the famed Red Rose City and newly named Wonder of the Ancient World!

Israel Highlights: Three nights along the Sea of Galilee, Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Mount of the Beatitudes, Bethlehem, Dead Sea, and four nights in Jerusalem to walk the Way of the Cross, see Calvary and Tomb of Christ, Garden of Gethsemane, and Mount of Olives. **AND MUCH MORE.**

Cost per person, with roommate, \$4400, inclusive, traveling from Eau Claire and Central Wisconsin. \$1090 single room supplement.

All breakfasts, evening meals, and several lunches included.

All tipping is done by your hosts and is included in your fare.

## Greetings from our Pilgrimage Tour Hosts

June 2019

Why a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land? There are many possible answers: To make the Bible stories come alive; to support our fellow Christians in the Holy Land; to mark a special anniversary in your life; to see a part of the world so often in the news; most of all, to grow closer to God. It is difficult to describe the feelings a person has when hearing a Scripture passage proclaimed while seeing the same view Jesus saw and walking where he walked. A pilgrimage is not a vacation; it comes with the intention to deepen one's identity as a religious person.

This is Fr. Tom's will be going for the seventh time to the Holy Land, and Fr. Mano has been there before also. It is Pam's first pilgrimage to the Holy Land and so she will bring that excitement. Fr. Tom has led four groups with the help of the same trusted tour agencies. Rex Travel in Chicago will coordinate our air travel via a major international airline and the Guiding Star Agency in Amman and Jerusalem will manage our ground tour, providing the best hotels available and the finest local Christian tour guides. NB: Our tour guides will be local people—our priests are good fellows but not as knowledgeable as the local guides!

We will share some reflections by Fr. Al Slowiak on the culture and archeology of the Holy Land. Also, reading Fr. James Martin's recent book, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*, would be an excellent way to prepare for our time together.

We plan to leave the Eau Claire and Menomonie areas by coach to a Minneapolis where we will most likely fly Delta/Air France to Amman via Paris. The pilgrimage on the ground is hosted by Guiding Star Travel, a Christian agency that give special attention to the spiritual experience of pilgrims. The guides are EXCELLENT. We will begin in Jordan for four nights, mostly in Amman with one night in Petra. On November 10, we will cross into Israel where we will spend three nights on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, one night in Jericho, and four nights in Jerusalem. There is much to see, but the pace of travel will be comfortable and allow for much time for prayer and reflection. Particularly in Israel, we will celebrate Eucharist daily at the holy sites. While the walking is not rigorous, you should not go if you need assistance walking up to a quarter mile.

Initial interest in this pilgrimage has been strong. If you would like to join us, contact us soon with your questions or with a completed registration form that attached to the end of this packet.

Peace to you.

Fr. Tom

Fr. Mano

Pam

## **Pilgrimage Tour Itinerary:**

**Thursday, November 5, Leave USA; Pilgrimage begins!** Details for flight information and coach travel to airport will be made known as soon as available.

**Friday, November 6, Arrive, Amman Jordan.** Likely we will arrive toward the evening and simply rest up for the first big day of our pilgrimage. Our tour guide will meet us at the airport.

### **Saturday, November 7, Bethany-Beyond-the-Jordan Baptismal Site, Madeba, Mt. Nebo, Mukwir.**

What better way to begin a Christian pilgrimage than at the spot where Jesus inaugurated his ministry? Here, pilgrims will be able to walk into the Jordan River (now much smaller than in Jesus' day due to it being siphoned off for irrigation), and renew their own baptismal vows and identity as God's Beloved daughters and sons. In Mad eba, you will get to see what a smaller Arab city is like, and lunch at a local café. Madeba is home to the oldest known map of the Holy Land in the form of a mosaic. Hopefully we will have a clear day when we travel up to Mt. Nebo and be able to enjoy the view of the Jordan Valley, the Promised Land, that Moses saw before he died on that mountain. We will try to celebrate Eucharist here. The last stop is Fr. Tom's favorite. With no souvenir shops to distract the pilgrim, Mukawir is a hill with its top shaved off, atop of which is the ruins of Herod Antipas' Palace where Salome danced and John the Baptist was beheaded. Pilgrims can stay by the bus and enjoy the view or take the quarter-mile trail that winds to the ruins. The day will end with a long coach ride south along the Kings Highway to the edge of Petra, and our hotel.

**Sunday, February 8, Petra.** In 2007, after discerning for six years what world sites would be considered part of a new list of "Seven Wonders of the World," the ancient rock city in Jordan, Petra, was chosen, along with the Great Wall of China, Christ Redeemer Stature in Rio, The Roman Colosseum, The Mayan temple Chichen Itza, the Taj Mahal, and Machu Pichu in Peru. It is truly something to see! Featured in the Indiana Jones movie, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*, Petra was built by the Nabotean people as their capital in 100 B.C. While the city itself has no direct biblical connection, it is located in the Wadi Moussa, Arabic for "Valley of Moses," and is traditionally the area where Moses struck the rock and water flowed forth during the forty years in the wilderness. There are also the ruins of a Byzantine Christian Church with many mosaics from the fourth century. Fr. Tom will likely prefer to hike up with any takers to "The Monastery," through a narrow trail between cliff walls that with goats and their Bedouin owners along the way. Pilgrims can walk through this rock city or hire a horse and carriage—and this is your big chance to ride a camel! Everyone gets to be on a horse or carriage initially, and this is very doable even for people feeling more physically frail. After our full day here, we will take the coach back to the Amman International Hotel.

**Monday, November 9, North Jordan: Anjara, Jerash.** We will celebrate Eucharist in beautiful church that commemorates the place where the Holy Family would stop in their travels between Nazareth and Jerusalem. Anjara is on the list of official Catholic Pilgrimage destinations in Jordan. Recently, around the start of the “Arab Spring” in 2010, a statue inside this church miraculously wept tears, interpreted by many to be tears of compassion. This church is also right next to a vibrant school and orphanage that serves many Jordanian and refugee youth today. The ruins of the Roman city of Jerash are among the best preserved in the world, for retaining its original structures. When the Gospels speak of Jesus visiting the “Ten Cities” or the Decapolis, this was one of those cities. Overnight, Amman International Hotel.

**Tuesday, November 10, Cross into Israel, Galilee, Mt. Arbel.** Pilgrims will cross the Jordan River and enter Israel. This could take a little while, as security is very tight in Israel. At our hotel complex is displayed one of the most celebrated archeological discoveries of the last thirty years. In the late 80’s when the water level was extraordinarily low, people discovered the edge of a boat peeking out from the mud. Speedy and skilled efforts followed (the best archaeologists seem to be in the Holy Land) and the boat was brought intact to shore. It was dated to the first century A.D., and though there is no indication whose boat it was it is certainly at least the kind of boat Jesus would have been in when he was with his apostles. Amazing. The group will then get on a larger boat so we can feel what it’s like to be on the water and will see a demonstration of the first century fishing method of “casting your nets.” The recently excavated village of Magdala (Mary Magdalen’s home town) is on the shore near our hotel. We will see the new church with its “boat altar” and beautiful art. Overnight back on the shore of Galilee’s sea, Nof Ginosar Kibbutz, on the west central shore of the Sea of Galilee.

**Wednesday, November 11, Nazareth, Sepphoris, Cana.** Jesus’ hometown, Nazareth, is the Church of the Annunciation, featuring the grotto where the angel appeared to Mary and “The Word was Made Flesh.” We will celebrate Eucharist in this church. Sepphoris is walking distance from Nazareth (though we will go by coach), and though it is not mentioned in the Bible it was a major commercial center at the time of Jesus’ youth. Scholars think it’s a safe bet that Joseph and Jesus exercised their carpentry skills here during the day and walked to the much smaller village of Nazareth when their day’s work was done. Looking back at Nazareth from the ruins of Sepphoris, you can see the same landscape Jesus and Joseph saw so many times. Cana is the place of Jesus’ first miracle, changing water into wine at a wedding feast. Couples will have a chance to renew their marriage vows, and the widowed and single will also receive a special blessing. Overnight, Nof Ginosar.

**Thursday, November 12, Mount of the Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, Peter's Primacy, Mt. Tabor.** This day will be a favorite of many. Time on the bus will be minimal as all these places are on the sea's northwest shore area. Pilgrims will be able to look over the entire Sea of Galilee while hearing Fr. Tom proclaim the Sermon on the Mount. We will have time to visit the church on top of the mount and sit in its verdant gardens. Down the hill is Tabgha, site of the Multiplication of the Loaves miracle, attested in all four gospels. The church here features one of the oldest Christian pieces of art, a mosaic of loaves and fishes. Upshore a bit is Capernaum, St. Peter's city and a place where Jesus spent much time. A beautiful church is suspended over an archeological dig of what scholars concur is the house of St. Peter. Hopefully, we will celebrate Eucharist here. Back downshore a bit is the Church of Peter Primacy, directly on the shore, that marks the spot where the Risen Lord made breakfast for his friends and asked Peter three times "Do you love me?" We then leave the Sea of Galilee for the rest of the day, going first to Mt. Tabor, where Jesus took Peter, James and John and was transfigured before their eyes. Overnight, Nof Ginosar.

**Friday, November 13, Jacob's Well, Dead Sea, Overnight Jericho.** This one we might have to change depending on conditions, long waits at security gates, etc. Jacob's Well is in the biblical city of Sychar near Shechem, in the modern city of Nablus, which might take more effort to get in and out of, and so our tour guide might suggest an alternate plan. Either way, we will continue to the lowest point on earth, the shore of the Dead Sea, where you will have the opportunity to literally sit in its ultra-buoyant waters. There is a lovely spot for lunch that will be provided by the tour. Overnight in Jericho at the plush Oasis Hotel.

**Saturday, November 14, Jericho, Bethlehem, Milk Grotto and Shepherd's Field.** Jericho has both Old Testament and New Testament significance with Joshua's famous battle, as well as the encounter between Jesus and Zaccheus. Perhaps we will get a chance to visit the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Temptation, schedule allowing. Then it's up to Bethlehem! The road between Jericho and Jerusalem is the road along which the Good Samaritan showed compassion. Bethlehem is a real high point for pilgrims, of course. The Church of the Nativity is the oldest continuously operating Christian church in the world and in the crypt of this church is a spot that marks the birthplace of Jesus, a spot touched by millions and pilgrims since the earliest days of Christianity. We will celebrate Eucharist in one of the church's chapels. In addition, we might have a chance to see the grotto where Mary nursed Jesus, and will certainly go to the Shepherd's Fields where the angels sang out "Glory to God in the Highest!" Overnight at the beautiful Olive Tree Hotel, near Damascus Gate, Jerusalem.

**Sunday, November 15, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Mount Zion, St. Peter in Gallicantu, Dormition Abbey, the “Upper Room.”** We begin the day in Bethany, home to Martha and Mary, and a place often visited by Jesus. Just a short walk to the west toward Jerusalem is the peak of the Mount of Olives, but unfortunately access is now more difficult because of a barrier wall built by Israel fifteen years ago. Still, we will arrive on the Mount of Olives to commemorate the Ascension of the Lord and then look across the Kidron Valley to the walled “Old City” of Jerusalem. From the top we will make our way down by foot along the “Palm Sunday Trail,” stopping midway at the Church of Dominus Flevit (The Lord Wept), and then finally making our way to the Garden of Gethsemane, with its centuries old olive trees, at the foot of the Mount of Olives. Here, we will celebrate Sunday Mass at the Church of All Nations built around the ground where Jesus prayed before entering into his passion. Across the Kidron Valley is the Old City of Jerusalem and we will visit just outside its walls, the Pool of Siloam, where Jesus told the man born blind to go and wash. Overnight, Olive Tree Hotel, Jerusalem.

**Monday, November 16, Way of the Cross, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Pool of Bethesda, Western Wall, Jewish Quarter.** This will be one intense morning. We will walk the Via Dolorosa, or way of the cross and pray the fourteen marked Stations of the Cross through the narrow streets of the Old City. The Via Dolorosa ends inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which encloses the two holiest sites in the Christian world: Calvary where Jesus was crucified and the tomb of Jesus (“sepulcher” means “tomb”). This will be Sunday, and so we hope to celebrate Eucharist here. Because of crowds for mass that day, however, we might consider flipping this day’s agenda with the previous day’s. The rest of the day will also be spent in the Old City at the ruins of the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus cured the man paralyzed for thirty-eight years, and so the holiest Jewish site, the Western Wall, which is the only exposed surviving part of the temple as it existed in Jesus’ time. Overnight, Olive Tree Hotel, Jerusalem.

**Tuesday, November 17, West Jerusalem, Hadassah Hospital, Pool of Siloam, afternoon free.** This is our last day and will be more relaxed. We hope to visit Mt. Zion and the room of the Last Supper before driving to Emmaus for a final Eucharist and reflection time. The afternoon will be free for you to wander the Old City before an outstanding Farewell Dinner at the Notre Dame Center. Overnight, Olive Tree Hotel, Jerusalem.

**Wednesday, November 18, Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport** This airport is between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and catch our return flight. Typically, we leave the hotel at 1:00 AM.

I hope you are excited about this great itinerary! Certain days are subject to change, depending on availability of churches for our group to celebrate Eucharist, and other factors as they arise. In fact, I can guarantee that the actual tour will vary from the order listed above. Be assured, however, that all major pilgrim sites will be included in our pilgrimage.

## The Following Tour Services Are Provided:

This is a carefully planned “Inclusive Pilgrimage Tour,” offering fine quality arrangements and the best in local guides, drivers, leadership and accommodations.

Chartered private comfortable motor coach from central and western Wisconsin to major airport.

Selected First Class Hotels. All rooms with private bath.

Meal Plan: Daily buffet breakfast and dinner daily. A few lunches provided; most lunches at pilgrim’s expense (light cost, about \$10).

Note that beverages with main meals are at the individual’s expense.

Private, comfortable motor coach in Israel, and Jordan.

Motor coach launch for short cruise on the Sea of Galilee.

Full time, Christian tour guide in Israel and Jordan, familiar with the Bible.

Sightseeing and excursions throughout. Admissions to all major sites are included.

Porterage at hotels and airports is included for one suitcase per person. Your hosts pay all tips.

Not included: Lunches, with the exception of three or four included with the tour, as well as services not specifically mentioned as “included” such as beverages, telephone calls, laundry.

TIPS to drivers/guides, hotel and restaurant staff will be administered by your priest hosts.

## A Few Pilgrimage Tour Conditions:

1. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** Air and land costs are based on currently applicable tariffs, and current exchange rates. Such factors are subject to change without notice. **The tour sponsors and the tour operators will do everything in their power to protect the published tour cost. However, because of unstable fuel costs, and currency exchange rates, some modest changes or increases in the published pilgrimage tour cost may have to occur.** This has not happened on any of our previous tours, however. Such cost, if any, will be added to the final invoice. It is also possible that the cost will go down slightly.

2. **PASSPORTS!** You need one! Without expedited service, which is expensive, it takes about two months to process a passport application. You should have a passport valid for six months beyond our return date, or May 18, 2021. Because our group must apply for a Jordanian Group Visa, your passport information must be shared with me, and I will pass it on for visa approval. Please include passport information on your registration form, with a photocopy, please.

3. Deposits and Cancellations: All deposits are applied to the total cost of the pilgrimage, which is due by June 15, 2020. Full refund will be made for all cancellations received in writing by Rex Travel Service, via Fr. Tom Krieg, at least three months before departure date, less a \$60 administrative fee. Cancellations within 90-36 days prior to departure carry a penalty of \$400 per person; within 36-11 days of departure carry a \$950 penalty; within 10 days, \$1500. If a replacement can be found to take the place of the person(s) canceling from the tour, there will be no cancellation fee.

4. Payment Schedule:

\$500 Initial payment along with your registration secures your spot on the pilgrimage.

\$2000 Additional down payment by January 15, 2020.

\$1900 Anticipated balance due, please, by June 15, 2020.

\$1090 Single Room Supplement for those requesting this, due with final payment.

All payments by personal check; no credit cards can be accepted.

Please submit all checks, made out to "St. James Pilgrimage Fund," to  
Fr. Tom Krieg/2502 11<sup>th</sup> St./Eau Claire, WI 54703

5. Travel Insurance or Trip Insurance? Others who have led similar tours advise that this is unnecessary. It depends on your personal feeling and tolerance of uncertainty. You are welcome, of course, to take out your own policy. One resource is our air travel manager:

Rex Travel, Attn Barbara Witkowski

20 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 210

Chicago, IL 60602

800 777 7739 or 312 641 6633

**A Pilgrim's Poem: "Pilgrimage."**

See the Land of Promise. See the land where Abraham walked

And where Jesus talked About a Kingdom-Yet-To-Come.

Hear the Land of Promise. Hear the muezzin calling your brothers and sisters to pray.

Hear the shofar calling your brothers and sisters to the Wall.

Hear the church bells calling you to the Sepulchre and to Galilee,

To hear the sounds of the Holy rustling in the evening breeze,

To hear the parables foraging for a new voice of faith,

To hear a Galilean rabbi speak of Father-Kingdom and neighbor-love.

Taste the Land of Promise.

Drink deeply its richness; its history; its colors; its bitterness and joy; its pain and puzzle and promise.

Touch the Land of Promise. Feel the soil, fertile ground for Word-seeds.

Feel the rock, hard-soul-building-block of walls of homes, of tombs.

Drink the water: Sweet waters of Galilee, Salt Sea death, And baptismal Jordan-life.

Touch the people.

Touch the beggar-hand and make yourself into Promised Land

fertile faith-soil for the Word.

# Pilgrimage Application/Registration

Visit the Lands of the Bible; Holy Land Tour to Jordan and Israel

\*\*\*November 5-18, 2020\*\*\*

Complete and send registrations, with \$500 deposit  
(checks made out to “**St. James Pilgrimage Fund**”) to:  
Fr. Tom Krieg, St. James Parish, 2502 11<sup>th</sup> St., Eau Claire, WI 54703

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone numbers \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
My roommate is: \_\_\_\_\_

I am looking for a roommate \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No  
I desire a Single Room at \$1090 extra cost \_\_\_ Yes

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500/person) to reserve my/our place.  
(An additional \$2000 will be required by January 15, 2020, and the remaining  
balance by June, 2020.)

Information exactly as it appears on your passport:

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Country/ExpirationDate \_\_\_\_\_
2. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Passport # \_\_\_\_\_ Country/ExpirationDate \_\_\_\_\_

My emergency contact here in the USA is: (Pls give exact name, address and  
phone numbers.) \_\_\_\_\_

Send tour program and information to following people, who might also be  
interested in joining this pilgrimage tour—name, address, email.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_