



EASTERN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN PILGRIMAGE JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND

**With a visit to
PETRA, JORDAN and ST. CATHERINE, SINAI**

Led by

**Rev. Fr. Nicholas Jonas & Rev. Fr. Andrew Harrison
Sts. Constantine & Helen Parish / St. Luke Parish
June 2011**

DAY 1- Depart Chicago on our way to Tel Aviv, Israel.

DAY 2 - Arrival to Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv, where our representative greets you, and gives you a briefing about the forthcoming pilgrimage in the Holy Land. Proceed to your hotel on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

DAY 3 - Drive along the coast to Caesarea Maritima ; where Paul was imprisoned and Cornelius baptized, visit the Roman Theatre, Aqueduct and remains. On to Mt. Tabor to visit the Church of the Transfiguration. Later drive to Nazareth and visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, where Gabriel appeared to Mary, and to Cana of Galilee – site of the first miracle (John 2). Overnight stay in Galilee.

DAY 4 - Tour the Sea of Galilee. Visit Capernaum and Simon Peter's house, the Mount of the Beatitudes and Tabgha - the site of the feeding of the multitudes. Take the boat ride across the Sea of Galilee and later enjoy a St. Peter's fish lunch. Walk along the Holy Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. Overnight stay in Galilee.

DAY 5 - Drive south through the beautiful Jordan River Valley and visit the St Gerassimo; site of the Holy family's visit on the way to Egypt, view St George's Monastery, Visit Jericho, Zacheus's Tree, Elisha's Spring and the Greek-Orthodox Monastery on top of The Mount of Temptation. Overnight stay in Jerusalem.

DAY 6- Drive to Bethlehem to worship at the ancient Greek Orthodox Church of the Nativity, Manger Square, and view the beautiful Shepherds' Fields. Continue our pilgrimage to the Mount of Olives - the Church of Maria Magdalena, the Garden of Gethsemane Overnight stay in Jerusalem.

DAY 7 – Walk into the Old City of Jerusalem. Experience the various quarters and the underground excavations. Walk to the sacred Church of The Anastasis (The Holy Sepulchre), and visit the Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. Haralambos, Prison of Christ. Later visit the Church of St. Anne, built over the pool of Bethesda. Later visit Mt Zion: the room of the Last Supper, the Tomb of David, Caiaphas' House and the Church of the

Cross. Overnight stay in Jerusalem

Day 8 –

Today we leave Israel on our way to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Cross the border into Jordan and Visit Mt. Nebo and Madaba. On our way to Petra for the overnight stay.

Day 9

This morning we tour the “Red Rose” city of Petra. Enter through the passage “siq” and walk through the wonders of that city carved on the mountains. After lunch, continue our journey, and cross the border back to Israel. Overnight stay in Eilat, on the shores of the Red Sea.

DAY 10

Depart Eilat on our journey to Sinai to visit Mt Sinai and St Catherine’s Monastery – drive through the Arava Desert to the Egyptian border. Overnight at the foot of Mt Sinai.

DAY 11

Early risers may ascend to the top of Mt Sinai for “a breathtaking view of creation”. Visit the Sinai Monastery and Patriarchate. Return to Israel for overnight stay.

DAY 12

Morning departure back to Chicago. Same day arrival.