

Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church  
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Pilgrimage to Holy Land under spiritual director Bishop Paul Chomnycky, Eparch of Stamford and the pastor of Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church, town of Lindenhurst, Rev. Olvian Nicholas Popovici.

*(Israel, Palestine, Egypt)*



Dear Brethren in Christ!

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land- one of the most effective ways to open for yourself a spiritual understanding of God's creation. This is a special step in freeing yourself from modern day materialism, which reduces the appreciation of creation and the realization that God is present in the visible world as much as the invisible world.

Like the Holy Sacrament, pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a glimpse into the past, a touch of a unique past experience that, through a special act of remembrance, opens our hearts to the work of God's grace today and opens the horizons of the future.

The places where Jesus was born and took his first steps; where He communicated, lived, taught, prayed, died and rose again - marked by special signs of His presence, love and grace. These places where God revealed Himself and were known in a special way contain the spiritual memory, power, and hope that we can take part in today. Pilgrimage to the Holy Land always enlivens the Holy Scriptures in the heart of man, creates a special intimate connection with Christ, and thus stimulates prayer and a more intense spiritual life.

Visiting those places marked by the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, one can spiritually touch the mysteries of pain, suffering, bitterness and agony of the whole world, which Christ took upon Himself, in order to initiate a new creation within humble and whole-hearted love. It is here that one can especially experience the love of God and realize the unique value of each person in God's eyes.

An important attribute of this pilgrimage is that we will visit places related to our Savior's life - as they are told in the Gospel of the New Testament - and at the same time experience these events liturgically (through participation in the Divine Liturgy).

We welcome you, with pleasure, to attend this pilgrimage to our spiritual sources to places that will help us find ourselves.

**Dates: 18-29 October 2020 (11 days)**

**ROUTE: Eilat, Ein Karem, Beit Sahur, Bethlehem, Haifa, Nazareth, Jordan River, Jericho, Dead Sea, Cana of Galilee, Capernaum, Mount Tabor, Sea of Galilee, Jerusalem, Bethphage, Jaffa, Tel Aviv.**

**Offering: \$ 2,420.00\*\* (per person) – Register by 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2020 with a \$1,000 deposit for the airline fares. Non-Refundable! Pilgrimage should be paid in full by 15<sup>th</sup> of June, 2020.**

**For a single room, extra \$350 per person.**

**P.S.- All checks must be payable to Holy Family Ukrainian Catholic Church.**

**Traveling from Ukraine, \$1,245\* per person (without flight ticket)**

**After March 1<sup>st</sup>, registration for the pilgrimage will be \$2,720\*\***

**«Jesus – The Way, The Truth and Life»**

**Day One (19 October)**

Arrival at Ben Gurion Airport (Tel Aviv). Meeting pilgrims at the airport. Then, travelling to Eilat.

On the way, we will rest on the shore of the Dead Sea (2 hours). Visiting the Dead Sea cosmetics brand store. The Dead Sea is a lifeless lake located in the Jordan Rift Valley. The coast of the Dead Sea has the lowest altitude on the planet.

Places around the Dead Sea have the least amount of living creatures and wild nature in Israel. The depth of the lake in the northern part reaches up to 400 m, but in the south it only reaches 10 m. The content of their salts and minerals is ten times greater than in the ordinary sea.

Check-in to hotel in Eilat. Relaxation on the Red Sea. City sightseeing tour. Visiting the gemstone factory. Evening prayers. Supper. Overnight stay.

#### Day Two (20 October)

Breakfast. Morning Prayers. Divine Liturgy.

Again, resting on the Red Sea. Optionally, we invite you to visit the underwater observatory with its fascinating marine kingdom. An opportunity to go down to the ocean depths in a special submarine. (\$ 40).

Evening prayers. Return to hotel. Free time, dinner. Overnight stay.

PS- For those who wish: Travel to Egypt (overnight) by bus. Hike to Mount Sinai (Egypt) on request, \$ 95. At the top of the Sinai, an overview of the monastery of St. Catherine, Cathedral of the Transfiguration. Worship of the relics of St. Catherine the Great Martyr, preserved in the Cathedral of the Transfiguration.

Return to Israel to Eilat. Free time/breakfast.

#### Day Three (21 October)

Morning Prayers. Divine Liturgy. Again, resting on the Red Sea.

The Red Sea - its ancient Greek name, Erythra Thalassa was called by the Egyptians around 2500 BC. However, only European countries call it the "Red Sea." In Hebrew, for example, it is called "Yam Suf" - reed, because of the large number of reed shrubs in the Gulf of Suez, and in Egypt - "green space". The Red Sea is one of the saltiest and warmest of all the seas.

Evening prayers. Return to hotel. Supper. Overnight stay.

An interesting fact about the Red Sea is that the reflection of the water is crystal clear because it doesn't flow into any rivers that carry silt/sand, which significantly reduces the transparency of seawater. The Red Sea has the most abundant amount of different corals, underwater flora and fauna. The coastal strip of coral reefs stretches for almost 2 thousand kilometers.

Evening prayers. Return to hotel. Supper. Overnight stay.

#### Day Four (22 October)

Breakfast. Morning Prayers. Departing from the hotel in Eilat. Travelling to the desert of Judea. Divine Liturgy.

Along the way, rest on the shore of the Dead Sea (2 hrs.) After, we'll renew our baptismal vows in the Jordan River.

Moving to Jericho, located at the bottom of the Jordan Valley, in the deep concavity, approximately 250 meters below sea level. According to archaeologists, it is one of the oldest cities in the world. It reveals structures dating back from the 8th century B.C., including the Mountain of Temptation - the place of temptation of Jesus Christ by the devil. Climbing the mountain.

Evening prayers. Check-in. Free time, dinner. Overnight stay.

#### Day Five (23 October)

Breakfast. Check-out from hotel. Morning Prayers. Palestine bound. Divine Liturgy.

Visiting the Field of Shepherds. Bethlehem is a small town, also called King David's City. The Virgin Mary, along with righteous Joseph, came here to participate in the census at the time. Here, in a small cave, where there were only a manger for animal feed, the prophets were proclaimed: "The Word became flesh," "God was born among men." We will see the Basilica of the Nativity of Christ, the Star of Bethlehem, the Chapel of the Manger and the Milk Grotto.

Moving to Jerusalem. On this unforgettable day, we will be introduced to the most holy city for Christians, Jews and Muslims. We will view this wonderful city from the Olive Mountain. Then, we will visit the Carmelite Monastery, Church of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father. Now, on the top of the Temple Mountain, there is a Muslim Mosque called El Aqsa and the Golden Dome of the Cliff. City panorama. Wailing Wall.

Evening prayers. Check-in at a hotel in Bethlehem. Supper. Overnight stay.

#### Day Six (24 October)

Breakfast. Morning Prayers. Going to Jerusalem. Visiting the Church in Bethphage. Divine Liturgy.

Bethphage is located on the eastern slope of the Olive Mountain. An old road to Bethany lay through it. It was in Bethphage that Jesus met the sisters of Lazarus; Martha and Mary, before the resurrection of Lazarus. Bethphage is also the place where Jesus sat on a donkey on Palm Sunday, standing on a stone for convenience and heading to Jerusalem. It was a triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Many more interesting and mysterious things await you in Jerusalem: Place of the Ascension of the Lord (foot), Temple of All Nations, Garden of Gethsemane, hall of the Last Supper on Mount Zion, Dormition (Benedictine Monastery), Church of the Assumption of the Virgin, Tomb of David and Tomb of the Virgin Mary. We will go to Ein Karem, an ancient settlement near Jerusalem. According to Christian tradition, this is the meeting place of the Virgin Mary and Elizabeth and the birth of John the Baptist. The most important pilgrimage site in Ein Karem is the Church of St. John the Baptist, whose new building was built in the late 19th century and is slightly higher than it. Church of Visit (Zachary's Summer Residence). The road between them leads to the Spring of Mary.

Return to hotel. Free time, dinner. Overnight stay.

### Day Seven (25 October)

Breakfast. Morning Prayers. Going to Jerusalem to Via Dolorosa (The Holy Cross of the Way). Divine Liturgy. Next, we will visit the Temple of the Holy Sepulchre, get on Calvary - the crucifixion site of Jesus. You will be able to touch the Anointing Stone and see the main shrine of Christianity - the Lord's Tomb. We will also visit the Temple of St. Peter (Helicanthus) - the site where Jesus was judged. This place has long been called Helicanth - "Rooster Cry". Here was the house of Caiaphas, where they brought the arrested Jesus out of Gethsemane at night, and where two of his disciples came, one of whom was called apostle Peter and Jesus told him about three-fold renunciation before the rooster sang.

Evening Prayers. Return to hotel. Free time, supper. Overnight stay.

### Day Eight (26 October)

Breakfast. Check-out from hotel. Morning Prayers. Going to Haifa. Divine Liturgy.

Mount Carmel, St. Elijah's Temple. Panorama of Bahai Gardens. Departure to Nazareth. A big part of Jesus Christ's life is connected with Galilee. In Nazareth, the Annunciation took place: Archangel Gabriel announced to the Blessed Virgin Mary that the expected Messiah would be born of Her. Here, in Nazareth, the Holy Family settled after returning from Egypt. We will visit the Basilica of the Annunciation, as well as the Church of St. Archangel Gabriel, where the well of the Virgin Mary is located.

Evening Prayers. Going to hotel and check-in. Dinner. Overnight stay.

### Day Nine (27 October)

Breakfast, morning prayers. Going to Lake of Galilee.

The Mount of Beatitudes is the site of the Sermon on the Mount. It was in Galilee that the first sermons of Christ were heard. As they journey through Galilee, pilgrims go through evangelical events where they take place, listen to the words of Christ where they are spoken. Lake Kinneret or Galilee - on its shores Christ finds his disciples. In the spare time for those who want to take a ride on a boat in Lake Galilee (\$ 10 per person), and lunch with St. Peter's fish (\$ 20 per person). Capernaum: The synagogue where Jesus preached. Church of the Primacy of Apostle Peter.

Evening Prayers. Return to hotel. Free time, dinner. Overnight stay.

### Day Ten (28 October)

Breakfast, morning prayers. Going to foot of the Tabor Mountain. Then, taking a bus up the mountain. Divine Liturgy.

Mount Tabor is the site of the Transfiguration of the Lord. We'll go to the small town of Cana-Galilee, where Jesus performed the first miracle by turning water into wine. Rite of renewal of marriage vows for married couples on the pilgrimage. Afternoon rest on the Sea of Galilee and visit to the thermal springs.

Evening Prayers. Return to hotel. Free time, supper. Overnight stay.

### Day Eleven (29 October)

Breakfast, morning prayers. Divine Liturgy.

Going to Jaffa - sightseeing tour of the ancient city. Jaffa is one of the most colorful cities with ancient history and legends. It is traditionally believed that Jaffa was founded by son Noah Japheth. St. Peter was here in the garments of Simeon and raised from the dead of Tabitha. It is believed that Noah built his ark here, hence the prophet Jonah set off. In the Old Jaffa Museum and at the site of the excavations, one can see archaeological evidence of the city's past. In the center of the city is the great Franciscan church of St. Peter.

Then, leaving to Ben Gurion Airport. Departure back to the United States.



#### **Prices for the Pilgrimage INCLUDE:**

- Airfare from the US ( round trip JFK – Tel Aviv)
- *Bus tour according to the schedule;*
- *Required tips for the bus driver (\$2 per day) and tour guide (\$2 per day) for a total of \$44;*
- *Trip to Tavor Mountain and tickets for other excursion sites (together up to \$ 121 per trip);*
- *Spiritual support for the priest;*
- *Boat ride on Lake Galilee (\$10 per person);*
- *Support for the experienced manager;*
- *Services of the certified guide;*
- *10 nights in 3-4\* hotels ( 2 people per room);*
- *10 breakfasts and dinners (Buffet);*
- *Medical Insurance.*



#### **OPTIONAL: ADDITIONAL COSTS:**

- **The opportunity to go down to the ocean depths in a special submarine (\$ 40).**
- **Lunch with St. Peter's fish on Lake Galilee (\$ 20 per person)**
- **Hike to Mount Sinai (Egypt) on request, \$ 95.**
- **Personal expenses.**

