



Join Cheryl & Brian Gardner

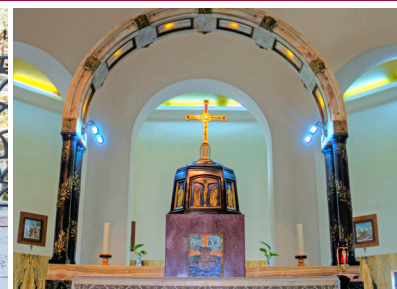
# Holy Land Pilgrimage

December 4 - 13, 2024

*Celebrate Mass Daily when a Priest Travels*



Hosts:  
**Cheryl  
& Brian  
Gardner**



# ITINERARY

## December 4 & 5 – USA to the Holy Land

Your spiritual pilgrimage begins as you depart the USA on an overnight flight. You will be welcomed to the Holy Land by our airport representative and transferred to your Bethlehem hotel. Enjoy dinner before retiring for the night.

## December 6 – Bethlehem, Bethany & Ein Karem

In **Bethlehem**, visit the cave revered as Jesus' birthplace, which now resides in the world's oldest functioning church (Luke 2:1-7). Celebrate **Mass in Bethlehem** and then gaze out over **Shepherds' Field**, where the angels first proclaimed the Good News. Visit **Bethany**, the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha. Here, Jesus visited on several occasions and raised Lazarus from the dead (John 11). Travel to **Ein Karem**, the village where John the Baptist was born and the Virgin Mary visited Elizabeth prior to our Lord's birth (Luke 1:26-40). Visit the **Church of St. John**, the birthplace of John the Baptist.

## December 7 – Qasr El Yahud, Wadi Qelt, Jericho, Qumran & Dead Sea

Visit and renew your baptismal vows at the baptismal site of **Qasr el Yahud**, where tradition says Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Just off the Roman road that Jesus "walked" is the **Wadi Qelt** gorge, the site of the **Monastery of St. George**. Journey to **Jericho** (considered the oldest city in the world) to visit the ruins of the ancient city conquered by Joshua (Josh. 6:1). From Jericho, in the distance, you can see the traditional site of the **Temptation of Jesus** (Matt. 4:1). Celebrate **Mass in the Church of the Good Shepherd** in Jericho near a sycamore tree and remember Zacchaeus, who climbed a sycamore to see Jesus (Luke 18-19). Travel to **Qumran**, where the **Dead Sea Scrolls** were discovered in 1947. End your day with the opportunity to take a dip in the mineral-laden waters of the **Dead Sea**.

## December 8 – Cana, Nazareth & Mount Precipice

Visit the **Franciscan Wedding Church** at Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle, where He changed water into wine (John 2). Continue on to **Nazareth**, Jesus' boyhood home (Matthew 2:23), and celebrate **Mass in the Basilica of the Annunciation**. You will also see the **House of the Holy Family**, **St. Joseph's Workshop** and **St. Joseph's Church** (Luke 2:41-52; Matt. 2:19-23). Stand atop **Mount Precipice**, where Luke describes how Jesus was rejected by those in the synagogue after He taught them. Filled with anger, they "led Him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast Him down headlong" (Luke 4: 29).

## December 9 – The Galilee

Enjoy beautiful **Capernaum**, the center of Jesus' ministry, and visit the synagogue located on the site where Jesus taught (Matt. 4:13, 23). Sail across the **Sea of Galilee**, reflecting on the gospel stories of Jesus calming the storm. Listen to Jesus' words from His Sermon on the Mount at the **Mount of Beatitudes** (Matt. 5-7) and celebrate **Mass at the Church of the Beatitudes**. At **Tabgha**, the traditional location of the feeding of the 5,000, explore the **Church of the Loaves and Fish** (Luke 9:10-17). Take a moment to reflect and pray in the **Chapel of the Primacy**, where Peter professed his devotion to the risen Christ (John 21). In **Magdala**, once home to Mary Magdalene, visit a recently discovered first-century synagogue.

## December 10 – Mount Tabor, Mount Carmel & Emmaus

As you stand on **Mount Tabor**, contemplate what it must have been like for Saints Peter, James and John to behold the glory

of the **Transfigured Christ** (Matt. 17:2). Celebrate **Mass at the Church of the Transfiguration**. Continue on your journey to **Mount Carmel**, where Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). Biblically, Mount Carmel is referenced most often as a symbol of beauty and fertility. To be given the "splendor of Carmel" was to be blessed indeed (Isa 35:2). In **Emmaus**, you'll see the traditional site where Jesus appeared to two disciples after His resurrection.

## December 11 – Jerusalem

Be inspired by the breathtaking beauty of **Jerusalem** ("the Golden City") as you stand on the **Mount of Olives**, the place from which Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:9-12). Visit the **Church of Pater Noster**, walk the **Palm Sunday Road**, and stop briefly at the tear-shaped **Dominus Flevit Church**, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem. Celebrate **Mass in the Garden of Gethsemane**, where Jesus prayed before His crucifixion (Matt. 26:36-44). On **Mount Zion**, see the **House of the High Priest Caiaphas**, where Jesus was imprisoned the night of His arrest (Matt. 26:57-65). Nearby is the **Upper Room**, revered as the location of the **Last Supper** (Mark 14:12-26). Conclude your day by visiting the **Church of the Dormition of Mary**.

## December 12 – Jerusalem & the Old City

Take time to pray at the **Western Wall**, which is all that remains of Herod's Temple. Sit on the **Teaching Steps** where Jesus once taught. Take a leisurely stroll down the **Cardo**, the main street of the Old City, where modern shops stand between ancient ones. View the **Pool of Bethesda**, where Jesus performed the Sabbath miracle of healing (John 5:1-31), and sing a hymn in the **Church of St. Anne**, renowned for its beautiful acoustics. At **Herod's Antonia Fortress**, see where Jesus was brought before Pontius Pilate (Luke 23:1-11). Walk the **Via Dolorosa**, "the Way of the Cross," and celebrate the **Mass of the Resurrection** at the **Church of the Holy Sepulchre**.

## December 13 – Depart on an extension or return to the USA

*Some departure dates may begin in Jerusalem.*

Register Early & Save		
<b>\$125</b> Register by February 4, 2024		<b>\$100</b> Register by March 4, 2024
<b>\$75</b> Register by April 4, 2024	<b>\$50</b> Register by May 4, 2024	<b>\$25</b> Register by June 4, 2024

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# OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS



## Wonders of Petra & The Dead Sea

December 13 - 17, 2024 • \$1,098\*

### December 13 – Jerash

This morning, you will journey across the Allenby Bridge on your way to Jerash, one of the best-preserved Roman cities in the world. Stroll through the oval piazza and wander along colonnaded streets etched by the wheels of ancient chariots. Stand in the grand theatre where an onstage whisper can be heard in the top row. Continue to your hotel to check in for dinner and your overnight stay.

### December 14 – Madaba & Mount Nebo

Travel to Madaba, the City of Mosaics, to visit the Church of Saint George with its sixth-century, Byzantine, mosaic map showing Jerusalem and other holy sites. Continue to Mount Nebo, where Moses caught a glimpse of the Promised Land (Deut. 34). On a clear day, you can see all the way across the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea to the rooftops of Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Return to your hotel for dinner and your overnight stay.

### December 15 – Petra

Explore the city of Petra. Its entrance passes through a long, narrow gorge known as the Siq and can only be accessed by carriage, horseback or on foot. Once inside the city, marvel at the intricate detail of a city that was cut into the cliffsides of rose-colored rock. Return to your hotel at the Dead Sea for dinner and your overnight stay.

### December 16 – Free Morning at the Dead Sea

Enjoy a free morning at your hotel. Cross the border back into Israel and enjoy dinner in Jerusalem. Afterward, you will travel to the airport in Tel Aviv to begin your journey home.

### December 17– Return to the USA



## Cairo & The Route of The Exodus

December 13 - 18, 2024 • \$1,298\*

### December 13 – Jerusalem to Egypt

Travel in the footsteps of the Holy Family as you travel along the ancient caravan route from Jerusalem to the Sinai desert. Cross the border and check into your hotel for dinner and rest.

### December 14 – St. Catherine's Monastery

This morning, you can opt to climb Mount Sinai (conditions permitting), where tradition says that Moses received the Ten Commandments. Everyone will experience a visit to fortified St. Catherine's Monastery, built in the 6th century and one of the oldest working monasteries in the world with the world's oldest continually operating library. Both the Codex Sinaiticus and Syriac Sinaiticus, important early Biblical manuscripts, were discovered here. Even Muhammad found refuge at the monastery, and the site is sacred to all three monotheistic religions. Remember the story of Moses and the burning bush, which tradition places inside the monastery. Continue to Sharm el Sheikh for dinner and stay overnight at your hotel located on the shores of the Red Sea.

### December 15 – Route of the Exodus

Trace the route of the Exodus along the eastern Sinai coast to Wadi Feiran, where the Children of Israel withstood the Amalekites. Travel to Elim, where the Children of Israel camped by the oasis of 70 palm trees. Your final stop of the day will be Marah by the Red Sea, where the "waters were bitter." Continue to Cairo for dinner and a two-night stay.

### December 16 – Memphis, Saqqara, the Great Pyramids & the Sphinx

Tour the rural region of traditional Egyptian farming. Travel as Abraham did to Memphis (Biblical Noph) and on to Saqqara, where you will see the Step Pyramid, the world's oldest stone structure. See the Great Pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx.

### December 17 – Cairo

This morning, visit the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities to view the unique collection of Pharaonic art and the renowned treasures of King Tutankhamun. Tour the Old City and see the Citadel of Saladin, built in 1183 AD, and view the Alabaster Mosque of Muhammad Ali. In Old Cairo, visit the Abu Serga Church built over the traditional site of the house where the Holy Family lived during their stay in Egypt. Prepare for your return flight home.

### December 18 – Return to the USA

A minimum number of participants must be reached to operate extensions. Contact us for specifics.  
Guests taking an extension may be on a different flight than their group and/or traveling companion.

\*A 3.5% surcharge will be added to all credit card transactions

