



PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

A Pilgrimage to Italy

The Chesterton Schools Network Pilgrimage

Week 1 - March 8-19, 2027

Featuring Rome, Assisi, Monte Cassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo and Lanciano

This pilgrimage begins with five nights in Rome, walking through the ancient and Christian heart of the Eternal City — from the Colosseum and the Roman Forum to the four papal basilicas, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's. From Rome we travel south to Monte Cassino, the motherhouse of the Benedictine Order founded by St. Benedict in 529 AD, and on to San Giovanni Rotondo to venerate the tomb of St. Padre Pio. We continue to Monte Sant'Angelo, one of the oldest shrines in Western Christianity, and to Lanciano, home of the 8th-century Eucharistic Miracle. The pilgrimage closes with three nights in Assisi, walking in the footsteps of St. Francis, St. Clare, and St. Carlo Acutis.

A ProRome tour manager will accompany the group throughout the pilgrimage, with private motorcoach transportation, English-speaking Catholic guides, all Mass arrangements, religious guesthouse accommodations, daily breakfast, and one additional daily meal (lunch or dinner) included in the price.

March 8 - 19, 2027

\$2,800 per person, Land Only

Airfare will be quoted separately from a major international airport.

For more information or to register, please visit www.prorometours.com/csn1-2027 or contact ProRome Tours directly at (434) 953-1112 or by email at office@prorome.com

THE ITINERARY



Please note: All Masses, site visits, tours, and activities listed below are subject to change based on availability, local conditions, and the needs of the group. ProRome will communicate any updates in advance.

Monday, March 8 **Departure from the USA**

Departure from a USA gateway airport — final routing to be confirmed based on best pricing and connections from Chesterton Schools Network home cities. Overnight transatlantic flight to Rome.

Tuesday, March 9 **Arrival in Rome | Ancient Rome & Welcome Mass**

Morning arrival at Rome Fiumicino Airport (FCO). We will be met by our ProRome tour manager and transferred by private motorcoach into Rome. In the afternoon we will set out on a walking tour of Ancient Rome — the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, Palatine Hill, and Capitoline Hill — before celebrating our Welcome Mass at a church in the historic center. Following Mass we

will transfer to our religious guesthouse near the Vatican for check-in and a group welcome dinner.

Wednesday, March 10 **Papal Audience, Vatican Museums & St. Peter's Basilica**

After breakfast at the guesthouse we will make our way to St. Peter's Square for the Papal Audience with the Holy Father — a Wednesday tradition in which the Pope addresses pilgrims from around the world. Following the audience and lunch on own, we will visit the Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano — the Cathedral of Rome and "Mother and Head of all the Churches of the City and of the World" — followed by the Scala Sancta, the stairs of Pilate's praetorium brought to Rome by St. Helena and traditionally climbed on the knees, and the Sancta Sanctorum at the top. We will also visit the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme, home to relics of the True Cross, the Title of the Cross, the nails, and the finger of St. Thomas. Mass will be celebrated at one of the day's basilicas. Group dinner. Chesterton Schools Network Rosary, singing and gathering in St. Peter's Square after dinner.

Thursday, March 11 **Santa Maria Maggiore & Vatican Museums**

After breakfast we will visit the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore — one of the four papal basilicas — with its 5th-century mosaics, the relic of the Holy Crib, and the tomb of Pope Francis. We will then enter the Vatican Museums with timed-entry tickets for a visit, culminating in the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's ceiling and Last Judgment. From there we continue directly into St. Peter's Basilica to see Michelangelo's Pietà, Bernini's

Baldacchino, the Confession, the Chair of St. Peter, and the tomb of St. John Paul II. Mass will be celebrated at an altar within St. Peter's or at a nearby Vatican-area church. Group dinner.

Friday, March 12 **Tre Fontane, St. Paul Outside the Walls & Baroque Rome**

After breakfast we will depart for Tre Fontane Abbey, the site of St. Paul's martyrdom, and continue to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls — the second-largest basilica in Rome and one of the four papal basilicas — where we will celebrate Mass. In the afternoon we will set out on a walking tour of Baroque Rome: the Chiesa del Gesù, mother church of the Jesuits and burial place of St. Ignatius of Loyola; Sant'Ignazio, with its illusionistic ceiling frescoes by Andrea Pozzo; the Pantheon, the most perfectly preserved building of antiquity, now a Christian church; Piazza Navona with Bernini's Fountain of the Four Rivers and the church of Sant'Agnese in Agone; Sant'Agostino, home to the tomb of St. Monica; and the Trevi Fountain — a fitting pause for a gelato. Group dinner.

Saturday, March 13 **Catacombs & Trastevere**

After breakfast we will travel along the Via Appia Antica to visit the Catacombs of St. Sebastian (or St. Callixtus) — the burial place of the early Christians. Mass will be celebrated at one of the catacomb churches or a nearby basilica. After lunch on own, the afternoon is given to a walking tour of Trastevere, the medieval heart of Rome, with its winding cobblestone streets, the ancient Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, and the Basilica of Santa Cecilia. Group dinner.



ITINERARY CONTINUED

Tentative Itinerary



Sunday, March 14 **Rome → Monte Cassino →** **San Giovanni Rotondo**

After breakfast and check-out, we will board our private motorcoach and travel south to the Abbey of Monte Cassino (~2.5 hours) — motherhouse of the Benedictine Order, founded by St. Benedict in 529 AD, burial place of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica, and rebuilt after its destruction in 1944. We will enjoy a guided tour of the abbey followed by Mass. After Mass, free time for lunch nearby. We will then continue east-southeast across the Apennines toward San Giovanni Rotondo (~3.5 hours), arriving in time for check-in at our religious guesthouse and a group dinner.

Monday, March 15 **San Giovanni Rotondo & Monte** **Sant'Angelo**

After breakfast we will visit the Sanctuary of St. Padre Pio: the old church and confessional where Padre Pio heard confessions for hours each day, the crypt and tomb of St. Padre Pio, and the new church designed by Renzo Piano where the saint's body is venerated. Mass will be celebrated at the Sanctuary. After lunch on own in San Giovanni Rotondo, we will transfer (~50 minutes) to Monte Sant'Angelo to visit the Sanctuary of San Michele Arcangelo — the cave where the Archangel Michael appeared to St.

Lawrence Maioranus in the 5th century, one of the oldest shrines in Western Christianity and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to San Giovanni Rotondo for group dinner.

Tuesday, March 16 **San Giovanni Rotondo → Lanciano →** **Assisi**

After an early breakfast and check-out, we will travel north by private motorcoach to Lanciano (~2 hours) and the Church of San Francesco, home to the 8th-century Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano — the flesh and blood preserved unchanged for over 1,200 years, identified by modern scientific examination as human cardiac tissue and type AB blood. Mass will be celebrated at the Church of San Francesco, followed by free time for lunch on own in Lanciano. We will then continue north to Assisi (~3 hours), arriving for check-in at our religious guesthouse in Assisi's centro storico and a group dinner.

Wednesday, March 17 **Assisi**

After breakfast we will celebrate Mass at the Basilica of San Francesco, followed by a guided tour: veneration at the tomb of St. Francis in the crypt, the Lower Church with its Cimabue and Giotto frescoes, and the Upper Church with Giotto's monumental 28-panel fresco cycle of the life of St. Francis. We will then walk through the medieval streets of the centro storico for a

guided visit to the Basilica of Santa Chiara — the tomb of St. Clare and the San Damiano Crucifix, the cross that spoke to St. Francis: "Rebuild my church." We will conclude at the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, resting place of St. Carlo Acutis. Group dinner and social gathering in Piazza Santa Chiara.

Thursday, March 18 **Assisi**

After breakfast we will visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli — home to the Portiuncula, where the Franciscan Order was founded, and the Cappella del Transito, where St. Francis died. We will then visit San Damiano and a hike up to the Eremo delle Carceri, the hermitage where St. Francis and his early companions retreated for prayer. Possibility of a Holy Hour in Assisi. A special Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph (March 19) follows, church TBD. Farewell Dinner and Social Gathering in the Piazza del Comune.

Friday, March 19 **Assisi → Rome → Departure**

After an early breakfast and check-out we will celebrate a morning Mass in Assisi (timing determined by flight schedule). Private motorcoach transfer to Rome FCO Airport (~2.5 hours) for return transatlantic flights to the USA — arriving home the same day.



PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Deposit (non-refundable): \$300 per person — due at registration
- First Installment: \$1,250 per person — due September 8, 2026 (6 months prior to departure)
- Second Installment: \$1,250 per person — due October 8, 2026 (5 months prior to departure)
- Airfare (TBD): amount to be determined — due November 8, 2026 (4 months prior to departure)
- Single Occupancy Surcharge (if applicable): \$690 — due December 8, 2026 (3 months prior to departure)
- Total Land Cost: \$2,800 per person

Airfare will be quoted separately from a major international airport. and is due in full at the time of ticketing, approximately four months prior to departure.

► WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 10 nights in religious guesthouses (5 in Rome, 2 in San Giovanni Rotondo, 3 in Assisi)
- Daily breakfast
- One additional daily meal — either lunch or dinner, depending on final itinerary sequencing
- All ground transportation via private motorcoach throughout Italy (where possible)
- Airport transfers at Rome FCO on arrival and departure
- Professional English-speaking Catholic guides at the Vatican, major Roman basilicas, Monte Cassino, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant'Angelo, Lanciano, and Assisi
- ProRome Tour Manager accompanying the group for the entire pilgrimage
- Coordination of Welcome Mass and all daily Mass arrangements
- All Mass bookings, church reservations, and donations
- Private whisper headsets for tours and Masses
- All entrance fees to churches, basilicas, and sites in the itinerary
- All gratuities for guides, drivers, and tour manager

► WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Round-trip airfare from a USA gateway airport to Rome FCO (quoted separately)
- The other daily meal (lunch or dinner, depending on final itinerary sequencing)
- Personal expenses and souvenirs
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended; available for purchase through ProRome at typically 5–7% of total trip cost)
- Optional activities or site entries not listed in the itinerary



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