PROROME



REGISTER TODAY

Join Friends of St. John Paul II Catholic High School in Huntsville, AL

A Special Journey Through Italy

In Celebration of the School's 30th Anniversary

The itinerary features three nights in Assisi and six nights in Rome, with day trips to Orvieto and Siena included as well. Highlights include St. Peter's Basilica, the Papal Basilicas, the Catacombs, the Vatican Museums, the Colosseum, the Basilica of Saint Francis, the Duomo of Siena and many more incredible saints, churches, basilicas and holy sites throughout Italy.

Beautiful and centrally located four-star hotels have been arranged. A ProRome tour manager will accompany the group throughout the course of the trip, and private bus transportation, Catholic tour guides, all tours and tickets, daily breakfast and either daily lunch or dinner are included in the price.

April 16 – 26, 2027

$3990 per person, land only
*airfare TBD

For more information or to register, please visit www.prorometours.com/jp2huntsville or contact ProRome Tours directly at (434) 953 1112 or by email at office@prorome.com.

THE ITINERARY



Please note that Mass, meal and tour bookings listed in this itinerary are subject to change. Although these items listed will be included in the tour, the order in which they occur is subject to change.

Friday, April 16
Departure

The group departs from Huntsville (AL) for Rome.

Saturday, April 17
Arrival and Orvieto to Assisi

The group arrives at Rome's Fiumicino Airport and meets the ProRome Tour Manager at a designated location. After all group members have gathered, the motorcoach departs for Orvieto, a medieval city perched dramatically on volcanic cliffs.

The main attraction is the Cathedral of Orvieto, one of Italy's finest examples of Gothic architecture. The cathedral was built to house the Corporal of Bolsena, a linen cloth from a 13th-century event that led to the establishment of the Feast of Corpus Christi. The bloodstained corporal is displayed in an ornate chapel. The cathedral's facade features stunning mosaics and intricate stonework, while the interior contains frescoes by Luca Signorelli depicting scenes of the Last Judgment.

After a guided tour of the cathedral, there is free time for lunch in Orvieto. The city offers numerous restaurants and cafés with views over the surrounding countryside. In the late afternoon, the motorcoach continues to Assisi, arriving at the four-star BV Grand Hotel in the early evening. After checking in and settling into rooms, the group gathers for a welcome dinner at the hotel, where the Tour Manager will review the schedule and answer questions about the days ahead.

Sunday, April 18
Assisi: Basilica of St. Francis and Historical Center

After breakfast, the day begins with a visit to the Basilica of Saint Francis, one of Italy's most important religious and artistic monuments. Built in the 13th century over the tomb of Francis of Assisi, the basilica consists of two churches, one built above the other. The Lower Basilica contains remarkable frescoes by Cimabue, Simone Martini, and Pietro Lorenzetti depicting scenes from Francis's life and the lives of other saints. The Upper Basilica features Giotto's famous fresco cycle showing 28 scenes from the life of Saint Francis, including his conversion, the stigmata, and his preaching to the birds. These frescoes marked a watershed moment in the development of Western art, moving away from Byzantine stylization toward more naturalistic representation.

After the basilica tour, there is free time for lunch. Participants can choose from the many restaurants and trattorias in Assisi's medieval streets. The afternoon walking tour focuses on sites in the historical center. The Cathedral of San Rufino dates to the 12th century and showcases Romanesque architecture. The group also visits the Chiesa Nuova, built in the 17th century on the site where Francis's family home once stood.

The tour continues to the Basilica of Santa Chiara (Saint Clare), built in the 13th century. The basilica features distinctive pink and white stone and contains important religious art. The original crucifix from San Damiano, a significant piece in Franciscan history, is displayed here. After the afternoon tour, the group returns to the hotel for dinner.

Monday, April 19
Day Trip to Siena

After breakfast, the motorcoach departs for a full-day excursion to Siena, one of Tuscany's most beautiful medieval cities. The historic center of Siena is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, remarkably preserved and offering a glimpse into medieval urban life.

The centerpiece of Siena is the Piazza del Campo, one of Europe's greatest medieval squares. The shell-shaped piazza slopes downward toward the Palazzo Pubblico (Town Hall) and its distinctive Torre del Mangia tower. The piazza is famous for the Palio, a historic horse race held twice each summer. A guided tour includes the Siena Cathedral (Duomo di Siena), a masterpiece of Italian Romanesque-Gothic architecture. The cathedral's facade features intricate carvings and colorful marble, while the interior contains works by Michelangelo, Donatello, and Bernini. The floor of the cathedral is particularly remarkable, decorated with 56 marble panels depicting biblical scenes created by approximately 40 artists over nearly 200 years. The tour also includes the Piccolomini Library within the cathedral, which contains vibrant Renaissance frescoes by Pinturicchio depicting the life of Pope Pius II, a native of Siena.

Free time for lunch is provided in the city center, with numerous options for traditional Tuscan cuisine. The afternoon includes time to explore Siena's medieval streets, shop for local products such as Tuscan wines and ceramics, or simply enjoy a coffee in the Piazza del Campo. The motorcoach returns to Assisi in the early evening, with dinner at the hotel.

Tuesday, April 20
Assisi to Rome

After breakfast and leisurely checkout, the motorcoach departs Assisi for Rome, a journey of approximately 2.5 hours through the Italian countryside, stopping on the way at the ProRome favorite Gabriele Montioni winery. Here the group will enjoy a tour, wine tasting and a wonderful Umbrian lunch (pending availability).

Following lunch, the group departs for the four-star Hotel Michelangelo in Rome, with arrival in the late afternoon. The hotel is ideally located near St. Peter's Square, providing convenient access to many of Rome's most important sites. After checking in and settling into rooms, the group enjoys a free evening in Rome.

Wednesday, April 21
Papal General Audience, St. Peter's Basilica and Vatican Museums

The day begins early as the group gathers in St. Peter's Square for the Papal General Audience with Pope Leo XIV. Every Wednesday, the Holy Father addresses pilgrims from around the world, offering a catechesis, greetings in multiple languages, and his Apostolic Blessing. This is a profound opportunity to encounter the Vicar of Christ and receive his blessing for yourselves and your loved ones.

Following the audience, the group proceeds to a guided tour of St. Peter's Basilica. Built over a period of 120 years and completed in 1626, the basilica is the largest church in the world and a masterpiece of Renaissance and Baroque architecture. The tour includes Michelangelo's Pietà, created when the artist was only 24 years old; the bronze statue of St. Peter, worn smooth by centuries of visitors touching its foot; and Bernini's massive bronze baldacchino, which stands 96 feet tall and marks the main altar.

For those who wish, there is an option to climb Michelangelo's dome (551 steps, or 320 steps if taking the elevator to the first level). The view from the top, 452 feet above St. Peter's Square, provides a spectacular panorama of Rome. After the basilica, there is free time for lunch and personal exploration in the Borgo neighborhood near the Vatican.

In the late afternoon, the group departs on a tour of the Vatican Museums and Sistine Chapel. The tour includes the Pio-Clementino Museum's classical sculptures including the famous Laocoön and Apollo Belvedere, the Gallery of Maps with 16th-century topographical maps of Italy, and the Raphael Rooms featuring frescoes including the School of Athens. The tour culminates in the Sistine Chapel. Michelangelo painted the ceiling between 1508–1512, depicting scenes from Genesis including the iconic Creation of Adam. The altar wall features his monumental Last Judgment, completed 25 years later. After the museums, the group meets at a local restaurant for a classic Roman dinner together.

ITINERARY CONTINUED



Thursday, April 22
St. Paul, Tre Fontane, and Catacombs

The morning begins at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls, the second largest church in Rome. Rebuilt in the 19th century after a fire, the basilica features medallion portraits of all the popes running along the upper walls. Beneath the altar, visitors can see through a window in the floor to the tomb area bearing the Latin inscription 'PAULO APOSTOLO MART' ('To Paul, Apostle and Martyr').

After St. Paul's, the group visits the Abbey of Tre Fontane (Three Fountains). According to tradition and legend, this is the site where Saint Paul was executed in 67 AD. The name derives from the story that Paul's head bounced three times upon hitting the ground, and a fountain sprang up at each spot. Three small chapels now mark these locations. The abbey complex includes beautiful gardens and a church with striking mosaics. The motorcoach then travels to a local restaurant along the ancient Via Appia Antica for lunch.

In the afternoon, the group visits the Catacombs of St. Sebastian, part of the extensive underground burial tunnels used by early Christians from the 2nd through 4th centuries. The guided tour shows burial galleries decorated with early Christian symbols—fish, anchors, and Chi-Rho monograms. These underground passages provide fascinating insight into early Christian burial practices and the development of Christian art in Rome. After the catacombs, the motorcoach returns to the hotel for a free evening. Participants can rest or explore the neighborhood near the hotel, with many restaurant options available.

Friday, April 23
Roman Forum and Colosseum

The morning begins with a privately guided tour of the Roman Forum and Colosseum, two of ancient Rome's most iconic sites. The Roman Forum served as the center of Roman public life for centuries, containing temples, government buildings, and commercial spaces where citizens gathered for political discourse, business, and social activities.

The adjacent Colosseum, completed in 80 AD, is the largest amphitheater ever built and could accommodate up to 50,000 spectators. This architectural marvel hosted gladiatorial contests, public spectacles, and dramatic reenactments. The guided tour provides insight into Roman engineering, social structure, and the daily life of ancient Rome.

The afternoon is free. Enjoy Rome on your own! In the evening, the group gathers for dinner at a traditional Roman restaurant.

Saturday, April 24
Centro Storico

The morning begins with a walking tour of Rome's historic center, an area dense with artistic and architectural treasures spanning 2,000 years. The route includes Piazza Navona, built on the site of the ancient Stadium of Domitian and featuring Bernini's magnificent Fountain of the Four Rivers. The group visits San Luigi dei Francesi, which contains three paintings by Caravaggio depicting scenes from the life of Saint Matthew, including the famous "Calling of St. Matthew" with its dramatic use of light and shadow that revolutionized baroque painting. Free time for lunch is provided near the Pantheon, where numerous restaurants and cafés are located.

In the afternoon, the tour continues with visits to the Pantheon, the best-preserved building from ancient Rome. Originally built as a temple to all the gods in 126 AD, it features a massive dome with an oculus (opening) at the center that remains the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome. The Pantheon was consecrated as a church in 609 AD and contains the tombs of Italian kings and the Renaissance master Raphael. Around the corner stands the Gothic church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, Rome's only Gothic church, which houses important Renaissance art and the tomb of Catherine of Siena.

From here, the group continues to the Spanish Steps, one of Rome's most iconic landmarks. Built in the 18th century, the 135 steps connect the Piazza di Spagna at the base with the Trinità dei Monti church at the top. The area around the Spanish Steps is known for its elegant boutiques, cafés, and the historic Keats-Shelley House, where the Romantic poet John Keats spent his final months. The Trevi Fountain, completed in 1762, serves as the final stop of the day. This baroque masterpiece features Neptune commanding sea horses and tritons against a palace facade. According to tradition, tossing a coin over your shoulder into the fountain ensures a return to Rome. After the afternoon tour, the motorcoach returns to the hotel for dinner.

Sunday, April 25
Trastevere, Angelus, Santa Maria Maggiore and the Lateran

The morning is free, with an optional walking tour of Trastevere available for those interested. This neighborhood across the Tiber River is known for its narrow medieval streets, authentic local character, and excellent restaurants. Churches on this optional tour include Santa Maria in Trastevere, one of Rome's oldest churches with stunning golden mosaics, and Santa Cecilia, built over the home of the 3rd-century martyr.

At noon, the group gathers in St. Peter's Square for the Angelus with Pope Leo. The Pope appears at the window of the Apostolic Palace to lead the Angelus prayer and offer a brief reflection and greetings to pilgrims gathered from around the world. After the Angelus, there is free time for lunch in the area. In the afternoon, the group visits several historically and architecturally significant sites. The Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore is one of Rome's four major basilicas, founded in the 5th century. The basilica features spectacular golden mosaics and houses a Byzantine icon of Mary and the Christ Child that has been venerated since medieval times. Around 3:00 PM, Mass will be celebrated in the Capella Borghese (pending chapel availability).

Next is the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of Rome and the official seat of the Pope as Bishop of Rome. The basilica dates back to 313 AD when Emperor Constantine donated the Lateran Palace for use as a church. The current building showcases centuries of architectural development, with a baroque interior and impressive sculptures of the apostles. Across the piazza from the Lateran is the Sanctuario della Scala Santa (Holy Stairs). According to tradition, Saint Helena brought these 28 marble steps from Jerusalem to Rome in 326 AD, believed to be the stairs Jesus climbed when brought before Pontius Pilate. Visitors have ascended them on their knees for over 1,600 years as an act of devotion. Nearby is the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, built in the 4th century. The church was constructed over soil brought from Calvary and houses relics including fragments said to be from the cross, nails from the Crucifixion, and part of the inscription that Pilate placed on the cross. After visiting these sites, the group returns to the hotel to freshen up before departing for a delicious farewell dinner at a traditional Roman restaurant, celebrating the wonderful experiences shared throughout the journey.

Monday, April 26
Departure

After breakfast at the hotel, participants gather their luggage and prepare for departure. The ProRome Tour Manager will accompany the group on the motorcoach to Leonardo da Vinci-Fiumicino Airport, assisting with check-in and security procedures.





More Details

Final Cost

- $3990 per person, land only
  Airfare will become available within 11 months of trip dates

Payment Schedule

- $300 – ProRome Registration Fee – Due upon Registration
- 50% First Installment – Due October 16, 2026
- Airfare (TBD) – Due November 16, 2026
- 50% Second Installment – Due December 16, 2026
- $1490 – Single Occupancy Surcharge (If Applicable) – Due January 16, 2027

Price Inclusions

- Three nights at the four-star BV Grand Hotel in Assisi (double occupancy)
- Six nights at the four-star Hotel Michelangelo in Rome (double occupancy)
- Daily breakfast at hotels
- Meals as specified in the itinerary
- Unlimited water and house wine at meals
- Private air-conditioned motorcoach for the entire tour
- Professional English-speaking driver
- Airport transfer from FCO to first destination on April 17 (for those arriving on group schedule)
- Airport transfer from hotel to FCO on April 26
- ProRome Tour Manager accompanying the group throughout the tour
- Professional English-speaking guides for all tours
- Entrance fees to all museums, churches, and sites listed in itinerary
- Reservation fees for sites where required
- 24/7 support from ProRome staff
- Pre-departure orientation materials
- Hotel taxes and service charges

Price Exclusions

- Meals not specified as included in the itinerary
- Beverages other than water and house wine at included meals
- Personal expenses (souvenirs, laundry, telephone, snacks, etc.)
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Gratuities for tour manager, driver, and guides (suggested 20–30 EUR per person for both driver and
- guide) Passport fees
- Any items or services not explicitly mentioned as included

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