



# GRAND TOUR AND AN ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY WITH FR. ALEKSA PAVICHEVICH JUNE 1 - 11, 2020

## Day 1. Monday, June 1, 2020

Meals: Dinner

Arrival to **Bari**.

Check-in at the hotel, orientation and dinner.

## Day 2. Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will start our day with **the Divine Liturgy** in the city of St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas became the patron saint of the city in 1087 after his remains were moved from Myra in Lycia (modern day southern Turkey), where he was bishop during his earthly life in the 4th century. The body of the saint is laid down in a crypt in the basilica of his name in Bari. Up until the present-day, countless miracles proceed from his body, including the pouring of myrrh or "manna" that is yearly collected from under his bones by the rector of the cathedral in the







presence of a multitude of clergy and laymen. On our way back we will visit **Alberobello village**, famous for its unique cone type architecture known as trulli. This architectural style was typical for that area for thousands of years and remains practically unchanged till the present day. **Overnight: Bari area**

### Day 3. Wednesday, June 3, 2020

*Meals: Breakfast and Dinner*

This morning we'll transfer to the city of **Naples**. After a brief sightseeing tour of the city, we will visit the **Chapel at the Duomo** (Cathedral) where the relics of the first Bishop of Naples, **St. Januarius**, are housed. Adjacent to the cathedral is an ancient baptistery with some of the most ancient Christian mosaics to be found anywhere. From the cathedral we'll proceed to the **National Archeological Museum of Naples**, one of the most important archeological museums worldwide. Here on

several floors you'll see a lot of treasures discovered in the nearby ancient Roman towns of Herculaneum and Pompeii. The last visit of the day will be at the **archeological park of Herculaneum**, where we will visit the perfectly preserved remains of an ancient city buried by the eruption of Vesuvius.

**Overnight: Naples/area**

### Day 4. Thursday, June 4, 2020

*Meals: Breakfast and Dinner*

After breakfast we will transfer to **Rome**. Our first stop will be at one of the most important pilgrim destinations of Rome, the **basilica of "St. Paul outside the Walls"**, that houses the tomb of the Apostle of the Gentiles. In the afternoon we will continue the exploration of the Christian



inheritance in the Eternal City. We'll see **St. Maria Maggiore Church**, one of the largest and oldest churches dedicated to the Virgin Mary. In a special chapel you may see a few pieces of wood that are believed to be that of Christ's manger; **St. John Lateran Cathedral** is the cathedral of Rome, since the Vatican is a different state. The cathedral is built on the place where the ancient papal palaces once stood. The most important relics the church contains are the heads of the apostles Peter and Paul, executed in 64AD during the persecutions of Nero. Nearby **the Church of the Holy Stairs** was built for one reason, to hold the stairs that Christ ascended to the Roman Praetorium in Jerusalem on the day of His judgment by Pontius Pilate.

**Overnight: Rome**



## Day 5. Friday, June 5, 2020

Meals: Breakfast

Today will start with the exploration of the remnants of the city that gave Rome the title “Eternal”. We will see the largest stadium of antiquity, **the Coliseum**, a circus that hosted up to 80,000 spectators, and the even larger Circus Maximus, the horse race stadium, witness to the cheer of 250,000 Romans. We will also see ancient Rome’s **downtown**, the Forum and the Mamertine Prison, the place of the Apostle Peter’s imprisonment. In the afternoon we will visit **several ancient churches** in the vicinity of the Forum: SS. Cosmos and Damian, dedicated to the beloved unmercenary healers, “St. Peter in Chains” that houses the prison chains of the Apostle, and the Church of St. Clement with the most fascinating ruins hidden underneath the church

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**Overnight: Rome**



## Day 6. Saturday, June 6, 2020

Meals: Breakfast

**Vatican City** is the smallest state in existence. But it is more famous for the residence of the Pope of Rome, once the most important out of five keepers of the ancient Christian patriarchal sees. Besides that, few people know that the Vatican is built on the place of an early Christian cemetery where many Christian martyrs were buried. **St. Peter’s Basilica** itself is a resting place of many Orthodox saints, among whom is the beloved Orthodox and

ecumenical teacher St. John Chrysostom, the author of our weekly celebrated liturgy. There are no words to describe the glory and beauty of St. Peter’s Basilica. For those who desire, a tour can be organized to the excavations under St. Peter’s basilica to the tomb of the Apostle.

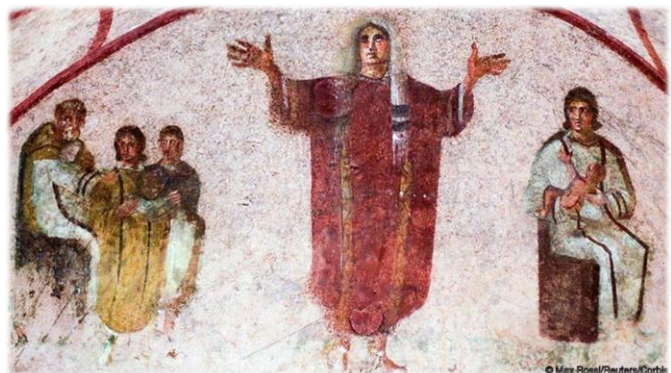
The rest of the day will be at leisure. Alternatively, we’ll be happy to offer you an optional tour of Rome that would include a visit to the famous “tourists traps” of the city – the Spanish Steps, the Pantheon, Trevi Fountain, Piazza Navona, etc.

**Overnight: Rome**

## Day 7. Sunday, June 7, 2020

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Today is the **Holy Pentecost**. We will start our day by **attending Divine Liturgy** at a local Orthodox Church. From here we will proceed to the renown **Catacombs of St. Priscilla**, known as the “Queen of the Catacombs” and the **Galleria Borghese** (advanced reservations are required, and entrance hours are rather limited) - one of the most special smaller museums of Rome, with a spectacular collection of art. Later in the afternoon we will start our journey toward Ravenna, making an overnight stop approximately half-way in the vicinity of **Perugia or Assisi**.







## Day 8. Monday, June 8, 2020

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

After breakfast we will have a pleasant transfer to **Ravenna**, the former capital of the Byzantine Empire. Despite the fact that it has not been the capital of the mighty empire for over a thousand years, this present day sleepy Italian coast along the Adriatic shore conquers your imagination with images from the past. Its splendid basilicas with the most luxurious mosaics earned it the name of the mosaic capital of the world. No picture, photograph, exhibit or story will ever do justice to what we are about to see today. Several

basilicas, baptisteries and a splendid tomb will uncover to you the images of the glorious art and religious devotion of the Ancient Christian Empire. **Overnight: Mestre**

## Day 9. Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Meals: Breakfast

We'll start our tour with a **Greek church** that in addition to many holy relics contains an exquisite exhibit of Late Byzantine and post-Byzantine art, St. Mark's Cathedral, which hosts the relics of another Evangelist, St. Mark. The cathedral was built in distinctive Byzantine style in the mid-11th century, to store the relics of St. Mark, which the Venetians stole from Alexandria. The cathedral is of exceptional beauty, and also has a magnificent collection of Byzantine treasures that came to **Venice**, for the most part, after that universal tragedy, the sack of Constantinople by the Crusaders in 1204. There are over thirty Orthodox saints that are in repose in Venice, among them St. Zacharias, St. Helen, St. Athanasius of Alexandria, and many others. These relics and church historical artifacts deserve the most serious attention compared to similar ones throughout Western Europe, because most of them came to Venice from Constantinople.

Venice is charming, romantic and endless. As all of the people have different tastes and preferences, we arranged for your afternoon to be at leisure. During that time you could take a famed gondola ride, or continue exploration of the city with a visit to the Doge's Palace, or just sit at one of the cafes of St. Mark's square and enjoy the splendor and beauty of the city.

**Overnight: Mestre**



## Day 10. Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Today we will dedicate to the exploration of the **Venetian Lagoon**. Venice was known for centuries for its outstanding glass. We will start our day with a stop at the island of Murano to see the **glass factory and museum**. Then we will continue to the island of Burano, famous for its



brightly painted houses and wonderful linens and lace. Here you can have a nice lunch at one of the numerous local restaurants. You also may shop at the dozens of shops that present local products. After lunch we will continue to the island of Torcello with its exquisite **Byzantine basilica**, the origins of which date back to the early 12th century. The mosaics inside are still able to overwhelm you with their color and liveliness.

**Overnight: Mestre**

## Day 11. Thursday, June 11, 2020

*Meals: Breakfast*

*Departure back home*



## TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

### Price includes:

Accommodation in good Tourist-Class Hotels\* (4\*\*\*\*) with breakfasts daily;  
Extra meals (six dinners)  
City hospitality taxes  
Deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach for the transfers all along the tour according to the program;  
Road, local and city taxes for the tourist bus  
Private boat for the tour of the Venetian Lagoon  
English-speaking tour escort for the whole pilgrimage  
City tours as per the above itinerary, accompanied by local guides  
All entry fees to the museums and churches as per itinerary  
Whisper sets

### Price does NOT include:

Meals other than specified  
Beverages during meals  
Optional/additional tours and associated entrance fees  
Porterage, gratuities\* and extras  
Optional extensions  
Entrance to temporary exhibits  
... or to any exhibits that cost extra to the general museum fee  
Entrance to the museums at the churches  
Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

\* It is customary for the tour participants to tip, on a personal basis, the tour escort, driver and local guides based on the satisfaction of the services received. Please use the following as a guideline: Driver/Tour Escort: 2,00 Euros per person/per day each; Local guides: Euros 1,00 per person/per guided tour (half-day) or 2,00 Euros per person/per full day.

### FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:

The current cost of the trip is \$2450 per person, based on double occupancy in a group of at least 26 paying members. Single accommodations: \$670 subject to availability based on a personal request. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual

number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of EUR vs. the US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away.

All payments should be made by check to: "St George Serbian Orthodox Church", and mailed to: 4667 Applegrove St NW, North Canton, OH 44720. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. For payment with a credit card and for domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

### REGISTRATION:

A \$700 deposit is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless it is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or other valid and unforeseen circumstances. The deadline for signing up for the trip is January 1, 2020. The entire amount is due on February 29, 2020. Failure to pay in full by February 29, 2020 without written notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. If you decide to join the pilgrimage after the deadline, please contact tour coordinator regarding the availability.

### CANCELLATION POLICY:

If you need to cancel after you signed up, please note the schedule of charges in addition to the amount of non-refundable deposit:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 60 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 60 to 30 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 30 or fewer days prior to the departure

### SPECIAL REQUESTS:

All special requests, concerns and suggestions must be submitted in writing to Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky no later than the date of the final payment (February 29, 2020).

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya

Gotlinsky, and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

#### **ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:**

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. The Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the

group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

#### **REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:**

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay, along with any visas required by host countries.

#### **IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:**

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property
- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.
- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment
- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events
- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited.

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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**REGISTRATION FORM:**  
**GRAND TOUR AND AN ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**  
**DATES: JUNE 1 - 11, 2020**

*To register please complete this registration form and return it to along with  
your deposit check (\$700.00) made to St George Serbian Orthodox Church  
Please write "ITALY 2020" on the memo line.*

*Please mail this form and your deposit check to:  
St George Serbian Orthodox Church, and mailed to:  
4667 Applegrove St NW, North Canton, OH 44720*

Full Name:

Date of Birth (**day/month/year**):

Passport #

Issue and expirations date (**day/month/year**):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Would you prefer to make your own flight reservations, or would you like us to help you to find the best  
airfare?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience  
more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and  
Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNATURE:

DATE: