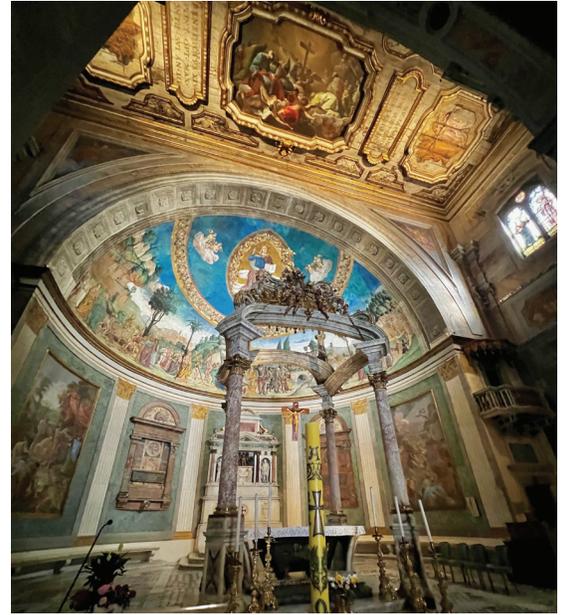


A 9-Day Pilgrimage to **ROME & ASSISI**

with Fr. John Zimmerman

October 4-12, 2026



ST. CHARLES
Catholic Pilgrimages



Register at stcharlespilgrimages.com/zimmerman



The goal of this pilgrimage is “to put people in communion, in intimacy, with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the love of the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity.”

- POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II, *CATECHESI TRADENDAE*



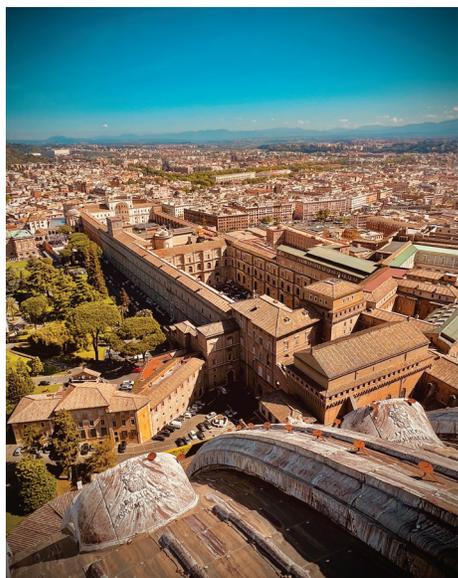
DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

DAY 1: OCTOBER 4 — ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Depart today on board our overnight transatlantic jet flight to Rome, arriving the following day. Enjoy a full meal service as well as in-flight entertainment such as movies, music, etc.

DAY 2: OCTOBER 5 — ARRIVAL IN ROME / SCAVI TOUR / ST. PETER'S BASILICA

Welcome to the Eternal City! Upon arrival at the Rome International Airport (FCO), we will collect our luggage at baggage claim and continue to the arrivals hall to meet our pilgrimage director. We will then be escorted to our deluxe motorcoach for our transfer to the city. After arriving at our guesthouse, we will check in and have time to freshen up. Then we will have our welcome Mass in the guesthouse chapel followed by a brief orientation meeting. Afterwards we will have lunch on our own. In the afternoon we will make our way to the side entrance of the Vatican where the Swiss Guard will permit us to enter as we participate in a privately guided tour of the Necropolis underneath St. Peter's Basilica. This is called the “Scavi Tour,” an experience that culminates with the veneration of the bones of our first Pope, St. Peter. The tour concludes in the crypt of St. Peter's Basilica, affording us the prime opportunity to “skip the line” to enter the main Basilica above. We will spend the remainder of the afternoon exploring this magnificent place of worship, the largest church in the world. We will gather in the evening for a festive group welcome dinner (included) served with local wine. Overnight in Rome. (D)



DAY 3: OCTOBER 6 — THE MAJOR BASILICAS & NEARBY CHURCHES / SACRED RELICS TOUR

After breakfast, we will board our motorcoach for a tour of Catholic Rome with stops at the major Papal Basilicas and other religious sites of the city. We will first celebrate Mass at St. Mary Major, the largest church in Rome dedicated to Our Lady. Across the street we will visit Santa Prassede, where the pillar that Christ was scourged on is today kept. Afterwards we will visit the nearby church of Sant'Alfonso, a Neo-Gothic shrine that houses the original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, an ancient image dating from the fifteenth century. Inside this exact church is where Miss. Charlotte M. Thompson was baptized and received into the Church (she is the patron and major donor who gave land and financed the construction of our parish in Camden in the year 1914). We will then make our way to the Basilica of Santa Croce to see the relics of the passion of Christ. After, we will ascend the Scala Santa, the very steps that Christ walked upon when he met Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem. Following lunch, we will make our way to the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral church of Rome. One of the major relics kept here is the “mensa” from the table used at the Last Supper. Following our visit, we will board our bus and drive to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Here we will pray before the tomb of St. Paul. After our transfer back to our accommodations, enjoy a free evening and dinner on our own. Overnight in Rome. (B)



DAY 4: OCTOBER 7 — PAPAL AUDIENCE / WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC CITY CENTER

After an early breakfast we will set out for St. Peter's Square to get the best possible seats for the Wednesday Papal Audience. Bring your religious objects to be blessed! This is your chance to see the Holy Father and to receive his Apostolic Blessing for you and your loved ones at home. After the audience, we make our way to central Rome for lunch and a leisurely walking tour of the historic city center. During our afternoon stroll, we will visit some of the most beloved sites of Rome, including Piazza Navona, the Pantheon (external view), Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, and the Trevi Fountain. In the afternoon we will have our Mass at the historic Jesuit church in the heart of Rome called the Gesù. The evening is free time for dinner on our own. Overnight in Rome. (B)



DAY 5: OCTOBER 8 — THE VATICAN MUSEUMS & SISTINE CHAPEL / FREE AFTERNOON

Following breakfast and Mass in our guesthouse chapel, we will make our way to Vatican City for a privately guided tour of the Vatican Museums, one of the largest and most magnificent museums in the world. Part of our tour will include the well-known Raphael Rooms and the majestic Sistine Chapel, where conclaves are historically held to elect new popes. We will marvel at world-famous works by Michelangelo, Bernini, and Raphael. Following our tour, we will have lunch on our own in the neighborhood of the Vatican with a free afternoon to rest and relax, shop for souvenirs, or explore the city. Dinner on our own to explore dining options. Overnight in Rome. (B)

DAY 6: OCTOBER 9 — JOURNEY TO ASSISI / ST. MARY OF THE ANGELS / WINERY TOUR, TASTING, & DINNER AT TILI VINI

After an early breakfast, we will board our private motorcoach for our journey to Assisi. Upon our arrival, we will visit and celebrate Mass in the breathtaking basilica of St. Mary of the Angels which houses St. Francis' "Portiuncula" chapel that he rebuilt with his own hands. It is here that St. Francis built his community and chose to live permanently. Following Mass, we will venture up to the hilltop medieval city of Assisi where we will check into our hotel followed by dedicated free time for dining, shopping, and wandering the charming cobble streets. We close the evening with a spectacular winery tour, tasting, and 4-course Umbrian dinner (included) at our favorite winery, Tili Vini. Enjoy the local wines and majestic sunset! Overnight in Assisi. (B, D)

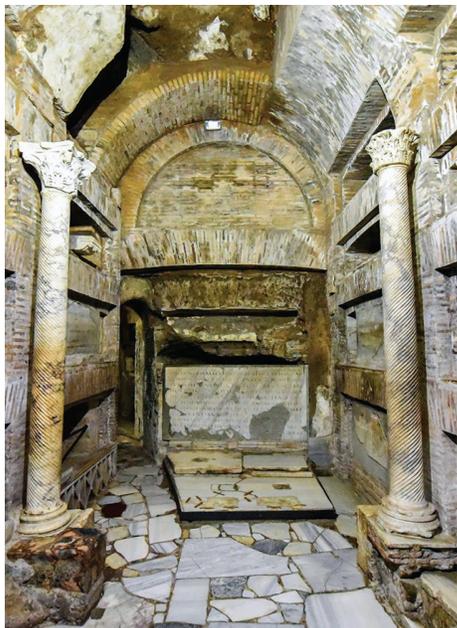


DAY 7: OCTOBER 10 — A DAY IN ASSISI

We will start the morning with a visit to the Basilica of St. Clare where we will have Mass. While here, we will have time to pray at the foot of the San Damiano Crucifix, the very crucifix that God used to speak to Francis instructing him to "Rebuild My Church." We will conclude our visit with prayer before the sacred remains of St. Clare. Just up the hill we will visit the cathedral, to see the baptismal font where St. Francis and St. Clare were baptized. Just down the hill, we will visit the nearby church of Santa Maria Maggiore to pray before the relics of St. Carlo Acutis. He was an English-born Italian youth and evangelizer, best known for documenting Eucharistic miracles around the world and cataloguing them onto a website which he created before his untimely death from leukemia. Lunch. We will conclude our time in Assisi with a visit to the vast Basilica of St. Francis. While here we will have the opportunity to visit and pray at the tomb of St. Francis. We will also have time to visit the official gift shop and the attached relics museum. Afterwards, we will have some free time with dinner on our own for the opportunity to explore local dining options. Overnight in Assisi. (B)

DAY 8: OCTOBER 11 — RETURN TO ROME / CATACOMBS OF ST. CALLIXTUS

Following breakfast and hotel check out we will board our bus for the scenic drive to Rome. Upon arrival, we will visit the Catacombs of San Callisto, a rare glimpse of life in Rome for the Early Christian communities before the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century AD. Here in this catacomb, sixteen popes were entombed in the second to the fourth centuries along with many other thousands of Christians. After, we will have Mass at the catacomb and transfer to our accommodations in Rome for check in. Lunch on our own and a free afternoon for rest or exploration, with time to pack. In the evening we will gather for a festive farewell dinner served with local dishes and wine. Overnight in Rome. (B, D)



DAY 9: OCTOBER 12 — OUR JOURNEY HOME

After breakfast and an early Mass, we will check out of our guesthouse and with warm memories of our time in Italy, board our bus and transfer to the Rome International Airport (FCO) for our return flights home. (B)



BOOK ONLINE: stcharlespilgrimages.com/zimmerman



INCLUSIONS

- 5 nights lodging in a centrally located religious guesthouse in Rome
- 2 nights lodging in a centrally located four-star hotel within medieval Assisi
- All tours and transfers in an air-conditioned deluxe motorcoach
- All breakfasts and three dinners
 - Including a winery tour, tasting, and traditional 4-course Umbrian dinner
 - Wine and water at all included dinners
- Tips for guesthouse staff and restaurants (for included meals)
- Admission tickets and private tours through all shrines, monasteries, museums, and historical sites on our itinerary
- Whisper headsets
- Tickets to the Wednesday audience with the Holy Father
- A dedicated pilgrimage escort & guide for the entire duration of the pilgrimage
- Daily Mass, confessions, and spiritual guidance with Fr. John Zimmerman
- Two pre-departure information meetings
- A custom neck wallet and luggage tag for each pilgrim

What's not included:

- Airfare (*group airfare from Charlotte CLT is available as an optional add-on at registration*)
- Meals not mentioned above
- Tips for the guide & driver (*estimated €100*)
- Travel Insurance (*optional, but highly recommended*)

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- A non-refundable deposit of **\$500** per person is due upon registration.
- Final payment/remainder of balance is due on or before **July 4, 2026**.
- Late bookings after 90 days prior to departure require payment in full at time of booking.

CANCELLATION POLICY

- With the exception of the deposit, all payments are 100% refundable if a cancellation request is received before 90 days prior to departure.
- With the exception of the deposit, all payments are 50% refundable if a cancellation request is received from 90 days to 31 days prior to departure.
- There are no refunds for cancellation requests received after 30 days prior to departure.

By registering for this pilgrimage you understand and agree to the terms and conditions of St. Charles Pilgrimages LLC:
stcharlespilgrimages.com/terms-and-conditions

**DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
PRICE: \$3,850***

**SINGLE OCCUPANCY
PRICE: \$4,850***

**Price includes cash discount*

**Price excludes airfare*

**Group airfare from Charlotte (CLT) is available as an optional add-on. Group flight information (including cost) will become available 10 months prior to departure. If you would like to join the group flight, please select the add-on when registering for this pilgrimage.*

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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(Revised 5/2025)