

**\$50 Early Booking  
Discount if Reserved  
by  
January 17, 2026**

# Father Jim Benz Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

**October 13-24, 2026 - 12 Days**

**\$7,299 from St Louis**

**For Info & Reservations, Contact Fr. James Benz, Sts. Joachim & Ann Catholic Church, 4112  
McClay Road, Saint Charles, MO 63304 – Telephone: 636-441-7503 - Email: frbenz@stsja.org**

**Tuesday, October 13 - DAY 1 –**

**DEPART USA** – Today, we depart Chicago to connect with our overnight flight to “Venice” aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner, and breakfast aloft.

**Wednesday, October 14 - DAY 2 –**

**VENICE** - Upon arrival in Venice, we are met at the airport and board our motor coach for a short trip to our hotel in the nearby Mestre area for dinner and overnight.

**Thursday, October 15 - DAY 3 –**

**VENICE** - Venice, the *Queen of the Cities!* The glories that are Venice have attracted Byron, Goethe, Wagner, Shakespeare, and now - you! Following Mass in one of her beautiful churches, time is spent this morning walking the sights of Venice: the splendid Piazza San Marco and the incredibly rich Byzantine Basilica of San Marco. We marvel at the intricate network of elegant squares lined with stately Renaissance villas and palaces. This afternoon, we are free for shopping, personal adventure, or an optional romantic gondola ride through the inner canals of Venice. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**Friday, October 16 - DAY 4 –**

**VENICE/PADUA/FLORENCE** - This morning, we depart Venice for our journey to Florence. On our scenic drive through this beautiful countryside, we stop in Padua for Mass and a tour of the Basilica of St. Anthony, where we view the largest bronze work of Donatello. We continue to Tuscany for dinner and overnight at our hotel in Florence.

**Saturday, October 17 - DAY 5 –**

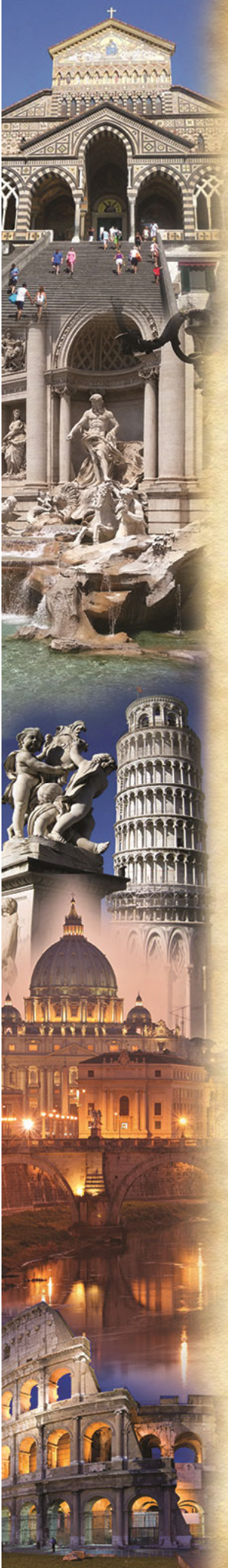
**FLORENCE** - This morning our first stop will be “Piazzale Michelangelo” for the best panoramic view of this spectacular city one could ask for. We proceed with a tour

of the Academia Gallery, where we view one of Michelangelo’s most famous works, “David.” We continue with the celebration of Mass to the Duomo, also known as the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, located in the heart of the city and ranking as the fourth largest in the world. Here we admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, and its campanile by Giotto. Once outside, we view the Baptistry with its incomparable bronze doors by Ghiberti. We continue our tour of Florence with the Piazza della Signoria, dominated by the Palazzo Vecchio and its embattlement crowned tower. Across from the Palace, we visit the Loggia dei Lanzi, which features the statues of Perseus by Cellini, Giambologna’s “Rape of the Sabines,” and “Hercules.” We enjoy a leisurely lunch on our own at one of the many trattorias along the Arno River in Florence. The remainder of the day is free for shopping and exploring this fascinating city on your own. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay.

**Sunday, October 18 - DAY 6 –**

**FLORENCE/SIENA/ASSISI** – This morning, we journey through the Italian countryside, arriving in the magnificent city of Siena, which invites us to stroll through its Gothic streets. After we celebrate Mass at the Dominican Church commemorating St. Catherine, we walk to the famous Piazza del Campo. This shell-shaped square is the dramatic setting for the annual Palio bareback horse race. The piazza’s focal point is the Palazzo Pubblico, the public palace, which dates back to 1250. We continue uphill to the monumental Cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Free time for lunch and browsing. In the afternoon, we continue south through Umbria to the hilltop village of Assisi, the home of Saint Francis. Our first stop is in the lower town for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis’





Church of the Little Portion. We continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Monday, October 19 - DAY 7 – ASSISI -**

This morning, we begin at the Basilica of St. Francesco with Mass. After we visit the Basilica and the tomb of St. Francis, we begin our walking tour of the village with a stop at the Church of St. Clare to view the famous San Damiano crucifix. From this cross, Christ spoke to St. Francis, telling him to “rebuild my Church.” Afterwards, we visit the resting place of newly canonized St. Carlo Acutis, who was 15 years old when he died in 2006 from leukemia. Acutis' tomb is located in Assisi's *Sanctuary of the Renunciation*, the spot where a young St. Francis of Assisi is said to have cast off his rich clothes in favor of a poor habit. We pass by the famous Temple of Minerva in the Piazza del Comune. This afternoon, we can enjoy this picturesque hillside village on our own. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**Tuesday, October 20 - DAY 8 -**

**ASSISI/ROME** - This morning, we depart Assisi. We travel south to Rome, where our first stop will be one of the Catacombs with Mass. This afternoon, we will visit the Holy Stairs and the Basilica of St. John Lateran. We proceed to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**Wednesday, October 21 - DAY 9 –**

**ROME** - This morning, we make our way to St. Peter's for an audience with Pope Leo, provided he is in residence. We continue to the Basilica of St. Mary Major, and we have a walking tour to the nearby Roman Forum, passing the Arch of Constantine and the Coliseum. We also visit the Basilica of St. Clemente. We celebrate Mass in one of these Basilicas. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Thursday, October 22 - DAY 10 –**

**ROME** - This morning, we go to Vatican City where we celebrate Mass below St. Peter's. Afterwards, we see the treasures of the Vatican Museum. We marvel at Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel and the wonders of St. Peter's, ending with Michelangelo's Pietà. This afternoon, we will tour the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. This huge, imposing Basilica, second only to St. Peter's and one of the largest churches in

the Christian world, contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 265 tablets portraying the popes of the past. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**Friday, October 23 - DAY 11 - ROME –**

This morning, we tour two of the most famous spots in Rome: Trevi Fountain, the biggest and most popular fountain in Rome, and the Pantheon. We also visit The Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, located nearby, where St. Catherine of Siena is buried. If time permits, we conclude our morning at Chiesa del Gesù, often referred to as the "mother of all Jesuit churches," which was founded in 1551 by order of Ignatius of Loyola. This church set the model for all subsequent Jesuit churches. Mass at one of these churches. Free time for lunch. This afternoon is free for shopping or personal exploration. Enjoy a farewell dinner with entertainment at a typical local restaurant. Return to the hotel and overnight.

**Saturday, October 24 - DAY 12 –**

**ROME/USA** – Today, we make our way home with memories of a lifetime.



SCAN ME

“Have questions about this pilgrimage? Ask us! Go to [www.Unitours.com/questions](http://www.Unitours.com/questions).”  
To book online go to <https://bit.ly/BenzItaly>



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Discount if  
Reserved by  
1/17/2026**

## **Father Jim Benz - Catholic Italy Pilgrimage**

**Mail to: Fr. James Benz, Sts. Joachim & Ann Catholic Church, 4112 McClay Road, Saint Charles, MO 63304**

**Please reserve \_\_\_ seats on this Catholic Italy Pilgrimage - October 13-24, 2026**

**Enclosed please find deposit of \$500 per person (Payable to Unitours, Inc.)**

**PLEASE ENCLOSE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (Passport MUST be valid until April 24, 2027, or later.)**

Name(s) as appears on passport) \_\_\_\_\_

My Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) as you'd like them to appear on nametags: \_\_\_\_\_

Charge my deposit to \_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ Amex \_\_\_ Discover

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL TOUR PRICE:** The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect December 1, 2025. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 20 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

**PASSPORT AND VISA REQUIREMENTS:** A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas. Passport MUST be valid until April 24, 2027, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. - please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:** International flight reservations are being held on American Airlines. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after ticket is issued carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE. Any requests to change a ticket once issued will incur a reissue fee of \$200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure will incur a \$200 penalty.

**DOMESTIC AIRFARE:** For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

**HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:** Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$1,048 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

**MEALS:** Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

**TIPS AND TAXES:** Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$135 plus current fuel surcharges of \$370 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$119 ARE NOT INCLUDED. (One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

**DEPOSITS AND CANCELLATIONS:** A deposit of \$500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received at Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made after 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final

payment due date. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee (charged to deposit) plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days prior to departure - - \$400 administration fee plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

**BANK FEE:** A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

**DEVIATIONS:** A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See [www.Unitours.com/travelInsurance](http://www.Unitours.com/travelInsurance) for full details and to purchase coverage.

**LAND ARRANGEMENTS:** The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

**ERRORS:** In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.





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**UNITOURS, inc.**

Custom Catholic Pilgrimages

# Italy



Padua ● Venice ●

● Florence ●

● Siena ●

● Assisi ●

● Rome ●



100 km

**STEP**MAP