

**\$50 Early Booking
Discount if Reserved
by
January 31, 2026**

Father Michael Zuelch

Catholic Italy Pilgrimage

St. Mary Parish in St. Clair

October 13-23, 2026 - 11 Days

\$5,599 from Detroit

**For Information and Reservations, Contact the Parish Office, St. Mary Parish, 800 Orchard St,
St. Clair MI 48079 – Telephone: 810-329-2255 - Email: info@stmarystclair.org**

Tuesday, October 13 - DAY 1 – DEPART

USA – Today we depart Detroit airport to connect with our overnight flight to Florence aboard a wide-bodied jet. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner and breakfast aloft.

Wednesday, October 14 - DAY 2 -

FLORENCE/MONTECATINI – This morning, we arrive in Florence where we are met by our Unitours Tour Manager and board our motorcoach for our short ride to the delightful spa town of Montecatini Terme. The balance of the day is at leisure to stroll through the inviting streets of this charming town. We enjoy our “welcome” dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Thursday, October 15 - Teresa of Avila -

DAY 3 – MONTECATINI/ FLORENCE/ MONTECATINI – Today we visit Florence, our first stop is “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”. Then, if possible, we celebrate mass at Duomo (also known as the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore), in the heart of the city and the fourth largest in the world! There we admire the cupola by Brunelleschi, completed in 1240, its campanile by Giotto. Once outside we view the Baptistery’s 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 with the statues of the Perseus by Cellini; Giambologna’s the “Rape of the Sabines” and “Hercules.”. We break for a late lunch on our own at one of the many trattorias that dot the riverfront area, along Florence’s Arno River. The remainder of the day is free for personal shopping and browsing this fascinating city on our own. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Friday, October 16 - DAY 4 –

MONTECATINI/PISA/ WINE TASTING

/MONTECATINI – This morning we visit one of the most famous recognizable sites in Italy, the “Leaning Tower of Pisa”, the bell tower of the famous Duomo. After Mass in the cathedral, we visit the Baptistry and the Campo Santo, all found in the main Square of Miracles. This area is framed by beautiful medieval walls. Following our visit, we continue to Montecarlo in Lucca area, famous for the DOC wine produced here. We enjoy wine tasting and a light lunch. In the afternoon we return to Montecatini and have free time before dinner at our hotel and overnight.

Saturday, October 17 - DAY 5 –

MONTECATINI/SIENA/ASSISI – Today, 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, to the famous Piazza del Campo. This shell shaped square is the dramatic setting for the annual Palio bareback horserace. The piazza’s focal point is the Palazzo Pubblico, the public palace, which dates to 1250AD. We continue uphill to the monumental Cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary. We enjoy free time for lunch on our own and shopping or browsing. In the afternoon we continue south through Umbria to the hilltop village of Assisi, the home of Saint Francis. Our first stop will be the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis’ Church of the Little Portion. We continue to Assisi for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Sunday, October 18 - St. Luke - DAY 6 - ASSISI

– This morning, we begin our day with Mass at the Basilica and tomb of St. Francis, followed by a walking tour of the village. Included, is a stop at the Church of St. Clare to view the crucifix that spoke to St. Francis. We pass the famous Temple of Minerva in the Piazza del Comune. The early Christians converted the temple and bestowed on it the name of the powerful Virgin Mary, a saint who could neutralize any lingering pagan power and influence. We stop at “Chiesa Nuova” atop the childhood home of St. Francis, built by King Philip III of Spain in the 1600s where a bronze statue of



St. Francis' parents sits outside. We also visit San Damiano, a tiny church located outside the walls of Assisi. According to legend, it was here that St. Francis first heard the voice of God telling him to "rebuild the church". It is also where he wrote his famous Canticle of the Creatures. This afternoon, following a break for lunch on our own, we visit the Church of St. Mary Major and the Shrine Sanctuary of the Renunciation, which marks the spot where young Francis was said to have disrobed from his "rich man's clothes" to adopt a simple robe which would become the symbol of the Franciscan Order. This site also holds the glass sarcophagus of St. Carlo Acutis, the first "Millennial Saint" to be canonized. Following our veneration of this young man who was "in-love" with the Holy Eucharist, we return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Monday, October 19 - DAY 7 - ASSISI/ CASCIA/MONTESILVANO - Today, we depart Assisi and head to Cascia, a town in the Italian province of Perugia, a remote area in Umbria, to visit the Shrine of St. Rita. St. Rita is one of the most popular Italian saints. She was a married woman, a mother, a widow, a nun, a stigmatist, and later, a mystic. The Basilica of St. Rita contains her incorrupt body, several relics from her life, and a Eucharistic miracle from before her time. St. Rita was canonized in 1900. We celebrate Mass while there. We continue to Norcia, the birthplace of St. Benedict, and visit the Monastery of St. Benedict on the Mountain, a Benedictine community where Fr. Michael lived as a monk. The monks are well known for their Gregorian Chants, and the production of a famous brew of beer "Birra Nursia", famous all over Italy. We enjoy a special lunch here with the monks before we continue to Montesilvano for dinner and overnight.

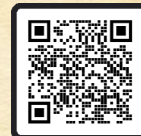
Tuesday, October 20 - DAY 8 - MONTESILVANO/LANCIANO/ROME - This morning, we journey to Lanciano, a town in the Abruzzo region of southern Italy to see the Eucharistic Miracle which took place in approximately 700AD. A monk in the small Church of St. Legontian witnessed the bread change into flesh and the wine change into blood after he had doubts about Christ's true presence in the consecrated host. After celebrating Mass, we continue to Rome, stopping along our route for lunch on our own. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday, October 21 - DAY 9 - ROME - Today, we set out early to St. Peter's for an audience with Pope Leo if he is in residence. After the audience, we enjoy free time for lunch on our own and shopping. This afternoon we visit the Basilica of St. Mary Major, the largest

church in Rome dedicated to our Blessed Mother and celebrate Mass and have our group photo taken! We walk to the nearby Church of St. Alphonsus, bearing the original icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Our last stop today will be the Patheon and Santa Maria Sopra Minerva. We see the Spanish steps and throw our coin in the Trevi fountain as we vow one day to return to the Eternal City. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Rome.

Thursday, October 22 DAY 10 - ROME - This morning, we rise early for morning Mass at the Vatican, within St. Peters, before 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. This afternoon, following a break for lunch on our own, we continue to the Papal Basilica of St. John Lateran. It is here that St. Francis persuaded Pope Innocent III to give permission to begin the Franciscan Order. We stop at the Santa Scala, purportedly the stairs which Christ climbed prior to his condemnation by Pontius Pilate. We continue to St. Paul Outside the Walls. This huge, imposing Basilica, second only to St. Peter's is one of the largest churches in the Christian world, contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 266 tablets portraying the Popes of the past. We visit Trastevere, the oldest part of Rome, and have our "farewell" dinner at a local restaurant with entertainment. Overnight at our hotel in Rome.

Friday, October 23 - DAY 11- RETURN TO U.S. - 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."

To book online go to book online go to <https://bit.ly/ZuelchItaly>

While we at Unitours do everything possible to make our Pilgrimages comfortable, a certain amount of strenuous walking will be required. Depending upon a pilgrim's age & strength, parts of your program may be too taxing if a person has mobility limitations, is older or disabled. Be advised that such pilgrims may be unable to visit some of the places listed on this itinerary.

Rev. Michael Zuelch - Catholic Italy Pilgrimage – St. Mary Parish in St. Clair

Mail to: Parish Office, St. Mary Parish, 800 Orchard Street, St. Clair MI 48079

Please reserve ___ seats on this Catholic Italy Pilgrimage - October 13-23, 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 23, 2027, or later.)

Name(s) as appears on passport) _____

My Roommate: _____

Address: _____

_____ Please assign a roommate (if available)

City, State & Zip _____

_____ I prefer a single room - \$848 supplement and limited in number.

Daytime Telephone: _____

To purchase optional travel insurance, please see www.Unitours.com/travelInsurance for full details and to purchase coverage.

Email Address: _____

_____ **Apply \$50 if booked by January 31, 2026**

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 November 13, 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 25 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 23, 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 Lufthansa 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 \$848 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 \$213 plus current fuel surcharges of \$318 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$111 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 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.



Italy

