

Pilgrimage to The Eternal City: Rome and Assisi with Rev. Efren Pelayo & Rev.

Elissandro Marcelo Caldas,

Join us for the closing ceremony of the Holy Doors in 2026

\$5,595.00

per person based on double occupancy

Sun, Jan 04 – Wed, Jan 14, 2026

Your 11-Day Pilgrimage Itinerary

Day 1 – Sun, Jan 04: Departure

We meet at Toronto Airport for our evening departure to Rome. Enjoy complimentary meals and beverage service during our overnight flight.

Day 2 – Mon, Jan 05: Arrive in Rome

Upon arrival at Rome Fiumicino Airport, you will be met by your tour escort and local guide to begin your journey with a panoramic tour of the "Eternal City." Afterward, check into your hotel, enjoy a 3-course welcome dinner, and settle in for a well-deserved sleep.

(D) Overnight: Grand Hotel Palatino, Rome (6 nights)

Day 3 – Tue, Jan 06: The Papal Basilicas & Early Christianity

Today is a profound journey into faith and history. We begin with a **Private Mass at St. Peter's Basilica** (*TBC). We



will pray for the grace to pass through the **St. Peter's Holy Door** (Closing ceremony of the Holy doors, subject to confirmation). This afternoon, we explore the depths of early Christianity with a guided tour of the **St. Callisto Catacombs** where generations of persecuted Christians, including numerous popes and martyrs, were buried. It is a



powerful testament to the faith and resilience of the first Christian communities in Rome. We then visit the magnificent **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls** one of Rome's four major Papal Basilicas and stands on



the traditional site of St. Paul's tomb. This monumental church, a UNESCO World Heritage site, symbolizes the enduring legacy of the Apostle to the Gentiles and his profound influence on the spread of Christianity. We then visit the ancient **Basilica di Santa Prassede**, a hidden gem renowned for its breathtaking 9th-century Byzantine mosaics, considered among the most magnificent in Rome. Built by Pope Paschal I around 822 AD to shelter the relics

of early Christian martyrs, it stands as a testament to the Carolingian Renaissance's revival of early Christian art and architecture.

(B, D)

**TBC: To be confirmed*

Connaissance Travel and Tours, 3852 Finch Ave. E., Suite 306, Toronto, ON M1T 3T9

Tel: 877-701-7729 ext:342 Fax: 416-292-4924 TICO Ont Reg 3094019

Kay@connaissancetravel.com

Day 4 – Wed, Jan 07: The Vatican & The Holy Father

An unforgettable day begins with attending the **Papal Audience** in St. Peter's Square to receive the blessing of His Holiness, **the first papal blessing of the year**. This afternoon, we embark on a unique journey beneath the basilica with a guided tour of the **Vatican Excavation** (Scavi), descend into history to walk the cobblestone streets of the Roman Necropolis and venerate the tomb of St. Peter himself. We will also have the privilege of a **Concelebrated Mass at St. Peter's Basilica** (*TBC).
(B, D)



Day 5 – Thu, Jan 08: Trastevere & The Thermal Baths of Viterbo

We start with a **Private Mass at the beautiful Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere** (*TBC), a 12th-century basilica in Rome, renowned for its shimmering medieval mosaics and its historic claim as one of Rome's oldest churches.



After some free time to explore this charming neighbourhood, we continue to the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**, the largest Roman Catholic Marian church in Rome. This afternoon, we journey to the medieval town of Viterbo to relax and rejuvenate at the **Terme dei Papi (Monumental Therapeutic Thermal Pool)**, a well-known thermal spa, so named because it was the favorite retreat of many popes, including Pope Nicholas V in the 15th century. The spa is famous for its healing waters and muds, as well as its large, monumental



thermal pool.

(B, D)

Day 6 – Fri, Jan 09: The Cathedral of Rome & The Holy Stairs

A full-day guided tour takes us to the Cathedral of Rome, the **Archbasilica of St. John Lateran, the official**



ecclesiastical seat of the Pope. Considered the "Mother and Head of All Churches in Rome and in the World" and ranks superior to all other Catholic churches, including St. Peter's Basilica. We will visit the **Scala Santa (Holy Stairs)**, which according to Catholic tradition, are the ones Jesus Christ ascended on

his way to trial during his Passion. We also visit the fascinating multi-layered **Basilica of St. Clemente**, which boasts a 12th-century church built upon a 4th-century church, which lies above a 1st-century Roman structures.

(B, D)



Day 7 – Sat, Jan 10: Ancient Rome & The Baroque City

Today contrasts ancient and Renaissance Rome. Our guided tour includes the iconic **Pantheon** and a photo stop at



the **Trevi Fountain, Spanish Steps, and Piazza Navona**. This afternoon, we step back in time with a guide through the **Colosseum, Palatine Hill, and Roman Forum** (a UNESCO site), walking in the footsteps of emperors and gladiators.



(B, D) Overnight: Grand Hotel Palatino, Rome

Day 8 – Sun, Jan 11: Rome / Assisi

We depart Rome for the serene hills of Umbria and the town of **Assisi**, home of St. Francis and St. Clare. After lunch, a guided orientation tour introduces us to this sacred place. We will visit the **Basilica of St. Francis** (a UNESCO site) and we will have the profound honour of celebrating a **Private Mass within the basilica** (*TBC), followed by a **contemplative walk through Assisi's serene surroundings**, guided by Fr. Efen's spiritual reflections.



(B, D) Overnight: Grand Hotel Assisi (1 night)

Day 9 – Mon, Jan 12: Assisi / Orvieto / Rome



After breakfast, we travel to the stunning hilltop town of **Orvieto**. We are guided through its historic centre and visit its breathtaking **Duomo (Cathedral)**, famous for its façade and the Chapel of San Brizio with frescoes by Luca Signorelli. We will celebrate a **Private Mass** (*TBC) in the Duomo before returning to Rome for the evening.

(B, D) Overnight: Best Western Hotel President, Rome (2 nights)

Day 10 – Tue, Jan 13: The Papal Retreat of Castel Gandolfo

Today we enjoy an excursion to **Castel Gandolfo**, the picturesque town overlooking Lake Albano and the former summer residence of the Popes. We will have a guided tour of the **Papal Palace and its beautiful Secret Gardens**. The afternoon is free for personal exploration in Rome before a final group prayer & dinner.

(B, D)



Day 11 – Wed, Jan 14: Return Home

After breakfast, we transfer to Rome's Fiumicino Airport for our flight home, carrying with us the blessings and memories of a profound pilgrimage.

(B)