

JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL  
ON A PILGRIMAGE TO:

# LOURDES & ROME



April 14 - 21, 2023

**\$4,549** per person from **New York (JFK)**  
airport Add-On's as per: [www.206tours.com/airports](http://www.206tours.com/airports)

**\$3,419** without airfare



**OPTIONAL POST TOUR TO MEDJUGORJE**

April 21 - 25, 2023 | Additional \$1,199 per person

*Prices are based on double occupancy*

**Spiritual Director: Fr. Kevin McCracken, C.M.**

[www.pilgrimages.com/amm](http://www.pilgrimages.com/amm)



Dear Friends of our Blessed Mother,

In April of 2023 the Association of the Miraculous Medal is sponsoring a post-Easter pilgrimage to Lourdes, to Rome, and for those who choose to extend their pilgrimage, to Medjugorje. The basic pilgrimage includes 3 days for us to experience the prayerful atmosphere of the premier Marian shrine where Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette 18 times in 1858. We will be able to undertake both group and personal devotions. From Lourdes we will fly to Rome and spend a few days visiting several of the most revered churches and other sacred sites of the Eternal City, as well as some of the "must see" tourist sites. Particularly important for members of Our Lady's Association, we will visit the Basilica of Sant' Andrea delle Fratte where Alphonse Ratisbonne, a French Jew, while he was touring Rome in 1842, received an apparition of Mary. Our Lady appeared to him as she is represented on the Miraculous Medal which Catholic friends had convinced him to wear. In honor of Mary, Alphonse chose to be baptized as Marie-Alphonse. Pope Gregory XVI declared his immediate conversion to be a miracle. We hope to pray at the shrine in the Basilica dedicated to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal and Marie-Alphonse's miraculous conversion. From Rome, those who wish, will travel across the Adriatic Sea to Medjugorje in Herzegovina. Since June 1981, six visionaries, believe that they have received visions of Our Lady, identifying herself as the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace. Millions of people have visited the town and many have had a profound spiritual experience there. In May 2019, Pope Francis authorized officially sponsored Catholic group pilgrimages to Medjugorje. However, the Vatican stated that studies related to the authenticity of the claimed apparitions are still ongoing. As at Lourdes, we will have time to participate in both group and personal devotions while in Medjugorje. Please consider joining us for this Eastertime pilgrimage when we will rejoice with Mary in the glory of her Son's resurrection.

~Fr. Kevin McCracken

For Info or to Register, contact: **Cara** - [Cara@206tours.com](mailto:Cara@206tours.com) OR 800-206-TOUR (8687)  
Terms and Conditions: [www.206tours.com/terms](http://www.206tours.com/terms)

## INCLUSIONS AND SAMPLE DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

- § Round-trip airfare
- § Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- § Accommodations at centrally located first class Hotels: (or similar)
  - ~ 3 nights: April 15 - 18: Hotel Moderne, Lourdes
  - ~ 3 nights: April 18 - 21: Le Meridien Visconti, Rome
  - ~ 4 nights: April 21 - 25: Modern Pansion/Hotel, Medjugorje
- § Transfers as per itinerary
- § Breakfast and Dinner daily
- § Wine and Mineral Water with Dinners

### Day 1: Friday – April 14, 2023 | Depart for Lourdes

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Your meals will be served on board.

### Day 2: Saturday – April 15, 2023 | Arrive in Lourdes

Upon arriving at Pau or Toulouse airport, make your way to the baggage claim area and collect your luggage. Proceed to the arrivals hall, where you will be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Embark on a scenic drive to Lourdes. Check-in to your hotel and relax or explore before dinner. Following dinner, you will have free time to pray the Rosary and to attend the candlelight procession. These processions are lit by candlelight, providing a serene and inspiring ambiance. Following this prayerful experience, you will return to your hotel for an overnight.

### Day 3 and 4: Sunday and Monday – April 16-17, 2023 | Lourdes

Over the next two days, you will wake up in a small town that is nestled within the Pyrenees Mountains. During your time in Lourdes, you will pray and meditate at the site of Our Lady's apparitions. Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette in 1858, and announced herself as "The Immaculate Conception", near the Grotto of Massabielle. During the first two apparitions, little Bernadette prayed the Rosary with Our Lady and left without any exchange of words. During the following apparitions, Our Lady emphasized God's love for us, penance and the necessity of performing acts of penance for sinners. Throughout your time in Lourdes, you will have the opportunity to attend Mass at the Grotto, where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette; watch a video presentation that explains, in detail, the story of Lourdes; drink water from the miraculous spring that has healed many; and submerge yourself in the healing baths. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to experience Christ's unconditional love, as you meditate upon the "life size" Stations of the Cross that overlook the Grotto of Massabielle. Also, while in Lourdes, you will walk in and meditate upon the footsteps of St. Bernadette. Your group will have the opportunity to see Boly Mill, the birthplace of St. Bernadette, and the "Cachot," an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived. Each evening following dinner, you will have an opportunity to attend the candlelight procession and the Rosary before a restful overnight.

### Day 5: Tuesday – April 18, 2023 | Lourdes - Rome

Morning departure from Lourdes to the airport to board your short flight to Rome. Upon arrival at Rome airport, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the arrival hall, where you will be greeted by a tour escort and/or driver. You will make your way to the bus and transfer to your hotel. Following check-in, you will have free time to unpack and relax, or explore Rome on your own. Your tour escort may suggest places to visit. Later in the afternoon, your group will meet in the hotel lobby for a "Meet and Greet" with your fellow pilgrims and depart for Mass. Following Mass, you will attend a welcome dinner. After dinner, you will have the opportunity to walk to St. Peter's Square as a group, for the Rosary (optional).

### Day 6: Wednesday – April 19, 2023 | Rome: Papal Audience – Basilica of St. John the Lateran – Holy Stairs – Basilica of St. Mary Major – Basilica of Sant Andrea delle Fratte

After a nice breakfast at your hotel, your first sightseeing day in Rome starts! The tour begins with the Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square! The Audience is celebrated each Wednesday by His Holiness, Pope Francis (pending the papal schedule). Following the Audience, there will be free time for lunch, shopping, or to mail a postcard from the Vatican Post Office. This afternoon, you will visit the oldest of the four major basilicas in Rome, and the home to the relics of Peter and Paul, the Basilica of St. John Lateran. This Basilica is where Pope Francis was installed as Bishop of Rome, and where he officiates as the Bishop of Rome. Next, we will cross the street to visit the Holy Staircase. Tradition states that this staircase is from Pontius Pilate's palace of Jerusalem during the time of Jesus. It is also said that this Staircase was brought to Rome by St. Helen in the 4th century. If time permits, you may climb the steps on your knees, in memory of Christ's agonizing Passion. To conclude your day, we will proceed to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. This Basilica contains a relic from the Manger of the Infant Jesus. From there we make our way to the Basilica of Sant' Andrea delle Fratte where Alphonse Ratisbonne received a vision of Mary. Return to the hotel for dinner and an overnight.

### Day 7: Thursday – April 20, 2023 | Rome: St. Peter's Basilica – Vatican Museum – Appian Way – Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls - Catacombs

This morning you will enjoy an early breakfast before making your way to the largest Christendom Church, St. Peter's Basilica. This Basilica was built on the site where St. Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome, was martyred. Also, it was Our Holy Father, Pope Francis who was the first Pontiff to visit the necropolis since extensive archaeological excavations were conducted at the ancient site decades ago. It is here that you will view Michelangelo's Pieta. This stunning marble sculpture depicts the Virgin Mary holding Christ after His crucifixion, death, and removal from the cross before being placed in the tomb. Continue to proceed to the Vatican Museum. At the world-renowned museum, you will see the most impressive of edifices, galleries, and awe-inspiring relics. Additionally, you will observe the Tapestry Gallery, Raphael Rooms, Sistine Chapel, and Michelangelo's Masterpiece, the restored mural of the Last Judgment. The final stop on your Vatican tour is at the tomb of Saint John Paul II. After, you will be transferred to the Fontana di Trevi (Trevi Fountain), where you

- § Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- § Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
- § Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- § Luggage handling (at Hotels – 1 piece per person)
- § Tips to Hotel Staff, Restaurants, and Luggage Handlers
- § Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- § Meeting with Visionaries (pending availability)
- § Visit to Community Cenacolo
- § Flight bag & Portfolio of all travel documents

may enjoy some free time on your own for lunch. Continue on your short journey down the Appian Way, the earliest road of Ancient Rome. This road leads to the Domino Quo Vadis Chapel, the Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Drusus, the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, and the catacombs of St. Callixtus. The day concludes with a visit to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Originally founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th Century, this Basilica is the burial place of Saint Paul the Apostle. We will make our way to a local restaurant for dinner. Following dinner, feel free to explore the streets of Rome, or return to the hotel for overnight.

### Day 8: Friday – April 21, 2023 | Return Home

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, we transfer to Rome Airport for your return flight(s) home.

OR CONTINUE ON A POST TOUR TO MEDJUGORJE:

### Day 8: Friday – April 21, 2023 | Rome - Medjugorje

Today depart from Italy for your flight (s) to Medjugorje. Upon arrival, you'll be greeted by your tour guide and/or driver, who will take you on the 2.5 hour drive to the village of Medjugorje. Dinner and an overnight.

### Days 9 to 11: Saturday to Monday – April 22 - 24, 2023 | Medjugorje

The most beautiful features of Medjugorje are its simplicity and peace. While in Medjugorje, you may experience your faith grow, and share in the faith journey of pilgrims from all over the world. A local guide will accompany your group throughout your stay in the village. Some activities that will accompany you in your spiritual journey:

#### Attend Daily Mass:

Each morning at 10:00 AM, your group will assemble at St. James Church for Mass (English-Speaking). At the end of each Mass, regardless of language, there is a blessing of the religious articles that you have with you.

#### On Feast Days, and Sundays:

English Mass is at 12 PM.

#### Climb Apparition Hill:

This mountainous hill is where the visionaries first encountered Our Lady. At the base of this hill is a Blue Cross, where it is said Our Lady appeared to the children while they hid from the communist police in the early days of the alleged apparitions. While climbing, your group is invited to recite the Rosary, pausing five times for each decade of the Rosary. At the top of the hill, you will witness the exact location of the first alleged apparition of Our Lady to the visionaries, and enjoy private time for prayer.

#### Climb Mt. Krizevac (Cross Mountain):

In 1933, the villagers built a 30' high cross atop a mountain to commemorate Jesus' passion and death on the cross. Your group will have the opportunity to climb this mountain, and venerate that very cross. While climbing, your group is invited to pray the Stations of the Cross (to meditate on Jesus' suffering Road to Calvary), pausing fifteen times for each Station.

#### Apparitions:

Each evening at 5 PM or 6 PM (depending on daylight savings time), your group will join the villagers and fellow pilgrims of Medjugorje in saying the Rosary, as all anxiously await the alleged arrival of Our Lady to the visionaries. Following the apparition, at 5:40 PM (6:40 PM during Daylight Savings Time), feel free to stay at St. James Church and attend the Croatian Mass. Following the Croatian Mass, there is a Blessing of the Sick.

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Our Lady has always called us to be close to her Son. For this, you will have the opportunity to adore the Blessed Sacrament at the altar outside of St. James Church. Adoration is held on Tuesdays and Saturdays; Veneration of the Cross is held on Fridays inside the church. Additionally, there is an Adoration Chapel on the grounds of St. James Church, where Adoration is held in the afternoon hours.

#### Meetings with the Visionaries:

Pending their availability, your guide will arrange meetings with the visionaries at their homes.

#### Visit to the Community of Cenacolo:

You will have the opportunity to visit the community of Cenacolo, founded by the Sisters of Charity, for young men and women who have taken a wrong path and are on the road to recovery. You will be able to listen to their inspirational words about their journeys back to Jesus Christ.

#### Prayer at the Statue of the Risen Christ:

The bronze statue of the Risen Christ is located on the grounds of St. James Church. Many pilgrims sit and pray on the benches surrounding this peaceful statue. This statue miraculously seeps droplets of water at all times of the day, out of Christ's right knee.

\*Please be advised that English Daily Mass and Confessions will be available at St. James Church.

### Day 12: Tuesday – April 25, 2023 | Return Home

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, we transfer for Dubrovnik Airport (Split or Sarajevo) for return flights home.