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**Join Msgr. Perry Kavookjian and Fr. Michael Cox in the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land & Egypt**

**12 Days, 10 Nights From 1-12 February of 2022**

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Bakersfield, CA**

**Divine Mercy Catholic Church, Clovis, CA**

**Feb. 01: USA-Tel AVIV.**

**Feb. 02: TEL AVIV – NAZARETH or TIBERIAS**

*Arrive at Tel Aviv airport, you'll be met and assisted by our representative and guide. Transfer to NAZARETH or Tiberias in the Galilee Region. Dinner and overnight at your hotel.*

**Feb. 03: NAZARETH – CANA OF GALILEE - SEA OF GALILEA**



*After breakfast, start a walking tour from Mary's Fountain till the Basilica of the Annunciation for a visit to Mary's House, the Upper Basilica, the Museum and the Church of the Holy Family. Then leave to Cana of Galilee: the place of the first miracle of Jesus, visit and renewal of the matrimonial vows. Continue to Mount of Beatitudes to recall the Sermon of the Mountain. Continue to Tabgha (Heptapegon) for a visit to the Church of the Multiplication of Fish and Loaves, admiring the well conserved Byzantine mosaic from the fifth century. Then visit the small chapel of the Primacy of St. Peter before heading to Capernaum, the Town of Jesus for a detailed visit of its ruins: the remains of the House of Peter, the "Insula Sacra" and the White Synagogue. Then, you will experience a boat ride crossing along the Sea of Galilee. Return to your hotel, dinner and overnight.*

**Feb. 04: MOUNT TABOR – RIVER JORDAN – JERICHO – DEAD SEA - BETHLEHEM**



*After breakfast, ascend to Mount Tabor and visit the Basilica of the Transfiguration, built of on the ruins of two earlier sanctuaries: Byzantine and Crusader. Descend and continue to River Jordan where we will have the opportunity to renew your baptismal vows. Enter to Jericho, the oldest city in the world and view Mount of Temptations. Continue to the Dead Sea and enjoy a bath in its salty waters. Then drive through the Judean Desert, passing by the Good Samaritan Inn to Jerusalem for a first contact with the Holy City from Mount Scopus. Arrive to your selected hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.*

**Feb. 05: MOUNT OF OLIVES AND MOUNT ZION**



After breakfast, drive to Mount of Olives for a visit to the Ascension Chapel and then to Pater Noster Church. Walk down to the small Chapel of Dominus Flevit and enjoy a panoramic view of the Holy City with all its major shrines. Continue to the Garden of Gethsemane for a visit to the Church of Agony (called also of All Nations) and Mary's Tomb in the Josaphat Valley.



In the afternoon, explore Mount of Zion: St. Peter in Gallicantu, David's Tomb, the Last Supper Room (The Cenacle) and the Dormition Abbey. Then entering Zion's Gate, walk through the Cardo Maximum and the Jewish Quarter to the Wailing Wall. Continue in a panoramic tour through the new city of Jerusalem for a visit to the Shrines of Ein Karem: The Visitation and St. John the Baptist churches. Back to your hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

**Feb. 06: BETHLEHEM – SHEPHERDS' FIELD – OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM**

After breakfast, leave to the village of Beit Sahour to visit the Shepherds' Field with the natural grottos and the remains of the Byzantine churches and monasteries. Then share the Holy Sunday Mass with the local catholic community at the Parish of Our Lady of Fatima. Afterwards, start a detailed visit to the Basilica of the Nativity: the Grotto of Nativity, the Manger, St. Catherine Church, St. Joseph and St. Jerome Chapels. Continue



In the afternoon, transfer to the Lions' Gate and enter the Old City for a visit to St. Anne Church and the Pool of Bethesda. Continue then walking through the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) to the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher for a detailed visit to Mount Calvary, the Holy Tomb and St. Helen Chapel. Back to your hotel in Bethlehem for dinner and overnight.

**Feb. 07: BETHLEHEM – TABA BORDER – SINAI**

After breakfast, leave towards the south, crossing the Negev Desert to the Israeli-Egyptian border of Taba. Cross and meet with your Egyptian guide and representative. Continue to the city of Dahab at the Red Sea. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

**Feb. 08: MOUNT SINAI – ST. CATHERINE MONASTERY – CAIRO**



***For those who are able to do it:*** at 01:00 am, you'll meet our expert Bedouin guide to start ascending to Mount Sinai, where Moses received the Ten Commandments. The Guide will help you climb the Sacred Mountain. Descend to your hotel for breakfast. Afterwards visit the famous Monastery of St. Catherine, unique in the world as it contains hundreds of ancient manuscripts and valuable treasures. We'll continue our trip to Cairo (around five hours drive with a couple of stops). Dinner and overnight in your hotel.

**Feb. 09: THE PYRAMIDS – MEMPHIS AND SAKKARA**



*Breakfast. At 08:00 in the morning Escorted by your Egyptologists you will visit the following sites: Pyramids: Embark on an unforgettable tour of the Great Pyramids of Giza built for the Pharaohs Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus. They were constructed about 2500 BC with blocks of limestone from the plateau and from the Turah hills on the outskirts of Cairo. The Great Pyramid of Cheops alone, the only present-day survivor of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, required over 2,300,000 blocks of stone, each weighting about 2.5 tons. At its base, it covers 13 acres of land. Millions of visitors come each year to ponder the fascinating mystery of their existence and explore the ancient burial chambers within. In the afternoon we will visit Memphis and Sakkara: Visit Memphis, the ancient capital of Egypt dating from 3,100 BC, and the legendary city of Menes, the King who united Upper and Lower Egypt. Proceed to its necropolis of Sakkara where you will see the world-famous Step Pyramid of King Zoser, the oldest known of Egypt's 107 pyramids and the world's first freestanding stone. Return to your hotel for Dinner and overnight.*

### **Feb. 10: CAIRO – ALEXANDRIA – CAIRO**



*Breakfast. Your guide will pick you up from your hotel in Cairo, and then transfer to Alexandria. First visit Pompey's Pillar. It was constructed in honor of the Emperor Diocletian at the end of the 4th century. Originally from the temple of the Serapis, it was once a magnificent structure rivaling the Soma and the Caesarean. Then you drive to visit the Catacombs which are the largest Roman Cemetery consisting of three levels cut in the rock. **Lunch** at local restaurant in Alexandria, and then we proceed to see the Citadel which was built on the site of the ancient pharaohs (lighthouse) of Alexandria then to Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Return to your hotel in Cairo for Dinner and overnight.*

### **Feb. 11: ANCIENT AND CHRISTIAN CAIRO**



*Breakfast. Start the visit to Cairo by exploring the famous Egyptian Museum that will reveal a 7,000 years Egyptian history and which includes the world-famous golden treasures from King Tutankhamun's tomb. Then visiting the Hanging church in old Cairo which is named for its location above a gatehouse of Babylon Fortress, the Roman fortress in Coptic Cairo (Old Cairo); its nave is suspended over a passage. The church is approached by twenty-nine steps; early travelers to Cairo dubbed it "the Staircase Church. The land surface has risen by some six meters since the Roman period so that the Roman tower is mostly buried below ground, reducing the visual impact of the church's elevated position. The entrance from the street is through iron gates under a pointed stone arch. After that visit of the monastery & church of St. George which is a Greek Orthodox church in Coptic Cairo. The church dates back to the 10th century. Then we visit the citadel of Saladin and Alabaster mosque. After that, continue to visit Khan El-Khalili bazaar: You will have the chance to stroll through the bustling Khan El-Khalili bazaar; founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century as a watering stop for caravans, it is now reputedly the largest bazaar in the Middle East. Return to your hotel for Dinner and overnight.*

### **Feb. 12: CAIRO – USA**

*Transfer to the Cairo airport to board your flight back to the USA.*

