

SAINT ANTHONY

MARONITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4611 SADLER ROAD • GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060

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Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday 10am–3pm

Chorbishop John D. Faris 646.342.1775

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Sunday after the Glorious Birth of Our Lord

The Adoration of the Magi

28 December 2025



SUNDAY READINGS

EPISTLE -Rev. 21:9-10, 21-27

One of the seven angels who held the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come here. I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." He took me in spirit to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made from a single pearl; and the street of the city was of pure gold, transparent as glass. I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb. The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, o for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb.

The nations will walk by its light, and to it the kings of the earth will bring their treasure. During the day, its gates will never be shut, and there will be no night there. The treasure and wealth of the nations will be brought there, but nothing unclean will enter it, nor any[one] who does abominable things or tells lies. Only those will enter whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Matthew 2:1-12

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod,* behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star* at its rising and have come to do him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king, they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

JANUARY 1 THE CIRCUMCISION OF JESUS

EPISTLE - Ephesians 2:11-22

Therefore, remember that at one time you, Gentiles in the flesh, called the uncircumcision by those called the circumcision, which is done in the flesh by human hands, were at that time without Christ, alienated from the community of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, without hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the holy ones and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the capstone.

Through him the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord; in him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Luke 2:21

When eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

THE GLORIOUS BIRTH OF OUR LORD

GOSPEL - Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

PARISH LIFE

Safro (Morning Prayer)

Monday—Friday – 7:30am

Eucharistic Adoration

Friday —9:30am – 10:30am

Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 9:30am – 10:15am
and by appointment

Mystery of Crowning

Contact the pastor 6 months
in advance

Baptism and Chrismation

Make arrangements as soon
after birth as possible

Parish Calendar. Please see stanthonymaronitechurch.org for the parish calendar.

Liturgical Hours. Monday through Saturday 9:00am daily Divine Liturgy in the chapel.

Sunday 8:30am and 11am Divine Liturgies. Summer Hours: Sat 5:30 pm, Sun 10 am

First Saturday of the Month. Marian devotions at 9:30am.

St. Sharbel Devotions. Third Sunday of the month at 11:00am Divine Liturgy

POINTS OF INTEREST

End-of-Year Appeal. As we approach the holiday season, I wanted to follow up on the update I previously shared about the life of our parish and my earlier request for contributions to help close our budget gap. Your past generosity has enabled us to do so much good for our parish family, and we are deeply grateful. If you haven't yet had the opportunity, please consider making a contribution to support our continued efforts. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to our parish community.

Feast of the Circumcision (Holy Day of Obligation). Divine Liturgies will be on Wednesday, 31 December at 6:30 pm and Thursday, 1 January at 10 am.

Feast of the Epiphany (Holy Day of Obligation). Divine Liturgies will be on Tuesday, 6 January at 9 am and 6:30 pm.

Maronite Women's Fellowship. Join us on Sunday, January 11, at noon for our monthly meeting and start the new year with chair exercises led by Sandra Joseph Brown.

Pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey with Chorbishop John D. Faris, October 14–25, 2026. Visit Istanbul, the grand Hagia Sophia, Cappadocia, Konya, Pisidian Antioch, Colossae, Laodicia, Ephesus, and all Seven Churches of Revelation. With comfortable 4–5 star hotels, daily breakfast and dinner, expert guides, and fellowship with other pilgrims, this journey from Dulles Airport (\$5,897 per person, double occupancy) promises to be a truly life-changing experience of faith, history, and spiritual renewal. Sign up on Flocknotes. See flier below.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Sunday, 4 January at 9:30 am. MCF for All Students

Tuesday, 13 January at 7 pm. Pastoral Council Meeting

Sunday, 11 January at 9:30 am. MCF Preschool – Eighth Grades

Sunday, 11 January at 12 noon. Maronite Women's Fellowship Meeting

Tuesday, 13 January at 7 pm. Pastoral Council Meeting

LITURGY SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Sunday, 28 December Sunday after the Glorious Birth of Our Lord, The Adoration of the Magi, St. Marina in Pisidia

8:30 am

In memory of Barbara Joseph, requested by Sam and Maral Haboush

11:00 am

In memory of Donna Carroll Clarke, requested by Teresa and John Nadder, Jr.

Monday, 29 December Flight into Egypt, Massacre of the Children of Bethlehem

In memory of Anthony Nadder, requested by Teresa and John Nadder

Tuesday, 30 December St. Anyisia

Wednesday, 31 December St. Zoticus

6:30 pm

In memory of Anthony Nadder, requested by Teresa and John Nadder

Thursday, 1 January Circumcision of Jesus, St. Basil and Gregory

10 am

In memory of Barbara Joseph, requested by Sam and Maral Haboush

Friday, 2 January Pope St. Silvester I

In memory of Vic Luna, requested by Teresa and John Nadder

Saturday, 3 January Malachi the Prophet

In memory of Tom Brown, requested by Sam and Maral Haboush

Sunday, 4 January The Finding of Our Lord in the Temple, Pope St. Caius, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:30 am

In memory of Barbara Joseph, requested by Sam and Maral Haboush

11:00 am

In memory of Jamal Lewter, requested by Faith Hendricks

USHERS SCHEDULE

SEE PAGE 4 FOR CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
28 Dec	Danny Shibley, Sr., Anthony Shibley, Dennis Shibley, Joseph Shibley, Jr., Stephen Shibley, Jr.	Peter George, Duane Peppel, Daniel Dailey, Freddy Fakher
4 Jan	Tom Dailey, Ed Yesbeck, Jr., John Zeheb, Harry Mclvor	Alex Fabiato, Justin Shulleeta, Anthony Shulleeta, Clarke Sawyer

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
28 Dec	Patrick Savage, Grayson Funk, Christian Funk	Sami Sakr, Luke Salloum, Vincent Carr, Sonny Dailey
4 Jan	Asher and Braxton Mclvor, Thomas Shaia, Nolan Roberts	Eli Stephan, Ghady Karam, Matthew Habboush

TRANSFER OF GIFTS

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
28 Dec	Rosie Boykin, Lili Boykin, Ivy Boykin	Alyssa Maust, Alexa Haddad, Anna Haddad
4 Jan	Virginia Hendrix, Stella Mclvor, Amina Howard, Hailey Shibley	Jenna Chaoul, Romi Rustom, Kylie Stephan, Jennifer Dib

LECTORS SCHEDULE

Dates	8:30 Divine Liturgy	11:00 Divine Liturgy
28 Dec	Chip Shaia	Denise Maurer
4 Jan	Sandra Brown	Denise Maurer

STEWARDSHIP

21 December

Collections: \$2918

Contributions: \$590

End of Year Contributions: \$1700

Santa breakfast: \$1452

Cookbook sales: \$1465

COLLECTION COUNTERS

Dec: David Walton & Paul Shibley

Jan: Joe George & Anthony Shibley

Feb: George Yesbeck

Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church

CHRISTMAS 2025 SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS NOVENA

Monday, 15 December – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 16 December – 6:30 pm

Wednesday, 17 December – 6:30 pm

Thursday, 18 December – 6:30 pm

Friday, 19 December – 6:30 pm

Saturday, 20 December – 6:30 pm

Sunday, 21 December – 12:00 noon

Monday, 22 December – 6:30 pm

Tuesday, 23 December – 6:30 pm

Confessions available during the Novena.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY, NATIVITY PLAY, AND SANTA BREAKFAST

Sunday, 21 December – 8:30 am

GENEALOGY SUNDAY

Sunday, 21 December – 8:30 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, 21 December – 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Wednesday, 24 December – 4:00 pm Christmas Carols

Wednesday, 24 December – 4:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Thursday, 25 December – 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (English / Arabic)

FINDING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday, 28 December – 8:30 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, 28 December – 11:00 am Divine Liturgy

FEAST OF THE CIRCUMCISION (NEW YEAR)

Wednesday, 31 December – 6:30 pm Divine Liturgy

Thursday, 1 January – 10:00 am Divine Liturgy



Christmas Flowers

*In Memory of Jorge Zacur and Badih Aboutanos
For the good health of the Zacur and Aboutanos Families
Requested by Sharline and Michel Aboutanos*

*In memory of Tom Anthony
Requested by Rebecca Anthony*

*In memory of Louis and Roslyn Simon and Karina Simon Slaughter
In memory of Deabie Bannister and Barbara Simon Joseph
Requested by Linda and Carlisle Bannister*

*In memory of Stuart, Joyce, Anthony, Christopher and Vickie Beasley
Requested by The Beasley Family*

*In memory of our mother, Beverley Lewis Bouzek, grandparents,
Thomas John and Mary Sanyour Lewis
Requested by Jeanna Bouzek*

*In memory of Charles Gary Camp
Requested by Lisa Camp and Family*

*In memory of A. Emerson Willby II
Requested by His Family*

*In loving memory of Eleanor Washburn
Requested by Tom and Jamie Dailey, Roberts, and Dailey-Petry Families*

*In memory of Lowell Petry and deceased members of the Petry/Webb families
Requested by Alex and Carmen Dailey-Petry*

*In memory of Elham Moussa Eljor
Requested by Noha Eljor*

*In memory of our beloved Grandmother, Georgette Shadoyan
Requested by The Ghoussoub Family*

*In memory of Eddie Yesbeck
Requested by Nancy and Ed Yesbeck*

*In memory of John and Alice Duplig
Requested by Eve Shelton*





Christmas Flowers

In memory of Jackie Shibley and Family, and Joseph and Mary George and Family
Requested by Joe and Cathy George

In memory of the Haboush, Berberian and Chaoul deceased family members
Requested by Sam and Maral Haboush

In memory of Charbel Habchi
Requested by Joseph and Sally Haboush

*In memory of Harvey Hairfield, Ella and Earl Carroll, Roger Jones,
Pam Hall, Paul and Gwen Thomas, Hampton Hairfield, Jr.*
Requested by Betty Hairfield

In memory of Rita and John Koenig, and Bob Hendricks
Requested by Faith Hendricks

In memory of Susan Fodill Wright, Jamal Lewter, Ed Davis and Ken Fodill, Sr.
Requested by Jeniffer and Steve Fodill

In memory of Violet Herro, Raymond Herro, Dale Welch
Requested by Diane Herro

In memory of Faiz and Sue Shaheen
Requested by Their Children

In loving memory of Victor Shaheen
Requested by His Family

In memory of Emile Khattar
Requested by Nicolas Khattar

*In memory of Susan Fodill Wright, Subdeacon Kenneth Joseph Fodill, Sr,
and Jamal Lee Lewter*
Requested by Janna Lewter

In memory of the living and deceased members of the Beasley Family
Requested by Jamie Maust

In memory of Nicholas McDaniel, Dylan Patterson, Beverly & Jeffrey McDaniel
Requested by Leigh and Gwen McDaniel





Christmas Flowers

In memory of Joyce Mazloom

Requested by Jean Paulo and Samantha Mulles

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Mary and Joseph Nadder, Sr.,

Mr. and Mrs. Thelma and Joseph Shulleeta Sr.

Requested by Gloria and Joe Nadder

*In memory of the deceased members of the Nadder, Shibley, Soffee, Sanyour
and Mazloom Families*

Requested by John and Teresa Nadder, Jr

In loving memory of the Oley and Haboush deceased members

Requested by George and Siham Oley

In memory of our grandparents

Requested by Chris and Melissa Roberts

In memory of Victor Shaheen, Sr. Janice Shaheen

Requested by Janice Shaheen

In memory of William Gerraughty, Margaret and Harry Shaia, and Christopher Shaia

Requested by Mary and Anthony Shaia

*In memory of Daisy & Louis DeQuatro, Fred & Ethel Shibley, Linda & Milad Sebaali,
Father Anthony Gemayel*

Requested by Theresa and Danny Shibley

In memory of Tom, Sue, and Vince Shulleeta

Requested by Andy and Kathy Shulleeta

In memory of Louis and Roslyn Simon

Requested by Lourie and Ken Sledd

In memory of George and Elizabeth Soffee

Requested by Bobby and Libby Soffee

In memory of Joe and Shulleeta Sr., Connie Yesbeck, Nicholas McDaniel, and Dylan Patterson

In memory of beloved deceased members of our family

Sunday	Jan. 4	MCF Schedule for Winter/Spring 2025 All Students	9:30 a.m
Sunday	Jan. 11	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Jan. 18	St. Anthony Feast Day Celebration PreS – 6th 7th-12th grades—MYO	9:30 am 9:30 - 11 am
Sunday	Jan. 25	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Feb. 1	All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Feb. 8	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Feb. 15	PreS – 6th 7th-12th grades—MYO	9:30 am 9:30 - 11 am
Sunday	Feb. 22	PreS – 8th Parent First Communion Class	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 1	All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 8	PreS – 8th Parent First Communion Class	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 15	All Students	9:30 am
Saturday	Mar. 21	MYO Retreat at St. Elias	
Sunday	Mar. 22	PreS – 8th	9:30 am
Sunday	Mar. 29 Apr. 5	Palm Sunday Easter Sunday	No classes
Sunday	Apr.12	All Students	9:30 am
Sunday	Apr. 19	PreS – 6th 7th-12th grades—MYO	9:30 am 9:30 - 11 am
Tuesday	Apr. 21	First Communion Practice	6:30 pm
Sunday	Apr. 26	First Communion Families arrive by 10:20	11:00 am



Proposal – Pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey with Chorbishop John D. Faris
October 14-25, 2026

October 23, 2025

Chorbishop John D. Faris
4611 Sadler Road
Saint Anthony Maronite Church
Glen Allen, VA 23060
(E) faris.jd@gmail.com

Pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey with Chorbishop John D. Faris

October 14-25, 2026

From Dulles Airport (IAD) and all US major gateways as per <https://www.206tours.com/airports/>

Selling price based on a minimum of 20 paying passengers:

\$ 5,897.00 per person in double

\$ 1,150.00 private room supplement

Incentives/Free trips based on a minimum of 20 paying:

1 free trip per 20 paying + 10% commission (\$590.00) on each fully paid passenger

Inclusions:

† Round-trip airfare from Dulles Airport (IAD) and other airports per www.206tours.com/airports

† Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges

† Prepaid seat assignments

† Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges

† 10 nights accommodation as follows (or similar):

3 nights: October 15-18: Movenpick Hotel Istanbul Bosphorus, Istanbul

1 night: October 18-19: Crowne Plaza Hotel, Nevsehir

1 night: October 19-20: Hilton Garden Inn, Konya

2 nights: October 20-22: Spa Hotel Colossae Thermal, Pamukkale

3 nights: October 22-25: Movenpick Hotel, Izmir

† Breakfast and Dinner daily

† Wine and mineral water with dinners

† Free Wifi and water on bus

† Transfers as per itinerary

† Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach

† Whisper headsets where needed

† Assistance of a local guide throughout

† Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary

† Mass daily & Spiritual activities

† Luggage handling (1 piece per person)

† Flight bag & PDF digital confirmation of all travel documents

Not Included: Lunches and beverages not mentioned, Tips to your guide & driver.

Available at optional: Travel Insurance (<http://www.206tours.com/insurance>), Cancel for Any reason waiver @ \$399

<https://www.206tours.com/cancelforanyreason/>



Proposal – Pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey with Chorbishop John D. Faris October 14-25, 2026

Sample Day by Day Itinerary:

Day 1 | Wednesday, October 14: Depart USA

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight. Meals will be served on board. Be sure to take some time to meditate about the life-changing journey upon which you are embarking.

Day 2 | Thursday, October 15: Istanbul

Arrive at Istanbul Airport, claim your baggage and exit the customs area into the arrivals hall, where you will meet your tour guide and/or driver. You will be transferred to your hotel in Istanbul. There will be a welcome briefing followed by dinner and a restful overnight.

Day 3 | Friday, October 16: Istanbul

Following breakfast, we will begin our full day guided tour exploring the ancient city, including the magnificent Topkapi Palace (the main residence of the Ottoman Sultans) and the Byzantine Hippodrome, the scene of chariot races. We will visit St. Sophia Basilica, the historic seat of the Byzantine Church. Built in 360 A.D., this church is now a museum, whose mosaics, stained glass windows, and decorated domes have been crafted to create breathtaking beauty. Enjoy a short walk through the gardens and proceed to the Blue Mosque of Sultan Ahmet the First, built in 1616, famous for its unparalleled ceramic tile work. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4 | Saturday, October 17: Istanbul

Following breakfast, we will visit the Galata Tower and Bridge. Many Catholic churches are located in the Galata District. We will visit the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua, the most prestigious Catholic church in Istanbul. It was originally built on this site in 1725 but was demolished in the early 20th century to make way for a tramway. The church was rebuilt by the architect, Giulio Mongeri, and completed in 1912. After Mass, you will have time for lunch and then visit the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes. This is an historic parish of the Georgian Greek Catholic Church in the Istanbul district of Bomonti. We will also stop at SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church, important for historical reasons. The church owns an icon of the Virgin of the Hodegetria type, which originally came from a Dominican church in Caffar, Crimea. We will end our day with a visit to the Grand Covered Bazaar, a maze of streets and shops featuring the aroma of the stalls and the sounds of old Turkey. Dinner and overnight in Istanbul.

Day 5 | Sunday, October 18: Istanbul - Cappadocia

This morning we will take a short flight to Kayseri and visit the “moon-like” topography and unique landscape of Cappadocia. We will visit the underground city of Kaymakli, where thousands of early Christians lived concealed from persecutors in eight-story complexes of subterranean dwellings. We will enjoy picturesque views of this ancient and historic land as we make our way to our hotel. We will enjoy dinner and a restful overnight in Nevsehir.

Day 6 | Monday, October 19: Cappadocia - Konya

Early in the morning you may experience an optional hot-air balloon ride. Cappadocia is one of Turkey's most fanciful and recognizable landscapes. During the balloon ride, take in a unique panorama with fairy-tale chimneys in the light of dawn. Following breakfast we will visit the famous Goreme “open-air museum.” Goreme features chapels carved by early Christians and decorated with frescoes dating from the sixth and tenth centuries. After this unforgettable experience, you will continue on a short drive to Uchisar Castle, the most panoramic point in Cappadocia. This afternoon we will drive to Konya. Paul and Barnabas visited the city on Paul's first missionary journey (Acts 13:51-14:7). Here they preached in the synagogue and then in the city. Paul revisited the city on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:2) and probably his third journey as well. In the center of the modern city of Konya, directly on the hill on which the ancient city of Iconium stood, is the Church of St. Paul, built in 1910 by the Sultan for the numerous Catholic workers on the Anatolian Railway. Dinner and overnight in Konya.



Proposal – Pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey with Chorbishop John D. Faris October 14-25, 2026

Day 7 | Tuesday, October 20: Konya – Pisidian Antioch - Pamukkale

After breakfast we drive to Pisidian Antioch. The history of Pisidian Antioch goes back to some time between 310-280 BCE. The first Biblical reference to this city is Paul's mention of it in Acts 13:14-16. In this city's synagogue, he preached his first recorded sermon during his first missionary journey. We continue to Pamukkale, the white cotton castle formed by lime cascades. Enjoy a leisurely bath in the warm mineral waters of your hotel's thermal pools before dinner and a restful night's sleep.

Day 8 | Wednesday, October 21: Pamukkale – Hierapoli -Laodicea – Collosae - Pamukkale

Today we will enjoy a full day excursion and visit the ancient city of Hierapolis, meaning "sacred city," Philip the Evangelist's home. Tour the extensive necropolis, churches, and baths. We continue with a scenic drive to Laodicea, located in the Lycus River Valley of Western Asia Minor, a primary trade route between the cultures of the West and the East. This was described as a "lukewarm" church with a faith that was neither hot nor cold (Rev. 3:14-22). Continue to nearby Colossae, which is well known throughout Christian circles as the receiver of the letter of Paul's Letter to the Colossians. The town has fallen into obscurity and nothing remains. Return to Pamukkale for dinner and overnight.

Day 9 | Thursday, October 22: Pamukkale – Ephesus - Izmir

After breakfast at the hotel, we will depart for Ephesus, which was the most influential capital city of Asia Minor and the Aegean Sea. "Ephesus receives praise for its perseverance" (Rev. 2:1-7). You will explore some of the best-preserved theaters, fountains, and buildings in the world. We then visit the House of the Virgin Mary, which was miraculously discovered hidden on a wooded hilltop. This is a pilgrimage site which has been accepted by the Vatican. Finally, visit the Basilica of St. John, which stands over the believed burial site of St. John, who is identified as the apostle, evangelist (author of the fourth gospel), and prophet (author of the Book of Revelation). Continue to Izmir, where our day ends with dinner and overnight.

Day 10 | Friday, October 23: Izmir – Philadelphia – Sardis – Thyatira - Izmir

Our day starts with a visit to the site of Philadelphia, one of the Seven Churches of Revelation (Rev. 3:7-13). Christ told those who overcame that He would write upon them "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is the New Jerusalem" (Rev. 3:12). Continue on to Sardis, another of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Jesus told Sardis, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name, that thou livest and art dead" (Rev. 3:1-6). The church of Sardis was described as dead and it was called to wake up. Sardis is located on the banks of the Pactolus River in Western Asia Minor. We continue to Thyatira, known for its textiles and dyeing trade. It is now known as the Turkish city of Akhisar. It is "praised for its increasing faith and service" (Rev. 2:18-29). Return to Izmir for dinner and overnight.

Day 11 | Saturday, October 24: Izmir – Smyrna – Pergamum - Izmir

We wake up in the modern Turkish city of Izmir. It was called "Smyrna" in ancient times, and it was in a powerful trading position on the Aegean Sea, known for its harbors, commerce, and marketplace. Visit the archeological remains of the Agora, an ancient Roman marketplace, located in the heart of the city. It was originally built in the fourth century BCE and later expanded by the Romans. The site features impressive ruins, including colonnaded streets, a large courtyard, and the remains of various public buildings. The Agora served as a central hub for commerce, politics, and social activities in ancient times. Today it stands as a significant historical site and a popular attraction for visitors interested in exploring Izmir's rich history and ancient architecture. Continue to Pergamum, located on the plains and foothills along the Caicus River in western Turkey. The city is "praised for its martyrdom and perseverance but those who hold false teachings are criticized" (Rev. 2:12-17). Here you will see the Acropolis, famous for Greek and Roman temples, as well as the unique Greek theater built into the steep hillside. You will also visit the Asclepion, an ancient medical center for the Greeks. Return to Izmir for dinner and overnight.



Proposal – Pilgrimage to Biblical Turkey with Chorbishop John D. Faris
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Day 12 | Sunday, October 25: Izmir - USA

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight home to the USA, filled with memories of a spiritually enriching journey.

**206 Tours Disclaimer:*

Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits.

Group Utilization Schedule:

Unless otherwise agreed, 206 Tours will receive registrations online, handle billing and send out confirmations

150 days prior – Preliminary name list, rooming list and deposits are reviewed

120 days prior – 50% of allotment should be sold. Prices are subject to change afterward

90 days prior – Final Payment is Due

Promotional Material / Terms of Bookings:

- Website: We will provide you with a custom website for promotion, safe and easy registration.
- Website will be made public, unless you advise us otherwise
- We prefer that all pilgrims sign-up online and that all communications are done digitally (via email)
- PDF copy of 1-page Flyer will be available on the website. If needed, limited number of flyers will be provided but we encourage online registrations v. mailing credit card information.
- Terms and Conditions as per www.206tours.com/terms

CHURCH MINISTRIES

ACOLYTES

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804-426-0536

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Mary Siefke
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