



St. Mary's 2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage

May 2019

Dear Friends,

Thank you for indicating an interest in participating in the St. Mary's Pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the Land of Jesus during May 21 - June 1, 2020. Contact information for the pilgrims who went to Jerusalem in Lent of 2019 and 2018 is attached. Please speak with at least one of them as you discern your participation in this pilgrimage to get a better idea of what is involved.

Attached you will find answers to many of your questions. Cameron will again be organizing our trip and is happy to assist in any way she can. We are so looking forward to this trip and barring a State Department ban on travel to this area we will go forward as planned.

I want to underscore and differentiate, as I understand it, between a tour and a pilgrimage. Tours are fine things but we are not going to this deeply troubled part of the world as tourists.

We are going as a community of faith to communities of faith—Episcopal, Orthodox, Catholic, Monastic. Our time together will be marked by worship, reflection and care for one another. Each person on the pilgrimage will have the opportunity to lead us in prayer as we gather on the bus at the start of the day, to help lead our worship, and to participate with other Christians when we gather to worship on the Sundays we are there.

We hope to have three evening presentations while at St. George's about the continuing impasse between Israelis and Palestinians. Our meals will be communal at the Guest House of St. Georges Cathedral on the grounds of the St. George's College.

We will gather at St. Mary's prior to departing to prepare for our trip. Everyone is expected to attend to get to know one another and to have some preliminary discussion. Karen Armstrong's book Jerusalem is highly recommended reading between now and then. It is not for the faint of heart, however. She is very thorough.

This trip truly is a time set apart ripe for the Holy Spirit to move among us. Let us prepare ourselves in heart, body, and mind that God would use this experience to sharpen us as tools of his reconciling love made known perfectly in Christ Jesus Our Lord.

Faithfully,

Fr. Andrew Merrow+
Rector

St. Mary's 2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage Overview

Dates

- Depart USA on Thurs, May 21, 2020; Arrive in Tel Aviv on Friday, May 22, 2020
- Depart Tel Aviv on Mon., June 1, 2020 after 10:00 pm

Leaders

- **Iyad Qumri** is a Palestinian Anglican Christian who was born and raised in Jerusalem. He is a licensed guide who has been leading tours of Israel and Palestine since 1997 and is thoroughly familiar with Biblical pilgrimage sites. Iyad is fluent in English, Arabic and Hebrew. Iyad and his wife Simone have two sons who both graduated from colleges in the United States.
- **The Rev. Andrew Merrow**, in his 35th year as Rector of St. Mary's Arlington, has served the church in a wide variety of service including the Board of Trustees of Virginia Theological Seminary where he also taught Liturgics for 25 years.

Pilgrimage Experiences

- Explore the Old City of Jerusalem, its markets and its shrines including the Dome of the Rock, Western Wall, and the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher).
- Visit towns where Jesus lived or visited: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Capernaum, Jericho, Caesarea Philippi, Mount of Beatitudes, Nablus, and Emmaus.
- Walk the Palm Sunday Procession.
- Feel the Life of the Judean Desert, the Dead Sea, and the Jordan River.
- Worship with Christians in ancient and modern churches.
- Learn more about the political realities of this complex landscape from knowledgeable Israeli, Christian and Arab speakers.

Cost

The land-cost of the pilgrimage is \$3,250 per person (double occupancy) or \$3,810 (single occupancy). The price covers all accommodations, 3 meals per day, transportation in a comfortable touring bus for the entire stay, entrance fees, speaker fees, and guide fees.

Personal expenses such as airfare, transportation to and from Ben Gurion Airport, phone calls, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, laundry, and medical/travel insurance are the responsibility of each pilgrim.

Payments

A **non-refundable** deposit of \$500 (per person) is due with your completed Registration Form. Your deposit guarantees your place on the pilgrimage.

A final payment of \$2,750 per person for double occupancy and \$3,310 for single occupancy is due on **Sunday, March 15, 2020** (60 days prior to our departure date).

Checks should be made payable to St. Mary's with "2020 Pilgrimage" in the Memo Line. Please mail checks to Cameron Merrow; 5814 26th St. N; Arlington, VA 22207.

St. Mary's 2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage Overview

Air Travel

Pilgrims are responsible for making their own airline reservations.

Plan to arrive at Ben Gurion Airport Tel Aviv (TLV) on Friday, May 22, 2020. Pilgrims arriving on May 22, 2020 between 11 AM - 4 PM will be met and accompanied to the Guest House. Pilgrims who arrive at other times, please see Airport Transportation Options below.

Our program ends in Jerusalem on Monday, June 1, 2020 with dinner. Please allow a minimum of 1- hour travel time from Jerusalem to Ben Gurion airport and plan to be at the airport at least 3 hours before your scheduled departure. You, therefore, will need at least 4 hours to comfortably travel to Ben Gurion Airport and clear Security Checkpoints. It is recommended that you plan your flight departure for no earlier than 10:00 PM.

It is very common for international flights to depart TLV in the middle of the night or early morning. Most pilgrims will be on flights leaving at this time.

Airport Transportation Options

Option #1: Upon request to Cameron Merrow, a driver will meet you as you exit luggage and customs. He will be holding a sign with your name and take you to the Guest House. The cost is \$100 for up to three people. Payment for this must be sent to Cameron before **departure**. When you arrive at the Guest House, your fare will have already been paid and you may tip the driver \$8-10 in cash.

Option #2: Use the shared taxi called Sherut (sher-ROOT) located at the curb outside the International Arrivals hall. Look for their yellow vans. The cost is around \$20 per person. It holds up to 8 passengers and each one is dropped off at their address of choice. U.S. dollars are accepted.

Both options are completely safe. The Sherut also provides a way to see some of the many neighborhoods of Jerusalem.

Insurance

Pilgrims may want to consider international medical insurance. Pilgrims are also encouraged to have travel insurance to cover the cost of flight cancellations and trip cancellations for personal reasons.

Physical Activity

We will be walking regularly up and down hills, often on cobblestones, and bumpy or non-level surfaces. We will also be standing for periods of up-to-60 minutes. Please contact Cameron Merrow at cdmerrow@gmail.com with questions on physical activity.

Pilgrimage Accommodations and Meals

We will be staying in traditional, clean, modest, and comfortable places which are appropriate for a pilgrimage. These accommodations reflect the local culture and also the traditions of welcoming Holy Land pilgrims.

St. Mary's 2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage Overview

In Jerusalem our home is the St. George's Pilgrim Guest House, located on the "close" (enclosed campus) of St. George's Cathedral, which includes the cathedral church, the diocesan offices, bishop's residence, St. George's School, and St. George's College. The Guest House is part of the hospitality ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Located just a ten-minute walk to the Old City of Jerusalem, St. George's is a welcome oasis with a beautiful garden, comfortable rooms, excellent food, and a helpful and friendly staff. Each room has its own bathroom, TV, heat and a/c. Breakfasts offer both traditional local foods and Western fare, served buffet style. Dinners are varied each evening.

In Galilee our home is in the heart of Nazareth at the Sisters of Nazareth Guesthouse. The rooms are a bit smaller than St. George's, but have been fully updated, have private bathrooms, climate control, and are noted for their very clean upkeep. There is a lovely courtyard and a rooftop terrace for pilgrims to enjoy. The sisters offer a complimentary aperitif before dinner, which is served family-style. Breakfasts are simple, usually consisting of delicious bread, jams, cheese, fruit, hardboiled eggs, juices, and coffee.

All meals are included throughout the pilgrimage. Breakfasts and dinners will be served at St. George's or at the Sisters of Nazareth. Lunches are in local restaurants along the way. *If you have dietary restrictions, please indicate that on your Registration form.*

Water

Tap water at the Guest House and the Sisters of Nazareth is potable. Due to the dryness of the climate, everyone must have a water bottle with them at all times. Bottled water will always be available on the bus for \$1.00 each.

Electrical and Electronics

The electrical current in Israel is 220AC. Electrical plugs are shaped differently in Israel. Most U.S. phone and camera chargers only need a simple plug adaptor (see internet or local travel store). If you bring a hair dryer, you will need a transformer and an adapter plug. However, inexpensive dual voltage hair dryers are available in the U.S. and in travel stores. Dual voltage items must be switched over to our 220AC and can then be used with only an adapter plug.

Money

The local currency is the Israeli Shekel, available at the airport or from the nearby ATM's in both Jerusalem and Nazareth. Some merchants will accept credit cards and U.S. dollars are often accepted. It is wise to bring at least 50 U.S. \$1 bills for drinks and small purchases.

Internet

There is free wireless Internet throughout St. George's Guest House, along with two public computers with printers. There is wireless Internet at the Sisters of Nazareth in the public areas.

St. Mary's 2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage Overview

What to Wear

Everyone will need a hat (preferably with a chin cord), sunglasses, and sturdy walking shoes with non-skid soles to accommodate cobblestones. You are encouraged to swim in the Dead Sea (a once-in-a-lifetime experience), so please bring a swimsuit. Also do not forget sunscreen!

Women - To respect the cultural norms of all religions present in the Holy Land, women are asked to wear clothes that cover their knees and elbows. Wear long pants, jeans, capris and skirts; and tops with long sleeves or ¾-length sleeves. When visiting churches, women wear scarves or shawls on their head. Mornings and evenings will be cool and a sweater or jacket will be needed. Please do not bring shorts, tank tops, sleeveless blouses or lace / "see-through" tops.

Men - Wear long pants, jeans or khakis and a mix of long and short-sleeved shirts. Mornings and evenings will be cool and a sweater or jacket will be needed. Please do not wear shorts.

Laundry

Many pilgrims use the excellent and inexpensive same-day laundry service available at St. George's Guest House.

Photography and Cameras

Care should be taken not to photograph any military or police personnel or installations. Visitors should also be discreet about taking photographs in Jewish Orthodox areas and of Jewish Orthodox people. Most sacred sites will indicate whether photography is permitted. Bring extra memory cards and batteries from your home country, as these items are very expensive in Jerusalem.

Extending your Pilgrimage

Pilgrims, who want to extend their time in the Holy Land by adding days prior to the scheduled pilgrimage, please notify Cameron Mellow who will work with the Guest House to see if space is available. The cost for a single room is \$115 per night and for a double room it is \$160 per night. Payment must be sent to Cameron in advance of departure.

St. Mary's Jerusalem Past Pilgrims

The following St. Mary's Parishioners journeyed to Jerusalem in 2018 or 2019. Contact one of these individuals to help you in your discernment.

2019 Pilgrims

Cameron Merrow	cdmerrow@gmail.com
Andrew Merrow	fr.andrew.merrow@stmarysarlington.org
Dana Martin	danavmartin@msn.com
Dianne Simmons	simmonsdianne714@gmail.com
Donice Gilliland	DoniceG@aol.com
Kathleen Dunbar	kathpdunbar@gmail.com
Lauri Willner	lauriwillner@comcast.net
Leyda Fajardo	fajardoleyda@gmail.com
Melissa Wiley	MelissaLWiley@gmail.com
Mike Gilliland	mike.gilliland@hoganlovells.com
Rod Simmons	Rod.Simmons@alexandriava.gov
Rosanna Esposito	rosanna1222@gmail.com
Susan Cowart	sfcowart@aol.com
Tracy Millar	tracyhittmillar@gmail.com

2018 Pilgrims

Brien Benson	bbenson@gmu.edu
Chris Jennings	ccj@jenningsps.com
Deb Gandy	debbgand@aol.com
Diane Hellens	dianehellens7@gmail.com
Diane Wright	fordianewright@gmail.com
Ed Wright	foredwright@gmail.com
Gordon Thomas	gordonmthomas1951@gmail.com
Jan Montgomery	MontgomeryJ@gao.gov
Jane Robinson	janeNLeo@msn.com
Janettarose Greene	Janettarose.Greene@dot.gov
Leslie Lenny	llenny@comcast.net
Mariane Herndon	marianer@verizon.net
Mark and Sue Lagon	lagon@georgetown.edu
Neel Teague	nteague@stoutandteague.com
Peggy Parker	PParker@vts.edu
Rebecca Roper	Rebecca_Roper@msn.com
Sarah Gregg	sarahmgregg2385@gmail.com

Complete Contact Information: Cameron Merrow:
5814 26th St. N. Arlington, VA 22207
cdmerrow@gmail.com
703-328-0776 (Cell)



2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage Registration
Pilgrimage Schedule: Thurs, May 21–Mon, June 1, 2020

Name _____
As it appears on your passport

Email _____

Nickname _____
If you go by a name other than the one on your passport

Address _____

Phone _____

Mobile _____
Will you have your mobile on the trip? yes no

EMERGENCY CONTACT & NOTES

Emergency Contact Name & Cell Number _____

Please note any food sensitivities, allergies or medical concerns.

ROOM INFORMATION

Room Request: Double (\$3,250 per person) Single (\$3,810 per person)

Sharing a room with _____

If you don't have a roommate and would be willing to share a room, we will attempt to match you with another pilgrim.

DEPOSIT

Make checks payable to: St. Mary's with "2020 Pilgrimage" in the Memo Line
Please mail your completed Registration with the **\$500 non-refundable deposit** to:
Cameron Merrow
5814 26 St. N.
Arlington, VA 22207

AGREEMENTS

By signing below, I confirm that I understand the following:

- I must have a valid passport to travel to Israel and my passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond the duration of my stay (through June 2020).
- Moderate walking, including carrying my luggage for short distances, is part of this pilgrimage.
- International Medical insurance is encouraged.
- Travel insurance is encouraged.
- My registration includes a non-refundable \$500 deposit.
- Should I cancel my participation, I must notify Cameron Merrow in writing and I understand that refunds will be determined by the schedule described in the itinerary.

Signature _____ Date _____

St. Mary's 2020 Jerusalem Pilgrimage Recommended Reading

The following books are recommended for those interested to attend the pilgrimage.

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Jerusalem. One City, Three Faiths

by Karen Armstrong

A Life Worth Living: The Story of a Palestinian Catholic

By Bernard Sabella

The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem

by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan

Four Gospels, One Jesus

by Richard Burridge

Who's Promised Land?

by Colin Chapman

Excavating Jesus

by John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed

The Holy Land

by Jerome Murphy O'Connor

The Historical Figure of Jesus

by E.P. Sanders

The Shadow of the Galileans

by Theissen, Gerd

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew—Three Women Search for Understanding

by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner



A Journey to the Holy Land

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH-ARLINGTON, VA
A Journey to The Holy Land

Under the Direction of Rev. Andrew Merrow
Local Guide Canon Iyad Qumri
12-Days: May 21 - June 1, 2020

Updated on February 24, 2019

May 22-26	Saint George's Guest House
May 26-29	Sisters of Nazareth
May 29-June 1	Saint George's Guest House

THURSDAY, MAY 21, DAY 1: DEPART U.S.A

On our way to the Holy Land

FRIDAY, MAY 22, DAY 2: ARRIVE BEN GURION AIRPORT / TRANSFER TO JERUSALEM

Arrival to Tel Aviv you will be met by your guide, transfer to our accommodation in Jerusalem. Introductions, Walk to Damascus Gate to get the feel for the distance and our surrounding.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

Tel: 972-2-6283302

SATURDAY, MAY, 23, DAY 3: HORIZONS OF JERUSALEM / HERODIUM

In the morning we will drive to Mt. Scopus where we will look at the different dramatic settings of the Scripture. Then we will look at the many different Jerusalem, Lunch, visit Herodium some 12 km. south of Jerusalem, on a hill shaped like a truncated cone that

rises 758 m. above sea level, stood Herodium, the palace-fortress built by King Herod. It had a breathtaking view, overlooking the Judean Desert and the mountains of Moab to the east, and the Judean Hills to the west.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

Guest Speaker: Lecture on Islam

SUNDAY, MAY 24, DAY 4:

WESTERN WALL / DOME OF THE ROCK / RAMALLAH / ISRAEL MUSEUM

We depart for the Western Wall near Elharam Esh Sharif (The Dome of The Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque), St. Anne's Church and the pools of Bethesda Sunday Eucharist at Saint Andrew's Church in Ramallah, the liturgy will be celebrated in English and Arabic, the language of our Arabic Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and the whole Middle East, Lunch. Israel Museum and the Shrine of the Book, where the *Dead Sea Scrolls* are housed. We will also visit a scale model of the Old City of Jerusalem, describing the city as it would have been during Jesus' time

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

MONDAY, MAY 25, DAY 5: SHEPHERD'S FIELD / BETHLEHEM

We depart Jerusalem for Bethlehem and the Shepherds' Field, visit a 1st century cave dwelling, (Shepherds' Field), 'And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night', Lunch. Church of the Nativity located in Manger Square. It is the Oldest Church in Christendom, constructed by Constantine in AD 326 and the traditional site of the Nativity.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – A Palestinian Perspective

TUESDAY MAY 26, DAY 6: JERICHO / NAZARETH

Wadi Qelt early morning to watch the sunrise also get the feel for the desert, depart for Jericho to hike up Mt. of Temptation and view Tell Jericho, Lunch, in Jericho before we begin our trip up the Rift Valley to Nazareth. In Nazareth we will visit Mary's Well, the site of the only spring-fed fountain in the city, and most likely the place where Mary would have gone to draw water. We then visit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation where we will have an opportunity to have an introduction to the Icon, we then follow on foot the path to the Latin Church of the Annunciation, the traditional site of the Angel Gabriel's appearance to Mary, telling her she would conceive Jesus, the Emmanuel.

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth.

Tel: 972-4-6554304

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, DAY 7: SEA OF GALILEE / JORDAN RIVER / CAPERNAUM & BEATITUDES

Today we depart for the Sea of Galilee-Lake Kinnereth. Stop at the Jordan River for the renewal of Baptismal vows. We then visit Capernaum where we see the Ancient Synagogue and St. Peter's House. We continue to the Mount of Beatitudes, Lunch is by the Sea of Galilee, followed by a visit to Tabgha (Heptapegon), The Loaves and Fishes Church and the Chapel of St. Peter's Primacy. Boat ride on the Sea of Galilee

Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth.

THURSDAY, MAY 28, DAY 8: SEPPHORIS / CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Sepphoris, where we explore the excavations of the Roman / Byzantine city, the capital of Galilee at the time of Jesus. Lunch, depart for Caesarea Philippi (Banias) and Jesus went on with his disciples, to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?"

Meet with Fr. Nael Abu Rahmoun at Christ Church in Nazareth.

Dinner and overnight at Sisters of Nazareth.

A treat you will not want to miss!!!!

FRIDAY, MAY 29, DAY 9: BURQIN / NABLUS / TAYBEH

Depart for Burqin. Jesus had passed through Burqin on his way to Jerusalem from Nazareth, and as he was passing by the village he heard cries for help from ten lepers who were isolated in quarantine in a cave, Nablus to visit (St. Photini the Greek Orthodox Monastery), St. Photini lived in first century Palestine, she was the Samaritan woman who Christ visited at the well asking her for water, the church built over Jacob's well where will tour the church and drink from the Well, Lunch in Taybeh, visit Taybeh, the only 100% Christian town in the Palestinian Authority, in the fourth century the Emperor Constantine and his mother St. Helen built the church of St. George in the village, the ruins of the Church are still found on a hill in the town. Taybeh is also the home of the only Palestinian brewery in the Middle East, Shopping in Taybeh to support Christian community.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues- An Israeli Perspective

SATURDAY, MAY 30, DAY 10: BETH-PHAGE / DOMINUS FLEVIT / GETHSEMANE

Depart for Beth-phage and Mt. of Olives walk down the Palm Sunday Road ending at the Garden of Gethsemane. Lunch, Church of St. Peter in Gallicantu, this church was built over the palace of the High Priest Caiaphas, where Peter denied Jesus three times

Dinner in Jericho at the Qumri's.

Overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

SUNDAY, MAY 31, DAY 11: WORSHIP AT ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL / CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

Sunday Eucharist at Saint George's Cathedral, the liturgy will be celebrated in English and Arabic, the language of our Arabic Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land and the whole Middle East. Lunch. Walk the Cardo to the Constantine Entrance to the Church of the Resurrection to the Holy Sepulcher

Dinner and overnight at Saint George's Guest House.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, DAY 12: WAY OF THE CROSS / EMMAUS

Early this morning we walk and pray the Way of the Cross, Emmaus Nicopolis. We celebrate the Eucharist at the ruins of the Byzantine Church

Transfer to Ben Gurion Airport for our return flight