Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions

SUNDAY, April 21 – Fourth Sunday of Easter
8:00 A.M. Earl Ferguson
9:30 A.M. John S. Mondello
11:00 A.M. Mary Cunnane
12:30 P.M. Giovanni Chiarelli
Rino Del Carro
Antonio Connetta
Angela Cannavo
Catherine Aprea

MONDAY, April 22-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Veronica Hennessy

TUESDAY, April 23-St. George & St. Adalbert
9:00 A.M. Donald McDermott

WEDNESDAY, April 24–St. Fidelis
9:00A.M. John Finerty

THURSDAY, April 25-Saint Mark
9:00 A.M. Francesco Vivacqua

FRIDAY, April 26-Weekday
9:00 A.M. Samantha Poverelli

SATURDAY, April 27—Weekday
9:00 A.M. Purgatorial Society

5:00P.M. Marie Guerriero

SUNDAY, April 28– Fifth Sunday of Easter
8:00 A.M. For the People of St. Francis
9:30 A.M. Joseph F. Pepe
11:00 A.M. Carmen GGauci
12:30 P.M. Nancy Manganaro
Rino Del Carro
Attilio Coluccio
Pasquale Paccione
Giovanni Chiarelli

Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:8-12
1 John 3:1-2
John 10:11-18

Readings for the Week

MONDAY: Acts 11:1-18
John 10:1-10

TUESDAY: Acts 11:19-26
John 10:22-30

WEDNESDAY Acts 12:24-13:5a
John 12:44-50

THURSDAY: 1 Peter 5:5b-14
Mark 16:15-20

FRIDAY: Acts 13:26-33
John 14:1-6

SATURDAY: Acts 13:44-52
John 14:7-14

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:26-31
1 John 3:18-24
John 15:1-8

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

My Dear Parishioners,

We heard in today's first reading how our Lord Jesus is the font of salvation. It is only through Him that we are truly saved. He made it impossible for believers to bring the news of this salvation to others by sending the Holy Spirit. One of the first ways this was communicated was when Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, was able to affect a cure for one who was crippled. Peter's power was not of his own making; he was given the power to do as Jesus had done in His name here on earth. The Scriptures are filled with examples of how the Lord Jesus cured those who were ill, and manifested God's love to all that He encountered.

Unfortunately, Christ's salvific message sometimes fell on deaf ears. This is why Peter had to explain to those who saw the miracle cure that it was truly Jesus who brought it about. Peter taught them that by crucifying Jesus, they had made Him the stone that was rejected. Yet, now it was becoming more evident that Jesus had become the Cornerstone of humanity's salvation.

The idea of Jesus as a Cornerstone is expanded in our Psalm response. In it we also hear it is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes. There is much truth to this. Throughout the ages we can see how this has borne itself out. Knowing that we have Jesus to rely on is, indeed, a message of hope for each of us. We celebrate that in a special way during this season of Easter. Those who trust in Jesus are the ones who can truly rejoice in His victory over sin and death. This may bring to mind the words of John, that *God so loved the world that He sent His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish (Jn 3:16).* This tells us in a very clear way of God's love and mercy for humanity.

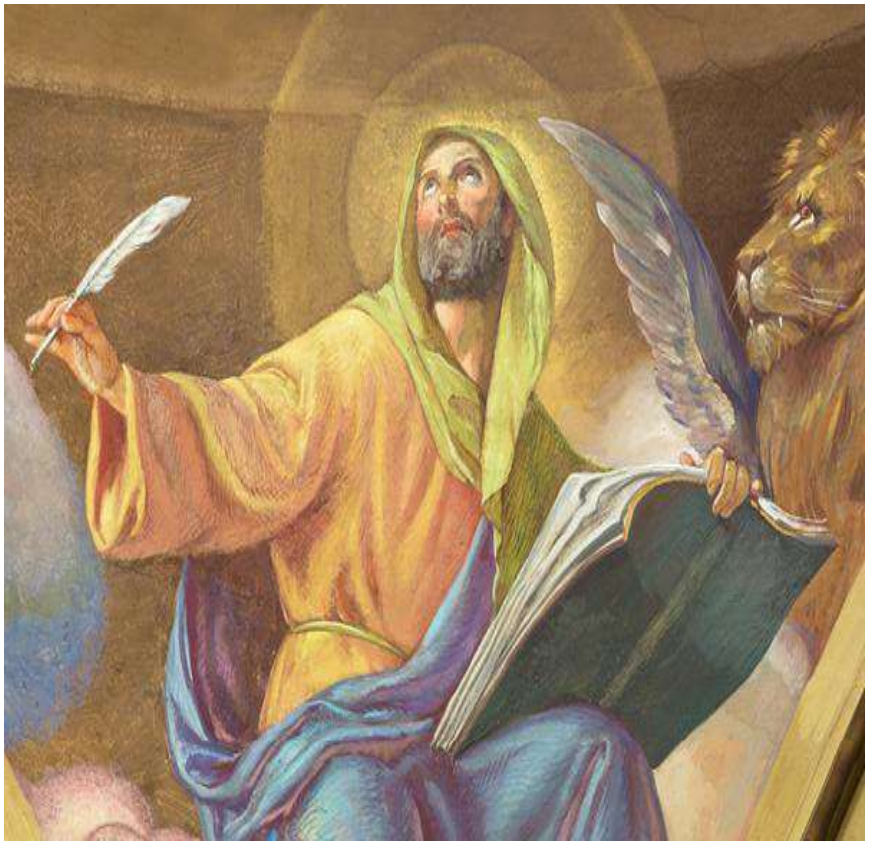
This love has become known and felt by us. It is revealed to us as we listen to today's Gospel. In it we hear that Jesus is the Good Shepherd. It is through His gentle leadership that we are able to fully and happily live our lives. As it states in the second reading, we are children of God. Think about how parents protect and nurture their children. In an even greater way, the Good Shepherd nurtures and protects us. God sent His only Son into the world, so that we may have the hope of eternal life in heaven.

Jesus states in the Gospel that, like the shepherd protecting his sheep, Jesus lays down His life for the flock. But Jesus not only talks about laying down His life, but also about taking it up again. This is a reference to the Resurrection, which we are celebrating during this Easter season. The Good Shepherd does not let us stray too far from Him. We are His flock and He keeps us close to His heart, continually guiding us back to the Father. In the Lord Jesus is the salvation that we seek. It is the Lord in whom we find true refuge. Knowing this helps us experience the Lord in a wonderful way. Blessed be His Name, now and forever!

All Blessings of the Risen Lord,
Msgr. Maresca

Prayer to Saint Mark

O Glorious St. Mark
through the grace
of God, our Father,
you became a great Evange-
list,
preaching the
Good News of Christ.
May you help us to know Him
well so that we may faithfully
live our lives as followers of



Thursday, April 25, 2024
Feast Day of
Saint Mark, Evangelist

Most of what we know about Mark comes directly from the New Testament. He is usually identified with the Mark of Acts 12:12. When Saint Peter escaped from prison, he went to the home of Mark's mother. Paul and Barnabas took him along on the first missionary journey, but for some reason Mark returned alone to Jerusalem. It is evident, from Paul's refusal to let Mark accompany him on the second journey despite Barnabas's insistence, that Mark had displeased Paul. Because Paul later asks Mark to visit him in prison, we may assume the trouble did not last long. The oldest and the shortest of the four *Gospels*, the *Gospel of Mark* emphasizes Jesus's rejection by humanity while being God's triumphant envoy. Probably written for gentile converts in Rome—after the death of Peter and Paul sometime between A.D. 60 and 70—Mark's *Gospel* is the gradual manifestation of a "scandal": a crucified Messiah. Evidently a friend of Mark—calling him "my son"—Peter is only one of this *Gospel*'s sources, others being the Church in Jerusalem (Jewish roots), and the Church at Antioch (largely Gentile). Like another *Gospel* writer Luke, Mark was not one of the 12 apostles. We cannot be certain whether he knew Jesus personally. Some scholars feel that the evangelist is speaking of himself when describing the arrest of Jesus in Gethsemane: "Now a young man followed him wearing nothing but a linen cloth about his body. They seized him, but he left the cloth behind and ran off naked" (Mark 14:51-52). Others hold Mark to be the first bishop of Alexandria, Egypt. Venice, famous for the Piazza San Marco, claims Mark as its patron saint; the large basilica there is believed to contain his remains. A winged lion is Mark's symbol. The lion derives from Mark's description of John the Baptist as a "voice of one crying out in the desert" (Mark 1:3), which artists compared to a roaring lion. The wings come from the application of Ezekiel's vision of four winged creatures to the evangelists. Mark fulfilled in his life what every Christian is called to do: proclaim to all people the Good News that is the source of salvation. In particular, Mark's way was by writing. In summary, Mark's Gospel is a narrative proclamation that **Jesus is the Messiah and Son of God, whose death and resurrection paid the penalty for our sins and achieved victory over Satan, sin, and death**. With this joyful announcement comes the call to all believers for faith and cross-bearing discipleship

Remember in your prayers all those in our parish who are sick, that they may find health and comfort:

Awyn Profit, Jack Orlando, Steven Joyce, Judy Hanley-Brickner, John Wrenn, Augustin Cisneros, James Nunez, Vincent Wytak, John & Carol Ross, Jeffrey Hyans, Marie LoVolpe, Jessica St. Preux, Al Ciani, Alesha Moses, Nancy McCaffrey, Christopher Wojtalik, Theresa Pacheco, William Goss, Luke Pacheco, Vincenza Papa, Jim Schneggenburger, Anthony Criscuolo, Samantha O'Sullivan, Marilyn Miller, Pat Gravino, John Carmody, Rosario Duran, Vivian Papa, Joel Steinmann, Anna Governali, Tim Graham, Antonio Postiglione, Mario Tamburello, Christopher Araimo, Charles Principato, Jim Kreitler, Humberto Cordova, John Schakir, Margaret Culhane, Benedicto Randazzo, Angelo Niakas, Peter Lopez, Catherine Caravana, Alex Humen, Rick Simonsen and Aubrey Madden.

Also remember in your prayers all the deceased of the Parish. Please remember to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood, religious life, diaconate, and married life.

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

"There is no salvation through anyone else"

Pray for Vocations

Consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life.

Contact the Vocation Office at (718) 827-2454 or email:vocations@diobrook.org

Parish Mission Statement

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is a Catholic community that is centered in Jesus, gathers in worship and witnesses the Gospel message. The parish values and welcomes each person's gift of time, talent and treasure. As a faith-filled community, we are committed to minister to the spiritual, educational and material needs of all people.

FOCUS:

Respond to the Lord's sacrificial love with gratitude, trust and love.

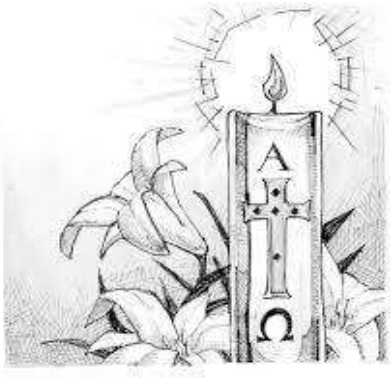
In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that he suffered and died for us because if the depth of God's love for us, because this is what a Good Shepherd does for those in his care. How should we respond to such love? With gratitude, trust and love: by listening to his voice in our lives and being obedient to his commands. This is not always an easy task, but one with which the Lord is happy to assist us.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 9:00AM Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at 8:00AM each morning, Monday through Saturday, giving parishioners an opportunity for private prayer before the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:30AM the rosary will be prayed by parishioners before the Blessed Sacrament. At 8:50AM the Blessed Sacrament will be reposed. Jesus calls us to perseverance in prayer. "Pray without ceasing." "Watch and pray." Eucharistic adoration helps us discover the Real Presence of Christ.

What a wonderful way to begin our day praying before the Blessed Sacrament in silence or praying the Holy Rosary.

Please make every effort to take advantage of this time with the Lord. We are living in challenging times and we all need the Lord to strengthen our faith and give us the courage to live each day.

The Easter Candle Continues to Burn in Loving Memory of:



Rose & Denis Sweeney
Lucia, Ralph & Domenick Borgia
John Purich
Ralph & Rita Maresca
William LeDone
All Souls in Purgatory
Marie & Sylvester Guerriero
Harold Elmendorf
Christina & Pasquale Iorio
Lucia & Raffaele Guerriero
Louise & Frank Esposito
Josephine & Walter Tanalski
Vincent Iorio
Giustina & Antonio DiBenedetto
Concetta & Giuseppe Saraceni
Earl Ferguson
Carmela Messina
Jorge & Mauricio Mesa
Antonina & John Kos
Yolanda & Natale Palazzolo
Lena & Antonino Galioto
Marie Scaglione
Elsa Armenti
Marija Kuljanic
Louis & Theresa Falco
Nick & Millie Mistretta
Frank & Adelina Falzetti
Vincent & Maria Falco
Rowan McKeown
Charles Hickey
Kenneth Byrnes
Rylee Monroe Hendrix
Claire McKenna

VOCATION PRAYER

In this Year of Prayer, the Parish Council has suggested that we as a parish pray the prayer for Vocations found on the back cover of the missalette.
We will begin this on Sunday, April 7th and continue until December. We will pray the prayer every Sunday before the final blessing of Mass. Vocations to the priesthood are needed throughout the country. Here in our own Diocese of Brooklyn, vocations are vital for the continuation of the Eucharist which is central to our lives as Catholics. As you know there are discussions taking place in all the Deaneries about Parish Partnerships. There are many factors to be considered: few vocations to staff parishes, poor attendance, financial difficulties and others.
Let us pray to the Lord that men will respond to the call of the Lord to give their life in service to the

Welcome to Our Church

If you wish to register as a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Church, please stop by the Rectory Office during regular business hours. There you can pick up a census card which can be filled out at that time or returned by mail or in the Sunday Collection Basket. You can even download the census card on line. Just check our website at: ***stfrancisofassisiastoria.org***
You will then begin to receive weekly offering envelopes.

Memorials for the Week of April 21, 2024

ALTAR FLOWERS

In Loving Memory of
John Finerty
Requested by
The Finerty Family

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCRIPTURE STUDY

"Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" Luke 24:32

Dear SFA Friends and Family

The Scripture Study group will be on Easter recess until our next meeting on Thursday, April 25. The scripture reading for that week is Romans 7:1-8:13. Join us as we **Grow in Knowledge and Love of Scripture**.

The Gospel readings and study will be conducted using the Little Rock Scripture Study program. Study booklets will be provided.

"Hence, there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death"(Romans 6:9-10)

If you are interested in joining the study group or would like further information, please contact us through the Rectory at **(718) 728-7801.** Please be sure to leave your name and contact information.

All are Invited … ALL ARE WELCOME!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish Weekly Offering

Thank you for your continued generosity of giving each week. Your weekly offering helps us pay our monthly bills.

Sunday 4/13-14/24: **$5,058.00**
2nd Collection-Missions ***$965.00***

School parents must use church envelopes.

Mass Attendance for the April 6/7, 2024:

5:00PM	106
8:00AM	65
9:30AM	139
11:00AM	132
12:30PM	50

Total in Attendance: 492

Catholic Youth Organization
Children are at the heart of our mission

Saturday Soccer

Intermediate Girls Lost 5-1
Mites 3 won 2-0
Mires 1 vs Mites 2 ~ Mites 1 Won 8-0
Pee Wee/ Bantam Girls lost 3-0
Boys Intermediate Lost 4-2
Boys Squirt Lost 3-1

Sunday Soccer

Boys Pee Wee won 1-0
Boys Squirt Won 1-0
Girls Intermediate Won 3-0

Football

Pee Wee 25-0 Win over Holy Child
Rookie 32-6 Win over SFDS

Annual Catholic Appeal 2024
DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

As you are aware the Annual Catholic Appeal for 2024 is underway. Our goal remained the same from last year $41,679. I am very grateful to all those who supported the appeal last year. Because of your support and generosity we went over goal by about $3,000.

This year we are off to a good start. As of Monday, April 8th we have pledged $24,547 towards our goal. If you have not contributed to the appeal, please prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute to help us reach our goal.

THANK YOU for all the sacrifices you make to support this appeal.

Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn

Money goes back to your local parish

My Car Went To Heaven

DONATE YOUR AUTO
Running or Not

• IRS Tax Deduction • Free Towing
• Any Condition • Any Model

718-491-2525

Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org

Dear Fellow Parishioners,
Since 2014 alone, the Associated Vincentian Charities of Brooklyn Donation Program has given back over $400,000 to local parishes throughout the New York Metropolitan Area. Your donation has helped many individuals in need in your neighborhood. Only through the generosity of countless parishioners are we able to make a difference. Please help us to continue to make a difference by spreading the word to anyone you know that would like to donate a vehicle, running or not leaving a review on Google, and liking us on Social Media. Together we can continue our mission in helping the less fortunate.

Help Spread the Word to help Those in Need!

Please Visit Us at svdpauto-brooklynqueens.org
Leave a Review on Google &
Like us on
Follow us on

With Much Thanks and Many Blessings,
Jim Shea
Associated Vincentian Charities Car Program Coordinator

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THIS WEEK

April 21-April 27

Sunday, April 21
9:30AM-Pre-Communion Mass
10:40AM-CCD

Monday, April 22
Earth Day Event-SY
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00-3:45 Children's Choir
7:00PM-Adult Choir

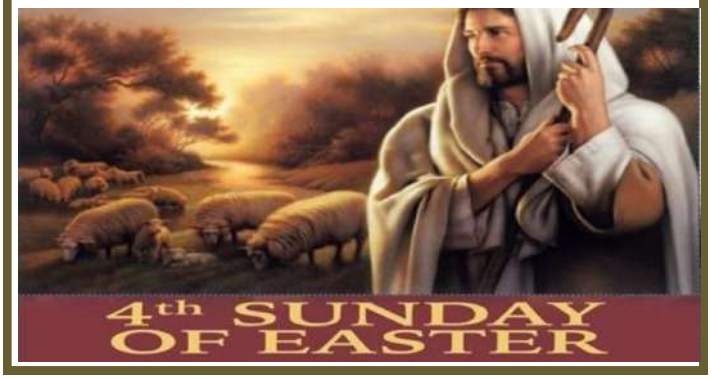
Tuesday, April 23
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, April 24
3:00-4:30PM-Drama Club

Thursday, April 25
10:00-11:30am-Legion of Mary
6:00PM-I.A.C.A.
7:20-Scripture Study

Friday, April 26

Saturday, April 27



NEXT WEEK

April 28-May 4

Sunday, April 28
9:30AM-Children's Liturgy
10:40AM-CCD
1:30 Baptisms
IACA 45th Anniversary

Monday, April 29
12:00-3:30PM Golden Age
3:00 Communion Rehearsal
7:00PM-Adult Choir

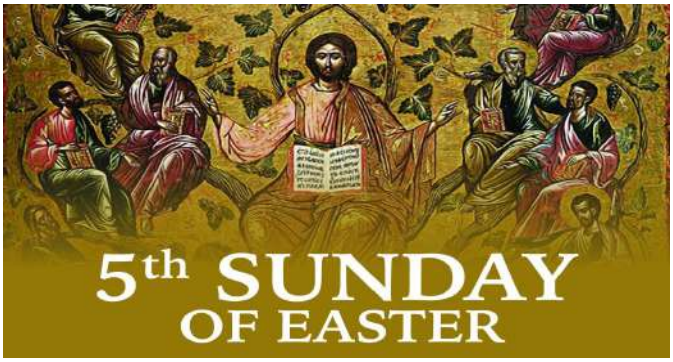
Tuesday, April 30
6:30PM-AA Meeting

Wednesday, May 1

Thursday, May 2
10:00-11:30am-Legion of Mary
6:00PM-I.A.C.A.
7:00 Communion Rehearsal
7:20-Scripture Study

Friday, May 3
9:00AM School Mass

Saturday, May 4
9:00AM Anointing Mass
11:00AM-First Holy Communion



All are invited to join us for the
Novena to the Holy Spirit
in preparation for the
Feast of Pentecost

The Novena will take place at the
9am Mass each morning
starting
May 9th - May 18th

Let us prepare our hearts and souls
to receive the
Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday

"Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of your people."

Corpus Christi

Sunday, June 2nd is the

Feast of Corpus Christi

All are invited to join us for an hour

Of Adoration beginning at 2:30pm

We will pray evening prayers at 3:30pm

and conclude with Benediction

Come and spend an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament

The Blessings are countless!

Join us on a 9-day pilgrimage to Spain and Portugal!

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Led by Msgr. Ralph Maresca, Pastor

December 26, 2024 - January 3, 2025

Madrid ~ Toledo ~ Ávila ~ Leon ~ Santiago de Compostela
Porto ~ Fátima

Peter's Way Tours

www.PetersWay.com

To request a brochure
E-mail: Peter@petersway.com
Ask for Tour Code #1165
800-225-7662 • 516-605-1551

Dear Friends,

We invite you to join us on a pilgrimage to Spain and Fátima to honor Our Lady! We'll begin in Madrid and explore the famed sites of Spain's regal capital. In Toledo, we'll take in the beautiful art and architecture, including one of El Greco's most famous paintings, The Burial of the Count of Orgaz, *at Santo Tomé. We'll stop in Ávila, visiting and praying at key sites associated with St. Teresa's life and work. Celebrate Mass in the Chapel that commemorates the "transverberation" or piercing of St. Teresa's heart.*

Our journey continues to Santiago de Compostela, the final destination of a large network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle. Walk a portion of the "Camino de Santiago," (Pilgrim Way of St. James), ending at the cathedral to participate in the Pilgrim Mass at the Cathedral's high altar. Our pilgrimage concludes in Fátima, the site of one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Mother. On May 13, 1917, three young peasant children (Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco), all now Saints, received an apparition of the Blessed Mother. Today, Fatima is visited by pilgrims from around the world who search for and find the messages of peace left by Mary for the world. We will also visit Aljustrel, the hamlet where the three children lived, as well as Valinhos, where Our Lady appeared after the children's return from prison. This is sure to be an unforgettable journey. Please consider joining us!

Msgr. Ralph J. Maresca

This pilgrimage entails a lot of walking, stairs, hills, cobblestone roads, etc. Participants must be medically and physically fit for this type of travel. Package inclusions do not always meet the special needs of travelers with limited mobility or severe allergies. If you have concerns or health issues, please discuss with Peter's Way Tours before enrolling in the pilgrimage.

Enrollment Form • St. Francis of Assisi Parish • December 26, 2024–January 3, 2025 • Tour Code: 1165

Entry Requirements: It is the passengers responsibility to make sure they meet all requirements for the countries they are traveling to. Requirements can be found by visiting the countries' embassy websites. Please note that requirements, including COVID-related travel restrictions, may change after you enroll on this tour. The Terms & Conditions apply regardless of unexpected changes to travel requirements or health advisories.

Enrollment Deadline: May 1, 2024
($500 non-refundable deposit due)

Final Payment Deadline: September 10, 2024
(Non-refundable balance due)

Participant Information
(See Traveler Health Advisory section under Terms and Conditions to determine if your health status will affect your ability to participate in this tour.)

Please print your name exactly as it appears on your passport. Title: ❑Mr. ❑ Ms. ❑ Mrs. ❑Rev. ❑ Bro. ❑Sr. ❑Deacon ❑Other_____

First_____ Middle_____ Last _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Mobile/Cell _____ Email_____

Country of Citizenship (if other than USA) _____ Date of Birth _____ M / F

Tour Costs and Preferred Method of Payment
(Please select one.)

All-Inclusive Package Pricing (Includes round-trip airfare from New York)

- ❑ I am submitting all payments by check to receive the cash discounted package price of **$3,695.00** per person, sharing a twin room
- ❑ I am paying with a credit or debit card. The all-inclusive package price is **$3,895.00** per person, sharing a twin room

Land Only Package Pricing (Does not include airfare or airport transfers)

- ❑ I am submitting all payments by check to receive the cash discounted package price of **$2,595.00** per person, sharing a twin room
- ❑ I am paying with a credit or debit card. The Land Only package price is **$2,795.00** per person, sharing a twin room

Room Assignments
(Standard hotel rooms provide two twin beds. Married couples may request a double bed. Single rooms are subject to confirmation. Please select one below.)

- ❑ I have a traveling companion and would like to room with (name): _____
- ❑ My spouse and I are requesting a double bed (Rooms with double beds are limited and are subject to confirmation.)
- ❑ I am requesting a roommate. I understand a single room may be assigned (plus an additional **$695.00**) if a roommate is not available.
- ❑ I am requesting a single room. Single rooms are limited. If confirmed a single supplement of **$695.00** will apply to total tour cost.

Deposit and Optional Travel Insurance
(Please select one. See Terms & Conditions for Peter's Way Tours' cancellation policy and travel insurance details.)

All tour deposits and insurance payments are non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up until the final payment deadline. However, pre-existing conditions are covered ONLY when the insurance premium is paid with the tour deposit.

- ❑ **Enclosed is my $500 non-refundable deposit.** I am declining optional travel protection.
- ❑ **Enclosed is $778 ($500 deposit + $278 travel protection premium)** I am purchasing travel protection. View the plan terms and conditions by visiting: https://www.petersway.com/docs/PetersWayProtectionPlan.pdf

*Insurance premiums are based on your total tour costs (see Terms & Conditions). Premium adjustments may appear on your final invoice.

Credit/Debit Card Authorization
(Please select one.) ❑VISA ❑MasterCard ❑American Express ❑Discover

By completing this credit card authorization section, you authorize Peter's Way Tours to initially charge the tour deposit (or full balance if you are enrolling past the final payment deadline) plus the total insurance cost to your credit/debit card.

I acknowledge that by enrolling with a credit card, I am not eligible for the cash/check discounted price, even if I choose to submit subsequent payments by check.

Name on card:_____ Card Number:_____ Exp. Date:_____ Sec Code:_____

Billing Address:_____ City:_____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Participant Name(s): _____, _____, _____

If the amount to be charged applies to more than one participant, please specify additional names.

I have read and accept all Terms & Conditions as outlined on this brochure.

Signature_____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian signature is required for minors under 18 years of age.

Please sign and submit one completed enrollment form per person (with your deposit plus optional travel protection costs).
Mail: Peter's Way Tours • 425 Broadhollow Road, Suite 204 • Melville NY 11747 | Fax: 516-605-1555 | Email: peter@petersway.com

All package pricing is based on a minimum of 25 paying participants. If the group does not reach this number, price or programming may be adjusted. Your group leader is solely responsible for any adjustments to package pricing, itinerary, and inclusions. They act on behalf of the group to modify travel plans as needed.

DAILY ITINERARY - Unexpected circumstances may cause changes to the outlined itinerary.

Flight Schedule on Iberia Airlines
from New York JFK International Airport

Date	Airline/Flight #	Departure City/Time	Arrival City/ Time
Dec. 26	Iberia #212	New York JFK/4:55 pm	----------
Dec. 27		----------	Madrid MAD/6:10 am
Jan. 3	Iberia #1142	Lisbon LIS/12:30 pm	Madrid MAD/2:55 pm
Jan. 3	Iberia #325	Madrid MAD/4:25 pm	New York JFK/7:10 pm

Flight itinerary subject to change without notice.

DAY 1 Thursday, December 26: Depart USA

Depart New York's JFK International International Airport via Iberia Airlines on an overnight flight to Madrid, Spain. Dinner, breakfast, and beverages will be served in flight. (D)

DAY 2 Friday, December 27: Arrive in Madrid

Arrive at Madrid International Airport. Go through Passport Control, claim our luggage, and meet a Peter's Way tour manager as we exit Customs. Board our private touring coach and we will be on our way to Spain's capital. Our orientation tour will allow us to appreciate the dimension and beauty of this city. We will discover its avenues such as Gran Vía, Paseo de la Castellana, and the Calle and Puerta de Alcalá with its famous fountains, Cibeles, Neptuno, Old Quarter, Puerta del Sol, and Main Square Plaza Mayor. We'll go on a journey through the history of Spain as we visit the Royal Palace, home to the Kings of Spain from Charles III to Alfonso XIII. Though it is no longer the royal family's home, it continues to be their official residence. Independent lunch.

Check-in at our hotel in Madrid. **Celebrate Mass before dinner.**

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Madrid. (B,D)

DAY 3 Saturday, December 28: Toledo

Breakfast at our hotel. *(Option to enjoy a free morning in Madrid for those who wish.)* This morning, we will depart Madrid on an excursion to Toledo, "the city of the three cultures," which refers to the Jewish, Islamic, and Christian communities that have flourished there. Toledo is also significant in the lives of both St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross. Upon arrival, we will take a walking tour starting at the Travesía de los Descalzos to the Plaza del Conde, where the Fuensalida Palace is located. Built by the first Fuensalida Count, Don Pedro López de Ayala, it is today the seat of the Regional Government. Continue to the Jewish Quarter, where we will visit the Tránsito Synagogue and El Greco's House and Museum, as well as other Mudejar-style buildings. Visit the Church of Santo Tomé to view one of El Greco's most famous paintings, *El Entierro del Conde de Orgaz (The Burial of the Count of Orgaz)*. **Celebrate Mass at Santo Tomé.** End our morning with a visit to the 13th-century cathedral. Somber but elaborate, it is ablaze with jeweled chalices, gorgeous ecclesiastical vestments, hundreds of historic tapestries, 750 stained-glass windows, and art by Tintoretto, Titian, Murillo, El Greco, Velasquez, and Goya.

Return to Madrid and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure before we gather for dinner at our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Madrid. (B,D)

DAY 4 Sunday, December 29: Ávila

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we will leave for Ávila. Before entering the city walls, we'll visit St. Vincent's Basilica, which stands on the traditional site of the martyrdom of St. Vincent. After the visit we'll continue through the old city walls. Independent lunch.

After lunch we'll explore Ávila, a World Heritage City completely encircled by 11th-century walls. This is the birthplace of St. Teresa, one of the greatest mystics and a "Doctor of the Church." During our stay in Ávila we will visit and pray at the key sites associated with her life and work. In 1572, John of the Cross traveled to Ávila at the invitation of Teresa to become her confessor and spiritual guide. He remained in Ávila until 1577. We will explore the similarities between St. Teresa and St. John of the Cross, especially their shared ardent desire to embrace the primitive Rule of Carmel. Upon arrival we'll visit the cathedral, which contains relics of St. Teresa, and the Convent of St. Teresa, built over the house where she was born. It contains her relics, along with those of her friend St. John of the Cross, in a small museum. Continue to the Monastery of the Incarnation, where Teresa lived for the first 27 years of her religious life and for three years during her term of prioress beginning in 1571. Here she had many mystical experiences. **Celebrate Mass in the Chapel**, which commemorates the "transverberation" or piercing of St. Teresa's heart. After Mass, visit the Convent of San Jose, the first monastery of Discalced Carmelites founded by St. Teresa. Check-in at our hotel in Ávila.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Ávila. (B,D)

DAY 5 Monday, December 30: León | Santiago de Compostela

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning we'll leave Ávila for Santiago de Compostela. En route we'll visit León. Late morning, arrive in the capital of Christian Spain at the start of the Reconquest. Visit the remarkable cathedral, one of the most beautiful in Spain. Daylight filters through over 12,000 square feet of stained-glass windows. Tradition requires that all pilgrims rest their hands on a small pedestal in the church to receive special protection for their pilgrimage. **Celebrate Mass in the cathedral.** Independent lunch in León.

We'll continue to Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain, the final destination of a large network of ancient pilgrim routes stretching across Europe and coming together at the Cathedral of St. James the Apostle. Santiago de Compostela is one of the three important pilgrimage cities of Christianity along with Jerusalem and Rome. For centuries, pilgrims have been coming to Santiago de Compostela to venerate the tomb of St. James the Apostle. Check-in at our hotel.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Santiago de Compostela. (B,D)

DAY 6 Tuesday, December 31: Santiago de Compostela

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we will walk a portion of the "Camino de Santiago" (pilgrim way of St. James) from Avenida de los Concheiros to Cruz de San Pedro and on to Puerta del Carmen, Rua Casa Reales, and Azabacheria. Arrive at the cathedral in time to **participate at the Pilgrim Mass at the cathedral's high altar.** See the Botafumeiro, a large thurible that hangs by means of a system of pulleys from the main dome of the cathedral, one of the most well-known symbols of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. As it swings, incense fills the cathedral. Another impressive feature of the cathedral is the Portico de la Gloria, which is located just inside the main entrance. Through the centuries, millions of pilgrims have touched the central pillar. The relics of St. James repose in the high altar. Pilgrims can follow the centuries-old tradition of climbing the stairs behind the altar to kiss the shells that rest on the golden statue of the saint. Below the statue is the crypt that contains the bones of St. James in a silver reliquary. Independent lunch.

Free time to explore and visit the Church and Convent of San Francesco, commemorating the pilgrimage made here by St. Francis of Assisi between 1213 and 1215.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Santiago de Compostela. (B,D)

DAY 7 Wednesday, January 1: Porto | Fátima

Breakfast at our hotel. This morning, we will leave Santiago de Compostela and drive south across the northern border of Portugal, where the rural population still uses traditional farming methods. Enjoy spectacular views of the Rias Bajas, the deep fords of Galicia. Early afternoon, arrive in Porto. Independent lunch.

We'll explore Porto's historic center, the Ribeira district, a UNESCO World Heritage-listed area. Then, continue to Fátima, where the Blessed Mother appeared in 1917 to three simple shepherd children and exhorted mankind to pray for world peace. Check-in at our hotel in Fátima. **Celebrate Mass in Fátima.**

After dinner, gather in the Chapel of the Apparitions to pray the rosary, followed by the candlelight procession.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Fátima. (B,D)

DAY 8 Thursday, January 2: Fátima | Valinhos | Aljustrel

Breakfast at our hotel. After breakfast, we will **celebrate Mass in the Chapel of the Apparitions.** Afterward, our guide will take us on a tour of the Shrine of Fátima, built on the site of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fátima to the three shepherd children, Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco. Visit the tombs of the child saints of Fátima, the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, and the Basilica of the Holy Trinity. We will then visit Aljustrel, the hamlet where the three children lived, as well as Valinhos, where Our Lady appeared after the children's return from prison. We will also visit the church where the children were baptized. If time permits, we will follow the Stations of the Cross along the Via Sacra, built by Hungarian refugees, which culminates in the Chapel of Calvary.

Independent lunch. The rest of the day will be free for private devotions.

Dinner at the hotel restaurant. After dinner, gather in the Chapel of the Apparitions to pray the rosary, followed by the candlelight procession.

Overnight at our hotel in Fátima. (B,D)

DAY 9 Friday, January 3: Return to the USA

After an early breakfast at our hotel, we will be transferred to Lisbon International Airport for our return flight to the USA. Arrive home the same day.

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ANNINZIATA, DAWN
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ARCICOVICH, MELTIA
ARGIROPOULOS, JOHN
ATTARD, CORY & PETRA
ATTARD, VALERIE & PETER
AUTUORO, MARY & GUY

B

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BALDERAS, ANGEL
BALDERAS, VIRONCIA
BARRETT, DANA & DAVID
BATTISTA, MANUEL & JUANA
BAWLDASSARE, ROSE
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BEINER, EDWARD JR.
BERHAU, MRS. KATHLEEN
BERHAU, ZACHARY
BERNHEINE, OTTO (CHIP)
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BIANCOSPINO, PAUL
BIANCOSPINO, VITO & LIUANA
BIZZARRO, GIUSEPPE & ANGELINA
BLENK, LOUISA
BORG, ANN
BORG, ANTHONY
BORG, CHARLES
BORG, MARY ROSE
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BRATTI, LUIGIA
BRODSKY, ESTELLE
BROMLEY FAMILY
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BUCHNER, EDWARD

C

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CARONE, ANGELA
CARPANINI, GINO
CARROLL, CAROL & LAWRENCE
CASSANO, ANNA & LARRY
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CICOLINI, SERAFINA
CINQUEMANI, ELIA
CINQUEMANI, FILOMENA
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D

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D'ANGELO, ROCCO
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DiGRAVINO, FLORRIE
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DONATO, VINICIO
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DURAN, MARIA TERESA

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ENUKIDZE, VAZHE
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FUREY, PATRICIA

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GALLAGHER, NEIL

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PROVEROMO FAMILY
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PURICH FAMILY

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TULLY, PATRICK

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VITTORIA LIVIO OTTORINO
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VOLLARO, ANNETTE
VOLLARO, ANTHONY
VOLLARO, HELEN
VOLPE, DELIA
VOZZO, M/M LUIGI

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WALSH, JOHN & MAE
WARD, MICHAEL & HANNAH
WARNER FAMILY
WOOD, CHRISTOPHER
WYTAK, FRANCES & STANLEY

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YEPEZ, FABRIZIO
YSMAEL, MALAYA & MASIMO JR.

Z
ZACCO, PAULA
ZAJAC, GEORGE
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ZOLETA, ANTONIO & SOCORRO
ZULIANI, LINDA
ZULIANI, PIETRO
ZULIANI, ROSEMARIE CONROY

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