

# ST. PIUS X PARISH PILGRIMAGE

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ST. PIUS X

June 24, 2015 — July 4, 2015



VENICE—ASSISI—FLORENCE—ROME

DAILY INFORMATION

Greetings! We hope you find the following document useful for our upcoming adventure. We have tried to give you important details so that you might put together plans for your free time. Please keep in mind that when traveling with a group our timetables could change slightly based on unforeseeable variables (i.e. traffic, weather). Please feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, June 24 at St. Pius X in the upper parking lot adjacent to the Ministry House (map below).

Peace,

Paul and Kurt

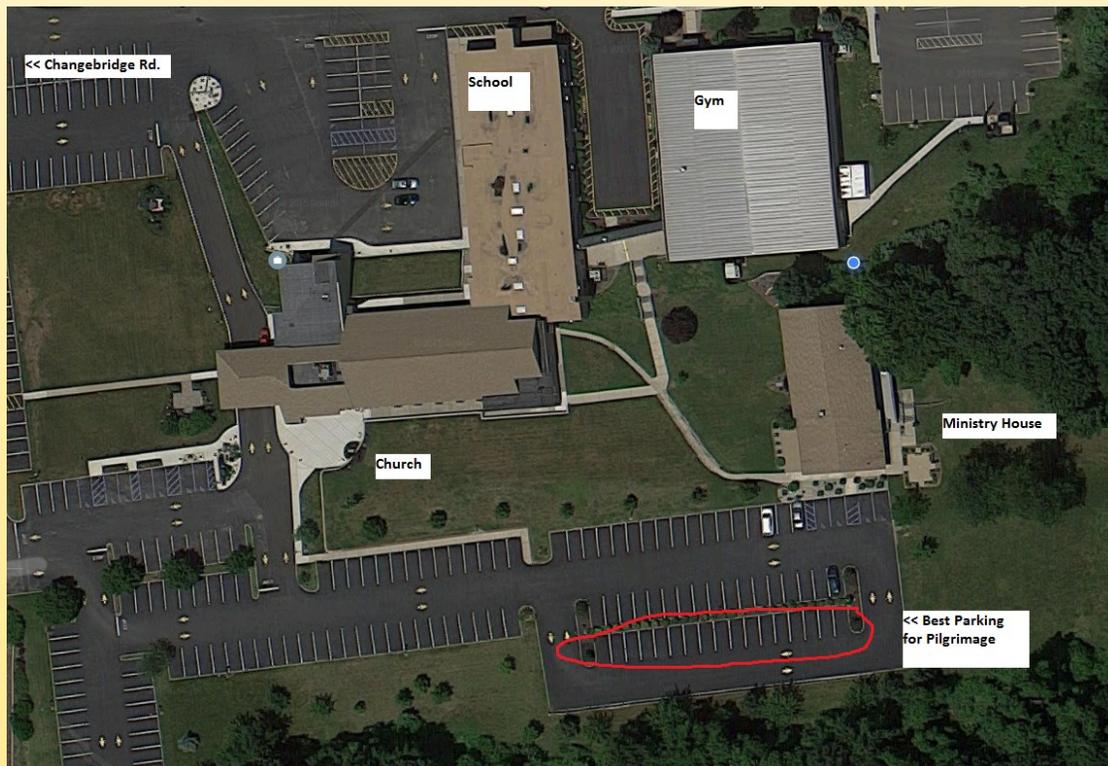
## Day 1

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

Depart St. Pius X—You may park by the Ministry House.  
2:00pm Bus Departs St. Pius X Ministry House Parking Lot  
3:30pm Arrive JFK / Check-in / Security

6:34pm Delta Flight #418 - Depart New York JFK

Food on the plane



## Day 2

Thursday, June 25, 2015

### Arrive in Milan

### Travel to Verona from Milan airport (Malpensa)

8:55am Arrive Milano Malpensa Airport

3 - 4 hours in Verona "On your own"

I just want to relax, and soak up the Italian culture. Where should I go?

Piazza delle Erbe, or Piazza Bra

I'd like to eat, but I want to stretch a little. Where should I go?

From Piazza delle Erbe

- Juliette's House - just 0.1 miles away - about €3 to go in
- free to see the courtyard

From Piazza Bra

- The APT Arena

I am going to eat, but this is my one time in Verona. What are the top five places to see?

- Juliette's House
- The APT Arena
- The Scaligero tombs
- Castelvecchio
- One of the most appealing streets is Via Sottoriva, 20 yards in from the river just south of the Church of Sant' Anastasia.
- Walk along the Adige river, or rent a bike to cover more ground in the medieval Venetian city

Verona is the reason why I came on this trip, how can I see the most?

- Buy a Verona Card for about € 19 and hop on and off the local bus visiting the main churches and archeological sites in the city. This pass is good for 24 hours. You could make it worthwhile in several hours.

What do you recommend might work with the children?

- This website is a really good starting point.

<https://serviziinternet.comune.verona.it/veronaforkids/index.htm>

I love Jesus. I have come on this pilgrimage to pray non-stop. Where can I begin?

- Basilica of San Zeno
- Sant' Anastasia
- San Lorenzo
- Duomo
- San Fermo

I like museums. What is here?

- Castelvecchio
- Teatro Romano
- Museo Lapidario Maffeiano
- Juliette's House

I like old rocks. Where are Verona's oldest?

- Ponte Pietra - 'Bridge of Stone'
- Porta Borsari
- Porta dei Leoni
- APT Arena
- An archway, under which is suspended a whale's rib bone, leads from Piazza Erbe into Piazza dei Signori
- Teatro Romano
- Museo Lapidario Maffeiano

I like to climb to the tallest heights. Where can I get the best views of the Veneto?

- Torre Lamberti

Check out minutes 12 - 20 on this Rick Steves video for more about Verona:

<https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/season-8/italys-veneto-verona-padua-and-ravenna>

Dinner is together.

## Day 3

Friday, June 26, 2015

### A day in the Lagoon

#### “The Islands of Venice” – Torcello, Burano and Murano

Venice is actually made up of 117 islands, so in that respect we will only see a few today. However, these three islands are each distinct and significant in their own right. Torcello holds claim as the start of the Venetian settlement in the lagoon. The local church houses some of the oldest art (mosaics and frescoes) in the area. Very few people actually live on the island today, so the feel of the island will be a strong contrast to St. Mark's Square when the cruise ships unload.

Burano is known for its brightly-colored homes and locally made lace. In fact, lace-making is an age-old tradition and is almost as famous for its quality as glassmaking on Murano. Burano is probably a good place to have lunch.

We will finish our tour of the islands on Murano with a visit to a local glass factory. If you wish to buy glass during your time in Venice today is probably your safest bet. Over the past 20 years, the economic situation in Venice has changed dramatically. This means that fewer and fewer Venetian are dealing in their native crafts; therefore, many of the stores on the main islands may not be dealing entirely in authentic Venetian glass. Buyer beware.

Rick Steves does a nice job showing the charm of these islands.

<https://www.ricksteves.com/watch-read-listen/video/tv-show/venice-and-its-lagoon>

### Torcello

I want to soak up the Italian culture. Where can I find a café?

There are a few highly recommended places to eat; after all, Ernest Hemingway used to hang out here, what would you expect? Just keep in mind that you are on a remote island. This will probably be an expensive meal which may require a reservation and several hours to prepare and eat it.

Villa 600 - <http://www.villa600.it/it/home.htm#> =

Osteria Al Ponte del Diavolo - <http://www.osteriaalpontedeldiavolo.com/#> =

Taverna Tipica Veneziana <http://www.tavernaveneziana.it/#> =

Locanda Cipriani - <http://www.locandacipriani.com/eng/index.html>

Day 2 of my time with Jesus. Where do I go?

- ◇ Santa Maria Assunta
- ◇ Santa Fosca

Let me climb....

- ◇ Santa Fosca tower
- ◇ Santa Maria tower is probably closed.

Best art?

- ◇ Santa Maria Assunta €5 entrance
- ◇ Santa Fosca
- ◇ Casa Andrich – modern art and local history <http://www.museoandrich.it/>

I don't see much on the list here. What else is there to do on this island?

Enjoy the beautiful village. Read a little bit about the history of the place. Enjoy the cats.

Umm..did you say enjoy the cats?

Yep, but don't worry, the locals care for them. You can contribute at the church if you wish.

Look out for the special cat box donations at the church.

## **Burano**

I'd like to pray before I eat. Where do I go?

- ◇ Le Cappuccine (Santa Maria delle Grazie) – probably not open
- ◇ San Martino – usually closed from 12pm – 3pm for lunch

Feed me!!!!

Trattoria al Gatto Nero - <http://www.gattonero.com/> - a bit pricey

Devil – pizza

I'd like to learn a little something about lace while I am here. Where do I go?

- ◇ Museo del Merletto - <http://museomerletto.visitmuve.it/>

Now that I have learned something about lace, where do I go to buy some?

This place gets solid references. Maybe go to the Museum first and learn about lace.

- ◇ Dalla Lidia - <http://www.dallalidia.com/>

Up, Up, Up

San Martino's tower is leaning. I'd stay on the ground here.

## **Murano**

I need a mid-day prayer.

These are the Murano churches, but they aren't open all day. Be prepared to try more than one.

San Pietro Martire - <http://www.sandonatomurano.it/>

SS. Maria e Donato

Santa Maria degli Angeli

Santa Chiara

Glass, glass, glass. How do I choose? How do I know the real from the fake? Should I ship it home, or carry it with me?

The cheaper the glass the more likely you have a fraud. Ask lots of questions. The folks here will speak English. If the shop is attached to a work space/ furnace/ shop then you are probably in good shape. Shipping is safest. If you get together with another member of the party then you can probably save on shipping. Jewelry can be carried, but remember if you buy sharp objects like letter openers and wine stoppers, you must pack them in your suitcase.

I am starving!

B Restaurant alla Vecchia Pescheria - <http://allavecchiapescheria.com/>

La Perla Ai Bisatei -

I don't want to buy glass, but I do want to learn about it.

Murano glass museum - <http://museovetro.visitmuve.it/en/home/>

The children love the boat ride, but they need somewhere to run a bit.

The squares near the churches are great places to kick a soccer ball without anyone judging them.

Dinner is together.

## Day 4

Saturday, June 27, 2015

### Venice and Riese (and Bassano del Grappa - time permitting)

This morning you will have some time on your own to enjoy Venice. This afternoon we will head to the home of St. Pius X in the countryside. After our tour and Mass, we will board the bus and head to the town of Bassano del Grappa for a group dinner in the Dolomite region.

The neighborhood around our hotel is called Castello. This morning is a good opportunity to check out a few of the shops, have a nice lunch, or pop into a few historic places to enjoy the art. All of these places are a short walk away. \*\*\*Please know that you may go into any church to pray for free!

Church of San Zaccaria - the side altar has a famous painting by Bellini

<http://en.turismovenezia.it/Venezia/Chiesa-di-San-Zaccaria-6139.html>

The Arsenale - this place inspired the Ford motor factory to develop its assembly line  
the museum is on the corner by the water and is worth a visit  
the contemporary (and controversial) art festival - La Biennale uses some  
of this space to display art

<http://www.labiennale.org/>

The Public Gardens (Il Giardini) - Want to get out of the heat a bit? This is a nice walk usually decorated with some outdoor sculptures from the Biennale. You will probably see a good number of cruise ships docked along the way.

<http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2012/jun/28/venice-green-spaces-gardens-top-10>

San Giorgio Maggiore - Hop a vaporetto to the island across the way. Take a walk around the great Palladian church and then take the lift to the top for a beautiful panoramic view of Venice and the mountains in the distance.

<http://www.theguardian.com/travel/2013/oct/18/venice-monastery-stay-san-giorgio-maggiore>

Caffè Florian - Take a walk up to St. Mark's square and have a coffee in one of the oldest (and most expensive) coffee shops in the world. We will tour St. Mark's and the Doge's palace tomorrow (fee included).

<http://www.caffeflorian.com/en/>

Museo di Palazzo Grimani - Home of the former Doge. A nice (fairly inexpensive) way to see a genuine Venetian palace. A nice selection of local Venetian art.

<http://www.palazzogrimani.org/?lang=en>

## **Riese**

This afternoon we will take a boat to a bus to the hometown of St. Pius X. We will take a guided tour of his birth home and museum. Following the visit we will attend Mass at his local church where his original tomb is located.

Dinner this evening will be held at a local restaurant in Riese.

Bassano del Grappa (subject to change due to travel restrictions)

There will be some time to stroll this small town with its famous covered bridge. If you are interested in ceramics, then this is a good place to do some window shopping. Perhaps you might want to sample some of the famous local beverage (Grappa) which shares its name with this Mountain. Technically speaking, when in Bassano we will be in the Alps - the Dolomitic Alps. On a clear day from the top of Mount Grappa, we could see Austria and Venice from the same vantage point.

Tonight, we will return to Venice by street light. Doesn't sound attractive? Maybe you are forgetting that the streets are made of water.

## Day 5

**Sunday, June 28, 2015**

### Venice

This morning we have the opportunity to worship at St. Mark's Basilica, or sleep in. If you sleep in, don't worry because we will meet our guide for a tour of St. Mark's and the Doge's Palace in the morning (time to be determined).

The afternoon is all yours. This is a fantastic time to get lost in Venice.

Here is the Official Website for Venice: <http://www.veneziana.it/en>

Venice with Children: <http://www.veneziana.it/en/content/children-venice>

Possible ideas (cost is not included):

- take High Tea in St. Mark's Square \$\$\$

- take the lift to the top of the Campanile for panoramic views of the city

- see Venice's best art at the Accademia museum

- check out the finest scuola in Venice - San Rocco

- relax in a gondola ride around town

- ride a waterbus to the Lido for a swim in the Adriatic

- take a pub crawl through one of Venice's winding neighborhoods

- tour one of Venice's noble palaces on the Grand Canal

  - (Ca' Rezzonico is near the Accademia)

- shop 'til you drop

  - ( glass, lace, and printed paper make for easy souvenirs to pack)

Dinner is on your own.

## Day 6

**Monday, June 29, 2015**

### San Marino and Assisi

This morning we will have an early departure from Venice on our way to Assisi.

Along the way we will have a few hours for lunch and exploring in San Marino

The world's oldest sovereign state, San Marino is a country of its own - yet it's completely surrounded by Italy.

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/italy/emilia-romagna-and-san-marino/san-marino>

Get your passport stamped if you wish before we travel up the mountain via funicular.

Things to see:

Castello della Cesta - 13th Century castle

Museum of Curiosities

State Museum

Changing of the Guard

Rare Stamp and Coin Shop

<http://www.aasfn.sm/on-line/home.html>

As a sovereign nation, San Marino prints its own Euros (through Italy) and has its own postage.

This afternoon we will continue our journey toward Assisi.

Dinner in Assisi

**Day 7**

**Tuesday, June 30, 2015**

**Assisi**

This morning we will have a driving tour of Assisi and its surroundings. This afternoon we will have free time in Assisi with an optional walking tour of local sites. After dinner we will have an optional night tour up to the imposing fort, Rocca Maggiore, with an amazing view of the city below and Umbrian countryside.

**Morning Driving Tour**

Church Santa Maria degli Angeli and the Porziuncola

The Porziuncola is a small chapel given to and cared for by St. Francis of Assisi. It was already at least 100 years old when St. Francis was alive which makes it nearly 1000 years today.

In the 1500s, the Italians began building the Basilica of Santa maria degli Angeli - now one of the largest churches in the world - over top of the Porziuncola to protect it and honor this sacred place.

[http://www.assisionline.com/assisi\\_161.html](http://www.assisionline.com/assisi_161.html)

**San Damiano**

It is in this peaceful place that St. Francis received the challenge from Jesus to “go rebuild my church”.

<http://americancatholic.org/features/special/default.aspx?id=49>

## **Hermitage**

The Eremo delle Carceri or Hermitage was built by St. Francis as a place for quiet retreat. He and his followers would go to this place for both silent, private prayer as well as communal gatherings.

Today the buildings of St. Francis' time are preserved as well as several trails for walks and hikes in the woods.

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/italy/assisi-eremo-delle-carceri>

Free Afternoon / Optional Walking Tour

## **Cathedral of San Rufino**

The Cathedral of San Rufino is the church where St. Francis was baptized.

It is possible to visit the crypt. Also, it's possible - through glass installed in the nave floor - to see some of the crypt from the main church.

[http://www.assisionline.com/assisi\\_rufino\\_cathedral.html](http://www.assisionline.com/assisi_rufino_cathedral.html)

## **Basilica of St. Clare (Santa Chiara)**

The Basilica of Santa Chiara is easily distinguished by its pink and white stone and flying buttresses. In the crypt of the church, you can see the preserved body of St. Clare as well as a small museum which contains many items from the time of St. Francis and St. Clare.

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/italy/assisi-santa-chiara>

## **Church of Santa Maria sopra Minerva**

Originally the Temple of Minerva from the 1st Century B.C., this building was converted into a church in the 1500s. It is adorned with high baroque appointments - so the beautiful inside of the church is not what you would expect based on the impressive, yet much older facade.

[http://www.assisionline.com/assisi\\_minerva\\_temple.html](http://www.assisionline.com/assisi_minerva_temple.html)

## **Chiesa Nuova**

The so-called "New Church" was built in 1615. Today people in Assisi say "this is where it all started" - at this location is the birth home of St. Francis.

<http://assisichiesanuova.com/>

Dinner is together.

## **Optional Post-Dinner Night Tour to Rocca Maggiore**

<http://www.lifeinitaly.com/tourism/umbria/rocca-maggiore-assisi>

## Day 8

Wednesday, July 1, 2015

### Florence

This morning we will board the bus to Florence. While in Florence we will have a guided walking tour spanning the Medici Chapels, the Duomo and the Palazzo Vecchio (included in cost). The afternoon will be on your own before meeting for a group dinner (included in cost).

Here are some possible ideas for an afternoon free in Florence (not included in cost):

Shopping - Ponte Vecchio is lined with shops which sell gold.

Besides gold, Florence is known for its leather production. Perhaps a belt, or jacket?

Museums - The Uffizi has some of the most famous Renaissance paintings in the world.

<http://www.uffizi.org/>

The Accademia has the famous statue of David by Michelangelo

<http://www.accademia.org/>

The Baptistry has copies of Ghiberti's famous bronze doors.

[http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Baptistry\\_of\\_florence.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/Baptistry_of_florence.html)

The Convent of San Marco has the famous frescoes by Fra Angelico.

[http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum\\_of\\_san\\_marco.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum_of_san_marco.html)

The Bargello has the famous bronze of John the Baptist

[http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum\\_of\\_bargello.html](http://www.museumsinflorence.com/musei/museum_of_bargello.html)

Churches - Santa Croce contains the tombs of several famous Florentines, including Machiavelli and Michelangelo.

<http://www.visitflorence.com/florence-churches/>

Dinner together in Florence

## Day 9

Thursday, July 2, 2015

### Assisi to Rome

This morning we depart Assisi on our way to Rome.

After arrival in Rome, we'll have an afternoon bus / walking tour of the city including:

Colosseum (driving)

Michaelangelo's Moses (visit)

<http://www.rome.info/michelangelo/moses/>

Piazza Venezia (driving)

<http://www.aviewoncities.com/rome/piazzavenezia.htm>

St. Paul Outside the Walls (visit)

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/italy/rome-san-paolo-fuori-le-mura>

Depending on time and traffic we may also be able to stop and see some of the following:

St. John Lateran

<http://www.sacred-destinations.com/italy/rome-san-giovanni-laterano>

Our bus tour will finish at Piazza Navona - famous for its fountains and general ambience - in the heart of the city where dinner is on our own.

Optional evening walking tour:

Pantheon

<http://www.turismoroma.it/cosa-fare/pantheon?lang=en>

Parthenon (just kidding - that's in Greece, but people frequently confuse the two)

Trevi Fountain

Famous fountain in Rome for over 400 years.

\*\*The updated timeline since our group meeting suggests that this will still be under construction while we're there.

Spanish Steps

<http://www.italyguides.it/en/lazio/rome/squares-and-fountains/spanish-steps>

Church of S. Ignatius

<http://chiese.gesuiti.it/en/chiesa-di-santignazio/art/the-presbytery/>

Beautiful paintings throughout

Amazing (but fake) painted dome ceiling

Shopping on Via del Corso

Dinner is on your own.

## **Day 10**

**Friday, July 3, 2015**

### **Rome (Vatican)**

This morning we have an opportunity to celebrate Mass at the tomb of St. Pius X in St. Peter's Basilica. Following Mass we will tour the Vatican museum and St. Peter's Basilica (cost included).

This is the final afternoon of our trip. It is yours to spend as you wish. Here are a few suggestions:

#### **Shopping:**

Via Condotti, Via Borgognona, Via Frattina have all of the big names, Gucci, Prada, etc.

#### **Museums:**

Capitoline Museum - Home to some of Ancient Rome's finest treasures

<http://www.museicapitolini.org/>

Villa Borghese - Sculpture and gardens

<http://www.galleriaborghese.it/borghese/en/edefault.htm>

#### **Churches:**

Really? You haven't seen enough.

#### **Famous cafe spots:**

This article covers some wonderful spots to relax over an Italian coffee or ice cream.

<http://travel.cnn.com/romes-15-best-cafes-124356>

On our FINAL evening, dinner will be together.

## **Day 11**

**Saturday, July 4, 2015**

### **Rome to Paris to JFK**

10:00am Depart for Rome Fiumicino Airport

12:50pm Depart Rome Fiumicino FCO – Air France Flight #1505

3:00pm Arrive Paris Charles de Gaulle CDG

4:55pm Depart Paris Charles de Gaulle CDG – Air France Flight #010

7:00pm Arrive New York JFK – 7:00pm

Approx. 9:30pm Bus Arrives St. Pius X Parking Lot

