

SAINT CECILIA PARISH

*2025 Jubilee Year in
Italy*

JUNE 15 - 23, 2025



Day One: Sunday, June 15, 2025



- Afternoon or evening departure from the Boston Logan International Airport via scheduled air service to Rome, Italy. Your transatlantic flight will include meal services and in-flight entertainment

Day Two: Monday, June 16



- Morning airline arrival in Rome
- Meet your full-time MCI Tour Managers (**1 full-time Tour Manager, per motorcoach**), who will remain with the Saint Cecilia Parish traveling group for the entire duration of your time in Italy. Board your awaiting privately chartered motorcoach for a transfer to Florence
- Lunch, on own
- Enjoy an afternoon visit to Piazza Michelangelo, with a stunning overlook of Florence, followed by some free-time at leisure in Florence
- Late afternoon hotel check-in with free-time to freshen up and relax
- Welcome Dinner included and overnight in Florence



FLORENCE, ITALY

Florence is regarded as the birthplace of the Italian Renaissance and one of the most beautiful and inspiring cities of the world because of its rich artistic, historic and spiritual heritage. Florence is birthplace or chosen home of Dante, Boccaccio, Leonardo da Vinci, Botticelli, Machiavelli, Michelangelo, Donatello, Galileo, Catherine de' Medici, Cavalli, Florence Nightingale and Emilio Pucci.



Day Three: Tuesday, June 17



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- Morning visit to the Galleria dell' Accademia (closed Mondays). This gallery house's paintings by Florentine artists spanning the 13th to 16th centuries, but its main draw is Michelangelo's *David*, carved from a single block of marble when the artist was only 29 years old. Continue with a visit to the famous Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiori (Il Duomo). The Duomo is well-known for its pink, white and green marble façade, capped by Brunelleschi's famous dome – the largest brick dome ever constructed.. It is the 4th largest Cathedral in the world. In front of the Duomo is the Baptistery of San Giovanni, one of the oldest buildings in Florence, with its famous *Gates of Paradise*
- Lunch on own
- Enjoy your afternoon free at leisure to explore and enjoy Florence
- Evening dinner on own, and overnight in Florence

Day Four: Wednesday, June 18



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Transfer to Rome via a visit to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Visit this “quiet medieval town, imbued with the mystical spirit of one of the most fascinating saints of history.” A guided tour includes visiting the Basilica of St. Francis, a huge 13th-century edifice containing many of the possessions of St. Francis and a series of frescoes depicting his life. Continue with a walking tour of the town, seeing the major sites associated with St. Francis, including the Chiesa Nuova (built over the home of Francis’ family), the Duomo San Rufino (containing the baptismal font of the Saint) and also the Church of St. Clare (Chiesa di Santa Chiara), Francis’ beloved friend and companion in ministry
- Lunch, on own and enjoy some free-time to explore Assisi
- ***Saint Cecilia Parish Mass Participation at St. Francis Basilica in Assisi****
- Continue to Rome for evening dinner included and overnight in Rome

Mass Participation

St. Francis Basilica

The Basilica of St. Francis is the mother church of the Roman Catholic Order of Friars Minor Conventual. It is a Papal Minor Basilica and one of the most important pilgrimage sites in all of Italy. With its accompanying friary, the basilica is an incredibly distinctive landmark and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The basilica is comprised of two churches, the Upper Church and the Lower Church, and a Crypt, where the remains of the Saint Francis are interred. The Basilica is richly decorated with numerous works by Cimabue, Giotto, Martini, Lorenzetti and Cavallini.





ROME, ITALY

Rome is nicknamed Caput Mundi (Capital of the World) and The Eternal City, not only because Rome has always been the hub of art, education, high culture and politics in the western world, but because it is also a spiritual capital and a powerful center of pilgrimage

Day Five: Thursday, June 19



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- A morning pilgrim's tour of the Holy Sites of Rome. Tour the Vatican Museums, which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world. Highlights include The Tapestry Gallery, The Raphael Rooms, and The Sistine Chapel where we will gaze on Michelangelo's incredible masterpiece. We will also enter St. Peter's Basilica which has the largest interior of any Christian church in the world and which has been described as the reason Rome is still the center of the civilized world. Tradition and historical evidence hold that St. Peter's tomb is directly below the altar of this basilica, which American Ralph Waldo Emerson described as an ornament of the earth... the sublime of the beautiful. Next we will have the chance to marvel at Bernini's beautiful bronze canopy and Michelangelo's Blessed Mother holding her crucified son, known as the Pieta
- Lunch on own
- Enjoy your afternoon free at leisure to explore and enjoy Rome
- Evening dinner, on own
- ***Saint Cecilia Parish Choir Evening Concert Performance in Rome at the Basilica di Sant'Andrea della Valle as part of the Jubilee Year in Italy****
- Return to your hotel for overnight

Concert Performance

Basilica Di Sant'Andrea della Valle

The Basilica Di Sant'Andrea della Valle is a minor basilica and is steps away from Rome's iconic Piazza Navona. The basilica is the general seat for the religious order of the Theatines and the church houses the cenotaphs of Popes Pius II and Pius III, who are buried in the church. The fresco of Sant'Andrea's dome was the largest commission of its day and this dome was, for many years, the third largest dome in Rome, after the Basilica of St Peter and the Pantheon. The vault and dome are fantastically frescoed, with the cupola displaying the Glory of Paradise by Lanfranco. The first act of the opera Tosca by Giacomo Puccini is set here.



Day Six: Friday, June 20



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- Enjoy a tour of a few sites of Ancient Rome, including the Forum and Coliseum. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheatre, after the emperor who built it in the first century after Christ. Coliseum refers to the 'colossal' statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. Originally on this spot was a pool, around which was built Emperor Nero's famous 'Golden House.' The construction was completed with the help of Jewish slaves bought here in 70 AD. The Coliseum served as the center for violent sports, and traditionally, as the site of the martyrdom of many Christians. Also see the Baths of Caracalla and Palatine Hill
- Lunch on own
- Enjoy some free afternoon time at leisure to explore and enjoy Rome
- Attend Mass in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls
- ***Saint Cecilia Parish Mass Participation in the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls****
- Evening dinner on own, and overnight in Rome



Mass Participation

Basilica of Saint Paul Outside
the Walls

Built in the fourth century, Saint Paul is one of the four major basilicas in Rome and the second largest in size after St. Peter's. The remains of St. Paul are found beneath a marble tombstone in the Basilica.



Day Seven: Saturday, June 21



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- Today, visit and experience several of Rome's major basilicas. Our first visit will be to the *Basilica of St. Mary Major*. The ceiling of this basilica is said to be decorated with gold that Columbus brought back from the new world. Santa Maria Maggiore, the largest church in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Mother, is part of the day's "Christian Rome" tour, and has beautiful Biblical mosaics, a marble floor, bell tower and one of the oldest shrines (containing a relic from the manger of the infant Jesus) dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. We will also visit the *Basilica of St. John Lateran* which is the oldest of the major basilicas and ranks first as the actual "parish church" of the Pope (Bishop of Rome). There we will learn about the Scala Sancta (Holy Stairs). Tradition has it that these steps, said to be the staircase leading once to the praetorium of Pilate at Jerusalem, are sanctified by the footsteps of Jesus Christ during his Passion. Next, we'll see the *Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls* which was founded by the Roman Emperor Constantine I over the burial place of Saint Paul.
- Lunch, on own
- Some afternoon time free at leisure and dinner, on own
- ***Saint Cecilia Parish Choir Evening Concert Performance in Rome at the Basilica di Santa Cecilia in Trastevere as part of the Jubilee Year in Italy****
- Return to your Rome hotel for overnight



Concert Performance

Basilica di Santa Cecilia

The Basilica di Santa Cecilia is a renowned church located in the charming Trastevere district of Rome, Italy. Dedicated to Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music (*and the housing location of her remains*), the basilica stands as a testament to both its incredibly rich history and important religious significance. Originally constructed in the 5th century, the church underwent various renovations over the centuries, resulting in a fascinating blend of architectural styles, including Romanesque and Baroque elements.

Day Eight: Sunday, June 22



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel
- This morning/early afternoon, we will return to Vatican City to attend the weekly **Papal Audience** (Sunday at Noon) Subject to the Holy Father's schedule and if he is in residence in the Vatican
- Lunch on own
- Afternoon sightseeing to include the Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Piazza Navona, and Trevi Fountain
- Afternoon at leisure for shopping and sightseeing
- ***Saint Cecilia Parish Mass Participation at St. Peter's Basilica Rome****
- Evening Farewell Dinner included, and overnight in Rome



Mass Participation

St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

Late Renaissance style Catholic church designed in part by Michelangelo as one of the holiest sites in all of Catholicism. One of the largest churches in the world and located in St. Peter's square, which is a place of pilgrimage for Catholics and visitors worldwide. The Pope celebrates a number of Masses here each year. Choral groups can sing at select daily Masses in the Basilica. The surrounding historical art adds to the incredibly memorable experience.

Day Nine: Monday, June 23



- Full buffet breakfast included at the hotel, followed by check-out
- Transfer to the Rome airport for return flight
- Arrive home to Boston, the same day as your departure from Rome

Music Celebrations International & Faith Journeys

Tour Inclusions



Airline Transportation

Music Celebrations International (MCI) and Faith Journeys (FJ) have contracts with all of the major airline carriers. MCI/FJ has a dedicated “Air Department” that negotiates group contracts, with the goal to book the best fares for the best schedules.

With the air industry continually changing policies, air schedules, fleet sizes, routing/destinations, and dealing with unpredictable weather, delays/cancellation, the services the MCI/FJ Air Department provides has proven invaluable.



Airline Transportation



28 Airlines, offering more than 18,500 daily flights to 1,330 airports in 192 countries

Airline Transportation



The oneworld alliance brings together a vast network of airlines around the world.

Covering 155 countries and 850 destination airports

Airline Transportation

20 member airlines giving you access to 1,074 destinations worldwide

SkyTeam Partners





Tour Managers & Guides

An experienced, proven, full-time, multi-lingual local Italian Tour Manager (**1 full-time Tour Manager per motorcoach**) will be with the Saint Cecilia group 24/7 (for those who have travelled before you know what a difference a quality Tour Manager can make to the outcome of your tour). MCI/FJ Tour Managers are the best.

Excursions on your Italy tour will be guided by licensed, professional guides. Guides are selected based upon experience, referral, knowledge, and ability to deal with people.

Entrances to Italian/Vatican sites are included in the MCI/FJ proposal. At MCI/FJ, we feel it is necessary to include these entrances to ensure the cultural, faith, and historical aspects of the Tour.



— Coach Transportation

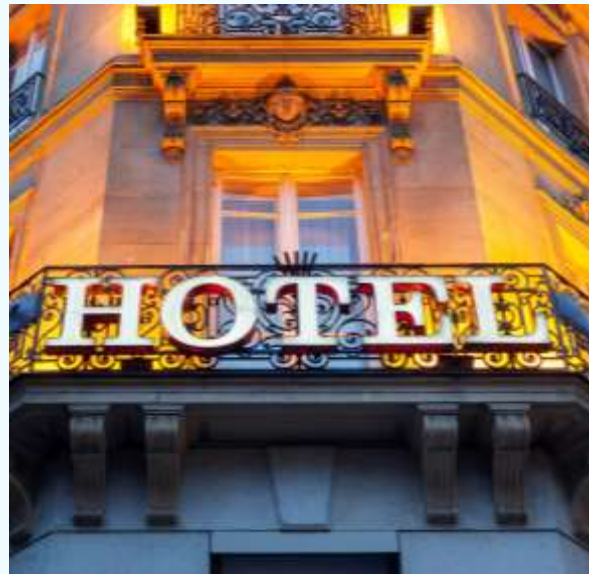
We understand that comfort and safety are of the utmost importance when you travel. We go out of our way to ensure that your private, deluxe Italian motorcoach(es) will be of the highest quality in outstanding condition, to ensure that the bus is in excellent working condition. MCI/FJ contracts with the most reputable Italian motorcoach/transportation companies, to ensure your absolute comfort and safety. Wi-Fi access is provided on the motorcoach



Accommodations

We use superior tourist-class (**4 Star**) city-center Italian hotels chosen for their central location, reputation, cleanliness, safety/security and guest service.

Prices included in the proposal are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities, and all modern amenities.

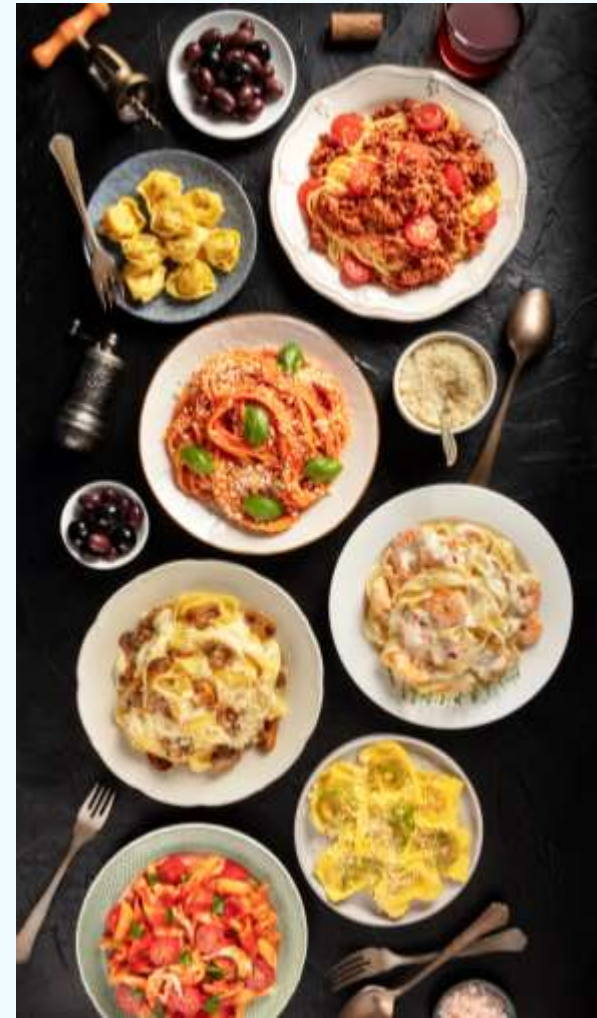


Meals

Meals are included in the tour proposal, where noted in the tour itinerary. Breakfast at the hotels are full hot and cold buffet style, and where dinners are included – they are 3-course dinners, that are included at either your hotel or local restaurants.

We use outstanding local restaurants and hotel restaurants that are clean, safe, and have a great reputation for working with groups, and to keep your group well fed.

MCI/FJ works very closely with restaurant/hotel personnel to make any and all accommodations for those travelers with dietary/health restrictions and/or special requests.





Performances & Mass Participation —

Our in-house Performance Department is fully staffed by experienced musicians, music educators, church musicians/music directors, and professional musicians who have an excellent, instinctive understanding of the special needs and considerations of music directors and their performing ensembles.

For every venue, service/Mass participation, and opportunity, we consider:

- Acoustics
- Size of staging area
- Rehearsal space, changing/secure personal item rooms
- Availability of toilets
- Service/Mass participation and liturgical details
- Details such as organs, pianos, local orchestras/musicians for hire, rental instruments, chairs, stands, lights, tables, etc.

Promotion is important for the success of a concert and MCI promotes concerts through local arts/faith-based associations, newspapers, radio, flyers, hand-outs, and posters.



Cost Estimates



Custom 7-Night / 9-Day Florence & Rome Itinerary	45-47 Paying Per motorcoach	40-44 Paying Per motorcoach	35-39 Paying Per motorcoach	30-34 Paying Per motorcoach	25-29 Paying Per motorcoach
Including Roundtrip Airfare from: Boston, MA (BOS)	\$4,810	\$4,933	\$5,028	\$5,235	\$5,488
Land Only (self-arranged roundtrip airfare)	\$3,310	\$3,433	\$3,528	\$3,735	\$3,988

All prices are per person in each 49-passenger motorcoach staying in double occupancy.

The costs will vary, depending upon the total number of paying participants sharing certain fixed overhead costs which include *chartered motorcoach, Tour Manager, guides, concert costs, etc.*

These costs are based on individual accounting/individual payments made directly to MCI. All tour prices quoted for transportation and land arrangements herein are based on rates (including foreign exchange rates) in effect at the date of this offer and are subject to change.

Payment & Cancellation Schedule



PAYMENT SCHEDULE

\$200 per person* (non-refundable)	Due: June 15, 2024*
15% per person, of total tour costs	Due: September 15, 2024
20% per person, of total tour costs	Due: November 15, 2024
25% per person, of total tour costs	Due: February 15, 2025
Final Payment (remaining balance)	Due: May 1, 2025

Amount paid is % of the total tour cost, not the balance owed.

CANCELLATION SCHEDULE

\$200 per person (non-refundable)	Penalty Begins: Upon the time of online registration
10% per person, of total tour costs	Penalty Begins: October 15, 2024
25% per person, of total tour costs	Penalty Begins: December 15, 2024
50% per person, of total tour costs	Penalty Begins: March 1, 2024
100% per person, of total tour costs	Penalty Begins: May 5, 2025

Amount penalized is % of the *total tour cost*, not % of what has already been paid.

This payment schedule is necessary, as MCI has to pay deposits to concert venues, hotels, coach company and/or airline, tour guides, restaurants, etc, to secure and reserve their services for the tour. MCI cannot make deposits to secure these critical services if MCI does not have money collected for the tour. A delay in payment may compromise services provided, including (but not limited to) transportation costs, venue availability, and hotel location. Punctual payments will contribute to the overall success of the tour.

*Travel protection (insurance) can be purchased up until 3 days prior to departure. Travel protection that includes **Cancel For Any Reason (CFAR)** coverage and the **pre-existing conditions waiver** needs to be purchased within 21 days of MCI's receipt of the first per person payment.



To calculate a tour member's plan cost for the Upgraded Travel Protection Plan, please visit the website below or scan the QR Code.

atc.tripassure.com/main/?welcome=MUSII440AZ





Thank You!

Music Celebrations
International and Faith
Journeys looks forward to
providing the Saint Cecilia
Parish with a truly memorable
faith, transformative, musical
and cultural experience of a
lifetime!

