**“THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY”**

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**A Journey to the Holy Land**

*Under the Direction of* *The Rev.* *Lynne Sharp Local Guide: Canon Iyad Qumri*

**12-Days: APRIL 30-MAY 11, 2017 (travel day May 12th)**

**Hosted at Saint George’s Cathedral in Jerusalem**

*Please note: This itinerary is subject to change.*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30, Day 1: DEPART USA**

On our way to the Holy Land.

**Monday, May 1, Day 2: Arrive Tel Aviv**

We arrive in Tel Aviv and are met by our guide, Canon Iyad Qumri. We are transferred to Jerusalem. Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House

Tel: 972-2-6283302 Fax: 972- 2-6282253

**Tuesday, May 2, Day 3: Old City/Church of the Holy Sepulcher**

**Group Photo,** Introductions, 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 Walk the Cardo to the Constantinian Entrance to the Church of the Resurrection to the Holy Sepulcher, Lunch, afternoon Holy Sepulcher (Cont.) walk to the Armenian quarter where we will be able to observe the Armenian Vespers, walk to the Armenian quarter where we will be able to observe the Armenian Vespers. Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.

**Guest Speaker: Lecture on Islam**

**Wednesday, May 3, Day 4: Western Wall/Dome of the Rock**

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, Lunch, visit SUNBULA: Founded in 1996. Its mission is to support Palestinian women’s cooperatives and disabled people’s self help groups by providing marketing and sales opportunities for their products.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.

**Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues – A Palestinian Perspective**

**Thursday, May 4, Day 5: Princess Basma/Ein Kerem/Israel Museum**

Visit Princess Basma Center for Disabled Childrenon the Mount of Olives, and meet with Director Mr. Ibrahim Faltas at this national center for the evaluation, rehabilitation and education of children and adults with special physical and emotional needs. Lunch, Ein Karem (‘spring of the vineyard’)—a quaint town noted as the birthplace of John the Baptist. The Church of St. John is built over the traditional site of John’s birthplace. The Church of the Visitation marks the traditional visit of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1: 26-40), 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

**Friday, May 5, Day 6: Shepherd’s Field/Bethlehem**

We depart Jerusalem for Bethlehem and the Shepherds’ Field, visit a 1st century cave dwelling, Lunch is in Beit Sahour (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.

**Saturday, May 6, Day 7: 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 Fax: 972-4-6460741

**Sunday, May 7, Day 8: Christ Church/Sepphoris**

Sunday morning Eucharist at Christ Church in Nazareth, Meet with Fr. Nael Abu Rahmoun, Lunch, Sepphoris, where we explore the excavations of the Roman / Byzantine city, the capital of Galilee at the time of Jesus. Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth.

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

**Monday, May 8, Day 9: Jordan River/Capernaum/Beatitudes/Tabgha**

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

Dinner and Overnight at the Sisters of Nazareth.

**Tuesday, May 9, Day 10: 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. Helena 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.

Dinner and overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.

**Guest Speaker: Contemporary Issues — An Israeli Perspective**

**Wednesday, May 10, Day 11: Beth-Phage/Dominus Flevit/Gethsemane/Mt Zion**

Depart for Beth-phage, here we will begin the Palm Sunday Procession. We will stop at Pater Noster and Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over the city. It is known as *Dominus Flevit* [ Latin for “The Lord wept”]. Afterward, we will walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of All Nations. We will then travel by bus across the Kidron Valley to the site of Caiaphas’ Palace where Jesus experienced the Jewish portion of His trial. The site is known today as St. Peter in Galicantu [“crowing rooster”]. Dinner at the Qumris in Jericho. Overnight at Saint George’s Guest House.

**Thursday, May 11, Day 12: Way of the Cross/Emmaus**

Stations of the Cross, **Silent reflections at the Empty Tomb,** Later in the morning we will depart for Emmaus Nicopolis. We celebrate the Eucharist at the ruins of the Byzantine Church.

Transfer to the Tel Aviv airport.

Flights depart between 11 p.m. May 11th and 1:00 a.m. on May 12th – **return home May 12th**.