Wednesday, Oct. 14: We’ll leave the Des Moines International Airport and have one, possibly two layovers en route overnight to Israel. Dinner and then breakfast will be provided on the airline.

Thursday, Oct. 15: We’ll arrive in Israel late morning or early afternoon at the Ben Gurion airport. We will make our way to Nazareth where we will see the Church of the Annunciation and the Wedding Chapel, commemorating where (in the Gospel of John) Jesus performed his first miracle. From there we will head to Tiberias, on the Sea of Galillee, where we will spend the next few overnights. Our saint theme of the day is St. Joseph. We will have our first Mass in the Church of the Annunciation.

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Friday, Oct. 16: Today our saint theme will be St. Peter and we will see sites from his faith journey with the Lord. We will see the Mensa Domini Church, where Jesus forgave Peter for his denial of the Lord. Our next two stops are two places from the life of St. Peter: his hometown of Capernaum and Caesari Philippi where Jesus gave St. Peter the keys to the Kingdom. We will have our Mass at the Church at the Primacy of St. Peter, also known as the Mensa Domini Church.

Saturday, Oct. 17: A relaxing day is planned, giving us time to rest before heading to Jerusalem. We’ll visit the Mount of the Beatitudes and Magdala, home to Mary Magdala. We will have Mass on a boat in the Sea of Galilee, weather permitting. The remainder of the day is yours to relax, visit the Sea of Galilee or reflect on what we have seen so far.

Sunday, Oct. 18: We’ll bid farewell to the Sea and make our way to Jerusalem. We will head towards Mt. Tabor, where the Transfiguration of the Lord took place. We will have Mass at Mt. Tabor at the Basilica of the Transfiguration. We will then go the Israeli side of the Jordan River, where we will renew our Baptismal promises. Afterwards, we will make our way to Jerusalem. Before checking into our hotel, we will make a stop at the Israel Museum; home to the Dead Sea Scrolls and a model of the city of Jerusalem as it looked before the Roman destruction. Our saint theme will be John the Baptist.

Monday, Oct. 19: We will make our way to Bethlehem, which is immediately south of Jerusalem. We will visit the Church of the Nativity. We will have Mass in the nearby St. Catherine of Alexandria. The Church of the Nativity is an Eastern Orthodox church, which is why we will Mass in the Catholic church nearby. After Mass, we will have a walking tour of the city. Our saint theme will be St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Tuesday, Oct. 20: We’ll visit the Garden of Gethsemane, Mount of Olive and the church commemorating Jesus teaching the apostles the Our Father. We will visit the upper room where the Last Supper took place. Our saint theme of the day will be the apostles and Mass will be at Church of Pater Noster. The remainder of the day is yours to explore the Old City or however you wish to spend your time.

Wednesday, Oct. 21: We’ll begin early in the morning for walk on the Via Dolorosa, remembering the way Jesus took to his crucifixion. We will then have Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We will then return to the hotel for breakfast before returning to the Via Dolorosa to see the Pool of Bethesda, the birthplace of the Virgin at St. Anne’s and the Ecce Homo Basilica. Our saint theme of the day is the Virgin Mary.

Thursday, Oct. 22: We’ll have Mass in the morning at the Ecce Homo Basilica and then we’ll visit Yad Vashem, the museum dedicated to the remembrance of the Holocaust. After the museum, the rest of the day is yours.

Friday, Oct. 23: We’ll have Mass in the morning at Notre Dame, where we will be staying. We will then have a relaxing day as we head to the Dead Sea. You may swim, if you so wish. We will then board our bus for a visit to Masada. Masada was the site of a pivot siege towards the end of the First Jewish-Roman war; the same war that destroyed Jerusalem. We will then return to Jerusalem where the reminder of the day is yours.

Saturday, Oct. 24: We’ll depart Jerusalem and make our way to Caesarea, known in ancient time as Caesari Philippi. St. Paul was imprisoned here before he left for his final journey -- Rome. We will spend our last night in Israel at Netanya. Our saint theme is St. Paul.

Sunday, Oct. 25: We’ll return to the Ben Gurion airport in Tel’Aviv and make our way home. Though this journey has ended, we take with us new friendships and a deeper faith.

***All Mass times and locations subject to confirmation.

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