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Pastor's Column

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Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: November 1-15, 2011

In recent years, there has been a return of pilgrims to the Holy Land. Many people are once again considering sharing in the joy and blessing of visiting the land where God's plan for the salvation of the world unfolded.

This will be my sixth pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For me, Israel/Palestine is a place to which I want to return over and over again, because each time that I visit, my faith is deepened and I am more connected to the Scriptures and more centered in the celebration of the Eucharist. When you walk where Jesus walked, you are never the same again!

I am happy to announce that in November of this year (November 1-15), I will be leading a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

The pilgrimage will be a comfortable, two-week opportunity to grow in faith and to deepen your relationship with God.

Imagine visiting Tel Aviv, the Judean Hill Country, Bethlehem, Ein Karem (the home of John the Baptist), Tiberias, Caesarea and the Mediterranean Coast, Haifa, Mt. Carmel, the Jordan River, Nazareth, Cana, the Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, the Mt. of Beatitudes, Mt. Tabor, the Jezreel Valley, the Jordan Valley, Jerusalem, the Western Wall, Mt. Zion, the Upper Room, Dormition Abbey, the Mt. of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane,

the Old City of Jerusalem, the Pool of Bethesda, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Bethany, Jericho, the Dead Sea, Qumran, Ein Gedi, and more!

It is a well-planned pilgrimage, and it will be educational and prayerful.

Brochures will be available in a few days and will be available in the Parish Office. If interested, please make a reservation soon. Space is limited.

The brochure is available on our Parish website (www.stmoside.org), as well as a series of reflections and photos taken that I created while on sabbatical in the Holy Land in the year 2000. Just go to the Parish website, click on "Ministries/Pastoral Staff," then click on "Rev. Michael Ratajczak, Pastor," and you will be on the "Pastor's Page" where the information is available.

The land of Israel/Palestine is the Fifth Gospel. To better understand the four Gospels, one must walk the fifth. I hope that you will consider joining me in November.

F. Mike

[Click here for a copy of the brochure](#)

