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Join Fr. Kenneth Sales in his passionate pilgrimage through

The Steps of St. Paul in Greece and Asia Minor (Turkey)

For 16 days from September 22 – October 7, 2026

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Fremont, CA USA

Sept. 22: SAN FRANCISCO – ATHENS (Tuesday)

Sept. 23: ATHENS (Wednesday)

Arrive at Athens Airport. Meet with your guide and transfer to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sept. 24: ATHENS – ANCIENT CORINTH (Thursday)



Breakfast at the hotel and start the visit to Athens: the cradle of European culture, the source of arts and ideas, pride of the Ancient Age. Founded in the 15th century BC, when the Apostle entered its streets around 50 AD, it had been under Roman rule for two centuries. Overwhelmed and astonished by the luxurious buildings, Paul mingled with the people and ascended to the Acropolis, where he finally discovered the wonder of the Temple to the Patron of Athens. It is presumed that he did not enter the Temple and left the sacred site head down and thoughtful, sure that "his spirit was consumed seeing the city full of idols" (Acts 17:16). We will visit the ACROPOLIS. This hill, fortified during the Minoan period, was transformed into a sanctuary around the 5th century BC, becoming the heart of all Greek culture based on the worship of the gods. We will admire the majesty of the PARTHENON and the elegance of the ERECHTHEION. We will end with the AREOPAGUS, a hill existing below the Acropolis, where Paul addressed the Athenians, speaking to them and presenting the new doctrine of which he was a bearer and minister.



In the afternoon, departure for Corinth: On the third day of arduous and long walking, Paul reached the isthmus of Corinth, now crossed by a 6-kilometer canal. Coinciding with the Apostle's death, Emperor Nero, fifteen years later, gave the first blows with a golden mattock. Paul must have been greatly impressed, not only by its artistic beauty but also because the date of its construction coincided with the destruction of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem by the King of Babylon. Paul spent two years with the Corinthians, leaving among them one of the most flourishing Christian communities he founded.

Continue to the famous Corinth Canal, a Roman work of the first century to connect the Ionian Sea with the Aegean Sea.

Return to the hotel in Athens, dinner, and overnight.

Sept. 25: CRUISE THROUGH THE GREEK ISLANDS – MYCONOS (Friday)

Buffet breakfast. Transfer to the port of Lavrio. Arrival and embarkation on the 3-night cruise to Mykonos. Lunch. Arrival, disembarkation, and free time to enjoy this cosmopolitan island on your own. We recommend getting lost in its narrow

streets to discover different corners and some of the most beautiful places in the city, such as the old town, Little Venice, the Windmills, and the port. Return to the ship. Dinner. Night sailing.

Sept. 26: KUSADASI – PATMOS (Saturday)



Arrival in Kusadasi for a visit to Ancient Ephesus, related to the apostolic activities and preaching of St. Paul and St. John. Also, according to tradition, the city hosts the House of St. Mary. It is the best-preserved ancient city of Asia Minor, an authentic open-air museum. We will visit the Temple of Hadrian, the Roman Baths, the Library, the Odeon, and the Theater. Return to the ship. Lunch and departure for Patmos. Arrival at the sacred island of the Apocalypse, disembarkation, and visit to the Monastery of St. John the Theologian and the Cave of the Revelation where the evangelist wrote his prophetic book. Return to the ship. Dinner. Night sailing.

Sept. 27: CRETE (HERAKLION) – SANTORINI (Sunday)



Arrival at the port of Heraklion, the capital of this beautiful southern Greek island called Crete. Disembarkation and free time to enjoy the historic center on your own, with its most emblematic places such as the Venetian Castle, the Lions Square, the Town Hall, the Church of St. Titus, the Cathedral of St. Minas, the beautiful Loggia building, the old port, and the Archaeological Museum considered the largest museum of Minoan art or participate in one of the optional excursions. Return to the ship, lunch, and departure for Santorini. Arrival at this beautiful island and free time to enjoy the capital (Fira) on your own, practically carved into the gray rock, one of the most cosmopolitan places in the Mediterranean with beautiful views of the bay or participate in one of the optional excursions. Return to the ship. Dinner. Night sailing.

Sept. 28: LAVRIO – DELPHI – KALAMBAKA (Monday)



Arrive of the cruise ship at Lavrio Port. Breakfast, disembark and leave to Delphi, visit one of the world's most interesting archaeological sites. This town owed its fame in antiquity to its Oracle, which already existed in 1500 BC. The ruins we will visit were discovered in 1860: the TEMPLE OF APOLLO, the THEATER, the STADIUM, the SACRED WAY, the TREASURY OF THE ATHENIANS, and the famous bronze statue of the CHARIOTER. We will visit its MUSEUM, which houses a very relevant collection of the discoveries made in Delphi. Departure for the OSSIOS LUKAS monastery. Visit. Impressive monastery built in the 10th century, comprising two churches and monks' cells. The main church, built on the model of the Basilica of Constantinople, houses precious mosaics and imposing marble columns. Continue to Kalambaka. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Sept. 29: KALAMBAKA – METEORA – VERIA – VERIGINA – THESSALONIKI (Tuesday)



Breakfast at your hotel. Start our visit to the METEORA monasteries. An austere monastic center since the 11th century, it not only serves as an ideal place for prayer but also attracts visitors to admire this unique "forest of rocks," inviting peace

and tranquility. This place called many to withdraw from the world, giving rise to the METEORA MONASTERIES. We will make a complete visit to this site with its monasteries suspended from the sky. Built on the most whimsical and steep peaks, of the 21 existing monasteries, only six are inhabited. Inside, we can see beautiful frescoes, original icons painstakingly worked by the monks themselves, and art everywhere. We will have the opportunity to visit three of these monasteries: the MONASTERY OF TRANFIGURATION, the MONASTERY OF SAINT STEPHEN, and the MONASTERY OF HOLY TRINITY, which can be substituted depending on closure days. Continue our trip to Thessaloniki passing by Veria: Saint Luke writes:

"Immediately, the brothers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea by night, and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue." Passing through this city, we will recall the Apostle's traces in his inexhaustible teaching of the Scriptures on his way to Athens. We will stroll through its old town's narrow streets and visit the CHURCH OF PALEA MITROPOLI and AGII ANARGYROI. Arrive in Thessaloniki for a panoramic tour before heading to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Sept. 30: THESSALONIKI – PHILIPPI – NEAPOLIS – KAVALA (Wednesday).



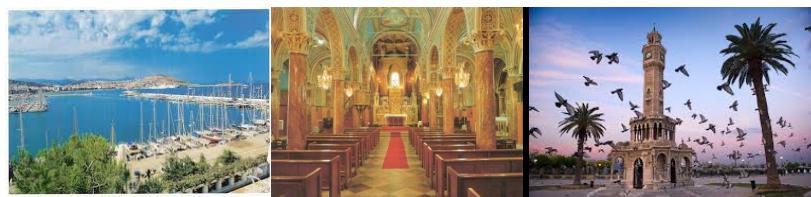
Breakfast at the hotel. Departure for an excursion to the locations that witnessed the presence of the Apostle, as well as the creation of the first Christian communities on the European continent, all within a superb archaeological framework that will introduce us to the most pivotal history of ancient Greece. AMPHIPOLIS. A town where a majestic Hellenistic lion stands. When Paul and his companions had to leave Philippi, they crossed Amphipolis via the splendid Roman road called Via Egnatia, and after crossing the Strymon River, they viewed the famous statue of the sitting lion. We will visit the archaeological site of the ancient Greek city. KAVALA. Facing the island of Thasos and now occupying the site of ancient NEAPOLIS, the port of PHILIPPI. It was the first city visited by Saint Paul during his journey in 49 AD. Kavala has the everlasting glory of being the Beautiful Gate through which Christ triumphantly entered Europe. In the afternoon, visit PHILIPPI. Formerly called CREPIDES. To the inhabitants of Philippi, the Apostle Paul wrote the well-known "Epistle to the Philippians," and from there he wrote his second "Epistle to the Corinthians." We will visit the archaeological complex: OCTAGONAL TEMPLE; AMPHITHEATER; ROMAN AGORA; BATHS; BASILICAS; PAUL'S PRISON; FORUM. Mass in Philippi and return to Thessalonica. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Oct 01: THESSALONIKI - ISTANBUL (TURKEY) – (Thursday).



Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to **Thessaloniki Airport to board your flight to Istanbul**. Arrive and meet your guide for a tour in the capital of Turkey to start a visit to Agia Sophia, an important Byzantine structure in Istanbul and one of the world's great monuments. It was built as a Christian church in the 6th century (532–537 AD) under the direction of the Byzantine emperor Justinian. Then we will stroll through the picturesque Egyptian Spices Market. Arrive to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Oct 02: ISTANBUL – IZMIR (Friday).



Breakfast and transfer to the **airport to board your flight to Izmir (Smyrna)**. Arrive, meet your guide for a panoramic tour of ancient Smyrna, one of the Seven Churches of the Revelation (Rev. 2, 8-11). Visit St. Polycarp Church, one of the oldest Christian sites in Izmir. Dinner and overnight in our hotel.

Oct 03: IZMIR – ALASEHIR (PHILADELPHIA) – PAMUKKALE (Saturday).



Breakfast at your hotel. Drive to Alasehir, ancient Philadelphia, another of the Seven Churches of Asia (Rev. 3:7–13). Visit remains of the Byzantine Basilica and city walls. Continue to Pamukkale, ancient Hierapolis, where the Tomb of St. Philip the Apostle is located. Visit the thermal terraces of Pamukkale and ancient Hierapolis ruins. Dinner and overnight in Pamukkale.

Oct 04: PAMUKKALE – LOADICEA – COLOSSOAE – KONYA (Sunday).



Breakfast at your hotel. Visit Laodicea, mentioned in Revelation (Rev. 3:14–22) and in Paul's letter to the Colossians (Col. 2:1). Continue to Colossae, home of the early Christian community addressed in Paul's Epistle to the Colossians. See the archaeological site and scenic Lycus Valley.

Drive to Konya (ancient Iconium), where Paul and Barnabas preached (Acts 13–14).

Dinner and overnight in Konya.

Oct 05: KONYA (ICONIUM) – LYSTRA – KONYA (Monday).



Breakfast at your hotel. Morning visit to Lystra, where Paul healed a crippled man and was later stoned (Acts 14:6–20). Explore the archaeological remains and countryside setting.



Return to Konya: visit the Mevlana Museum (whirling dervishes' monastery) and see ancient Iconium sites connected to Paul's ministry. Dinner and overnight in Konya.

Oct 06: KONYA – PERGE (PAMPHYLIA) – ANTALYA (Tuesday).

Breakfast at your hotel. Drive south to Perge, in ancient Pamphylia, where Paul and Barnabas preached after arriving from Cyprus (Acts 13:13). Visit the Roman theater, stadium, baths, and agora.

Continue to Antalya, ancient Attalia, where Paul and Barnabas sailed back to Antioch (Acts 14:25–26).

Arrive to our hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Oct 07: ANTALYA – ISTANBUL - SAN FRANCISCO (Wednesday).

Breakfast at the hotel. **Transfer to Antalya airport and board your flight to Istanbul. Arrive and connect with your overseas flight to San Francisco.**