

816 Art of the Holy Land (Catholic)

Dec. '20

High Altar, Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem - This church, also known as the Church of the Resurrection, was built on the site of the Crucifixion and Entombment of Christ. Mark 15:21-25, 42-47

Jan.

Jaffa, Ancient Joppa - The first mission of Jonah began when Jonah rose up to flee from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, by the sea, to board a ship for Tarshish hoping to escape from the divine commission of the Lord. Jonah 1:3

Feb.

Petra (Biblical Sela) - Located in Edom, it was the site where King Amaziah of Judah invaded Edom. He defeated ten thousand Edomites in the Valley of Salt and captured Sela in the battle. A later conqueror carved the elaborate façades in the red limestone. II Kings 14:7

Mar.

Luxor, from the Nile - Called No or Thebes in the Bible, Luxor is the site of the great Temple of Ammon and the tombs of the Pharaohs. The Hebrew prophet Jeremiah prophesied against this pagan worship. Jeremiah 25:5-6

Apr.

Petra (Sela in Ancient Edom) - "Sing to the Lord a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth...Let the inhabitants of Sela exult, and shout from the top of the mountains." Isaiah 42:10-11

May

Sentinel Rock, Petra (Biblical Selain, the Land of Edom) - Edomites, descendants of Esau, settled in the mountainous area southeast of the Dead Sea. Twice they were ruled briefly by Israel, first by King David and later by King Amaziah of Judah. Genesis 36:1-19, II Chronicles 25:3-14

June

Sebaste (Samaria) Church of John the Baptist - The city was built in the 9th Century by King Omri of Israel. Herod rebuilt it in 38 B.C. Tradition says John was beheaded here and that his head is buried in a crypt under the church. I Kings 16:24; Mark 6:17-29

July

Convent of the Terra Santa, Nazareth - Tradition claims this site as the location of the synagogue where Jesus began his Galilean ministry after his temptation. He was praised at first but later rejected. Luke 4:14-30

Aug.

Mt. Tabor - When the prophetess Deborah became a judge, Israel was oppressed by King Jabin of Canaan. A major battle took place on Mount Tabor where the Lord God of Israel triumphed over the enemy. Judges 4:4-6

Sep.

Entrance to Nablous - So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of land that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there. Jesus, tired from his journey, sat down there at the well. John 4:5-6

Oct.

The Great Sphinx, Pyramids of Gizeh (Giza) - Hebrews who were refugees in lower Egypt may have seen this spectacular sight which was built about 2450 B.C. They would have been greatly offended by this enormous monument to the god Harakhte. Matthew 2:13-15

Nov.

Greek Orthodox Convent of San Saba - The Judean desert near Bethlehem in the Kidron gorge was sought out by devout hermits in the early centuries of Christianity. The present monastic community dates back from 492.

Dec.

Church of the Holy Sepulchre - This basilica, built in the 4th century, occupies the site of Calvary and the entombment and resurrection of Jesus. The church was rebuilt by the Crusaders in the 12th century. Since then it has been restored and altered several times. Mark 15:21-47