



WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR AND WHY DO WE CELEBRATE IT?

■ ORIGIN AND SIGNIFICANCE:

- The concept of a jubilee year has ancient roots in the law of Moses. In the Book of Leviticus, it was prescribed that jubilee years should occur every 50 years. These years were marked by the return of lands to their owners and the forgiveness of debts – a manifestation of God’s justice and mercy.
- Pope Boniface VIII established a similar practice in the year 1300 for the Catholic Church.
- The 2025 Jubilee Year follows the Catholic custom of celebrating a Jubilee every 25 years.
- It begins on December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve) and concludes on January 6, 2026.
- Extraordinary jubilee years can also be proclaimed by the Holy Father as when Pope Francis decreed the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2015.
- Additional Information can be found at www.usccb.org/jubilee2025.

■ THEME AND MOTTO:

- The theme for this Jubilee Year is “**Pilgrims of Hope.**” These words encapsulate the essence of our journey in this life. Both “pilgrims” and “hope” resonate with key themes of Pope Francis’ pontificate.
- The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth. They embrace to indicate the solidarity which should unite all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross which will never abandon us. There are rough waves under the figures, symbolizing the fact that life’s pilgrimage does not always go smoothly in calm waters. The lower part of the cross is elongated into the shape of an anchor let down into the waves. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. *Adapted from www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/logo.html*



■ JUBILEE TRADITIONS:

- The Pope inaugurates the Jubilee Year by opening the Holy Door in St. Peter’s Basilica. This Door is opened only during Jubilee years.
- Subsequently, the Holy Doors of other papal basilicas—St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, and St. Mary Major—are opened and remain so until the end of the Jubilee Year.
- This Jubilee Year will not include Holy Doors in all the (arch)dioceses of the world, though a bishop may designate a place or activity in honor of the Jubilee Year for the faithful to obtain the graces they could receive as if they had traveled to Rome. Bishop Libasci has proclaimed that all those who participate in the NH Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage May 18 – June 19, 2025, will have an opportunity for these special graces called indulgences: [Decree-JubileeYearOfHope2024.12.14.pdf](#)
- Special Jubilee celebrations are held in Rome for many particular groups during this year. For example, the Jubilee of Artists is Feb. 15-18, the Jubilee of the Sick and Health Care Workers is April 5-6, and the Jubilee of Sports is June 14-15. And there are many, many more. Please go to www.usccb.org/jubilee-2025-calendar for more information.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025?

Participating in the **Jubilee Year 2025** is a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth and fruitful reflection. Here are some ways you can engage in this special year:

■ PILGRIMAGE TO ROME:

- If possible, consider making a pilgrimage to Rome, the heart of the Catholic Church. During the Jubilee Year, the city will be bustling with pilgrims from around the world.

■ PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL EVENTS:

- Even if you don't travel to Rome, many dioceses and parishes organize local events and activities to celebrate the Jubilee Year. This is what the NH Diocesan Eucharistic Pilgrimage is all about. For more information, please go to www.catholicnh.org/nhjubilee
- Attend special Masses, prayer services, and retreats. Seek out opportunities for confession and spiritual direction.

■ LEARN ABOUT PLENARY INDULGENCES

- The Jubilee Year offers the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence, which remits all temporal punishment due to sin.
- To receive this grace, a person must fulfill the following conditions:
 - Make a sacramental confession (within a reasonable time before or after the jubilee event).
 - Receive Holy Communion.
 - Pray for the intentions of the Pope (usually an Our Father and a Hail Mary).
 - Visit a designated jubilee site (such as a cathedral or basilica) with a contrite heart.
 - Detach from all attachment to sin, even venial sin.
- For more information about indulgences, please go to:
<https://thenationalshrineofmarymotherofthechurch.com/plenary-indulgences-explained/>

■ REFLECT AND SET SPIRITUAL GOALS:

- Use this special year as an opportunity for introspection and growth.
- Reflect on your life, your relationship with God, and how you can enrich your spiritual life.
- Set spiritual goals—whether it's deepening your prayer life, practicing acts of charity, or seeking reconciliation with others.

Remember that the Jubilee Year is a time of grace, mercy, and renewal. May it be a transformative experience for you, wherever you are on your faith journey.



Revive. Ignite. Transform.

www.catholicnh.org/nhjubilee

