



JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

The Jubilee Year of 2025 is quickly approaching. As we take time these last weeks of the year to make our preparations for the celebration of Christmas, we should also take time to prepare our parishes, institutions, and ourselves to engage more fully in the many opportunities for mercy, forgiveness, and peace the Jubilee provides. To help with this, the Office of Worship has prepared the following aids to help. More information and resources will come as the Jubilee year begins.

Jubilee 2025 Information

The following paragraphs could be used in bulletins, newsletters, or as a single handout to help the people understand more about what the Jubilee is and what happens.

What is a Jubilee? The Jubilee has its roots in ancient Jewish practice (see Leviticus 25). The word “Jubilee” comes from the Hebrew *yobel*, which is the ram’s horn that was blown to mark the beginning of this special year. During this “year of favor” slaves would be freed, debts forgiven and the mercy of God would be celebrated. The first Christian Holy Year was declared in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII. Originally designated to be celebrated every 100 years, in modern times, a Jubilee Year is normally held every 25 years (although Pope Francis called an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy in 2016).

What Happens in a Jubilee? The celebration of jubilee years typically includes pilgrimages, processions, celebrations of Mass, and an invitation to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. These liturgical celebrations are opportunities to receive the Lord’s mercy, especially through the practice of the Jubilee indulgence, and lead to the performance of works of mercy.

What is Jubilee 2025? The motto for the Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope.” In the official document declaring the Jubilee (called a “papal bull”), Pope Francis suggests several ways to bring Christ and his message of hope to the world, for example, by working for peace and an end to conflicts, promoting human life, showing amnesty to prisoners, upholding the dignity of migrants, healing the sick, and accompanying the elderly.

Opening of Jubilee 2025: The Jubilee begins when Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major and Saint Paul Outside the Walls, as well as Rebibbia Prison in Rome.

Opening of the Diocesan Jubilee – Sunday, December 29, 10:30 am, Saint Benedict Cathedral: All are invited to the cathedral for the celebration of the local opening of the Jubilee on the Feast of the Holy Family. The Jubilee cross will be brought into the cathedral and the Jubilee will officially begin for the diocese.

More Information on the Jubilee:

- Vatican website for Jubilee 2025 (<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>)
 - USCCB website for Jubilee 2025 (<https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>)
-

Preparation for Jubilee 2025

Pope Francis has called on the Church to pray in preparation for the upcoming 2025 Jubilee. As we approach the opening of the Jubilee on December 29, we can look to our parish celebrations of the Mass as the primary way to intensify our prayers for a fruitful and joyous celebration of the year.

Sample Intercessions

The following samples may be used as is, or feel free to compose your own intercessions based on these themes.

As we prepare for the Jubilee of 2025, renew our faith, increase the virtues of hope and charity in us, and help us be witnesses of Your love in the world.

In the upcoming Jubilee, open our eyes to the beauty of Your creation so that our hearts may rejoice in the wonder and greatness of Your works.

As we prepare for the Jubilee, teach us to recognize Your hand in every moment of our lives and to welcome each day as a gift of Your mercy and love.

As we prepare to celebrate the upcoming Jubilee, open our hearts and enlighten our minds so that we may understand and fully experience the gifts of mercy and forgiveness.

The Jubilee and the Eucharist

The Jubilee of 2025 offers a valuable opportunity for preparing and deepening our understanding of the true meaning of the Eucharist. To fully experience this great mystery an appropriate disposition of heart and mind is necessary each time we approach the Eucharist. The following paragraphs could be used in bulletins, newsletters, or as a single handout to help the people use the Jubilee as an opportunity to better prepare themselves for the celebration of the Eucharist.

Prepare for Mass Well in the Jubilee: Approach the Eucharist with a brief personal preparation in silence that helps you step out of the hectic pace of daily life to reflect on the mystery you are about to experience. You may pause in front of the tabernacle, where the Blessed Sacrament is present, recognizing that He will soon make Himself present on the altar, giving Himself to us in His true Body and Blood. It may also be very helpful to read the passages of God's Word that will be proclaimed in the liturgy ahead of time.

Make the Sign of the Cross Well in the Jubilee: The words and gestures made enable us, from the very beginning, to be involved body, soul, and mind in the celebration. The Sign of the Cross, in fact, summarizes the whole of our Christian faith. When we sign ourselves with the symbol of the cross, we recall the incarnation, redemption, and resurrection of the Lord, and when we pronounce the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we recall the great Mystery of the Holy Trinity.

Listen Carefully to the Word of God in the Jubilee: Maintain a receptive, meditative attitude that enlightens the heart and mind of every Christian because the Word is “living”. By listening and through personal recollection, it is possible to translate the Word into everyday life, receiving help and consolation. Therefore, especially when standing up at the time of the proclamation of the Gospel, we are called to recognize the presence of the Lord who, through the minister, still speaks to us today in the Eucharistic celebration.

Pray the Lord’s Prayer Attentively in the Jubilee: Meditate on the prayer that Jesus taught by reflecting on the meaning of the words that are said. Even in personal prayer, one should not rush when reciting the words. Rather, dwell carefully and reverently on every expression used to converse with the Father.

Welcoming the Eucharistic Jesus in the Jubilee: The broken bread becomes nourishment for the life and presence of God that strengthens and sustains us. It is necessary to experience this important moment with greater awareness in the certainty that the Lord enters each person’s life and desires to be received into a generous and attentive heart. As you approach Holy Communion, some silent prayers can be recited in your heart that will prepare you to receive the Lord with greater awareness and gratitude.

“The Mass is ended, go in Peace” in the Jubilee: Having been nourished at the table of bread and wine, with the final greeting, we are invited to become credible witnesses of Christ and bearers of peace in the world. Before leaving the church it is good to pause (at least for five minutes) to give thanks for the gift received in Holy Communion, aware that the Lord has come to visit us. In this way, we can more carefully cherish the grace within us and be able to face the world with His help.

Jubilee Prayer/ Oración del Jubileo

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the
Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen.

Padre que estás en el cielo,
la fe que nos has donado en
tu Hijo Jesucristo, nuestro hermano,
y la llama de caridad
infundida en nuestros corazones por el
Espíritu Santo,
despierten en nosotros la bienaventurada
esperanza
en la venida de tu Reino.

Tu gracia nos transforme
en dedicados cultivadores de las semillas del
Evangelio
que fermenten la humanidad y el cosmos,
en espera confiada
de los cielos nuevos y de la tierra nueva,
cuando vencidas las fuerzas del mal,
se manifestará para siempre tu gloria.

La gracia del Jubileo
reavive en nosotros, Peregrinos de
Esperanza,
el anhelo de los bienes celestiales
y derrame en el mundo entero
la alegría y la paz
de nuestro Redentor.

A ti, Dios bendito eternamente,
sea la alabanza y la gloria por los siglos.
Amén.