

Jubilee Year 2025

The Year of Hope



Pope Francis has announced the opening of the Jubilee Year, beginning worldwide on **Sunday, December 29th**, the Solemnity of the Holy Family. The **Jubilee Years** have a long and storied tradition in the Church, **a time of celebration and reflection** on our journey as Christians. For this Jubilee, the Pope has chosen the theme **"Pilgrims of Hope."** Hope is one of the three Theological Virtues, alongside Faith and Charity, but it is in many ways the least well known. **Keep an eye out for booklets** about the Jubilee Year and what this great virtue means for our lives as Christians!

Jubilee Year Major Dates

OPENING MASS

HOLY FAMILY

11AM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH, 2024

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

7PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 27TH

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

7PM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

CLOSING MASS

EPIPHANY

11AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH, 2026

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

JANUARY

1/12 BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FEBRUARY

2/2 PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

MARCH

3/5 ASH WEDNESDAY

3/25 ANNUNCIATION

APRIL

4/13 PALM SUNDAY

4/20 EASTER

JUNE

6/1 ASCENSION OF THE LORD

6/8 PENTACOST

6/29 STS. PETER AND PAUL

JULY

7/4 INDEPENDENCE DAY

AUGUST

8/15 ASSUMPTION

SEPTEMBER

9/14 EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

NOVEMBER

11/1 ALL SOULS

11/23 CHRIST THE KING

DECEMBER

12/8 IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

12/25 CHRISTMAS

Jubilee Year FAQ

What is a Jubilee Year?

-The **Jubilee Year** is a **celebration** which occurs in the Church every 25 years. It is inspired by the Book of Leviticus, and was started by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Traditionally, Catholics worldwide would go on **pilgrimage to Rome** to seek indulgences.

What is an indulgence?

-An **indulgence** is a special grace which the Church reserves for acts of piety, including pilgrimage. This grace **makes reparation for the punishment due to sin** which requires purification in Purgatory. An indulgence can be applied to oneself or to the souls in Purgatory. During Jubilee years, there are more opportunities to pray for plenary indulgences, which completely make reparation for sin.

Didn't the Church get rid of those?

-Indulgences were a major source of scandal in the Protestant Reformation, but they are still a part of the Church. The scandal came from those who attempted to "sell" indulgences, a practice the Church has always condemned. The seeking of an indulgence must always be accompanied by prayer and a disposition to be free of sin.

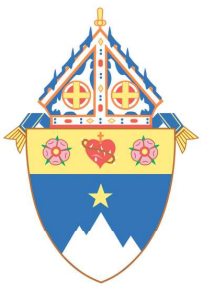
Do I need to go to Rome?

-While Rome is the traditional location of pilgrimage, the Pope has also designated **Sacred Heart Cathedral** as a pilgrimage site, and the Bishop has included **Immaculate Conception Church in Bethel** as an additional pilgrimage church.

What do I do when I get there?

-The Pope has asked all pilgrims to participate in at least one of the following:

- Holy Mass
- Celebration of the Word of God
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Stations of the Cross
- The Rosary
- A Penitential Celebration with Confession



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The Year of Hope



JUBILEE YEAR 2025

Pilgrims of Hope

This Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has picked the theme of Hope.

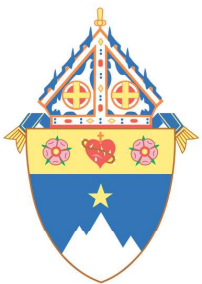
What is hope? And what does it have to do with pilgrims?

Hope and pilgrimage are two closely linked ideas in the life of the Church. We all have a general idea of what it means to hope: we hope for our children to grow up well, and we hope for ourselves, for good health in sickness or a better life in time of trouble. What we can see from these is that hope is:

The desire for a future good which takes effort to attain.

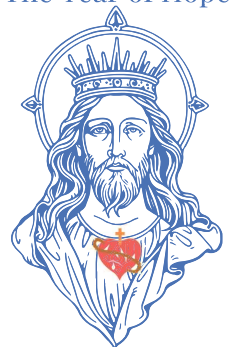
Above all these, Christians are called to a higher hope, for our future good is not here on earth, but in **eternal life with God in Heaven**. This good is impossible for us, but *“for God, all things are possible”* (Matthew 19:26). Thus, Christian hope is the desire that we will gain heaven by the power of the Holy Spirit keeping us faithful so that we may one day be perfectly united to the Father through His Son. This is what we call the **Virtue of Hope**, which is a gift of grace.

When we come to understand this, we recognize that we are **pilgrims on earth**. We *“desire a better homeland, a heavenly one”* (Hebrews 11:16). Thus, the practice of Christians to travel to sites of spiritual significance became an outward sign of this reality we all live. It is in this way that even those unable to travel can still participate in the Jubilee Year by continuing the path of Faith by which our hearts are constantly called home. It is in this spirit that Pope Francis calls us all to be “Pilgrims of Hope”.



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The Virtue of Hope

Christian Hope and what is opposed to it.

As we've said, hope is the desire for a future good which takes effort to attain, and Christian **Hope** is specifically **the desire for eternal life with God in heaven**. Now, how is it that Hope is a virtue? We may have some sense of what it means to be virtuous: we remember good advice from our elders and know what it means to be prudent, we look at the right decisions of our judges and know what it means to be just, we hear stories of the soldiers who fought in war and know what it means to be courageous, we see the fasting of monks and know what it means to be temperate. What distinguishes **virtues**, then, is that they seek to **make our acts as good as possible**. Like a hunter aiming his shot, it is not enough to do more of something to act well, but to go not too far one way, nor too far another. Christian hope belongs to a special class of virtues called the **Theological Virtues**. They are called this for two reasons: because their acts **find their meaning in God** and **are accomplished through God's grace alone**. Hope as a virtue makes our actions better because it encourages us to act in ways that are worthy of heaven. However, just like the other virtues, one can go too far one way or another.

When we stray from God's will for us in the virtue of hope, we can act in **two opposite ways**. By **lacking hope, we can believe we can never attain heaven**, a thought we call **despair**. Despair **rejects God's power and mercy**, for those who believe their human frailty is somehow greater than God's power reject that His "*mercy endures forever*" (Psalms 137:1). The Devil encourages this in the faithful by corrupting a healthy recognition of their sinfulness, and in the weak in faith by convincing them that eternal life does not exist at all. On the contrary, by **going beyond hope, we can believe we win heaven by our own power**, or that **God will have mercy on us no matter our attitude towards sin**, which we call **presumption**. Presumption **rejects God's power and justice**, for those who believe they act well by themselves reject that "*every perfect gift is from above*" (James 1:17), and those who believe that He forgives the unrepentant reject that He "*will repay everyone according to his works*" (Romans 2:6). The Devil encourages this in the faithful to turn them into Pharisees convinced of their holiness, and in the weak in faith to keep them blinded by their sins and unwilling to change their lives. **True hope** always **relies on God** to help accomplish the good in view of the call to eternal life. As we travel in hope of future glory, I encourage you to meditate on how God is calling you to enter more deeply into this virtue and pray that you may resist all efforts of the evil one to turn you away from it!

