

St. John's Newsletter



Celebrating Hope

Since 1300, the Catholic Church has celebrated the faith and provided opportunities to receive extra grace and indulgences as pilgrims on our faith journey through Jubilee Years. The theme for the 2025 Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope." In announcing the theme, Pope Francis stated, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."

The Vatican is preparing for millions of pilgrims to visit Rome during the Jubilee year. But one does not have to go as far as Rome to celebrate. According to the United States Council of Catholic Bishops, there are events scheduled throughout the year in the US, including the Archdiocese of San Antonio which will open 23 pilgrimage sites. Information and map of the sites can be found at <https://archsa.org/jubilee2025/>,

The Jubilee Year begins with the tradition of opening the Holy Door when Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024. Other holy doors will be opened at the Rome basilicas of St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith. Our Lady of Grace Church in LaCoste has been chosen as the pilgrimage site for the Hondo deanery.

The first definite record of a Christian Jubilee was that declared by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, but similar events like the Jubilee Years were observed in prior centuries. Participants have the chance to gain a plenary indulgence—the remission of all temporal punishment due to sin—but a Jubilee Year is also traditionally a time of reconciliation between enemies and of conversion of heart. The practice has its origins in Judaism. Just as the seventh day of the week was the Sabbath, a day of rest, the Jews kept every seventh year as a "sabbatical" year—a year of rest. The Jubilee Year took place after seven cycles of seven years, (the 50th year). As explained in the book of Leviticus, it was a year of remission and pardon, release of slaves, and forgiveness. Twenty-five years eventually became the regular interval between Jubilees in the Catholic Church, but special ones can be called for particular reasons.

Pope Francis called a special Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016 and a Lauretan Jubilee in 2020. This Jubilee—which was extended to the end of this year due to the disruptions of the coronavirus—commemorates the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of Our Lady of Loreto.

Coming in the February newsletter – What is a Plenary Indulgence?

Sources: <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>
<https://archsa.org/jubilee2025/>

https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/what-is-a-jubilee-year/?utm_term=&utm_campaign=**LP+-+NonTM+-+DSA&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&utm_sa_acc=1453680900&utm_hsa_cam=17736569712&utm_hsa_grp=144561025091&utm_hsa_ad=610143798915&utm_hsa_src=q&utm_hsa_tgt=dsa-1456167871416&utm_hsa_kw=&utm_hsa_mt=&utm_hsa_net=adwords&utm_hsa_ver=3&utm_qad_source=1&utm_qbraid=0AAAAAD_qYDH9GzeWrrN5FTxSOT41_WR3p

Volume 16 - January 2025- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters

