



What is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee is a Holy Year, which offers a unique opportunity for profound spiritual growth and renewed faith. Jubilees are a part of the Catholic tradition and ordinarily take place every twenty-five years. 2025 marks the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord, an “event of great significance in the life of the Church.”

What is the theme of Jubilee 2025?

The theme of this Holy Year is “Pilgrims of Hope.” Jubilee 2025 is meant to intensify our experience of God’s grace – His divine life – at work within us. Let us cooperate with God’s grace received in the Sacraments so that we experience a spiritual renewal in our heart and ongoing revival in the Church.

How can I participate in this significant Jubilee?

This Jubilee Year of Hope is a personal invitation to:

- **Deepen your understanding of Christian hope.** Hope is an incredible virtue which is given to us by God at baptism that disposes us to live in relationship with the Blessed Trinity. Hope is the virtue “by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC #1817). During this Jubilee Year, let us pray for an increase of the virtue of hope, which “does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us” (Romans 5:5).

God’s grace, we will be strengthened with the courage to invite others back home to encounter the unconditional love of Jesus and the truth and beauty of His Church.

- **Make a pilgrimage to one (or more) of the designated churches in the Diocese of La Crosse** There is a long tradition of making pilgrimages in the Catholic church. The practice has been encouraged by the Pope during the Ordinary Jubilee Year of Hope. Pope Francis explains that pilgrimage is a “fundamental element of every Jubilee event.” (Spes non Confundit, Bull of Indiction of the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025, no. 5). He also granted an indulgence to the faithful who complete pilgrimages in this holy year: “The faithful, pilgrims of hope, will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence granted by the Holy Father if they undertake a pious pilgrimage: ... by visiting the Cathedral or other church or sacred place designated by the local Ordinary.” (Decree on the Granting of Indulgence during the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025).

Bishop Battersby has designated the following as places of pilgrimage for the 2025 Jubilee Year:

- The Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman – La Crosse
- The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe – La Crosse
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Church – Eau Claire
- Church of the Resurrection Catholic Church – Wausau
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church – Nekoosa

A plenary indulgence is a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin. Such an indulgence, which applies to sin already forgiven, cleanses the soul as if the person had just been baptized. The conditions for receiving an indulgence include:

1. Make an intention to offer one’s Pilgrimage to one of the designated places for the purification of one’s own soul or for any or all of the Faithful Departed.
2. While visiting this place, pray for the Holy Father. (i.e. an Our Father and Hail Mary.)
3. Make a good Confession of all one’s sins during the visit, or within 20 days.
4. Freed from sin, receive the Holy Eucharist during Holy Mass on the day of the visit.
5. Be detached from all sin during one’s Pilgrimage, including venial sin, for the Plenary Indulgence, otherwise it is Partial Indulgence.

➤ Attend an Evening of Hope!

Please join His Excellency Bishop Gerard William Battersby at one or both of these events:

- **Saturday, May 31, 2025 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Eau Claire** Holy Hour, Confession, and Mass (Coincides with the Jubilee of Families in Rome) At this event, Fr. Dan Sedlacek will offer a reflection on the virtue of hope. diolc.org/jubilee2025

• Sunday, Oct 12, 2025 at Church of the Resurrection in Wausau

Holy Hour, Confession at Church of the Resurrection, Wausau (Coincides with the Jubilee of Marian Devotion in Rome) Fr. James Kurzynski will offer a reflection on the virtue of hope. diolc.org/jubilee2025

➤ Reflect on the Nicene Creed

This year is the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, which gave us the Creed we recite to this day at Sunday Mass and is the foundation of Christian orthodoxy. The Nicene Creed is significant because it helped settle how Catholics worship one God, who is three Persons. While the Nicene Creed is meaningful as a whole, we can spend five minutes reflecting on one line over several days to help us strengthen our relationship with God and understand the importance of reciting the Nicene Creed.

- **Rediscover the hope and joy received from Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation** During this Jubilee Year, let us all treat ourselves to a monthly visit with Christ in the confessional to experience greater freedom, hope, joy and peace. As we cooperate with the power of

