

Weekly Bulletin Announcements on Hope:

1.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of all hope.”

“May the God of all *hope* fill you with joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in *hope*” (Romans 15:13). Hope is a theological virtue that we receive from God at Baptism, which disposes us to live in a relationship with our heavenly Father, Jesus – the Son of God – and the Holy Spirit. (See *Catechism*, paragraphs 1812-1813) We grow in this profound gift when we ask God to increase hope in us. The gift of hope enables us to trust in God’s promises that are expressed throughout Sacred Scripture and fulfilled by Jesus, and to trust in His faithfulness and love.

2.

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“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my *hope* is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken” (Psalm 62:5-6). Hope is based on trusting in God’s goodness, infinite mercy and faithfulness. The Act of Hope may be prayed at any time, acknowledging God’s power, promises, and willingness to grant forgiveness, grace, and eternal life through the merits of Jesus Christ.

You are invited to pray the *Act of Hope* each day during the Jubilee Year of Hope:

"O Lord God, I hope by Your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because You have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope, I intend to live and die. Amen."

3.

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“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born anew to a living *hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). Our hope rests on the faithfulness of God who always keep His promises. We trust with confidence in His plan of perfect goodness as He re-united us with Himself after the Original Sin of our first parents. This union with our Heavenly Father was

made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection. We experience this union with God by receiving His very life into our soul in the Sacrament of Baptism, and through the reception of Jesus in Holy Communion each Sunday (or Saturday evening), as well as receiving any of the Sacraments.

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“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have *hope*: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; so great is His faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21-23). Christian hope is a theological virtue. The word “theological” means that hope is a gift from God and leads us to God. It is through hope that “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” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraph 1817). Hope has to do with the future, which deals with the unknown and so is directly related to trusting Jesus. Ask Jesus for an increase of the gift of hope so that your trust in Him will grow.

5.

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Our *hope* is in Jesus because we know that we can trust Him. Why? The reason is because all the promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled by Christ. The initial promise God made to us was given when our first parents committed the Original Sin. Through their free act of choosing against God, Adam and Eve became separated from Him, with the loss of God’s life within them, which we call sanctifying grace. Thankfully, God promised a Savior to draw us back into union with Himself. Jesus came and gave His life for us on the Cross and rose from the dead, opening the gates of Heaven and allowing for this re-union for us with the Father. Throughout this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us ask for an increase of hope, and trust that God is a promise keeper.

6.

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It is by God’s gift of hope that we trust Jesus is with us and will help us through every difficulty, so that we might live with Him forever. Hope helps us to put our priorities in order, so that our relationship with God is central in our lives. We cannot “muster” the virtue of hope with our own will power, but we can ask Jesus for an increase of hope and cooperate with this gift so that our trust in Him might increase. “May the God of all hope fill you with a joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13).