

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.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

“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.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

“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.

4.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

“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.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

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.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

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)

7.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.” (Romans 15:13)

Each of us has many things for which we can be grateful to God. However, the greatest blessing that we can ever have is Jesus. God the Father gave us His Son, who died and rose again to overcome the power of Satan, sin and eternal death. Further, Jesus wanted to remain with us always and so He instituted one Church – the Catholic Church – so that we can receive His very Life and truth. Jesus is the Savior of the world, the real reason for hope. Let us ask Christ to help us grow in the gift of hope, thereby trusting Him more.

8.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.” (Romans 15:13)

The gift of hope occupies a place of great importance in our lives because by hope we “desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness.” However, the busyness of life can pull our focus away from this profound desire for Heaven. All of us are on a journey through this earthly life that will come to an end. We want to live forever with God our loving Father and with family and friends. Hope is based upon “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). Jesus is the unfailing hope of all who believe in Him and are committed to follow His way. There is always a need to grow in hope. Let us ask Jesus to strengthen our trust in Him.

9.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

God created you out of love. He knows and loves you unconditionally and He wants you to know Him. Jesus came so that you could know God in a personal way because if you know Jesus, you know the Father. As with any relationship, you need to continue to deepen your friendship with Jesus in an ongoing way. Ask Jesus to increase your *hope* in Him, with the confidence that He knows you, even with your weaknesses and sins, and He will always love you without reservation. You can trust Him! Jesus said, “I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10).

10.

Jubilee Year of Hope

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

In our culture in which the rates of anxiety and depression are at an all-time high, hope is profound gift from God that is especially important for each person. Scripture connects the gift of *hope* with the symbol of the anchor because hope grounds us in the sure and firm foundation of salvation in Christ. When you read Sacred Scripture, you will open your heart to the gift of hope. Commit to 5 minutes a day to slowly reading one passage from the Bible, starting with the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke.