

Jubilee 2025

WHERE: Worldwide

WHEN: December 24, 2024 to January 6, 2026

WHO'S INVITED: Everyone!

WHO'S PARTICIPATING: Pope Francis, millions of pilgrims from around the world

THEME: Pilgrims of Hope



What is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is a special year in the Catholic Church. Jubilees have roots in the Old Testament. In the Bible, the Jubilee Year happened every 50 years. The purpose was to bring fairness, healing, and peace, and offer a fresh start to the Israelites.

The Church began celebrating the Jubilee Year again in the 14th century. Since then, it has become an important event in the Catholic calendar. Once held every 100 years, then every 50, Jubilee Years now happen every 25 years.

Jubilee Years are a time for special celebrations, pilgrimages, acts of penance, and most importantly, focusing on God's mercy and forgiveness.

The pope declares a Jubilee Year. During the Holy Year, Catholics are encouraged to renew their relationship with God through prayer, penance, and acts of kindness. Pilgrimages to holy places are encouraged, and people can receive indulgences, special graces from the Church that helps remove the punishment for sins that have already been forgiven. The Jubilee Year is a time for all Catholics to grow closer to God and to each other, remembering that God always offers us new beginnings!



“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.”

Pope Francis



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What is a Pilgrim?

Those traveling to celebrate the Jubilee in Rome are making a pilgrimage. Since ancient times, people of faith have been pilgrims. Recall the stories of Abraham, Moses, and the early Christians. A pilgrimage is a very special journey. Those making a pilgrimage prepare themselves both physically and spiritually.

The official prayer of His Holiness Pope Francis for the Holy Year

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us in your son,
Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of
charity enkindled in our hearts by the Holy
Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless
cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos in
the sure expectation of a new heaven and
a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil
vanquished, your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken
in us, Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the
treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread the joy
and peace of our Redeemer throughout
the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory
and praise for ever.

Amen

Ways that Catholic Kids and Families can take part in the Jubilee Year

- Make time for daily prayer and reflection on the themes of hope, reconciliation, and mercy
- Read Scripture, specifically the psalms and Gospels, that speak to the promise of hope
- Perform acts of mercy or kindness that make the world a better place and spread hope
- Celebrate the sacraments, particularly the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Penance and Reconciliation
- Make a pilgrimage, whether to Rome or to a nearby shrine or holy site
- Take part in retreats or catechetical events that focus on the themes of the Jubilee year to grow in understanding and build faith
- Your own ideas:

Saints and Hope

Saints inspire us to trust in God’s mercy, even in the toughest times, and to always hold on to the hope of his love. Research a saint and add a short biography to this list.



St. Teresa of Ávila—Known for her deep trust in God’s guidance, she taught about the importance of hope in the spiritual journey. She believed that no matter the challenges, God’s love and grace would always be there to lead us to peace.

St. Padre Pio—A saint of great compassion and perseverance, he offered hope to those who struggled in faith. His life of prayer, suffering, and miracles reminds us that God is always with us, especially in difficult times.

St. Maximilian Kolbe—In the face of extreme suffering in the Auschwitz concentration camp, he displayed profound hope. He gave his life to save another prisoner, showing that even in the darkest moments, love and hope can shine through.

St. Catherine of Siena—St. Catherine was a powerful example of hope and trust in God, working to bring peace to the Church and the world. Her writings encourage us to hold onto hope and believe in God’s plan, even when we face struggles.

St. John Paul II—A saint who faced great personal suffering, including the assassination attempt on his life, he continually preached the message of hope, especially through his famous words, “*Be not afraid.*” His faith and perseverance inspire hope for a brighter future.

Saint _____

Inspired Design

Luce is the fun and friendly mascot for Jubilee 2025. Her name in Italian means “light,” and she is a symbol of hope and love. Luce is like a big, bright sunshine. Her muddy rubber boots show us that she is ready for the journey ahead. The shells in her bright eyes are a symbol of pilgrimage. She also holds a missionary cross and a pilgrim’s staff.

Luce reminds us that the Jubilee is a special time to come together. With her warm and cheerful smile, Luce helps spread a message of peace, happiness, and hope.

Luce was designed by Simone Legno of Tokidoki. Imagine you were asked to design a mascot for the Jubilee of hope. Use the space below to share your ideas!



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Simone Legno.



Color Theory

Luce’s yellow sailor’s raincoat is a nod to both the Vatican flag and to journeying through life’s storms. Her yellow hood looks like a flame!