

# MISSION INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 2024-2025

Let us pray that this Jubilee strengthens us in our faith, helps us to see the Risen Christ in our lives, and makes us into examples of Christian hope.

## Country Focus: Jubilee Year



Every 25 years, the Catholic Church celebrates a Jubilee Year. Our last Jubilee Year was celebrated in the year 2000, and our next Jubilee Year begins this Christmas Eve and ends on January 6, 2026.

A Jubilee, or Holy Year, is a time especially focused on reconciliation and forgiveness. During a Jubilee Year, people are invited to renew their relationship with God and each other. The faithful are also invited to go on a pilgrimage as a way of strengthening their faith.

Pope Francis has selected “Pilgrims of Hope” as the theme for the 2025 Jubilee. The Holy Father wrote in his Papal Bull, the official announcement of the Jubilee Year, that his wish for the 2025 Jubilee is that “all of us [have the] opportunity to be renewed in hope” (*Spes Non Confundit, Hope Does Not Disappoint*, May 9, 2024, no. 1). Let us join the Holy Father in prayer this month, that the Jubilee Year will be a time of spiritual renewal for the worldwide Church.

## Leading to Knowledge of the Faith

Pope Francis emphasizes the idea of hope for Jubilee 2025. In his May 9, 2024, Papal Bull, *Spes Non Confundit, Hope Does Not Disappoint*, he encourages all Catholics to have hope in Christ and to be hope for others. He writes, “*Surely we need to ‘abound in hope’ (cf. Rom 15:13), so that we may bear credible and attractive witness to the faith and love that dwell in our hearts; that our faith may be joyful and our charity enthusiastic; and that each of us may be able to offer a smile, a small gesture of friendship, a kind look, a ready ear, a good deed, in the knowledge that, in the Spirit of Jesus, these can become...rich seeds of hope*” (no. 18). How will you spread hope during Jubilee 2025?

## Meet the Mascot

## Luce



In an effort to encourage young Catholics to participate in the Jubilee Year, the Vatican created Luce (pronounced “Loo-Chay”), an anime-style cartoon character who will serve as the Jubilee’s mascot.

Luce, and her “pilgrim friends” Fe, Xin and Sky, and her dog Santino, were created by Simone Legno, the Italian co-founder of tokidoki, a company that makes products with Japanese-style designs. Luce, which means “light” in Italian, was designed wearing a yellow raincoat, muddy boots and carrying a staff—all symbols meant to highlight the 2025 Jubilee theme “Pilgrims of Hope.” The yellow color of her raincoat reflects the color of the Vatican’s flag. Her muddy boots and raincoat symbolize the difficult journey through life’s storms. Her pilgrim’s staff reminds us of the pilgrimage to heaven. She also wears a missionary cross around her neck. Her eyes have scallop shells, a

famous icon of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, and are illustrated to reflect an intense light, symbolizing the hope in the heart of pilgrims.

When introducing Luce at a press conference October 28, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, the chief organizer for the Jubilee, said that Luce is meant to be a symbol of hope for young people. By incorporating the pop culture anime style into Luce’s design, he said the Vatican hopes to better engage with the young church.

Luce has already begun her pilgrimage. She made her first stop at the Lucca Comics and Games, Italy’s convention for comics and video games, in November. She will also travel to Osaka, Japan, for Expo 2025.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Luce.



## Formation for Life in Christ

Jubilee years have existed since Old Testament times. We read in the Book of Leviticus (25:8-13) that God commanded the Israelites to celebrate a Jubilee every 50 years. During the Jubilee year, Israelites were to forgive debts, return any stolen land, let their fields rest, and reestablish their relationship with God, one another, and all of creation. The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word "yobel," which is an instrument made out of a ram's horn and was used in Biblical times to mark the beginning of a Jubilee Year (Leviticus 25:9).

The Catholic Church has celebrated Jubilee Years officially since 1300. Initially, they were celebrated every 100 years, but in 1343 Pope Clement VI decreed that Jubilee Years should be celebrated every 50 years. In 1470, Pope Paul II changed the schedule to every 25 years.

Each Jubilee Year is proclaimed by a Papal "Bull of Indiction," an official document written by the current pope announcing the Jubilee Year and its dates. To read the Papal Bull announcing the 2025 Jubilee Year, [Spes Non Confundit, Hope Does Not Disappoint](#), [click here](#).

There are many parts or ways to celebrate a Jubilee Year: pilgrimage, the Holy Door, reconciliation, prayer, liturgy, profession of faith, and indulgences. All Catholics are called in a special way during a Jubilee Year to consider making a pilgrimage to

grow closer to God and strengthen their faith. Pilgrimages may be to places like Rome, other holy sites, or any site designated by a bishop as a special place of prayer for Jubilee Year pilgrims.

The *Holy Door* is considered the most important symbol of a Jubilee Year. A Holy Door is a special door built into a cathedral or basilica that is *only* opened during a Jubilee Year. Pilgrims are meant to pass through this door as a symbolic entrance to God's mercy and eternal life. In Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis will open Holy Doors in all four of Rome's papal basilicas: St. Peter (Vatican), St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major, and St. Paul Outside the Walls.

During a Jubilee Year, Catholics are called to rediscover, recommit to and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Mass and to strengthen their prayer life. We are also called to profess our faith, either at Mass or by praying the Apostles' or Nicene Creed during private or family prayer time.

Those who celebrate and participate in the Jubilee Year can receive a plenary indulgence. Read more about plenary indulgences in the "Celebrating the Mystery" section of this newsletter.



To learn more about Jubilee 2025, [click here](#).

## Celebrating the Mystery

Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive God's mercy and forgiveness. While the Sacrament of Reconciliation restores us to right relationship with God, it does not repair the damage caused by our sin. We must work to heal the harms caused by our actions. All sin, even those forgiven through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, must be atoned for. If we do not address the consequences of our sins well enough here on Earth, we will atone for them in Purgatory.

An indulgence helps shorten the time we spend in Purgatory. There are two types of indulgences: partial and plenary (full). A person may only receive one plenary indulgence a day. There are many ways to receive an indulgence, but first several conditions must be met, like being in a state of grace. To learn more about indulgences, [click here](#).

### Teaching Prayer: Jubilee 2025

For many of us, traveling to Rome or to another holy place overseas during Jubilee 2025 might not be possible. However, we may still participate in this Holy Year through prayer. As discussed in the "Formation for Life in Christ" section in this newsletter, those of us unable to make a pilgrimage may still recommit to attending Mass at our parish, pray the Apostles' or Nicene Creed, and dedicate ourselves to strengthening our personal prayer life. We may also pray the Jubilee 2025 prayer by [clicking here](#).

## Introduction to Community Life: [Hope Does Not Disappoint](#)

✚ How will you share the message of hope during Jubilee 2025?

✚ How does a Jubilee Year unite Catholics worldwide?

✚ How does a Jubilee Year help the Church in its mission to spread the Good News of the Gospel?



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