

FACT SHEET ON JUBILEE 2025 INDULGENCES

Dec. 24, 2024 to Jan. 6, 2026



What is a Jubilee?

In Catholic tradition, a jubilee is a Holy Year – a special year of forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope. Every 25 years, in accordance with this ancient tradition, the Pope proclaims a Jubilee year. Following St. Paul’s words to the Romans, “Hope does not disappoint” (Romans 5:5), the central message of the upcoming Jubilee 2025 is hope. And as part of the Year of Jubilee 2025, Pope Francis has granted special indulgences the faithful can obtain so that we can both receive for ourselves, as well as obtain for others (more on that later!), the forgiveness, reconciliation, and hope we all need from the Hand of God.

What is an indulgence?

“An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven...” “An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin.” “The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.” [Catechism of the Catholic Church, Paragraph 1471]

What are the conditions for receiving a Plenary Indulgence?

- (1) Perform the indulgenced work (see below for specific Jubilee Indulgenced works);
- (2) Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- (3) Have sacramentally confessed your sins;
- (4) Receive the Holy Eucharist; and
- (5) Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (an Our Father and Hail Mary is suggested).

It is appropriate that sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and the prayers for the Pope’s intentions take place on the same day as the indulgenced work; but they can be done within 20 days before or after the indulgenced act. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father’s intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

(over)

What works can be done to obtain a Jubilee Indulgence?

Indulged works for the Jubilee include pilgrimages and works of mercy and penance.

Pilgrimages:

The faithful can obtain a Jubilee Indulgence by piously visiting a sacred Jubilee site and devoutly participating in: **(1)** Holy Mass or **any** of the following; **(2)** a celebration of the Word of God; **(3)** the Liturgy of the Hours (Office of Readings, Lauds, Vespers); **(4)** the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross); **(5)** the Marian Rosary; **(6)** a penitential celebration which ends with individual confessions; **(7)** Eucharistic Adoration and meditation for a “suitable period of time” concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God.

The Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are: (1) the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains in Cincinnati, (2) the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics in Maria Stein, and (3) Emmanuel Catholic Church in Dayton.

Works of mercy and penance:

A Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained by the faithful who, with a devout spirit, participate in: **(1)** popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, **(2)** works of charity or mercy (i.e., the corporal and spiritual works of mercy) by visiting their brothers and sisters who are in need or in difficulty (the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly people, disabled people...), or **(3) (i)** by abstaining in a spirit of penance at least one day a week, in a concrete and generous way from futile distractions (e.g., social media), **(ii)** by refraining from superfluous consumption (e.g., fasting or abstinence), **(iii)** by donating a proportionate sum of money to the poor, **(iv)** by supporting works of a religious or social nature, especially in support of the defense and protection of life in all its phases, or **(v)** by dedicating a reasonable portion of time in acts of service to the community.

What if I can't do any of those?

The faithful who are truly repentant of sin but who cannot participate in any of the above for serious reasons, can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year, in their homes or wherever they are confined.

Extraordinary grace!! During the Jubilee Year you can obtain TWO (2) plenary indulgences per day!

Despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, the Pope has decreed that during the Jubilee, faithful who perform an act of charity on behalf of the Poor Souls in Purgatory and receive Holy Communion a second time that same day, can obtain a plenary indulgence applicable only to the deceased. The reception of Communion must take place within a Eucharistic celebration (i.e., Holy Mass or a Communion Service).