



Jubilee Resource for Young People

Have you ever been so happy that you shouted for joy? Pope Francis invites all of us to shout with joy for a whole year! He has announced a jubilee year for all Catholics around the world. This special time will start on Christmas Eve 2024, continue through all of 2025, and end on the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord in January 2026.

The word *jubilee* comes from the Hebrew word *yobhel*. The *yobhel* is a ram's horn that was blown to start a jubilee year during Old Testament times. During that year, people who were enslaved were set free, land was given back to its former owners, and all debts were forgiven.

Today, a jubilee is a special time for asking God to change us and make us holy. It is a time for praying to grow closer to God. This jubilee year's theme is "Pilgrims of Hope." A pilgrim is a person who is on a journey. A Christian's life is a journey to Heaven. We journey together with Jesus, Mary, the saints, and faithful friends and family. We try to live better lives and become more like Jesus.

What do you hope for? As Christians, we hope for good things for all people. We trust God and the path Jesus shows us to follow. We hope for peace in our world. We hope for Heaven at the end of our lives on earth.

One special part of the jubilee is the opening of Holy Doors. The opening of Holy Doors symbolizes the opening of the gates of God's mercy and reminds us how much God loves us. These doors, found at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and other basilicas (special churches) in Rome are only opened at the start of a jubilee year. Pope Francis invites all of us to come visit him.

If we can't visit him, we may still be able to make a pilgrimage to a jubilee church closer to home.

People who walk through a Holy Door, visit a jubilee church, or do works of mercy and penance may receive a plenary indulgence (a special grace that removes all temporal punishment for their sins). Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, receiving Holy Communion, and praying for the intentions of the Pope are also required to receive the indulgence. If we do these things, our spiritual debts (temporal punishment for our sins) will be removed—like people's debts of money were forgiven during jubilee years in Old Testament times.

You and your family can also participate in the jubilee by praying, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation, going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist, doing acts of service, and forgiving those who have hurt you. Your family might commit to praying the Act of Hope together every day. Doing these things will prepare you to journey into the future with hope and shouts of joy.

Act of Hope

**O my God,
with a firm confidence
I hope in you,
that you may grant me,
through the merits of Jesus Christ,
the assistance of your grace,
and that if I have kept your commandments,
you will bestow life everlasting,
according to your promises,
you who are almighty
and whose word is truth.
Amen.**



Jubilee Resource for Children

Have you ever shouted for joy?
What made you so happy?

Pope Francis wants us all to shout with joy starting on Christmas Eve 2024—for a whole year! He has announced a jubilee year for all Catholics around the world. The Pope will begin the celebration by opening the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City near Rome, Italy. He is inviting all of us to come visit him. If we can't visit him, we may still be able to go on a journey to a jubilee church closer to home.

The theme for this jubilee year is "Pilgrims of Hope." A pilgrim is a person who is on a journey. A Christian's life is a journey to Heaven. This jubilee year is a time to grow closer to God. We journey together with Jesus, Mary, the saints, and faithful friends and family. We try to live better lives and become more like Jesus.

What do you hope for? As Christians, we hope for good things for all people. We trust God and the path Jesus shows us to follow. We hope for better times to come. We hope for Heaven at the end of our lives on earth.

You can be part of this special jubilee year!

- Pray and go to Mass with your family.
- Forgive all the people who have hurt you. Ask forgiveness from the people you have hurt. Ask God to forgive you too.
- Give food, clothes, and money to people who are poor.
- Pray for and visit a sick friend or family member.
- Take care of God's Creation by caring for plants and pets, recycling, and putting trash where it belongs.
- If you are old enough, celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Receive Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion.
- Pray the Act of Hope and thank God for all the special ways God has blessed you.

Act of Hope

My God,

I put my hope in Jesus

and his promise of everlasting life.

Give me the grace

to live as you want me to.

Amen.