

*Pope Francis Monthly Intentions cont.*

**SEPTEMBER For Our Relationships With All Of Creation**

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect. Amen.

**OCTOBER For Collaboration Between Different Religious Traditions**

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice and human fraternity. Amen.

**NOVEMBER For The Prevention Of Suicide**

Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life. Amen.

**DECEMBER For Christians In Areas Of Conflict**

Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope. Amen.

**The Jubilee Prayer**

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 forever. Amen.

*Francis*

**SPECIAL PRAYERS AND LITURGIES**

**JUBILEE OPENING MASS:** Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, Sunday, December 29, 2024, 2:00 PM  
Churches and Schools will be presented with Jubilee banners.  
*Expressions of Hope Art, Photos and Poetry* display in Cathedral Hall

**WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR OF BOYS AND MEN FROM LONDON, ENGLAND,** Thursday, April 3, 2025, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, 7:00 PM

**LENTEN WEEK of RECONCILIATION:**  
*Leave the Lights On, Second Week of Lent. The Sacrament of Penance will be offered throughout the diocese. Deanery schedules will be made public in 2025.*

**FEAST OF SAINT PETER & PAUL JUBILEE MASS**  
Sunday, June 29, 2025, Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto, 7:00 PM Mass; Missionary Speakers and *Expressions of Hope Art, Photo and Poetry* in Our Lady of Loretto Community Hall 3:00 to 6:00 PM.

**ECUMENICAL CHORAL CONCERT:** Sunday, October 5, 2025, 2:00 PM, Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown, *Expressions of Hope Art, Photo and Poetry* display in the Zion Lutheran Church Hall

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE:** Friday, October 17, 2025  
National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C., (a holy DOOR site named by Pope Francis) 2:00 PM Mass with Bishop Mark in the Upper Church.

**JUBILEE CLOSING MASS:** Sunday, December 28, 2025  
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, 11:00 AM Televised Mass

**THEOLOGY OF INDULGENCE**

“Once sin has been forgiven or pardoned in Sacramental Confession, there is often still a rupture in the human person's personal relationship with God. A deep interior renewal of the person is still needed. This deep journey of conversion is a process that continues throughout the Christian life; recognition of sin, contrition, repentance, forgiveness, and ongoing personal renewal and healing.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Number 1471*).



THE ROMAN  
CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
**ALTOONA-JOHNSTOWN**

**Jubilee 2025  
Pilgrims of Hope**

**December 29, 2024**



**December 28, 2025**



[www.dioceseaj.org/jubilee-2025](http://www.dioceseaj.org/jubilee-2025)



On May 9, 2024 Pope Francis promulgated the decree, known as a “Bull of Indiction,” for the Jubilee Year 2025, *Pilgrims of Hope*.

Following a tradition originating in the Hebrew Scriptures, the first Jubilee in the Catholic Church was proclaimed in the year 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII and has been continued from that time on to be held every 25 years.

Pope Francis chose the motto “*Pilgrims of Hope*,” for the Jubilee as the world is still in the midst of our post-pandemic years. Hope is the central message as indicated by the Latin title of the decree, “*Spes non Copnfundit*” (Hope does not disappoint”).

Pope Francis notes that “the Jubilee has always been an event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church,” encouraging all the faithful “to be tangible signs of hope.”

Francis has cast the Jubilee as an opportunity for conversion, reconciliation with God through the sacrament of penance, obtaining indulgences for ourselves and the faithfully departed, through God’s mercy, renewing our faith and love through hope, and proclaiming God’s love to the many people suffering in today’s world.

The pope’s earnest desire is that the Jubilee Year may provide an opportunity in this year, “to be renewed in hope” not only for the millions of pilgrims who will travel to Rome for this Jubilee, but also for those who, unable to do so, will celebrate in their local churches through pilgrimages to Marian shrines and holy sites.

*The Holy See made provision that persons who are unable to take part in physical pilgrimages or pious visits, such as cloistered religious, the elderly, the sick and their caretakers, or the imprisoned, may obtain the indulgence by uniting themselves in spirit with those who are making pilgrimage or pious visits, reciting an Our Father, a Profession of Faith, and other prayers in harmony with the purpose of the Jubilee Year, and offering up their sufferings and hardships to the Lord.*

#### **Usual Conditions for the Plenary Indulgence**

1. Celebrate Sacramental Confession (going to Confession within 20 Days before or within 20 days after the indulgence is sought). A person should be of the spirit that is sincerely and willfully detached from any sin, mortal and venial.
2. Receive Holy Communion while participating fully, actively, and consciously at Mass.
3. Pray for the Pope’s needs and monthly intentions: Apostles Creed, Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

#### **Indulgence Conditions of Jubilee Year Pilgrims of Hope**

◆Traveling to any sacred Jubilee designated site and perform the usual conditions; or engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation concluding with an Our Father, a Profession of Faith, and on invocations to Mary.

◆Perform a corporal or spiritual work of mercy.

◆Participate in a popular mission, spiritual exercise, or formational activities on the documents of Vatican II or the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

◆Piously visit any sacred Jubilee site and participate in Mass, a Liturgy of the Word, one of the major hours from the Liturgy of the Hours (office of Readings, Morning Prayer, or Evening Prayer), devotional prayers such as the Way of the Cross, the Rosary, or a penance service that ends with sacramental Confession.

#### **Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Pilgrim Holy Sites**

Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona  
Saint John Gualbert Cathedral, Johnstown  
Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel, Loretto  
Immaculate Conception Church, Dudley  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Altoona  
Our Lady of the Alleghenies, Lilly  
Our Lady Queen of Angels, Central City  
Our Lady of Victory Church, State College  
Queen of Archangels Church, Clarence  
Saint Joseph Mission Church, Carrolltown [www.sjmc1830.com](http://www.sjmc1830.com)  
Saint Mary Church, Shade Gap  
Seven Dolours of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Bean’s Cove  
Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Johnstown

#### **Offering Prayer of Pope Francis**

Good Father, I know you are with me.  
Here I am on this new day. Place my heart once more next to the Heart of your Son Jesus, who is giving himself for me and who comes to me in the Eucharist.  
May your Holy Spirit make me his friend and apostle, available for his mission of compassion.  
I place in your hands my joys and hopes, my works and sufferings, everything that I am and have, in communion with my brothers and sisters of this Worldwide Prayer Network.  
With Mary, I offer you my day for the mission of the Church and for the prayer intentions of the Pope and my Bishop for this month. Amen.

#### **Monthly Prayer Intentions of Pope Francis**

##### **JANUARY For the Right to an Education**

Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected. Amen.

##### **FEBRUARY For Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life**

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ’s mission in the priesthood and religious life. Amen.

##### **MARCH For Families in Crisis**

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other’s gifts, even in their differences. Amen.

##### **APRIL For The Use of New Technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crisis of our times. Amen.

##### **MAY For Working Conditions**

Let us pray that through work each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society may be humanized. Amen.

##### **JUNE That the World Might Grow in Compassion**

Let us pray that each one of us might find consolation in a personal relationship with Jesus, and from his Heart, learn to have compassion in the world. Amen.

##### **JULY For Formation In Discernment**

Let us pray that we might learn how to discern, to know how to choose paths of life and reject everything that leads us away from Christ and the Gospel. Amen.

##### **AUGUST For Mutual Coexistence**

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons. Amen.