

Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope

Celebrating the Holy Year 2025 Together

Diocese of Erie
December 2025



YEAR OF JUBILEE



In December join us in *Awaiting the Lord: Joy in Advent*. As the holy year comes to a close soon, we reflect back to Bishop Persico sharing his homily with the faithful at the Jubilee of Hope opening mass at St. Peter Cathedral in Erie on December 29, 2024. (Diocese of Erie file photo)

Welcome to the final edition of the *Jubilee Journey: Pilgrims of Hope* newsletter. As the Holy Year draws to a close on January 6, 2026, we look back with gratitude and forward with renewed hope.

CALLED TO CONNECT

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

As we enter this holy season of Advent, we are called to wait with hope and joy. **Advent reminds us that waiting for the Lord means preparing our hearts for his coming each day and trusting that God is always at work in our lives.**

This year, our anticipation is deepened by the nearing conclusion of the Jubilee Year 2025. Yet even as this Jubilee closes, the call to conversion and mercy continues within each of us. Looking ahead, **our hearts already turn toward another moment of grace:** the Jubilee of 2033, which will mark the 2000th anniversary of Christ's Resurrection. Across the world, the Church is preparing for this milestone — a time to renew our faith in the risen Lord and rekindle our shared mission of evangelization.

As we prepare to close this Jubilee and await the one to come, may we continue to open the doors of our hearts to Christ. May this Advent season fill you with peace, hope and renewed joy in the Lord's coming.

The Most Reverend
Lawrence T. Persico

“

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

~~~~~ According to the Scriptures Luke 2:14



## PRAYER

### PRAYER FOR PRISONERS FROM ST. CYPRIAN OF CARTHAGE (ABRIDGED)

Most gracious Father, bless with your special care all penitentiaries and homes of refuge. Look with pity on those who are housed there. Grant all of them true contrition for past sins and strengthen them in their good resolutions. Protect and guide those who work to care for them and help all of us to reflect Your mercy and justice in our lives. Amen.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Key dates:

- **December 14** - Jubilee of Prisoners
- **December 28** - Closing of the Holy Doors  
Around the World (*all holy doors will close with the exception of Saint Peter in Rome*)
- **January 6** - Closing of the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica (Rome)

## HEY, KIDS OF CHRIST!

**Jubilee vocab:** **Grace** - The gift of God's own life in us that helps us to love God and to love other people the way God loves them.

Hi, Kids of Christ! During Advent, we're waiting with joyful hearts for Jesus' coming. This year, we are also preparing for the closing of the Holy Doors, marking the end of the Jubilee Year. When those doors close, they remind us that the time of grace we've shared doesn't end, it continues in our hearts!



Let's make a **Holy Door of the Heart** to remember that Jesus' love is always open. Fold a piece of paper like two doors. On the front, decorate and write, "**Jesus, open the door of my heart!**" Inside, draw or write ways you can welcome Him this Advent, like spending quiet time with God or sharing joy with others.



**St. John of the Cross** was imprisoned by members of his own religious order, yet from his cell, he wrote poetry and reflections that shine with hope, love and faith.

## FAITHFUL FACTS!

On Dec. 26, 2024, Pope Francis opened a Holy Door at Rebibbia Prison in Rome. This was the first time a prison chapel has had a Jubilee Holy Door. He said this gesture reminds us that no one is beyond hope and that we are all invited to "throw open the doors of our hearts."

## LIVING THE MISSION

**In a season filled with busyness and noise, it can be easy to overlook the quiet ways God wishes to enter our lives. Just as Mary and Joseph made room for Jesus in a humble stable, we too are called to make space for His presence within us.**

**How is God calling you to make more room for Christ this Advent in your home, your heart or your daily life? This month, choose one concrete way to open that space through prayer, forgiveness or an act of kindness that reflects His love to others.**

