

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has announced that 2025 will be a Jubilee Year, something which happens every 25 years. This Jubilee Year themed "Pilgrims of Hope" is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

## **OPENING MASS OF THE JUBILEE YEAR**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 • 2:00PM • CATHEDRAL BASILICA Mass will begin with a procession from St. Mary's Park (across the street).

## **DIOCESAN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

Join the Diocese of Covington for a year filled with hope! Throughout the Jubilee Year, the Diocese will offer opportunities for pilgrimage: locally, regionally, or internationally. You can also participate in spiritual and corporal works of mercy through our ongoing "Campaign of Mercy." Discover your Jubilee path by visiting our website: www.covdio.org/jubilee or by scanning the QR code.



MORE INFO on the Jubilee, Pilgrimages and our Diocesan Celebrations

# WHAT IS A JUBILEE?

In the Catholic Church, the concept of Jubilee or 'Holy Year' was used to declare special years for forgiveness and reconciliation. Pope Boniface VIII declared the first Jubilee on February 22, 1300.

In ancient Judaism, the Jubilee Year was when Mosaic law prescribed that slaves could regain their freedom, and that land, (of which God is the sole master), should be returned to its former owners.

#### WHY MAKE A Pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is a journey with a purpose. It is an experience of conversion, of transforming one's very being to conform to the holiness of God. A pilgrimage during the Jubilee Year 2025 offers a unique opportunity for us to deepen our Faith, experience God's grace, and embrace the theme of "Pilgrims of Hope."

To explore opportunities for pilgrimage locally, regionally, or internationally, visit covdio.org/jubilee or scan the QR code above.

## WHAT IS THE JUBILEE LOGO?

The logo shows four stylized figures, representing all of humanity, coming from the four corners of the earth, uniting all peoples. The figure at the front is holding onto the cross. It is a sign of faith and hope. There are rough waves under the figures, symbolizing life's pilgrimage does not always go smoothly. The anchor is well known as a symbol of hope. The cross bends down towards humanity, stretching out to them to offer the certainty of its presence and the security of hope.



December 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we approach the dawn of the New Year, I am filled with joy and anticipation to announce the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025. Jubilee Years, which occur every 25 years, offer us a unique opportunity to deepen our faith, renew our commitment to Christ, and experience the boundless love and mercy of God. This Jubilee, themed "Pilgrims of Hope", is a time for us to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of Creation.

To mark the beginning of this holy year, I invite all the faithful of our Diocese to join us for the Opening Mass of the Jubilee Year at the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington on Sunday, December 29th, at 2:00 PM. This Mass will coincide with the Feast of the Holy Family, a fitting occasion to begin our spiritual journey together.

As is called for at the beginning of every Jubilee Year, we will begin the Mass with a procession led by the Jubilee Cross from St. Mary's Park (across the street) to the Cathedral Basilica. I encourage everyone to dress appropriately for the weather for this solemn procession and Mass.

As we embark on this Jubilee Year, let us embrace the spirit of renewal and reconciliation. May this be a time of spiritual growth, forgiveness, and hope for all. Discover more about the special Jubilee Year and how our Diocese is celebrating at www.covdio.org/jubilee.

Please continue to pray for the Church in Covington and for me. Yours in the Joy of the Jubilee Year,

+ John C. Hart

Bishop John Iffert