

## What is a Jubilee Year?



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A Holy Year, or Jubilee, is a sacred time of grace, marked by pilgrimage, prayer, repentance, and acts of mercy. Rooted in the Old Testament tradition of jubilee as a period of rest, forgiveness, and renewal (Lev. 25:10-15), it offers a unique invitation to deepen one's faith and seek holiness of life.

During a Jubilee, the faithful are encouraged to visit designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession, and receive Holy Communion to obtain a plenary indulgence.

The ultimate purpose is to strengthen faith, inspire works of charity, and foster a consistent and devoted Christian life.

The first Christian Jubilee was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Since then, the Church has observed **26 "ordinary" Holy Years**, typically every 25 to 50 years, with the most recent celebrated in 2000 under St. John Paul II. In addition, the Church has held several “**extraordinary**” Jubilees to mark significant events since the 16th century.

In the Diocese of Kamloops, the upcoming Holy Year will begin on **December 29, 2024**, and conclude on **December 28, 2025**.

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## **Jubilee 2025**

The theme of the **2025 Jubilee** is beautifully expressed in its motto: *Pilgrims of Hope*. The papal decree proclaiming the Holy Year carries the title *Spes non Confundit (Hope Does Not Disappoint)* (Rom. 5:5).

This Jubilee calls us to renewal, emphasizing the need for hope in a world grappling with challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, social inequalities, and environmental crises. It is an invitation to embrace hope deeply and to become **beacons of hope** for those enduring hardships.

Let us journey together as *Pilgrims of Hope*, striving to live out the faith with renewed vigor and joy.