



ARCHDIOCESE  
of BALTIMORE

# JUBILEE YEAR 2025

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### **What is the Jubilee?**

The Jubilee Year is a time for reconciliation, pilgrimage, and coming home to the embrace of the mercy of God. The Jubilee Year traces its origins back to the Old Testament (cf. Leviticus 25) as a time every 50 years (after every seven Sabbath years) when liberty was proclaimed for all the inhabitants of Israel. They were instructed to forgive debts, free indentured servants, and return home, among other things. Since 1300, popes have proclaimed jubilee years every 25 or 50 years, with some additional extraordinary jubilees. Pope Francis has established the specific theme of the 2025 Jubilee as “Pilgrims of Hope.”

### **What is a plenary indulgence?**

An indulgence remits the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven somehow else (cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church 1471-1479). A plenary indulgence removes all the temporal punishment due to sin.

### **Weren't indulgences done away with during the Reformation?**

The buying and selling of indulgences and the deceptive marketing of indulgences were discontinued, but the ability to gain indulgences remains.

### **What must I do to gain a plenary indulgence?**

Perform the indulgenced action in a state of total detachment from sin, in addition to the usual conditions (receiving Holy Communion within about 20 days, sacramental Reconciliation within about 20 days, and prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father).

### **What are some of the indulgenced actions during the Jubilee Year?**

Pilgrimages to designated holy sites in Rome, the Holy Land, or sites designated by local bishops and receiving the Papal Blessing from your bishop are traditional ways to gain a jubilee indulgence.

The Holy See has also offered many other ways to gain the indulgence (e.g. corporal works of mercy, fasting and abstinence, spiritual formation, and more) so the indulgence is accessible to everyone. Visit

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/jubilee-indulgence-eng> for more information.

### **Where can I find the Holy Father's Intentions?**

The Holy Father updates his intentions each month and can be found at <https://popesprayerusa.net/>

Get specifics on these in the Archdiocese of Baltimore at:  
<https://bit.ly/aob-jubilee25>

