

Sunday, January 5, 2025—The Epiphany of the Lord

Emergency Information: In the event that the Church and Parish Offices are closed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, please call the parish phone number or visit our website for updates and information. Please use your judgment when coming to Mass and remember that safety is the primary factor.

PARISH ADDRESS:

935 Bennetts Mills Road, Jackson, NJ 08527

Parish: Tel: 732-370-0500

Fax: 732-963-0805

Religious Education Office: 732-370-1515 Parish: Website: www.saintaloysiusonline.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

The Parish and Religious Education offices are open Monday through Friday from 8:30am until 3:30pm.

Mass Schedule - All Masses are available by live stream through our website.

Daily Mass - Monday through Friday: 8:30am

Saturday - 5:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am, 8:30am and 10:30am

Little Children of God - a children's program which takes place at the 10:30am Mass for children ages 3-7.

The Church is open for daily prayer Monday through Friday. Access is through the parish office.

Confession: Saturday at 4:00pm in the Church or by appointment by calling the parish office.

St. Vincent de Paul Assistance Hotline: 732-370-0098

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Very Reverend John P. Bambrick, V.F., Ext. 218

FrBambrick@saintaloysiusonline.org

Parochial Vicar: Reverend RJ Ballacillo, Ext. 207

FrRJ@saintaloysiusonline.org

Weekend Assistant: Reverend James McDevitt

Deacons: Uku Mannikus, Rene Perez & Vincent Rinaldi

Business Manager: Sherri Kroesch skroesch@saintaloysiusonline.org, Ext. 203 Director of Sacred Music: Naomi Capasso musicministry@saintaloysiusonline.org, Ext. 217

Parish Secretary: Pat Mulholland

parishoffice@saintaloysiusonline.org, Ext. 204

Religious Education Department:

Parish Catechetical Leader: Jennifer Petrillo jpetrillo@saintaloysiusonline.org, Ext. 311
Sacramental Coordinator: Paula Mammana sacraments@saintaloysiusonline.org, Ext. 314

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THE DIOCESE OF TRENTON is committed to the initiatives outlined in the U.S. Bishop's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and to its own policies and guidelines in regard to the reporting and investigation of sexual abuse allegations involving minors.

If you have been sexually abused as a minor by a member of the clergy or anyone representing the Catholic Church, or if you know of someone who was, you can report that abuse through the diocesan ABUSE HOTLINE: 1-888-296-2965 or via e-mail at abuse-line@dioceseoftrenton.org.

The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.



Dear Parish Family,

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Epiphany, the word Epiphany means "Manifestation". The Lord was made known by the assembly of the nations at his birth. The Magi from the East, Priests of the Pagan Cult of Zoroaster, come to Bethlehem to offer Jesus the three precious gifts loaded with meaning: gold, the gift given to a king, frankincense, the gift given to a priest, and myrrh, the gift given to the dead; gold, recognizing Jesus as King of the Universe, frankincense, recognizing Jesus as Eternal High Priest, and myrrh, recognizing and foretelling of his saving death.

The account of the Magi's visit (how many Magi visited? We don't know. We only know they brought three gifts!), their visit was one of hope, and continues to be the unfolding story of hope in the unfolding of salvation.

This year also marks the Holy Year of Hope, which our Holy Father began on Sunday, December 29, 2024, and will conclude on Sunday, December 18, 2025. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", the document for the Holy Year is "Hope does not disappoint" (Romans 5:5). Holy Years are a time of special grace, pilgrimage, prayer, repentance, and acts of mercy. Pope Francis sums them up in his Bull of Indiction, "Everyone knows what it is to hope. In the heart of each person, hope dwells as the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring."

For this Ordinary Holy Year, there are only 5 Holy Doors; the ones at the Major Papal Basilica's in Rome of St. Peter, St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, and St. Paul Outside the Wall. The fifth is in a Roman Prison. The use of Holy Doors recalls Jesus' own words, "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." (John 10:9). However, the indulgences attached to the Basilica's can be gained by making a pilgrimage to designated shrine churches in the Diocese. In our Diocese they are The Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in Trenton, The Co-Cathedral of St. Robert in Freehold, St. Anthony in Hamilton, St. Joan of Arc in Marlton, Our Lady Star of the Sea in Long Branch, and St. Mary in Barnegat. There are events planned for each month of the Holy Year throughout the Diocese, and more information can be found at dioceseoftrenton.org/jubilee-2025 and by checking the bulletin.

May this Year of Hope inspire in every Christian the fire of faith and the power of the Holy Spirit to live Hopefully and spread Hope joyfully.

Peace and Good - Fr. Bambrick

New Year's Mass Schedule

Tuesday, December 31—New Year's Eve 8:30am Daily Mass 4:00pm Vigil Mass Wednesday, January 1—New Year's Day 8:30am Mass

No confessions on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day

The Parish and Religious Education offices will be closed December 31st and January 1st





Welcome to our new parishioner *Noah Canderozzi*, *Raffaella Stevens and Florencio Sanchez*. We are so happy you have joined us!

Have you been attending St. Aloysius 'for years' but never actually registered? Start the new year off right and register with our parish community. Forms are available in the parish office and Gathering Space of the Church. Registering helps us know you, minister to you, and keep you informed of upcoming parish events. Remember, only registered parishioners who are actively attending are eligible for Sponsor Letters for Baptism and Confirmation. If you are a Jackson resident and have been attending, we would love to meet you.

In an effort to keep our files correct, please notify us if:

- + You have a new phone number or address
- + You no longer have a land line phone and wish to register a cell phone number
- + Your children are out of school and need to register on their own
- + You have a new email address you would like on file and wish to be added to our email alert system

Please email or call the parish office with your updates.



Prayer to St Michael The Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our protection against
the wickedness and snares
of the Devil. May God rebuke
him, we humbly pray, and do
thou, O Prince of the heavenly
hosts, by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan, and
all the evil spirits, who
prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

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 for ever. Amen



Robert Motyka and Michael Costa

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

Devotional Lamps - Week of January 5-11, 2025

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for *Richard Otten, r/o Marcella Daly*The Blessed Mother Lamp will burn for *Our Parishioners*The Holy Family Lamp will burn for *Anthony Giammona, r/o His Family*The Altar Bread and Wine are offered *In Memory of Frank DelMonte, r/o Luba DelMonte*

We honor and thank all those who have served our country. We're thankful for their service and dedication to our nation. Lord, bless and protect all those that have served and are serving our country. We pray that all Veterans may know your love for them.

SSGT Nicole Marchitto C4C Nicholas Accardi, AF Lt. Jr. Grade Michael Hennicke RCT Patrick McBride CPT Chris Mision LT Scott Maraldo SSG Marcus Torre MJR Jason DiDomenico Capt. Zach Gould Capt. Cameron Lindsey AFPVT Logan Moran Capt. James Accardi

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS - Lord of Life, you desire wholeness for your people. Be with those who ask for help. Please bring health, healing and hope to those in our community who ask for our prayers. Amen.

Vocation Awareness, Stephen Maraldo, Donna Maglio, Brian Venables, A Special Intention, Peace on Earth, Raymond Mamazza Sr., Curtis Hart, Judy Saal, William Raimondi, Meg Noone, Theresa Heublein, Roger Belli, Tom Martin, Jacob Heber, Jackie Fleming, Debbie Scatuccio, Jacqueline Krutulis, Kassidy Krutulis, Gladys Murphy, Corinne Nepsha, Nathanial Nepsha, Marilyn Zwarych, Ricky DeBlois, Gary D'Alessandro, Frank DiGiamo, Don and Kathy Sopko, Nicholas DeVito, Betty Dreyfuss, Louise Kolarsick, Diane Warner, Lorraine Godleski, M.E. Koval, Patricia Cappello, Greg Mann, Fran Guldner, Vincent Joliffe, Kathleen Scudieri, Rosalie Delapi, Sharon Christensen, Ruth Nisay, Christian Rivera, Sage Rivera, Cassie Jouban, Rob and Gina Zangrillo, Pam and Mike Mills, Pat Gallagher, Theresa Raimondi, Ann Rucando, Camille DeRosa, Kathy Perlson, Theresa Keim, Susan Miluk, Daniel DeVito, Jack Vreeland, Angelo Magri, Christopher Popp, Kristin Valetta, Jeanette Correa Schalen, Jordan Elkary, Valerie Behar, James McCarthy, Andrea Mitreuter, Barbara Ziff, Peggy Connelly, John and Dolores Cosentino, Gary Gerlach, Iggy Antico, William Johnson, Louis Rivera, Linda McLane, Daffron Family, Barbara Griffin, Theresa Logan, Davy McClure, Paulette Aronstam, Donna Day, Vinny Day, Marge Sabo, John Narsany, James Vihonsky, Bertha Vihonsky, Karen Crimmins, Kaitlyn Krutulis, Logan Martucci, Louise Murnane, Deby Daoust, Laura Meltzer Potts, the Groft Family, Marietta Giordano, Maryann Lombardi, Michael Woodlock, Peggy Mulvehill, Austin Trezza, Lilliam Zumbado, Michael Tardio, Agnes Smith, Nunzio Masone, Vikki McGlone, Michelle Neuhaus, Margie Libonati, Viola Gatyas, Lynette Younker, Kathy Cronin, Robert and Annamarie Kowalewski, Barbara Owens, Laurie Wroda, Louis Iacono, Diane Malgieri, Joe Musumeci

Thank you for your prayers for all those on our Intercessory and Armed Forces prayer lists. If you would like to add or change information please contact the Parish Office.



In the Catholic Church, the anointing of the sick is a sacrament that is administered to a Catholic "who, having reached the age of reason, begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age". There is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. The Sacrament may be received at any time during a person's illness, especially before surgery or treatment. We suggest calling to receive the Sacrament *before* a person is in grave danger of

death as it is not always possible to have a priest available at the actual time of death. If you would like to schedule the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for a loved one, please contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS January 5-12, 2025

Sunday, January 5, 2024 7:00 a.m. Parishioners

8:30 a.m. Michael Contarino, r/o Ann and Philip Cipriano

10:30 a.m. Frank DelMonte, r/o Wife and Children

Joann Cipolla, r/o Kelley and Kevin McGee

Monday, January 6, 2025

8:30 a.m. Eileen Malter, r/o Toni and Larry Marzorati

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

8:30 a.m. Nicholas D'Angelo, r/o Toni and Larry Marzorati

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

8:30 a.m. Richard Otten, r/o Marcella Daly

Thursday, January 9, 2025

8:30 a.m James Tancredi, r/o Riso-King Family

Friday, January 10, 2024

8:30 a.m. Florence Vitale, r/o Jean and Joe Cosentino

Saturday, January 11, 2024

5:00 p.m. Eileen Malter, r/o Kathie Stasny

Jun Ho Lee, r/o Lee Family

Sunday, January 12, 2024

7:00 a.m. Parishioners

8:30 a.m. Grace Carlson, r/o Mr. and Mrs. Bibbo

Vincent Maestria, r/o Rich and Debbie Burns

10:30 a.m. Alexander Flack, r/o Irene Flack

Belinda Jackson, r/o Bob and Sue Mignemi



December 15:

Offering: \$11,952.20 Online Giving: \$5,081.83

December 22:

Offering: \$10,661.00 Online Giving: \$7,221.33



A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) (also known as an IRA Charitable Rollover) is a simple way to make a gift. If you would like more information on how to make a QCD donation, contact Sherri Kroesch at 732-370-0500 ext. 203 or at skroesch@saintaloysiusonlineorg.

Weekly Readings



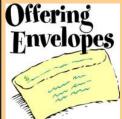
The Annual Enrollment is a beautiful gift for special times in life and for the eternal rest of our faithful departed. We are very happy to pray for you and your loved ones.

The Annual Enrollment Mass is celebrated the First Friday of each month at 8:30am for a period of one (1) year—12 months.

James and Natalie McMahon, Richard Iacono, Arlene Hassler, Religious Education and Youth Ministry Teams, Jill, Frank and Rose Hubit, Carl Kliemisch, Adrien Thomas, Lisa and Gerald Colangelo, Johnson and Tessa Boscarino, Marie Hamilton, Thomas Zarillo, Robert Fairhurst, David Anthony, Margaret McClure, Olimpia Regateira,Phyllis Silano, Andrea K. Lear, Dottie Sedor, Loretta Boutote, Virginia Duke, Maria Oliveira, Larry Houlihan, Steven M. Sloan, William McCarthy and Family, Boryshuk Family, Louise Iones, Maria Augusta Limas DeOliveira, Marie Zimbile, Marietta Sciascia, Cheryl Bonocore, Eugene Murnane, Robert Thorpe, Audrey Campbell, Donna Fichera, Neil McKeague, Palumbo Family, Guldner Family, Lamberti Sisters, Christopher Oliveira, Diane Humphrey, Carmine Merlucci, Neal Collenburg, Logan Family, Cunningham, Jacobs, Thesan, Theodore, Jourdan, McKenzie, Cabrol, Duplan and Butler Families, Francesca M. Bonucci, James O'Leary, John Flynn, Michael Cetta, Merced Lotrena, The Nowak Family, Virginia and Allen Walp, Chad Vitello, Maria and Belto Ristaino, John Owens, Anna Marie DeLeonardis, Quaglia Family, Marty Munroe, John and Donna Fichera, Peter Miluk, Jr., Alfred Nader (Dadasee), David LaRosa, Mario Garcia, Virginia Laschet, Patricia Fountain, Connie Russo-Riley, George Newman, Jr., Phyllis Vitiello, Ivan Sriwardena, Harry and Phyllis Gunasekara, Tina Rogers, Ivano John Bott, Juan Opa Torres, Joseph LaScala, Rev. Stanley Jarosz, Maryann Pucilowski, Aida and James Dierking, Rose and Joseph Cesario, Peter Miluk, III, Joseph G. Moroney, Donald and Erin McLoughlin, Don and Maureen Gorny, Evelyn and George Doerbecker. Gertrude amd Eugene McLoughlin, Catherine and William McLoughlin, Evan and Olivia Gorny, Pete Albany, Jack Bassi, Des Fitzgerald, Loretta Conway, Carmela Vicidomini, Marie Pompa, Joseph Sumanski, James and Elisa Oliver, Frank and Pearl Szumianski, Thomas Cetnar, Urban and Millo Families, Michael Matzo, Walter Heublein, Eileen and George Graziano, Richard LoPresti, Edith and Ernesto Scalatempore, Jennie and John Tatulli, John, Lucy, Nick, Mary and George, Glenda Morisano, Michael Seyglinski, Raymond Magnussen, Ruth Nisay, Elena Salvato, Eileen and Don Malter, Robert McCarthy, Pat O'Connor and Tim O'Connor, Angelo Mazzeo, Dante Dedonno, Gilvo L. Gialanella, Steven Pirniak, Angelo Mazzeo, Antoinette Maria Puccio, Lynda J. Bradley Clay, Manny Oliveira, Joao Batista Abreu de Oliveira, Yedda Abreu de Oliveira, Maria de Lourdes Abreu, Joao C. Abreu, Cleisa Abreu Cantuaria, Linda Alm, Frances Brauner, John and Rose Jobst, Kathleen O'Connell, Miriam Whalen, Florence Spinello, Bernie Daquila, Pitkethley, Kuhl, Quillinan, Walters Families, Joanne and Keith Veltre, Kate Castell, Ronald Brancaccio, Anna and Salvatore Carnemolla, Joseph, Josephine and Bob Brancaccio, James D. Diefendorf, III, Mary Ann Borghi, Joseph S. Romano, Dorothy Theresa Maher, Cosmo (Gus) Mongiello, Fermina Lopez, James Migliori, Edna Parzygnat, Sophie, Anthony and Ted Wojton, Tracy Lee Papp-Hill, Walter Heublein, Frank Sandtner and Family, Anthony Sandtner and Family, Connie and Tony Gaiammona, Barbara Brennan, Miriam Spinelli, Rosemarie Artale, Joyce Elizabeth Mennella, Ana Librada Ramos, Enid Muraca, Paul V. Farley, Steve Yayac

Have you or a loved one missed out on some sacraments or do you know someone considering becoming Catholic? Our OCIA program is here to support you, with a dedicated community of catechists eager to help you prepare for the Sacraments of the Church and the joy of meeting the Lord. Let our team of faith-filled individuals assist you on this journey towards a deeper connection with your faith. Reach out to our parish office today for more information and take the first step towards enriching your spiritual life.





The 2025 Weekly Collection Envelopes have arrived and are ready for pick up in the parish office. If you have not picked up your set, please do so ASAP. Envelopes not picked up, will be removed from our census.

If you did not receive a set of envelopes and do not want to use our online giving option, stop by the parish office to receive your starter set. If you do not receive a starter set, you will not be on our envelope list; envelope sets are not mailed.



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!!!!! Serve the Lord with all your heart, soul, and Ministry all your strength by serving Him through ministry.

Rehearsal times:

Youth Choir (singers ages 7-16) meet Wednesday from 6:15-7:15pm.

Adult Choir: Meet Wednesday from 7:30-9pm. We sing in harmony and prepare for special concerts. All are welcome.

Instrumental Ensemble—do you have an instrument covered in a closet that needs another chance? Consider playing a Church. Email Naomi if you are interested in joining the group at musicministry@saintaloysiusonline.org.

Christian Book Study—will take a break for the month of December and will resume meeting on January 14th and 28th at 10:00am in the parish office.





Walking with Purpose is a Catholic Women's Bible

Study great for women of all backgrounds: Young / Wise; Single / Married / Discerning; Stay at Home / Working / Retired; Catholic / non-Catholic; etc, and it doesn't even require any walking! Named because we are all walking through this journey of life and we all have a purpose!

Opening Your Heart will take you on an exciting journey closer to the heart of God, help you form a personal relationship with Christ, and help you find answers to life's biggest questions through the context of the Catholic faith.

Gift yourself the opportunity to set your pace to the beat of God's heart. Walking with Purpose meets Thursdays at 7:00pm in Morello Hall. Our next meet-

ing is January 9th. We have a rolling admission and there's always room for one more at the table! Call Pat at the parish office for more information or email Klaudia at walkingpurposeklaudia@gmail.com.





Bible Study—Join Fr. RJ Tuesdays at 2:30pm in Wookly the parish office to Break BIBLE Open the Word and delve into Scripture. The

group will break for Christmas and New Year's. We will resume Tuesday, January 7th at 2:30pm. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.



Becoming a Man After God's Own Heart

The Saint Aloysius Men's Group invites you to join us for "That Man is You!".

That Man is You is a men's faith building program that honestly addresses the pressures and temptations that men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers.

THAT MAN IS YOU! IS DESIGNED TO:

Meet men wherever they are in their spiritual lives and help them take one step further. Turn the hearts of fathers to their spouse and children.

Form authentic leaders capable of transforming their families and greater society.

Form bonds of friendship and fellowship that strengthen the parish community.

Facilitate a personal encounter and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Join us Saturday mornings in Morello Hall for bagels, coffee and faith forming fellowship.

6:30-7am Bagels and Coffee 7:00-7:30 Video 7:30-8:00 Small Group discussions

For more information contact David at dfurb@aol.com



Please see below for reminders about upcoming events. To RSVP to any of the following, please contact Mrs. Jen Petrillo at 732-370-1515 ext. 311 or jpetrillo@saintaloysiusonline.org. Events are open to teens in grades 8 through 12. *Please keep in mind that it is a diocesan policy that parents should be copied on e-mail communication between parish staff/volunteers and those under 18.

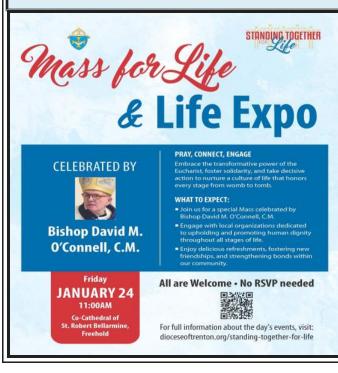
Epiphany Event: On Sunday, January 5th, we will celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord! Teens are invited to join us for a special event at our parish. Immediately after the 10:30 am Mass, there will be a Cantata concert with our parish's music ministry. The concert is open to the whole parish, and we encourage our teens to attend and sit together. After the concert, teens will share a meal and then head over to the Youth Room for our AYM "White Elephant" gift exchange! Teens who wish to participate are asked to please bring a <u>wrapped</u> present (worth no more than \$10). We plan to finish up at 1:30 pm. Please RSVP by Friday, January 3rd if you wish to join us.

DYC: The annual Diocesan Youth Conference is coming up on Saturday, February 1st at 10:00 am Notre Dame High School in Lawrenceville! DYC is the Diocese of Trenton's annual gathering for all teens in grades 8 through 12. It provides a chance to be with fellow young Catholics and grow closer to Christ through dynamic presentations, prayer, music, activities, and more! This year's theme is "The Journey." The advanced registration cost is \$25 per person. Please note that registration must be completed through your parish youth ministry leader. Parents/guardians who would like to register their son/daughter for DYC are asked to please contact Jen Petrillo no later than Thursday, January 23rd. *Please note: For our group, the plan is for teens to be dropped off and picked up at Notre Dame High School by a parent/guardian. Chaperones from our parish will meet our teens at Notre Dame and accompany them throughout the event.*

Donation Collection for "Boxes of Joy:" In preparation for the service project that will be a part of this year's Diocesan Youth Conference, parish youth groups are invited to collect items that will be included in "Boxes of Joy." "Boxes of Joy" is a program run by Cross Catholic Outreach that helps children in impoverished countries to experience God's love and

learn about Jesus when they receive a special gift box. Many different items are needed, but our youth group will specifically be collecting new jump ropes and new toothbrushes before the 5:00 pm Mass on January 11th, and before the 10:30 am Mass on January 12th. Teens are needed to assist with organizing donations before each of those Masses, and all parishioners are invited to consider contributing a jump rope and/or toothbrush.









What is a Jubilee Year?

A Holy Year or Jubilee is a time of special graces, pilgrimage, prayer, repentance and acts of mercy, based on the Old Testament tradition of a jubilee of rest, forgiveness, and renewal. (Lev. 25: 10-15) It is also a time to visit designated churches and shrines, recite special prayers, go to confession, and receive Communion to receive a plenary indul-

gence. The aim of a Holy Year is holiness of life. It is convoked to strengthen faith, encourage works of charity and foster a consistent living of the faith. Pope Boniface VIII proclaimed the first Christian Jubilee in 1300. Since then, there have been twenty-six "ordinary" Holy Years, observed nearly every twenty-five or fifty years, the last being in 2000, proclaimed by St. John Paul II. Since the 16th century, a number of "extraordinary" Jubilees were proclaimed to commemorate the anniversaries of significant events. In the Diocese of Trenton the Holy Year begins December 24, 2024 and will conclude January 6, 2026.

Jubilee 2025

The theme of the 2025 Jubilee is captured in its motto: Pilgrims in Hope and the title of the papal decree proclaiming the Holy Year: Spes non Confundit (Hope does not Disappoint) (Rom. 5:5) The Jubilee aims to inspire a collective sense of hope, particularly in light of recent global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, social disparities, and environmental issues. It summons us to be renewed in hope, and in turn, to be tangible signs of hope for those who experience hardship of any kind.

The Jubilee coincides with the 1700th anniversary of the 1st Ecumenical Council (Nicaea). This Council sought to preserve the Church's unity which was threatened by the denial of Christ's divinity. It approved the Creed we recite each Sunday at Mass.

Elements of a Holy Year

Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage is an image of discipleship. We often speak of our earthly life as a pilgrimage. Jesus said, "I am the way and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6), so Christians are always called to be with Jesus "on the way," journeying toward the Kingdom. More literally, a pilgrimage is an actual journey to visit holy places—not as a tourist, but as one seeking to grow in faith and become a better Christian.

There are many instances of pilgrimage in Sacred Scripture: the journeys of Abraham and Moses, the pilgrimages to the Temple of Jerusalem, the shepherds' going in haste to the newborn Jesus, the journey of the Magi to worship the child Jesus, and the journey of the women to the Lord's empty tomb on Easter. In the first centuries of the Church, Christians began to journey to places made sacred by Christ's life. A true pilgrimage should integrate education, spirituality, and community (although one can be a solitary pilgrim) to keep it from becoming a sightseeing venture.

Holy Door

The Holy Door at the Basilicas in Rome is a crucial symbol of the Jubilee Year. Jesus said: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved." (Jn 10:9) Crossing the threshold of the Holy Door into the church is symbolic of passing from this world into the presence of God, passing from sin to grace, and from separation to union with God. Since many of us are unable to travel to Rome, Bishop O'Connell has designated a church in each county as a Pilgrimage destination. In order to experience and obtain the plenary Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a pilgrimage to one of these churches.

To learn more about Jubilee events in the Diocese of Trenton, go to the website: dioceseoftrenton.org/jubilee2025





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- Tim Ryan











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