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Discover the Grace of the Jubilee: A Guide to Plenary Indulgences in 2025

During the Jubilee Year of 2025, the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence either for themselves or for the souls in Purgatory. *"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints."* (CCC 1471)

Requirements for Obtaining the Plenary Indulgence

All the faithful must:

- Be truly repentant
- Be free from attachment to sin
- Receive the Sacrament of Penance (within 20 days)
- Receive Holy Communion (within 20 days)
- Pray for the intentions of the pope
- Perform the prescribed works to gain the indulgence (see below for details)

Various Ways to Obtain the Indulgence in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Through Pilgrimage or Pious Visits

Visit any designated Jubilee site in the archdiocese and participate in one of these devotions:

- Holy Mass
- Celebration of the Word of God
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Stations of the Cross
- Marian Rosary
- Penitential celebration with individual confession
- Engage in Eucharistic adoration and meditation and conclude with:
 - Our Father
 - Profession of Faith
 - Invocations to Mary

Through Works of Mercy and Penance

Participate in:

- Popular missions and spiritual exercises
- Formation activities on Vatican II documents
- Study of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Perform Spiritual and/or Corporal Works of Mercy

Designated Jubilee pilgrimage sites:

- National Shrine of St. John Neumann at St. Peter Church, Philadelphia
- National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown
- National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, Philadelphia
- Miraculous Medal Basilica, Philadelphia
- St. Jude at St. Jude Church and Shrine, Chalfont
- St. Gianna Beretta Molla at Nativity of Our Lord Church, Warminster
- St. Katherine Drexel at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia
- St. Anne at St. Anne Church (upper church), Philadelphia
- Bl. Carlo Acutis at Malvern Retreat House, Malvern
- Padre Pio at St. Bede Church, Holland

Special Provisions

Those who cannot make a pilgrimage due to serious reasons (elderly, sick, imprisoned, or caregivers) may obtain the indulgence by:

- Uniting spiritually with jubilee celebrations
- Offering their sufferings to God
- Praying the Our Father, the Creed, and other prayers in their place of confinement

For more details about the Jubilee Year and indulgences, visit stjudechalfont.org/jubilee-year



Plenary Indulgences for Jubilee Year Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope



(Quotations are taken from the Vatican directives for the Jubilee Year:
“Sala Stampa della Santa Sede Bollettino”)

“During the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025... all the faithful, who are truly repentant and free from any affection for sin, who are moved by a spirit of charity and who, during the Holy Year, purified through the sacrament of penance and refreshed by Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, will be able to obtain from the treasury of the Church a plenary indulgence, with remission and forgiveness of all their sins, which can be applied in suffrage to the souls in Purgatory in the following ways: pilgrimages... pious visits to sacred places... works of mercy and penance.”

A. Pilgrimages and Visits to Pious Places

Sites designated for pilgrimages and pious visits:

- Various locations in Rome
- Various locations in the Holy Land
- Locations designated by Archbishop Nelson J. Perez as sacred sites in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence:
 - National Shrine of St. John Neumann at St. Peter Church, Philadelphia
 - National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown
 - National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia, Philadelphia
 - Miraculous Medal Basilica, Philadelphia
 - St. Jude shrine at St. Jude Church and Shrine, Chalfont
 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla shrine at Nativity of Our Lord Church, Warminster
 - St. Katherine Drexel shrine at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, Philadelphia
 - St. Anne shrine at St. Anne Church (upper church), Philadelphia
 - Bl. Carlo Acutis shrine at Malvern Retreat House, Malvern
 - Padre Pio shrine at St. Bede Church, Holland

Prescribed Works to Gain the Indulgence

When visiting a location to gain the Plenary Indulgence, ***besides the usual requirements to gain an indulgence (see Q&A section below)***, the faithful may receive the Jubilee indulgence by devoutly engaging in one or more of these pious practices:

- Holy Mass
- Celebration of the Word of God
- Liturgy of the Hours
- Stations of the Cross
- Recitation of the Holy Rosary
- Eucharistic adoration and meditation, “concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form, and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God, so that in this Holy Year everyone ‘will come to know the closeness of Mary, the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children’ (*Spes non confundit*, 24).”

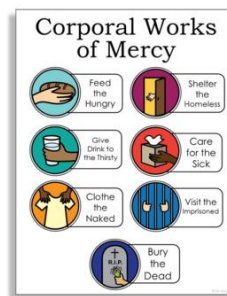
B. Works of Mercy and Penance

The faithful are called especially to be “tangible signs of hope” for those in need in a special way during this Jubilee Year. Thus, an indulgence is also linked to works of mercy and penance that “witness to the conversion undertaken.” We are called to carry out corporal and spiritual works of mercy more often and “in a sense making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. Mt 25, 34-36) according to the usual spiritual, sacramental

and prayer conditions. The faithful can repeat these visits throughout the Holy Year, even daily, acquiring a plenary indulgence each time.”

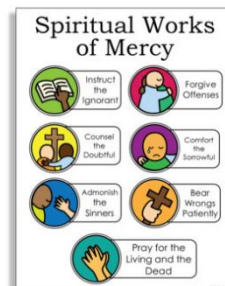
Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Shelter the homeless
- Visit the sick
- Visit the imprisoned
- Bury the dead



Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Admonish the sinner
- Comfort the afflicted
- Forgive offenses
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Pray for the living and the dead



“In addition, the faithful will be able to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if, with a devout spirit, they participate in popular missions, spiritual exercises, or formation activities on the documents of the Second Vatican Council and the Catechism of the Catholic Church, held in a church or other suitable place, according to the mind of the Holy Father.”

Questions and Answers about Indulgences

What is a Plenary Indulgence?

A Plenary Indulgence is the full remission of temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven. Explaining a plenary indulgence requires clarifying what sin is and what it does to us. Two things occur when we sin:

- #1. We incur guilt.
- #2. Our soul undergoes deformity.

Sacramental Confession removes the guilt (#1). However, the deformity (#2) remains. A person’s heart is changed when it sins: sin deforms it. A deformed heart must be reformed in God’s image and likeness before entering Heaven. Heaven is, by definition, the realm of the saints. No non-saints exist in Heaven; every soul in Heaven is a saint.

Herein is the difficulty. Of those people you have known who have already died, how many were you certain left the world as saints? Most know very few, if any. Yet we are told in the Letter to the Hebrews that no one can see the Lord without possessing holiness (Hebrews 12:14). That is why Purgatory exists: it is a state of purification whereby a soul is purified through suffering so that it may enter God’s presence in Heaven. That the saved may need purification—and are aided by the prayers of the living—is confirmed in 2 Maccabees 12:45: “He made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.”

A plenary indulgence is an act by the Pope whereby he uses his authority as the successor of Saint Peter to declare the removal of one’s accrued purgation to be spent in Purgatory (an instance of the papal “power of the keys” described in Matthew 16:18-19). A Catholic who gains a plenary indulgence receives a blank slate in terms of Purgatory up to the moment of attaining it.

What are the conditions to receive a Plenary Indulgence?

1. ***Resolve to end all relationships with sin, both mortal and venial sin.*** In order to receive a Plenary Indulgence, the person must be in a state of grace and must be detached from any sin, mortal or venial. This condition is by far the most difficult and requires explaining. It entails making the decision that you will never sin again. This does not mean you lose the indulgence if you sin again. Once gained, an indulgence cannot be lost. However, it requires the decision in the heart to remove any ongoing relationship or dependency with sin. Examining the following examples of sins that often escape our attention will help illustrate this point.
 - Lying (including “white” lies)
 - Theft (including copyright theft)
 - The use of blasphemy or accepting it (using the Lord’s name or referring to what is holy irreverently)
 - The use of contraception
 - Holding a “pro-choice” view towards pre-born babies (e.g., tolerating abortion within one’s heart) and refusing to give it the moral importance it deserves (e.g., at the polling booth)
- If you do not know if you are completely free from an attachment to sin, you should still seek to obtain a plenary indulgence, because if you are not fully detached from sin you will still receive a partial indulgence, assuming you are in the state of grace at the time.
2. ***Receive the Sacrament of Confession:*** This can be within 20 days before or after seeking to gain the indulgence. You do not have to go to confession repeatedly for each indulgence if you have gone to confession recently and are still in a state of grace.
3. ***Receive Holy Communion:*** It is fitting that receiving Communion be done on the same day as the work performed for the indulgence, but it is not required.
4. ***Pray for the Pope:*** Reciting one Our Father and one Hail Mary satisfies this condition.
5. ***Perform the prescribed works to gain the indulgence.***

What about people who are homebound?

“The faithful who are truly repentant of sin but who cannot participate in the various solemn celebrations, pilgrimages, and pious visits for serious reasons (especially cloistered nuns and monks, but also the elderly, the sick, prisoners, and those who, through their work in hospitals or other care facilities, provide continuous service to the sick), can obtain the Jubilee Indulgence, under the same conditions if, united in spirit with the faithful taking part in person, (especially when the words of the Supreme Pontiff or the diocesan Bishop are transmitted through the various means of communication), they recite the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any approved form, and other prayers in conformity with the objectives of the Holy Year, in their homes or wherever they are confined (e.g. in the chapel of the monastery, hospital, nursing home, prison...) offering up their sufferings or the hardships of their lives.”

May one obtain a Plenary Indulgence on behalf of someone else?

A plenary indulgence may be obtained for oneself or offered for the soul of someone already deceased (or for the dead in general), but it cannot be applied to another person who is still living.

How often may one obtain a Plenary Indulgence?

Once a day. However, there is a special ruling for the Jubilee Year of Hope:

“Despite the rule that only one plenary indulgence can be obtained per day, the faithful who have carried out an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory, if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day, can obtain the plenary indulgence twice on the same day, applicable only to the deceased (this must take

place within a Eucharistic celebration). Through this double act, a praiseworthy exercise of supernatural charity is carried out, through that bond by which the faithful still journeying on this earth are united in the mystical Body of Christ, with those who have already completed their journey, by virtue of the fact that “the Jubilee indulgence, thanks to the power of prayer, is intended in a particular way for those who have gone before us, so that they may obtain full mercy” (*Spes non confundit*, 22).

Resources about the Jubilee Year and Indulgences:

Vatican Jubilee website: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025.html>

USCCB Jubilee website: <https://www.usccb.org/jubilee2025>

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Jubilee website: <https://archphila.org/hollyear/>

Indulgence Cooperative: a website with everything you want to know about indulgences:

http://indulgencecooperative.org/indulgence_plenary.asp