



Preparing for The Jubilee 'Holy Door'

Diocese of Prince Albert

Liturgy Office



Holy Door

From a symbolic viewpoint, the Holy Door takes on a special significance: it is the most powerful sign of the Jubilee, since the ultimate aim of the pilgrim is to pass through it. The opening of the door by the Pope constitutes the official beginning of the Holy Year. Originally, there was only one door, at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome. Later, to allow as many pilgrims as possible to take part in the Jubilee experience, the other Roman Basilicas also opened their own holy doors.

In crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, the pilgrim is reminded of the passage from chapter 10 of St John's gospel: "I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." Passing through the Holy Door expresses the decision to follow and be guided by Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd. The door is a passageway that ushers the pilgrim into the interior of a church. For the Christian community, a church is not only a sacred space, to be approached with respect, with appropriate behavior and dress code, but it is a symbol of the communion that binds every believer to Christ: it is a place of encounter and dialogue, of reconciliation and peace which awaits every pilgrim, the Church is essentially the place of the community of the faithful.

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In Rome, this experience takes on a special significance because of the special links between the Eternal City and Saints Peter and Paul, the apostles who founded the Christian community in Rome and whose teachings and example are models for the universal Church. The tombs of Saints Peter and Paul are located in Rome, they were martyred here; and together with the catacombs, these sacred sites are places of continuous spiritual inspiration.



**Information on this page taken from
<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

What about in Canada?

The opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican marks the beginning of the Jubilee and symbolizes the passage that every Christian must make from sin to grace.

The role of the Holy Door is the granting of the plenary indulgence, while the papal altar is used by the Pope or a few other priests to celebrate the Eucharist.

Diocesan bishops are invited to identify places in their dioceses where pilgrims may obtain Indulgences throughout the Jubilee year.

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2024-08/vatican-issues-clarification-on-holy-doors-during-2025-jubilee.html>

*find out more about what obtaining an Indulgence means in the Indulgence page of the 'Preparing for the Jubilee' handouts.



A Jubilee overview: Holy Doors in Rome

In *Spes non confundit*, Pope Francis announced that the Jubilee Year will begin with the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, 2024.

The Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica is opened by the Pope only at the beginning of a Jubilee Year. It is usually the first door to be opened to indicate the beginning of the Holy Year. This first evidence of the rite happening in St Peter's was in the year 1500 during the papacy of Alexander VI.

Later, on 29 December, the Pope will open the Holy Door of the Archbasilica of St John Lateran, the Cathedral of Rome. On the same day, every Cathedral and co-Cathedral throughout the world will have Mass celebrated by the local Bishop to mark the opening of the Jubilee.

On the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, 1 January 2025, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Mary Major, with the Holy Door for the Basilica of St Paul's Outside the Walls being opened on Sunday, 5 January, the Vigil of Epiphany.

"In the course of the year," Pope Francis had written, "every effort should be made to enable the People of God to participate fully in its proclamation of hope in God's grace and in the signs that attest to their efficacy."

On 28 December 2025, the Jubilee will end in the particular Churches throughout the world, with the Holy Doors of St John Lateran, St Mary Major, and St Paul's Outside the Walls being closed on that same date.

Finally, the Jubilee Year will formally conclude in Rome on the Solemnity of Epiphany, 6 January 2026.

*This section was written **By Deborah Castellano Lubov** And was found on the official website of the Jubilee Year <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va>