



Decree for the Jubilee Year 2025

GLEN JOHN PROVOST

by the Grace of God and the Favor of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF LAKE CHARLES

For an Everlasting Remembrance.

"Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks the reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:15). Seventeen centuries ago, in June of 325, in the town of Nicaea not far from the then-capital of the Roman Empire, Constantinople, more than 200 Bishops met to fulfill these words of the Apostle Saint Peter by reaffirming the unchanging Catholic faith received from the Apostles concerning the true divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Name in which mankind can hope for salvation (Acts 4:12). Upon this foundation we remain firm today.

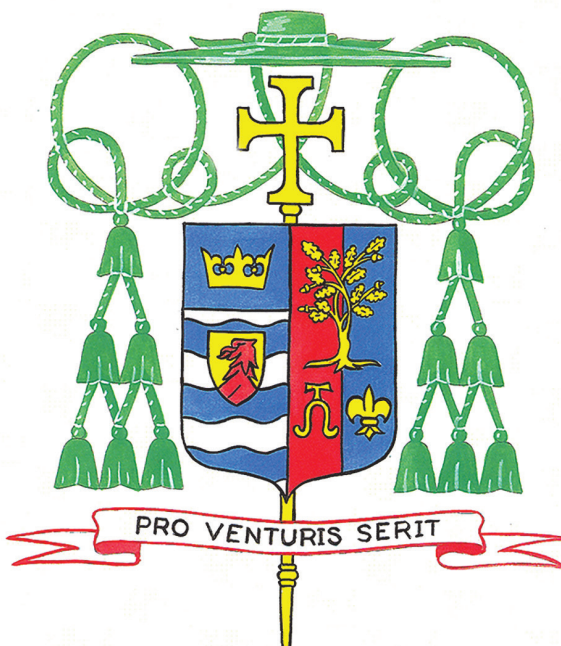
As proclaimed in the Bull of Indiction, *Spes non confundit*, the Most Holy Father Francis, Bishop of Rome and Servant of the servants of God, solemnly declared the opening of the ordinary Jubilee Holy Year of 2025 in Rome, calling all Christians to be "pilgrims of hope." His Holiness points us toward the pierced Heart of Jesus Christ as the one "through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand" (Rom. 1:2). He is the "sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Heb. 6:19).

THEREFORE, following the decree of Pope Francis, as the Bishop of the Diocese of Lake Charles, We hereby proclaim the Holy Year of 2025 for this local Church of Lake Charles, to be solemnly inaugurated in Our Cathedral on Sunday, December 29th of this year, and to continue until its conclusion on Sunday, December 28th, 2025. In order to cooperate most fully with this initiative and to favor the reception of manifold graces, We also hereby decree

THAT the following shall be designated as pilgrimage churches in the Diocese of Lake Charles for the Holy Year of 2025 (cf. Decree of the Sacred Tribunal of the Apostolic Penitentiary, May 13, 2024):

[1] The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, in which stands the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary crowned by the authority of His Holiness Benedict PP. XVI. (one of only four in the nation and of only two in the state to be so honored);

[2] The parish church of Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles, well-known for its connection to Saint Katharine Drexel, whose love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the



Blessed Sacrament and whose courage and initiative in addressing social inequality among minorities have been a lasting legacy;

[3] The parish church of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur;

[4] The parish church of Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings; and

THAT the following shall be designated as pilgrimage holy sites in the Diocese of Lake Charles for the Holy Year of 2025 (ibid.):

[1] The diocesan Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron;

[2] The parochial Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur; and

THAT, in addition to the indulgences already contained in the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV. ed., which remain in force, We remind the faithful of those already granted by Us concerning the recitation of the Divine Office and the Prayer for the Family (Decrees of June 7th, 2014), as well as those already granted concerning the diocesan Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea (Decree of March 25th, 2020), and We exhort the faithful to take advantage of those special plenary indulgences granted by the Holy

Father for this Holy Year of 2025 and obtainable each day of the Holy Year.

THAT, in order to facilitate access to the Sacrament of Penance and the obtaining of divine forgiveness through the "Power of the Keys," all priests who are incardinated into this Diocese or who have been approved for ministry in this Diocese, and whose faculties have not been revoked, are granted for the period of this Holy Year the same authority to absolve from censures that We have granted to Our diocesan Penitentiary, or granted by universal law (canons 508 §1, 1355 §2), whenever they are administering the Sacrament in any of the aforesaid pilgrimage churches or at the aforesaid holy sites (cf. Decree of the Sacred Tribunal of the Apostolic Penitentiary, May 13, 2024).

THAT the Instruction which We have caused to be appended to this Decree, which contains Our other dispositions with regard to the initiatives and opportunities through which this Jubilee of hope will benefit the Christian faithful of Our Diocese, shall be faithfully and generously implemented by the Parish Priests and those others whom it concerns.

With unbounded confidence in her intercession for the fruitfulness of this coming Year of Grace, we entrust these things to that incomparable Woman of Hope, the Most Blessed Virgin, Star of the Sea.

All things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at the Seat of Our Chancery in Lake Charles and signed by Our hand and that of Our Chancellor, on the First Sunday of Advent, the first of December in the Year of the Incarnation 2024.

✦ Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

Very Reverend Joseph Caraway
Chancellor

L.†S.

Guidance for visiting holy sites, gaining Plenary Indulgences

Instruction Regarding the Initiatives and Opportunities to Benefit the Christian Faithful in the Diocese of Lake Charles For the Jubilee Year 2025

December 1, 2024

In the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025, called by His Holiness Pope Francis, the faithful are invited to become Pilgrims of Hope and to turn to the generosity of God's Mercy. The Supreme Pontiff has opened the treasury of God's Mercy, providing various opportunities to obtain a Plenary Indulgence. Many of these opportunities are detailed in the document *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 Called by His Holiness Pope Francis* released by the Apostolic Penitentiary.

In addition to those established by the Apostolic Penitentiary, local Ordinaries are encouraged to consider the needs of the faithful in their dioceses. They should designate Churches or other sacred places for pilgrims to visit to receive indulgences. This document outlines how the faithful in the Diocese of Lake Charles can obtain indulgences locally. As a reminder, in this Jubilee year, all other indulgences universally and locally previously granted remain in effect.

To receive a Plenary Indulgence for each indulgence, the faithful must fulfill the usual conditions: They should be motivated by a spirit of charity, purified through the sacrament of penance (within 20 days), refreshed by Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff (a Hail Mary, an Our Father, and a Glory Be is sufficient). As with all indulgences, the faithful must be "truly repentant and free from all affection for sin" (cf. *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*, IV ed., norm. 20, 1). If these conditions are met and the faithful complete a pilgrimage, pious visit, or a charitable act, they will receive a Plenary Indulgence. The list of churches and holy sites are listed below as well as how to complete a pilgrimage, pious visit, and charitable act.

who perform an act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory can obtain the Plenary Indulgence twice on the same day—applicable only to the deceased—if they receive Holy Communion a second time that day.²¹

Pilgrimage Churches and Holy Sites where the faithful can obtain a Plenary Indulgence:

1. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles
2. Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles
3. Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur
4. Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings
5. The diocesan Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron
6. The parochial Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur

Pilgrimages

For the Jubilee year, a pilgrimage is a planned journey that should be led by a priest or deacon who offers Holy Mass, a Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Hours (Office of Readings, Lauds, Vespers), the Via Crucis (the Way of the Cross), the Marian Rosary, the recitation of the Akathist hymn, or a penance service as established in the Rite of Penance (form II). Priests and deacons are encouraged to lead the faithful on a pilgrimage to designated Pilgrimage Churches and Holy Sites. However, they should make preparations and plans with those locations before their arrival.

Pious Visits

Even if the faithful do not have the opportunity to participate under the direction of a priest or deacon for a pilgrimage, they may make a pious visit to these locations individually or in a group. A pious visit involves spending a suitable amount of time in 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.

Charitable Acts

Spes non confundit calls the faithful to be "tangible signs of hope," by performing, with a devout spirit for an appropriate amount of time, works of charity. These

DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES
Jubilee Year 2025

Sunday, December 29, 2024,
through Sunday, December 28, 2025



Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Lake Charles



Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lake Charles



Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Sulphur



Our Lady Help of Christians in Jennings



Diocesan Shrine of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Cameron



Parochial Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette in Sulphur



Make a pilgrimage or pious visit to any of the six local pilgrimage sites to gain a Plenary Indulgence during the Jubilee Year.



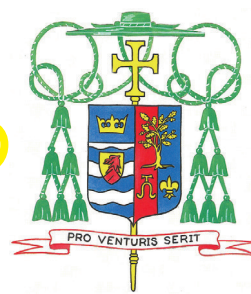
Read the Decree for the Jubilee Year 2025 from Bishop Provost at lcdioocese.org

works of charity include visiting the sick, imprisoned, lonely elderly, and the disabled. While all these opportunities are suitable to receive the indulgence, the faithful in the diocese are encouraged to offer an act of charity by volunteering at Catholic Charities. Catholic Charities

provides many food distributions across the diocese, and the Jubilee Year is a great time to serve those in need.

¹Angelo Cardinal De Donatis, *Decree on the Granting of the Indulgence During the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 Called by His Holiness Pope Francis*, (13 May 2024).

Calendar



The Most Reverend Glen John Provost
Bishop of Lake Charles

December 20, 2024

Christmas Mass schedule for churches of the Diocese of Lake Charles

Bell City

St. John Vianney
(7120 Highway 14 East)
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Big Lake

St. Mary of the Lake
(11054 Highway 384)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Carlyss

St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
(4822 Carlyss Drive)
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve);
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Creole

Sacred Heart of Jesus, East Cameron
Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Life Center, Creole
(5250 West Creole Highway)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

DeQuincy

Our Lady of LaSalette
(203 South Grand Avenue)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

DeRidder

St. Joseph
(1125 Blankenship Drive)
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Bilingual) (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Elizabeth

St. Frances of Rome Mission
(204 Poplar Street)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Elton

St. Joseph
(209 Al Woods Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

St. Paul

(1100 St. Mary Street)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Fenton

St. Charles Borromeo
(804 Third Avenue)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Hackberry

St. Peter the Apostle
(1210 Main Street)
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Iowa

St. Raphael
(211 South Thomson Avenue)
4:00 p.m., (Eve); 9:30 a.m. (Day)

St. Peter Claver Mission

(503 Second Street)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Jennings

Immaculate Conception
(705 South Lake Arthur Avenue)
4:00 p.m., (Eve); 6:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady Help of Christians

(710 North State Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

(920 South Broadway Street)
6:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight, 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Johnson Bayou

Our Lady of the Assumption Mission
(6470 Gulf Beach Highway)
11:00 a.m. (Day)

Kinder

St. Philip Neri
(607 Fourth Avenue)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Lacassine

St. John the Evangelist Mission
(306 Ann Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m. (Day)

Lake Arthur

Our Lady of the Lake
(203 Commercial Avenue)
5:30 p.m. (Eve); 9:30 a.m., (Day)

Lake Charles

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
(Corner of Kirby and Bilbo Streets)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight
7:30 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. (Latin Mass) (Day)

Immaculate Heart of Mary

(2031 Opelousas Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 9:30 a.m., (Day)

Our Lady of Good Counsel

(221 Aqua Drive)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady Queen of Heaven

(3939 Lake Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.,
11:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (Day)

Sacred Heart of Jesus

(610 Louisiana Avenue)
4:30 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Henry

(1021 Eighth Avenue)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 Midnight (bilingual),
9:00 a.m., 5:30 p.m. (bilingual) (Day)

St. Margaret of Scotland

(2500 Enterprise Blvd.)
(NW Corner of Enterprise Blvd. & 17th Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve);
7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Martin de Porres

(5495 Elliott Road)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

Christ the King

(7680 Gulf Highway)
4:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:00 a.m. (Day)

CHRISTUS St. Patrick Chapel

(524 Dr. Michael DeBakey Drive)
9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Fatima Mission

(1700 Graham Street)
7:00 a.m. (Day)

LeBleu Settlement

St. Joseph Mission
(2110 Claude Hebert Road)
8:00 a.m. (Day)

Moss Bluff

St. Theodore
(785 Sam Houston Jones Parkway)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 11:00 p.m. (Eve);
8:30 a.m. (Day)

Oakdale

Sacred Heart of Jesus
(1208 East 7th Avenue)
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Oberlin

St. Joan of Arc
(112 South 7th Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

Ragley

St. Pius X
(16816 Highway 171)
4:00 p.m. (Eve); 12:00 (Midnight), 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Raymond

St. Lawrence
(5505 Pine Island Highway)
5:00 p.m. (Eve); 7:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m. (Day)

Sulphur

Immaculate Conception
(2700 Maplewood Drive)
4:00 p.m., 6:30 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of LaSalette

(602 North Claiborne Street)
4:00 p.m., 10:00 p.m. (Eve); 8:30 a.m. (Day)

Our Lady of Prompt Succor

(1109 Cypress Street)
5:00 p.m. (Eve);
12:00 Midnight, 8:00 a.m.,
10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. (Day)

St. Francis de Sales Oratory

(802 South Huntington Street)
12:00 Midnight, 8:30 a.m. (Low Mass),
10:30 a.m. (High Mass) (Day)

Vinton

St. Joseph
(1502 Industrial Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 9:00 a.m. (Day)

Welsh

Our Lady of Seven Dolors
(209 North Adams Street)
4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. (Eve); 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. (Day)

St. Joseph

(310 North Sarah Street)
7:00 p.m. (Eve); 10:30 a.m. (Day)

Westlake

St. John Bosco
(1301 Sampson Street)
4:00 p.m. (Eve);
8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. (Day)

'Festival of Nations' makes return on Jan. 4

LAKE CHARLES — The third annual "Festival of Nations: Celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord" will return in 2025 with more countries, more food, and more entertainment!

Hosted by the Diocese of Lake Charles, the family-friendly bilingual event will take place on Saturday, January 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church and Founders' Hall. Admission is free.

New this year will be a National Costume Contest. Also, for the first time, the Charismatic Movement, led by Mike Nelson from the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center, will participate with music and praise during Eucharistic Adoration.

Returning favorites will be the Danzantes Guadalupanos and the International Ballet from the Hispanic community at St. Henry Catholic Church, authentic cuisine from 20 different countries, entertainment featuring 10 international dances, and the talent of 7 musicians.

"The parade and competition of national costumes will be very interesting. The Marian apparitions have taught us that our mother Mary is the best example of appreciating other cultures," said Ricardo Ruvalcaba, Spanish Pastoral Assistant for the Diocese of Lake Charles. "It is beautiful to see how she dresses according to each culture and country where she has appeared. For me, Our Lady is the queen of the culture."

Ruvalcaba is organizing the event with Father Rommel Tolentino, Pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church.

Following the delicious food, lively entertainment, and festive costume contest, The Three Kings will lead participants in a procession to the church for Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. Children can look forward to receiving toys and candy from The Three Kings at the conclusion of the event.

There will be opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Eucharistic Adoration inside the church.

All are welcome to participate. Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church is located at 2031 Opelousas Street. For more information, call 337-436-8093 or 337-436-7223.

Bishop Provost's Christmas Message 2024

As we conclude Advent and begin our celebration of the birthday of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, I am reminded of a statement by George Bernanos, a noted French author. He wrote, "The Church has need not of reformers but of saints." Christmas reminds me of the wisdom of those words. After all, does not our Lord make clear in the Sermon on the Mount that we are called to perfection (cf. Matthew 5:48). Here, at Christmas, the Eternal Word of God takes flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary and is born into the world to teach us, by word and example, how we are to live better lives. We are reminded as well that this vocation, this call, is to be saints. Jesus Christ calls us to perfection, not mediocrity. I think this is a major part of the "good news."

At Christmas the Gospel speaks of the "good news of great joy" proclaimed first to the shepherds. What is this good news that moves the shepherds to go in haste to Bethlehem? It is not the promise of material possessions. Nor is it a summons to embrace a cause. These are things that would attract a "reformer," to use the reference of Bernanos. A "reformer" needs a cause and often seeks a radical societal change. These changes might be praiseworthy, although often reformers bring about changes that even they live to regret. But the "good news of great joy"—what is it?

The shepherds find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, surrounded by animals in a manger, with a joyful mother looking on, and a thoughtful Joseph standing watch. The angel had made the following proclamation to them:

"For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord" (Luke 2:11). The "good news" is that a "savior" is born, who is both "Messiah and Lord." Implied in this proclamation is the profound message of salvation, redemption from sin, reconciliation with God, future hope, and peace on earth.

Each time I look at a manger scene or Christmas Creche, I am reminded of the call from God to do better, to live a good life, to reject sin, to move closer in relationship with Him. When I reflect on the Nativity in Bethlehem, I want to hear that "good news" proclaimed to me once again, the "good news of great joy" heard by the shepherds, about a "Messiah and Lord" who was born not in a palace but in a manger. Here is a "Messiah and Lord" who was first and foremost obedient to the Father's Will. That obedience can bring about a change in my own life.

There are many lessons to be learned from Christmas. One of the greatest is that "all things are possible for God," even His birth to a Virgin Mother in a manger of Bethlehem. What wondrous accomplishments came forth from the humble beginnings in Bethlehem. What marvels await us who follow His example of humility and submission to the Father's Will, the striving for holiness, the pursuit of a saintly life. There is always a greater good. We can always strive to do better.

I extend to you and your families my blessings for a truly joyful and peaceful Christmas!

Diocese announces holiday closures

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will close for the Christmas and New Year holidays on Tuesday, December 24, and reopen for regular business hours – 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. – on Thursday, January 2, 2025. The diocese will also close on Monday, January 20, to honor the memory and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.