

Christ is Born!

Decree

On the Proclamation in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of New Westminster of

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE CHURCHES

for the Jubilee Year of 2025

To the glory of the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-Giving, and Undivided Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Pope **Francis** has proclaimed an **Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025** and has invited the all the faithful of the Church to take full advantage of this renewal of hope. Therefore, by the authority given to us, considering the norm of Canon 191, §1-2 of the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, and taking into account the bull of Pope Francis **Spes non confundit** – "Hope does not disappoint" (9 May 2024), Art. 6, 23, and the Norms of the Apostolic Penitentiary regarding indulgences for the Ordinary Jubilee Year of 2025 (13 May 2024), I am happy to

PROCLAIM

- The **Cathedral** of the Holy Eucharist in **New Westminster**,
- The **Dormition of the Mother of God Church** in **Kelowna**, and
- **Saint Michael the Archangel Church** in **Nanaimo**,

INDULGENCE CHURCHES

As pilgrimage destinations at which the faithful may receive plenary indulgences every day of this Jubilee Year from 29 December 29, 2024, to December 28, 2025

All pilgrims who fulfill the conditions for receiving the indulgence at these churches (i.e., they receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**, participate in the Divine Liturgy and worthily **receive Holy Communion**, and **pray for the intention of the Holy Father**) from December 29, 2024, to December 28, 2025, will receive the **plenary Jubilee indulgence**. This indulgence may certainly be applied to oneself, however, as explained in the **addendum**, this indulgence may be generously dedicated for the benefit of a deceased person. Thus, a plenary indulgence may be obtained even once **every day** if the pilgrim is willing to fulfill the spiritual conditions.



I call upon all the faithful of the New Westminster Eparchy to take an active part in celebrating the Jubilee Year of 2025 in accordance with the plan of events and initiatives published by the Jubilee Committee of our Church. Let us live this year as a **time of - personal and collective - renewal in living faith**, growth in **sacrificial love**, and **strengthening of our unshakable hope** in God's abundant graces for His people, the flourishing of His Church, especially throughout our New Westminster Eparchy.

Placing this Jubilee Year under the Motherly Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos – our unshakable Orantaⁱ – and relying on the intercessory prayers of the saints and righteous ones and the holy martyrs, I invoke upon all the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the communion of the Holy Spirit!

This Decree takes effect from December 29, 2024.

The Lord's Blessing be upon you!

+Michael

Most Rev. Michael (Kwiatkowski)
Bishop of New Westminster Eparchy



Issued at the Cathedral of the Holy Eucharist
Eparchy of New Westminster
28th day of December 2024 A.D.

Addendum to Decree on Jubilee Churches in the Eparchy of New Westminster

The Jubilee Indulgence

As mentioned in the Jubilee letter of our Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada (15 December 2024), one of the special graces of the Jubilee Year of Hope involves what is known as a “**Plenary** (*i.e. full or total*) **Indulgence**”. The most basic definition is that it is, “a grace granted by the Catholic Church through the merits of Jesus Christ to remove the temporal punishment due to sin”. This is how we understand it...

When we sin, we want to seek forgiveness as soon as possible. When we are forgiven, we are forgiven. However, there are always consequences for our sin. Damage, especially spiritual, has been done. We seek forgiveness for our sin through the Sacrament of **Confession** - the Mystery of Penance. The Lord through His Church forgives us. However, the *consequences* of our sin remain and must be addressed. We will atone for those consequences in this life or in the next (cf. Purgatory) so that we may enter purified into the presence of God. The Church, by its Christ-given authority, offers to wipe away those consequences for those who request that by adhering to some **profoundly significant**, but quite **easily achievable** conditions.

1. One must make a sincere **Confession** and thus reconcile oneself with our Saviour Jesus Christ with the desire to henceforth live a holy life.
2. Worthily receive our Lord in **Holy Communion** at the time that the other conditions for the indulgence are fulfilled or at least within a few days before or after.
3. Perform **the stipulated action** - a pilgrimage to a particular church/shrine; passing through the designated Holy Door (for example, at one of the churches designated above as ‘Jubilee Churches’); or an act of charity/kindness; almsgiving toward the needy; etc.
4. Pray a **Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father** – the Pope [usually the Lord’s Prayer (Our Father), the prayer to the Mother of God (Hail Mary) and the doxology (Glory be..)].

Praying for the Deceased

Now, if a Plenary Indulgence means that by the grace of God, the “temporal punishment (consequences) due for my sin” is wiped away, would I not want to make the effort for such an indulgence often? Of course. However, there is another extraordinary aspect of spiritual indulgences: one may perform all the required conditions, but apply the gained indulgence **not for oneself**, but **for a deceased soul**. Alas, the Church chooses not to permit an indulgence to be applied to another living person as such a person is still able to obtain such an indulgence for him/herself. (If one has in mind living persons who could benefit from such an indulgence, one could invite them to join in the effort.)

[Note: If one wishes to apply the Plenary Indulgence toward the benefit of deceased persons, one Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, however, receiving Holy Communion and the prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence – but only once daily if that is the case.]

So, understand that the heart of this explanation is that through this Jubilee Year, we may obtain a whole lot of good for ourselves and for hundreds of souls who departed from this life and would for whom we already pray and who would be eternally grateful for our remembering them in a special way during this Jubilee Year of Hope, by obtaining for them a plenary indulgence as well.

Those who are unable to make the pilgrimage to one of the above mentioned churches or to another local pilgrimage church so designated by one of the other Catholic dioceses, should not feel disadvantaged. As explained in the PASTORAL LETTER ON THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025 PILGRIMS OF HOPE of the Ukrainian Catholic Bishops of Canada (you owe it to yourself to read it!) the conditions for the Jubilee Indulgence may be fulfilled in **another appropriate way** - wherever we are. Speak with your Parish Priest and he will help you.

ⁱThe “Oranta” is a six-meter mosaic of the Mother of God praying (orans) in the apse of the great Cathedral of Holy Sophia in the heart of the Ukrainian Capital of Kyiv. It is known as “the unshakeable wall” and the popular Ukrainian tradition is that as long as the icon stands, **Kyiv** and Ukraine will continue to stand as well. Pope St. John Paul stated in 1987, “**Kyiv** is a holy city because it is a Marian city ‘par excellence,’”.