



**ARCHDIOCESE OF ANCHORAGE-JUNEAU**  
**OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP**



December 15, 2024  
Third Sunday of Advent

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus be with you always!

The Universal Church looks toward the Jubilee Year 2025, which is dedicated to hope. It is the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of our Lord. Every 25 years, the Holy Father calls forth this “event of great spiritual, ecclesial, and social significance in the life of the Church.”

Pope Francis stated in his February 2022 letter announcing the Jubilee 2025: “We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire...”

Beginning the Jubilee year, Pope Francis will open the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica on December 24 and at St. John Lateran on December 29. The Holy Door at St. Mary Major will be opened on January 1 and at St. Paul Outside the Walls on January 5. Unlike the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in 2016, the Holy Doors are only in Rome. Following the pope's request, I will celebrate the solemn opening of the Jubilee for the archdiocese on Sunday, December 29, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Anchorage.

“For pilgrims who cannot travel to Rome, bishops around the world are expected to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences and other events intended to strengthen and revive faith.”

In our archdiocese, I have designated two places of prayer for pilgrims. In Southcentral, the place of prayer is in the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Anchorage. In Southeast, the place of prayer is the National Shrine of Saint Thérèse in Juneau.

Additional information is forthcoming about our archdiocesan-designated places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims and those who wish to travel to Rome during the Jubilee year on our website at [aoaj.org](http://aoaj.org) and in the January issue of the North Star Catholic.

We pray through the intercession of our Blessed Mother and our patroness Saint Thérèse during this Jubilee year with hope for the grace of hearts renewed with kindness, love, and compassion.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Andrew Bellisario, C.M.