



## NEWS RELEASE

## DIOCESE OF ERIE

[www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org)

12.28.25

### **Diocese of Erie to Celebrate Closing Mass for the Jubilee of Hope**

The Diocese of Erie will formally conclude the Jubilee of Hope with a **Closing Mass on Sunday, Dec. 28, at 11 a.m. at Saint Peter Cathedral in Erie**. The celebration marks the diocesan conclusion of the Holy Year declared by Pope Francis, which will officially close worldwide on Jan. 6, 2026, with the closing of the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome.

Throughout the Jubilee Year of Hope, the faithful across northwestern Pennsylvania were invited to deepen their trust in God's presence and mercy. The year opened locally at Saint Peter Cathedral and continued through prayer, formation and special opportunities for encounter and pilgrimage — both in Rome and here at home.

Among the many expressions of faith during the Jubilee year:

- **Nearly 80 pilgrims from the Diocese of Erie traveled to Italy as part of the official diocesan pilgrimage**, passing through Holy Doors in Rome and carrying prayers from people across the diocese. Countless others made pilgrimages with fellow parishioners, joining groups organized through their home parishes across the diocese.
- **Nine new saints were welcomed into the life of the church worldwide**, offering powerful models of discipleship and holiness.
- **Parishes, schools and ministries across the region marked milestone anniversaries**, joyfully celebrating more than a century of Catholic presence and service in many communities.

- more -

KRISTINE RILLING  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
Office 814.824.1167  
Cell 814.397.8366  
krilling@ErieRCD.org

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
Office 814.824.1161

AFTER-HOURS ANSWERING SERVICE  
814.451.1531

- **Special observances such as the Jubilee of Prisoners were marked locally**, underscoring the church's commitment to mercy, restoration and human dignity.
- The diocese also published a monthly **Jubilee Journey newsletter** and launched a Jubilee micro-site offering prayer resources, catechesis and ways to participate in the Holy Year.

"Throughout this Jubilee, we have been reminded that hope is not simply optimism — it is the assurance that God is with us," said Bishop Lawrence Persico. "As we gather for this Closing Mass, we do so with deep gratitude for what the Holy Spirit has done in our midst."

All are invited to attend the Closing Mass as the Diocese of Erie joins dioceses around the world in commanding the fruits of the Jubilee to God. The faithful are encouraged to continue living the spirit of the Jubilee by seeking opportunities for prayer, reconciliation, service and renewed trust in Christ.

#### **Mass Details**

**Jubilee of Hope — Closing Mass**

**Sunday, Dec. 28 | 11:00 a.m.**

**Saint Peter Cathedral**

**230 W. 10th Street, Erie**

For more information about the Jubilee of Hope in the Diocese of Erie, visit <https://www.eriercd.org/holyyear2025.html>.



**KRISTINE RILLING**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1167  
Cell 814.397.8366  
krilling@ErieRCD.org

**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
Office 814.824.1161

**AFTER-HOURS ANSWERING SERVICE**  
814.451.1531