



# Jubilee 2025

## Pilgrims of Hope

*“For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the ‘door’ (cf. Jn 10:7.9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere and to all as “our hope” (1 Tim 1:1).*

– Pope Francis

## Diocese of Fargo Pilgrim Guide

### Contents

Introduction .....	1
Indulgence: The Gift of the Jubilee .....	2
What should I do once I get to one of these sites? .....	2
Prairie Pilgrimage Jubilee Commemorative Coins .....	3
History of the Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites.....	3
Basilica of St. James, Jamestown .....	3
Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo.....	4
Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Fargo .....	4
St. Michael’s Church, Grand Forks .....	4
St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rugby .....	5
Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton.....	5
Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City.....	6
Jubilee Year Prayer .....	6

---

### Introduction

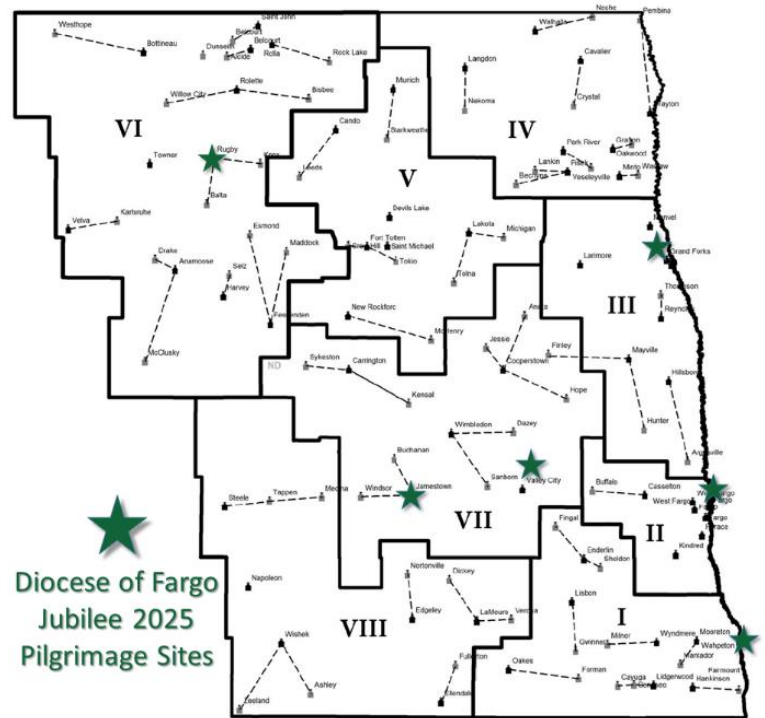
Pope Francis declared 2025 to be a Jubilee Year. The theme for this Jubilee is “Pilgrims of Hope”. A Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church is a special year of forgiveness of sins, reconciliation, the gift of the plenary indulgence and a call to go on pilgrimage.

This is your Diocese of Fargo Pilgrim Guide.

The Holy Father also declared that each diocese around the world can have designated Jubilee Sites. The Jubilee in each diocese began on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 29, 2024, and will end on the Feast of the Holy Family, December 28, 2025.

Bishop John Folda has designated these sites as the Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites in the Diocese of Fargo:

- St. Mary's Cathedral, Fargo
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Adoration Chapel, Fargo.
- St. James Basilica, Jamestown
- St. Michael's Church, Grand Forks,
- St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rugby
- Carmel of Mary Monastery, Wahpeton
- Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City



## Indulgence: The Gift of the Jubilee

Pope Francis grants the Jubilee Year Indulgence to those who visit one of these designated Jubilee Sites in the Diocese of Fargo or anywhere in the world. The person must be truly repentant, free from any affection for sin, moved by a spirit of charity, purified through the sacrament of Penance, refreshed by Holy Communion, and pray for the intention of the Holy Father. The indulgence may be applied to yourself or to the souls in Purgatory.

The gift of the Jubilee Indulgence can be gained by a pilgrimage or a pious visit to a Jubilee Site (see below), performing a work of charity, or, for those home-bound or imprisoned, saying the appropriate prayers. For more information, see Jubilee Year Indulgence flyer available on the [Jubilee Year](#) page on the Diocese of Fargo website.

## What should I do once I get to one of these sites?

The visit must be in the form of (1) a pilgrimage, or (2) a pious visit:

**1. Pilgrimage:** the faithful, as pilgrims of hope, make a pilgrimage to one of the locations, understanding the significance of pilgrimage, that is, manifesting the great need for conversion and reconciliation.

It is recommended that sections of Pope Francis' Bull of Indiction [website] be prayerfully read as preparation for a pilgrimage or as an integral part of the pilgrimage itself.

**2. Pious Visit:** individually or in a group, devoutly visit for a suitable period of time, engage in

Eucharistic adoration and meditation, concluding with the Our Father, the Profession of Faith in any legitimate form (such as the Creed), and invocations to Mary, the Mother of God (such as the "Hail Mary").

There is also a tradition of making a monetary offering when the pilgrim arrives at their destination. It does not have to be much but should be something. There is a Jubilee poster at each location with a QR code to the parish website to make an offering electronically. Some sites may have a way to leave a monetary donation in a slot or box, you will have to check once you arrive.

## Prairie Pilgrimage Jubilee Commemorative Coins

At each site you may be able to collect a special commemorative coin. The idea of collecting tokens is not new. In the Middle Ages, pilgrims set out on their destination on foot and had papers documenting them as pilgrims. When they reached their destination, such as the Holy Land, Canterbury, England or Santiago, Spain they picked up a pilgrim badge. For example, in Santiago one could get a shell and in Canterbury, at the site of St. Thomas Becket's martyrdom, the pilgrim got a badge with an image of St. Thomas along with four knights around him.

In this Jubilee year, you can pick up a commemorative coin at each site. Each Jubilee Site in the Diocese of Fargo designed their own coin with images and text that are unique to them. If you make a pilgrimage to all the sites, you can obtain a final coin from the Diocese of Fargo. At each location, there is a Jubilee poster with a QR code to register your visit. Again, you must register at each location you visit to receive the Diocese of Fargo coin. Be sure to pick up the brochure at the site, which gives a brief description of each coin.

## History of the Jubilee Pilgrimage Sites

### Basilica of St. James, Jamestown

In 1889 the Dakota Territory was divided into the states of North and South Dakota. The same year Fr. John Shanley was handed a telegram as he was leaving his rectory in St. Paul, Minnesota, designating him the new bishop of the Diocese of Jamestown which covered the whole state. St. James became a parish in 1881, and the first church was completed in 1883. It was a small church back then, but served its purpose.

Bishop Shanley arrived on the train on a bitter cold night January 23, 1890. The story is told that they were not expecting his arrival yet, there was no food in the house and no linens for the beds. In 1891, Bishop Shanley moved to Fargo and by 1897 the seat of the Diocese was moved to Fargo where the population was growing and there were better train connections.

As the years passed, the parish knew they had to build a bigger church for their growing population. The present church was built in 1914. The main structure of the church is made of Hebron brick from Hebron, ND. In 1915 a pipe organ was installed, bringing beautiful music to the church.

The two towers are 125 feet high. They are noticed when you drive into Jamestown a few miles out no matter how you enter Jamestown. The architecture of the church is American gothic in style.

On October 26, 1988, St. James church was elevated to the status of a Minor Basilica by Pope John Paul II. St. James was the 34<sup>th</sup> church in the United States with the designation of a Minor Basilica. The reason for this designation is because the church was the original seat of the Diocese, and it was the first Cathedral for the whole state of North Dakota. In 1982 the church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Notice on the very top of the exterior of the church, there is a Celtic cross, a nod to the early Irish immigrants. There is a statue of Our Lady placed right below the cross.

This church is named after St. James the Greater, who also happens to be the patron saints of Pilgrims. The basilica has its own coat of arms that depicts three gold shells in honor of their patron. The seashell is associated with St. James and the ancient Camino Pilgrimage to the shrine in Santiago, Spain where pilgrims can venerate the tomb of St. James.

## Cathedral of St. Mary, Fargo

The word “cathedral” originates from a Latin word, *cathedra*, meaning seat. The Cathedral Church serves as the seat of the bishop in a particular Diocese.

The first church building for St. Mary’s was a humble wooden structure. It was originally a Methodist church on the south side of the tracks. It was purchased 1880 and hauled to the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and 6th Ave North. For the first 19 years, this building served the faithful. There are first-hand accounts that describe how cold it would be in the wintertime; it was not unusual to see ice on the sanctuary floor.

When Bishop Shanley arrived in Fargo, he took one look at it and declared it a “shack”. It was time for a new bigger cathedral church. The fundraising began soon after. Shanley acquired a piece of land close by which he desired the new Cathedral to be built on. He collected the money and was ready to build until a fire demolished downtown Fargo. Bishop Shanley gave the money he had raised to rebuild the town. Once the town was rebuilt, the church campaign fund had to start over. Work for the church restarted in 1898 and was dedicated on May 30, 1899.

In June 1955, long after Bishop Shanley had passed away, renovations began in the basement of the church. Demolition work had to be done in the social hall. The workers discovered a room with a seven-foot metal container. The work stopped at that point and since it was getting late, they decided to lock up and deal with this new discovery in the morning.

However, curiosity got the best of Fr. Leo Stelten and Fr. Gerald Potter, and they went back and opened the container. They discovered it was a coffin, and it was occupied! Bishop Shanley was buried there. The only problem was there was a tombstone with his name on it out in the cemetery. Eventually, his remains were finally interred in Holy Cross Cemetery.

The church has been through many renovations with the most recent one started in 2024. The nave got a new coat of paint along with a trim of blue and gold leaf. The artwork is expected to be completed in the summer of 2026.

The Jubilee Cross at the Cathedral is from the church of St. Benedict Parish in Horace (for more information, see [www.stbensnd.org/news/history-mission-cross](http://www.stbensnd.org/news/history-mission-cross)).

The light streaming through the stained-glass windows is beautiful on a sunny afternoon day, but be sure to look at the details. Notice the one window of the Virgin Mary on the right side nearest the altar, she is stepping on a snake with no shoes on, this is taken from Gen 3:15, “the woman shall strike at your head.” Then notice the window of St. Patrick, far back right side, he too is stepping on a snake because he “drove the snakes out of Ireland”, but he has shoes on, why is there a difference between the two windows? The snake represents evil, Mary is Immaculate, she is free from all sin, the snake cannot hurt her, whereas the snake (evil) can bite St. Patrick.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel, Fargo

Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel was consecrated February 11, 2013, by Bishop Samuel Aquila. Bishop Aquila commissioned the chapel. The eagle on the

ambo is a nod to him, whose last name means “eagle”. The chapel is a 24/7 Eucharistic Adoration chapel.

## St. Michael’s Church, Grand Forks

Grand Forks was an important meeting and trading posts for Native Americans, French explorers and fur trappers. By the 1880s the railroad came through and with the steamboats docking there, the town’s population boomed. On February 22, 1881, Grand Forks was incorporated as a city. In 1872, Fr. Simonet

came down from Pembina to offer Mass for the first settlers, the French-Indian families and the newly arrived Irish and Germans. Back then the church was a tiny log cabin, or frame chapel someplace along the Red River.

The first St. Michael's Church was built and dedicated in 1883. It was damaged by a tornado. It was rebuilt in 1893, and then again after a fire in 1907. Finally, a new site was established and a new church built in 1909. Fr. Conaty hired English born architects, who also designed the state capital building and the Basilica in Jamestown, to build the Romanesque church we see today. Notice the statue

of St. Patrick on the right side of the high altar, a nod to the Irish priest and parishioners.

The church was renovated in 1985 and repainted in 2001, but in many ways still resembles the original.

St. Michael's Church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. Want to learn more about St. Michael's history, visit [www.stmichaelschurchgf.com/history](http://www.stmichaelschurchgf.com/history).

### St. Therese the Little Flower Church, Rugby

The first settlers in the area came at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they would have had Mass in a makeshift structure built by the railroad. Eventually, the people came up with enough money to build a proper church and they named it, St. Cyrinus.

By 1927 the population was growing enough with new Catholic families moving in that a much bigger church was needed. However, raising funds proved quite difficult. St. Therese of Lisieux was canonized in 1925 and the pastor, having a devotion to her, decided to pray a novena for her intercession in the matter. After the novena a loan was approved and \$40,000 was given to start construction. A new site was chosen in Rugby for the church to be built, and it was decided it would be named after St. Therese the

Little Flower. The church was built in 1927. It took many years to pay the loan off, especially because of the depression and then World War II. But with a little ingenuity and lots of parish bazaars in addition to donations from neighboring parishes, the debt was paid in full by Easter of 1945. The parish had a large celebration and burned the mortgage with the bishop present to watch.

This is the only church in the Diocese of Fargo that has a baldacchino, which means "canopy" over the altar. It is not very common to see these in catholic churches outside of the major basilicas in Rome. The most well-known baldacchino is a St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

### Carmel of Mary, Wahpeton

In 1954, the Carmelite nuns of Allentown, Pennsylvania, were looking for a place to begin a new foundation. Through various communications and generous donations, that new home became North Dakota down by Wahpeton. They first were housed in an old hospital building. When they outgrew that place it was time to build a new monastery. The new monastery is 6.5 miles west of Wahpeton, surrounded by the Wild Rice River, on a beautiful piece of land. It is here that the nuns can enjoy silence and the beauty of the North Dakota prairie.

The nuns live in a cloister (a perpetual enclosure), maintain silence and solitude for much of the day. Their primary focus is prayer, through which they

seek God. They follow a structured day of activity interspersed with times for prayer. The day begins at 5:30 a.m. with morning prayer, a holy hour and Mass and ends with Night prayer at 7:50 p.m. before they retire at 9:00 p.m. Along with their communal prayers, the nuns find balance in their lives by doing manual labor around the monastery like cooking, cleaning, sewing, gardening and craftwork.

There is a Marian shrine on their property, where an annual pilgrimage to Our Lady of the Prairies occurs every year in mid-August.

The nuns take prayer requests (see [www.carmelofmary.org](http://www.carmelofmary.org)), and you can join them for Mass and prayer times.

## Maryvale Retreat Center, Valley City

The history of this site starts with the Sisters of Mary of the Presentation founded in 1828 in France. Some of sisters came to the North Dakota in 1903, and moved to Valley City in 1965. The sisters needed a place to gather with their sisters throughout the United States, so Maryvale was built.

In the early 1970s, the sisters started using the hospitality wing for retreat ministry. The sisters took care of everything from cooking to cleaning. As the decades went on, the retreats continued, but the number of sisters started to decline. Eventually they started hiring lay employees to help keep everything running smoothly.

In 2022, realizing they could not continue running the center with the number of sisters that were present there, the sisters gifted Maryvale for continued use as a retreat center while they also retain part of it as their home. Settled in the hill country and valley with 500 acres, including groomed trails, it is truly a peaceful site and the perfect place for retreats.

The name "Maryvale" means "Mary's valley" as there are several shrines and grottos that are dedicated to Our Lady on the grounds. When you visit, take some time to walk the paths as you are able and enjoy the different shrines: Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph's, and Mary and Christ Child. You can also take some time to pray the Stations of the Cross.

## Jubilee Year Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the *faith* you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of *charity* enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed *hope*  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the  
Gospel.

May those seeds transform from within both  
humanity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

*Franciscus*



Diocese of Fargo

[www.fargodiocese.org/jubilee](http://www.fargodiocese.org/jubilee)

Vatican Website: [www.iubilaeum2025.va](http://www.iubilaeum2025.va)