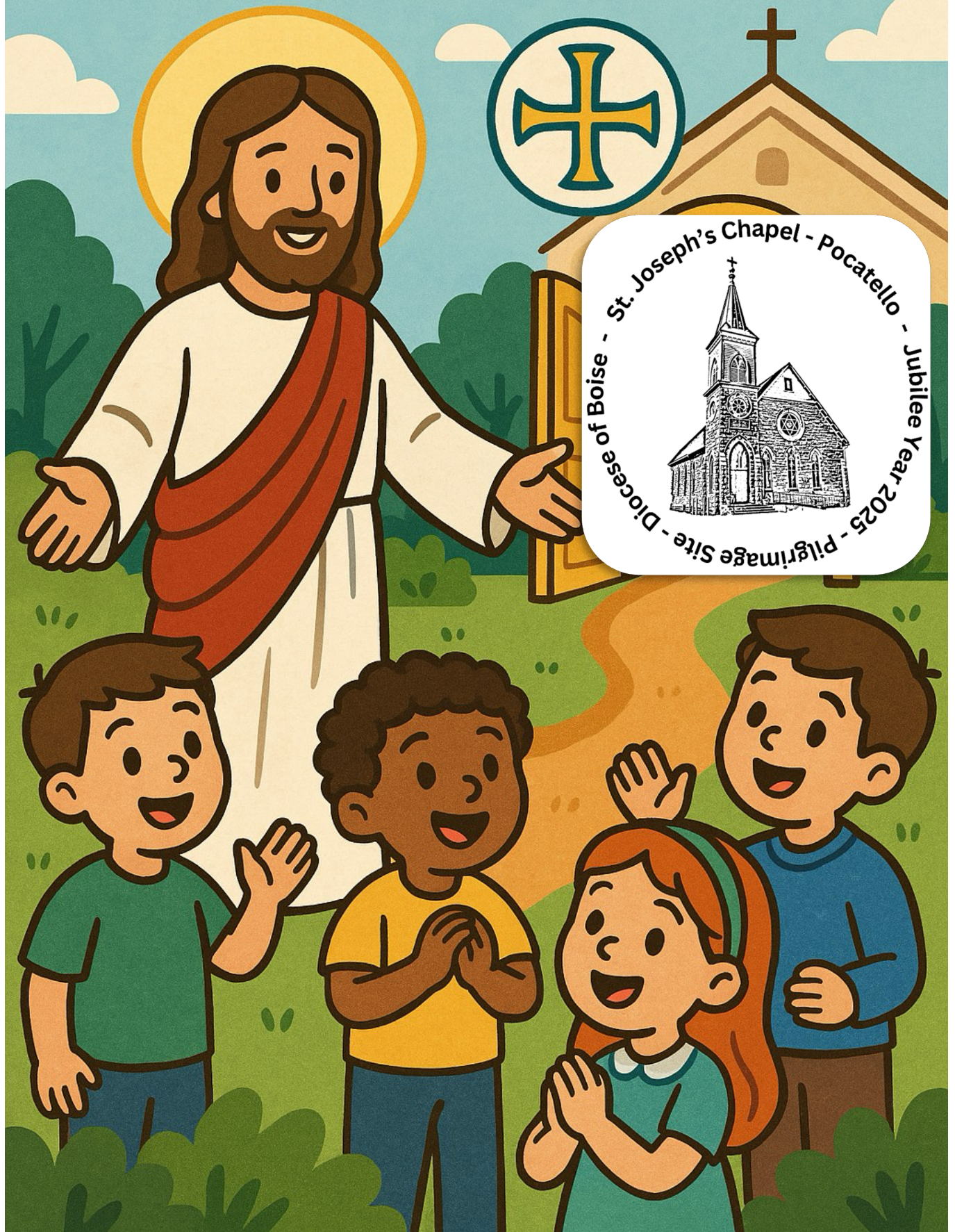


# JUBILEE YEAR





Hello little pilgrims!

## Welcome in St. Joseph Church – the Jubilee Church!

Do you know that the Catholic Church is going to have a big celebration called the **Jubilee Year**?



**What do you think a Jubilee is? Is it...**

- A) A giant jellybean?
- B) A day when everyone wears blue socks?
- C) A celebration with Jesus?

👉 The answer is **C! A celebration with Jesus!**

The Jubilee Year is like God's very special celebration that happens every 25 years.

It's a time to say **thank you to God**, ask for **forgiveness**, and grow in **love and hope**.



**What Is the Jubilee Church?**

Every diocese has a special church called the Jubilee Church (or Pilgrimage Church) during the Jubilee Year. It's not a magical building—but it's a holy place where we walk to say, "Jesus, I want to come closer to you!". Pocatello also has a Jubilee Church – St. Joseph!

Guess what happens when we go to a Jubilee Church?

✨ We receive God's grace!

🙏 We pray for ourselves and others!

We can even receive an indulgence, which is a BIG grace from God that helps clean our soul and the souls in Purgatory.

**Who is a pilgrim? Can you guess?**

- A) Someone with a backpack walking to McDonald's
- B) Someone on a journey to find God
- C) A pirate looking for treasure

📖 The correct answer is B! A pilgrim is someone who goes on a holy journey to grow closer to God.

Can kids be pilgrims too?

Yes! Even if your legs are little, your heart can go on a big journey with Jesus. Every prayer, every visit to church, every time you help someone—you're walking on a holy path!

## **Jubilee is a Year of Hope!**

What is hope?

Hope is like a little light inside your heart that says, "God is with me, and good things are coming."

How do we take care of hope?



Like a plant!

Water it with prayer

Shine it with love

Protect it with trust in Jesus

You can say:



"Jesus, I hope in You!"

Every time you do something kind, say sorry, or go to Mass—you're helping your hope grow big and strong!

## **Final Questions to Think About:**

- What would you pack if you were going on a pilgrimage to meet Jesus?
- Can you name something you can do this week to grow closer to God?
- Who can you bring with you to the Jubilee Church?



## The Amazing Story of St. Joseph's Church: 128 Years of Faith! 🎉

Once upon a time, in a town called Pocatello, Idaho, something wonderful happened... A church was born! And not just any church—St. Joseph's Church, the oldest Catholic Church still standing and still celebrating Mass in all of Idaho!



It all started over 128 years ago, on December 19, 1897, when the church was consecrated (that means it was blessed and made holy just for God!).

But who made it all happen? That would be a brave young priest named Father Cyril Van der Donckt.



### Meet Father Cyril – A Young and Courageous Priest

Father Cyril was born in **Belgium** and came to **Pocatello** when he was just **23 years old**. He got special permission from **Pope Leo XIII** to become a priest **early**, because he was so excited to serve God!

He arrived in **southeastern Idaho in 1888**—that was even **before Idaho became a state**, **before Pocatello became a city**, and **before the Diocese of Boise** was created. Wow!

At that time, his **parish** (that's the area a priest takes care of) was **huge**—stretching from **Montpelier to Idaho Falls**, 135 miles long!



### Building a Church for Jesus


Father Cyril wanted to build a beautiful church for God and name it after **St. Joseph**, the patron saint of his home country. And so he did!


He chose the **Gothic Revival style**, which has tall arches and beautiful windows. The church would be made of stone, **40 feet wide and 90 feet long**, with space for **240 people** to sit and pray.


He worked hard—he used **his own time, money, and friends** to get it built! He asked **Frank Schmidt**, maybe a member of the parish, to be the architect, and **Charles Frederic Hummel**, the famous architect who also designed the **Idaho State Capitol** and **St. John's Cathedral in Boise**, helped too!


For a while, **St. Joseph's Church was the pro-cathedral**—a special church that acts like a cathedral until the real one is built. That means it helped take care of the whole Diocese of Boise until **St. John the Evangelist Cathedral** was finished.




 In 1900, three beautiful bells arrived by train from St. Louis. They were made by the Stuckstede Foundry and each one had a name:

 Peter – 1,000 pounds

 James – 800 pounds

 John – 500 pounds

The Bishop blessed the bells with holy water and anointed them with oil. What a celebration!

 Then in 1905, a new pipe organ arrived! It was made by the Tells-Summerhof Organ Company in Erie, Pennsylvania. Imagine the beautiful music filling the church!



## **The Faith Lives On**

Father Cyril left Pocatello in 1921, but he didn't stop loving the church he helped build. Two years later, in 1923, a gorgeous Gothic-style altar was added. It had carvings of The Last Supper and The Stations of the Cross—moments from Jesus' life that help us pray and remember His love.



**A Place for You, Too!**

Today, St. Joseph's Church is still here, still full of life and prayer. It has survived and thrived for 128 years—and YOU are part of its story!

Can you imagine walking into the same church that people did 128 years ago?

Can you hear the bells named Peter, James, and John ringing in your heart?

Would you like to be a little pilgrim and visit this holy place with your family?

St. Joseph's is more than a building—it's a home for God's family. And that includes you!

# **Jubilee Prayer for kids**

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for this special Jubilee Year,  
a time to come closer to You with joy and hope.

Thank You for the Church of St. Joseph,  
our holy place of prayer and peace.

Help me walk like pilgrim,  
with a heart full of love and feet ready to follow You.

Please forgive my mistakes,  
and fill me with your mercy and light.

Saint Joseph, protect me and guide me,  
teach me to be kind, gentle, and strong like you.

Let this Jubilee Year be a new beginning  
for me, my family, and the whole Church.

Amen.





