



DECREE

By the Grace of God
and the Favor of the Apostolic See,
I, Artur Bubnevych, Bishop of the
Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix,
by the Authority vested in me
according to the *Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*
hereby promulgate this Decree
regarding this Eparchy's observance of the

Holy Year of Hope

as proclaimed by His Holiness, Francis, Pope of Rome
to be observed in the year of Our Lord, 2025,
the 2,025th anniversary of the Incarnation of Our Lord

Dear clergy, monastics, beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!

Christ is among us – He is and Always Shall be!

Pope Francis has declared a Holy Year of Hope, and his letter opened with the words *Hope does not disappoint* (Romans 5:5). In a time of rapid cultural change, ongoing warfare, and so many concerns, we are reminded by His Holiness to hold firm to our faith and to the virtue of hoping in God's great love and mercy above all else.

Holy Years take place every twenty-five years, as opportunities for conversion, penance, and deliverance. As the pope wrote, "*For everyone, may the Jubilee be a moment of genuine, personal encounter with the Lord Jesus, the 'door' (cf. John 10:7,9) of our salvation, whom the Church is charged to proclaim always, everywhere, and to all as 'our hope' (1 Timothy 1:1).*"

The Church provides that during the Holy Year we can obtain a plenary indulgence for the remission of any punishment due to sins by making a pilgrimage to a designated shrine, the Holy Land, or to Rome itself. A plenary indulgence takes away the time a soul must spend in Purgatory, through the merits of Christ Himself in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The merits of the Mother of God, the Theotokos, and the Saints serve as means of extinguishing the effects of our evil deeds, and are part of the Treasury of Grace along with the Passion and Resurrection.

Why do we need this indulgence? While our sins are forgiven in Confession, there is often damage caused by our sins, to our own souls or the souls of others. The remnants of that damage are to be removed either in this life or in the life to come, in the place of repose of the souls of the deceased that we pray for on All Souls Saturdays every year. This is part of the doctrine of Purgatory, where our souls are purified of attachment to sin and any punishment still due to our sins, so that we may enter Paradise and enjoy the Beatific Vision alongside Our Lady, the angels, and the Saints.

In order to obtain the indulgence, one must be in a state of grace, which can be obtained by going to Confession and Holy Communion and praying in one of the designated churches of our eparchy for the intentions of Pope Francis. This is to be done within a few days of an act of special fasting, volunteering for those in need, or donating to the poor. In addition, one may obtain a second indulgence on the same day, on behalf of All Souls. We are of course strongly encouraged by the Church to *always* perform these spiritual and corporal works of mercy!

If it is physically impossible for one to travel to a shrine, then one may recite the prayers for the Pope (Our Father and the Nicene Creed) while uniting oneself to those making pilgrimages, and *"offering up their sufferings and the hardships of their lives."*

The prayers for the intentions of the Holy Father is an opportunity for us "to spiritually partake in the great challenges and hopes that Holy Father carries in his heart for the good of humanity." I invite you to join the Holy Father in prayer through **Click To Pray**, the Vatican's official prayer app, which can be found at www.praywiththepope.net/click-to-pray/, and is available for downloading. It includes the official profile of Pope Francis where all his prayer intentions are published.

Works of mercy can include joining a study group at your parish on the Documents of Vatican II documents or the Catechism; giving of the gift of your time to the sick, prisoners, lonely elderly, or the disabled and so *"making a pilgrimage to Christ present in them."* In a spirit of penance, give up *"futile distractions"* (real or online) and *"superfluous consumption"* (through fasting, abstinence from a food or entertainment, or almsgiving) for at least one day;

and defending the sanctity of life from conception through natural death by working with pregnant women, children in need, or a hospice.

Considering the vast territory of our Holy Protection Eparchy and the spiritual needs of the faithful, as Bishop of Phoenix, I designate the following churches as pilgrimage destinations:

- *St Stephen's Byzantine Catholic Cathedral in Phoenix, Arizona*
- *Mary Undoer of Knots Shrine on Mt Lemon in Tucson, Arizona*
- *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Byzantine Catholic Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico*
- *Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine in Olympia, Washington*
- *St Nicholas of Myra Byzantine Catholic Church in Anchorage, Alaska*
- *Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church in Anaheim, California*
- *Our Lady of Wisdom Italo-Greek Church in Las Vegas*

The Jubilee began on Christmas Eve, 2024, and will conclude on Theophany, January 6 in 2026. It is an opportunity to grow in faith, charity toward others, repentance, and become better brothers and sisters in Faith and servants of our God. *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the holy Spirit."* (Romans 15:13).

Given at the Chancery of the
Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix
on this 18th day of February, in the Year of Our Lord, 2025.

+ ARTUR Bubnevych

The Most Reverend Artur Bubnevych, D.D., S.T.L., Bishop of Phoenix

[Signature]
The Reverend Monsignor Kevin W. McAuliffe, J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar and Chancellor

Prot. No. 01/2025

