

COMING EVENTS

Novena January 17th thru 25th.

Pilgrimage Sunday, January 19th

Mass at 11:00 AM

Rosary and Novena Prayers before Mass

Mass Times at St. Wenceslaus Home of the
National Shrine of the Infant Jesus

Saturday Night Vigil 5:00 PM

Sunday 11 :00 AM

Tuesday through Friday at 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

First Friday and First Saturday Mass 9:00 AM

Holy Hour 9:30 to 10:30 AM

Gift Shop hours are Tues-Fri 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Sunday Shrine open till 2:00 PM

This newsletter is published monthly to promote
the devotion to the Infant Jesus of Prague at the
National Shrine in Oklahoma, USA.

www.shrineofinfantjesus.com

www.facebook.com/iopshrine

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE INFANT JESUS OF PRAGUE

January 2025

**THE MORE YOU HONOR ME
THE MORE I WILL BLESS YOU**



Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Time is compared to a flow. That flow sweeps away people's past joys and sorrows, and many times it is like a flood that destroys the souls and lives of many people. Those who can take advantage of time like the flow will bring many benefits to themselves and their families. On the contrary, for those who do not know how to take advantage of it, the flow of time will wash away everything, from health, youth to the life and future of themselves and their families.

On the first day of the New Year, we honor Mary as the Mother of God, the Queen of Peace and pray for God to grant peace to the world. Honoring the Mother of God, we give thanks with her for all the wonderful things God has done for her; at the same time, following her example, accept God's will in all circumstances. When we are ready to accept God's will, we will have peace in our hearts and become messengers of peace for everyone. At the same time, this first day of the year is like a stop for each person to look back at their life: from body to spirit, from work to family and especially look back at their entire life of faith, of their family, to see what state and position they and their family are in and what they need to do to adjust their lives and their family's.

Entering the new year is the best time for us to give thanks. Because we believe that all the joys and sorrows that happen in life are under God's providence, and God always wants and always does everything good for people. Therefore, a journey that has passed, whether happy or sad, successful or unsuccessful, difficult or favorable, is all arranged by God's providence. For what is good, we thank God, for what is lacking, we sincerely apologize to God and rely on God's grace to overcome and correct the mistakes. Looking at the eyes of faith: God gives us good things to support us, difficulties and hardships that happen to God help us become more mature, more confident and help us realize God's presence in each of those difficulties.

At the beginning of the New Year, I wish everyone to always live with gratitude and be willing to obey God's will, together to make life and family better and more loving every day.

Let's learn about the origin of the Jubilee Year - a journey of mercy and healing, where each person is "reset" from soul to body, like a new beginning. Discover the spiritual meaning of the Holy Year in the Church through the Holy Door and the solemn ceremonies in Rome - and even, right in your own home! Holy Year 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope" - an invitation to each person, even though life is still full of challenges, to maintain hope and brotherhood.

Whether you have or have not had the opportunity to come to Rome, I invite you to join me in entering the sacred pilgrimage space of the Holy City of Rome. Every street, every stone here tells a story of faith and hope. But most of all, this is a journey of inner renewal - where God still waits for us. Hopefully I will help you understand more about the Jubilee Year, prepare for a long journey or receive all spiritual graces without leaving your hometown!

The Via della Conciliazione (Way of Reconciliation) – the road leading to St. Peter’s Square – is not only a historic path but also a symbol of mercy and reconciliation. From here, our journey will continue to the major Basilicas and important pilgrimage sites in the Vatican and Rome.

Since 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII declared the first Jubilee, the Catholic Church has regularly celebrated a “Holy Year” every 25 years, except in special cases, such as 1983. When a Holy Year was announced to mark the 1950th anniversary of Jesus’ death and Resurrection. A key aspect of the Holy Year is pilgrimages to Rome to repent of sins committed against God and to renew one’s life in order to return to God.

Each pilgrim expressed the above through a symbolic gesture: Walking through the Jubilee Door because in the Gospel, Jesus himself recognized Him as the **“I am the gate for the sheep to enter and exit.”** (John 10, 7). In the encyclical “The Mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God” by Pope John Paul II when he announced the Holy Year 2000, he said that the Holy Door “evokes the conversion from sin to grace to which every Christian is called.”

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said: **“Amen, amen, I say to you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came (before me) are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture.”** (John 10:7-9). Through the above statement, Jesus made it clear that **“No one comes to the Father except through me.”** (John 14:6) What Jesus applied to himself practically proved that he alone was the Savior sent by the Father. There is only one way to open the way to a life of communion with God: Jesus, the absolute way to salvation. Only through him can the words of the psalmist be applied in full truth: **“This is the LORD’s own gate, through it the righteous enter.”** (Psalm 118:20)

May the Light of Christ be a light for each of us as we walk this New Year. Then the following wishes from the Bible will come true for each of us:

“And I will give them another heart and a new spirit I will put within them. From their bodies I will remove the hearts of stone, and give them hearts of flesh.” (Ezekiel 11:19)

“So whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.” (2 Cr. 5,17)

“Behold, I make all things new.” Then he said, “Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true.” (Rev. 21:5)

Sincerely in Christ,
Very Reverend Christopher Hai Tran, Rector



Mary Mother of God
Pray for us

Wishing you a year filled with opportunities, good health, and prosperity. God's blessing to you and yours!
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025
Very Rev. Christopher Hai Tran, Rector



NAME _____
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CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
SHRINE _____
PROMOTION _____
FLOWERS _____
TREES _____
Pavers _____
ALTAR CANDLES _____
SANCTUARY LAMP _____
6-DAY VIGIL @ \$5.00 _____
MASS STIPEND @ \$10 _____
MASS INTENTION FOR _____

____LIVING ____DECEASED

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