



## *Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles*

December 31, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and Peace!

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has opened the Jubilee Year on Christmas Eve at St. Peter's Basilica. Since then, all of the dioceses around the world have embarked on a spiritual journey calling the faithful to heed the call of the Holy Father to become "Pilgrims of Hope." The Jubilee Year is a time of grace, mercy, and renewal. It is a time to open wide the doors of our hearts to Christ, to draw closer to him in every way, and to let the Holy Spirit transform us into faithful disciples.

In our Eparchy, to enhance our spiritual journey during this Jubilee year, I am pleased to designate the following Churches as pilgrimage sites:

- Our Lady of Mt. Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral in Los Angeles, CA
- St. Raymond Cathedral in St. Louis, MO
- The Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Lebanon in North Jackson, OH
- St. Maron Church in Detroit, MI, the first Maronite Cathedral in the U.S.
- St. Maron Church in Minneapolis, MN, the oldest Church in our Eparchy
- St. George Church in San Antonio, TX, celebrating its 100-year anniversary in 2025
- St. Sharbel Church in Portland, OR, the first Church dedicated to St. Sharbel in our Eparchy

To live the Holy Year fully and fruitfully, the faithful are encouraged to embrace the following:

1. Prayer: Personal and communal, frequent participation in the Holy Eucharist, and Mystery of Reconciliation
2. Pilgrimage and Indulgences: Visit a pilgrimage site, meet the requirements for plenary indulgence (<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/05/13/240513f.html>) and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father.
3. Acts of Charity and Mercy: Practice other corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

In preparation for this Jubilee Year, I encourage each of you to take part in the events and activities scheduled throughout our communities. Let us gather in prayer, reflection, and service as we journey together in faith.

I want you to mark your calendars for the following days and follow us on the different social media outlets:

- January 5: Opening of the Jubilee Year from our Cathedral in Los Angeles (Divine Liturgy at 11:00 a.m. PST).

- January 7: Talk about the Jubilee Year from St. Jude Church in West Covina at 7:00 p.m. PST.
- March 28: The Holy Father has asked us to offer “24 Hours for the Lord” in Eucharistic Adoration.

More events will be announced during the year either at the local or Eparchial levels.

Please visit the following sites for more information:

Vatican Jubilee Year 2025 website; <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html>

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Jubilee Year 2025 website:

<https://www.usccb.org/committees/jubilee-2025>

May this coming Jubilee Year be a time of profound personal and communal transformation for all of us. Let us open our hearts to God’s grace and allow it to guide us on our spiritual journey.

With sincere best wishes and prayers, I remain

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+A.E. Zaidan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

+A. Elias Zaidan

Bishop of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Lebanon of Los Angeles