**Bulletin Blurb**

Join your fellow faithful of the Diocese of Allentown on Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, October 7, 2025 – the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary!

All are invited to enjoy a beautiful day celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope as a Diocese! The Pilgrimage begins at 10:00 am with arrivals and guided tours, followed by time to visit the over 80 chapels and oratories that make up “Mary’s House.” There will also be a youth holy hour in the Crypt Church, keynote speakers (English and Spanish), a Rosary Pilgrimage in five languages with beautiful music by our Diocesan Choir. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available throughout the day. The day will end with Mass in the Great Upper Church at 3:00 pm celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

There is no need to sign up for the Pilgrimage (unless your parish is hosting a chartered bus that requires registration). There is plenty of free parking available. Pilgrims are invited to pack a lunch, visit nearby restaurants within walking distance of the Basilica, or visit the cafeteria within the Basilica.

The Pilgrimage Program runs from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm – but the Basilica is open to the public from 6am to 6pm so feel free come early or stay late!

Each pilgrim will receive an official booklet for the day as well as a complimentary copy of the October edition of the Magnificat.

“Visiting the Basilica is a powerful way to take advantage of the grace of the Jubilee and to be filled with the hope that flows from the embrace of our Mother.” The Most Reverand Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for Military Services & President of the USSCB.

Visit the Diocese of Allentown Pilgrimage Committee webpage for updates and information or email pilgrimage@allentowndiocese.org.

**Plenary Indulgence Information**

**Indulgences**

Indulgences are gifts given by the Church for some good work done. These gifts reduce or eliminate the “temporal punishment” we accrue from our sins. While Confession forgives our sins (removes our guilt), it does not remove the punishment due to sin (sin’s consequences). This is removed when we make reparations for our sins. The three common ways are: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Voluntary penances also help remove the effects of our sins. All punishment that remains is finally removed in Purgatory.

The Church also gives indulgences as a way to remove the effects of our sins.

*Partial* indulgences remove some of the temporal punishment. *Plenary*indulgences remove all of the temporal punishment. Indulgences come from the Treasury of Merit, or “Treasury of the Church,” won by the death of our Lord and the good works of the saints, which is of infinite value. The Church, as a good mother, dispenses gifts to us from this treasury.

To gain a plenary indulgence, the following are necessary:

1. Accomplished the prescribed work while in a state of grace
2. Be completely detached from sin, even venial sin
3. Go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (within 20 days is sufficient)
4. Pray for the Pope (an Our Father and Hail Mary suffices)

Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth. Only one plenary indulgence can be gained a day. One confession counts for many indulgences, but one must pray for the Holy Father and go to Communion for each additional indulgence.

**As America’s Catholic Church, the Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception is honored to be designated as a special place of pilgrimage during Jubilee Year 2025. Obtaining the plenary indulgence for the Jubilee year can be done by visiting the National Shrine, as a Jubilee pilgrimage site, and fulfilling the above conditions.**