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КАТОЛИЦЬКА ЄПАРХІЯ
ПРЕСВЯТОЇ РОДИНИ
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UKRAINIAN
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OF THE HOLY FAMILY
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The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) and the Celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025

While the celebration of jubilee years is primarily a tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, Eastern Catholic Churches, while observing it, do so according to the specifics of their own ecclesiastical tradition. This is because they have both the right and the duty to glorify the Lord God in their own rite, according to the prescriptions of the liturgical books of their own Church of their own law. Preserving one's own rite means being faithful to one's tradition, that is, to theology, worship, ecclesiastical discipline, and one's own spiritual heritage (cf. LG, 23; UR, 14-17; OE; can. 28 CCEO), avoiding "acquiring ways of thinking, spirituality and piety that are incompatible with their own spiritual heritage" (Instruction of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches on the Application of the Liturgical Prescriptions of the CCEO, 10).

Therefore, for a proper Jubilee Year 2025 for the faithful of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church (UGCC) in the spirit of their own ecclesiastical heritage, the Synod of Bishops created a corresponding Jubilee Committee (see Resolutions No. 12-14, Zarvanytsia, 2-12 July 2024), which developed a plan of activities for the global Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. This will help our faithful to experience the Jubilee Year 2025 more deeply.

The central event of the Jubilee Year 2025 for the faithful of the UGCC is the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy in Rome on **28 June 2025**, which will be led by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the Head and Father of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, with the participation of the Synod of Bishops of the UGCC, clergy, religious, and faithful from all over the world. In addition to pilgrimages to Rome, which has long been considered the centre of the Jubilee Year, the papal bull *Spes non confundit* ("Hope will not disappoint") encourages the faithful to make pilgrimages to other shrines and designated Jubilee Pilgrimage Churches.

Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Jubilee Year Logo

Traditionally, we, the Kyivan Church, join in the celebration of jubilee years, including this year of hope, 2025. One aspect of our Church's celebration of this Jubilee has been its theological and visual interpretation, expressed in the creation of the logo "Jubilee Year - 2025. Pilgrims of Hope".



The logo depicts a boat - a symbol of the earthly, journeying Church, sailing towards the heavenly, glorified Church, the Kingdom of God. The mast of the boat is the life-giving Cross of Christ - a sign of victory over sin and its consequence, death. On the sails is the Greek Christogram "IC XC NIKA," meaning "Jesus Christ conquers." Together, the mast and sail, as the boat's steering system, symbolize the Savior - the Helmsman and Head of the Church, who leads her to the quiet harbour of eternity. The central place in the logo is occupied by the anchor

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- an ancient Christian symbol of Christ-hope, in which, according to the Apostle Paul, "we have as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure" (Hebrews 6:19).

This year, the Church also commemorates the First Ecumenical Council, which took place in the city of Nicaea in Asia Minor in 325, celebrating its 1700th anniversary. This Council is known for rejecting the heretical trinitarian teaching of the Alexandrian Arius, who taught that Christ was not God, not God-man, but only a man, a creature, albeit a perfect one. Accordingly, the Council Fathers formulated the first part of the Nicene Creed and introduced into it one of the main theological terms - "consubstantial" (Greek: "ὁμοούσιος"), meaning: the Son is consubstantial (possesses the same divine nature) with the Father, Christ is God. Also, at this Ecumenical Council, it was decided to set the date for the celebration of Easter and some canonical-disciplinary issues were considered.



Participating in the celebration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council, our Church has designed a commemorative logo "I Ecumenical Council. 1700 years (325-2025)".

The logo features a dove - one of the iconographic representations of the Holy Spirit - the third Person of the Holy Trinity. He is the "Spirit of Truth" who led the Fathers of the Council to a doctrinal consensus. It is no coincidence that at the end of the Council of the Apostles in Jerusalem, they wrote to Antioch: "For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28). Another meaning embedded in the logo about the First Ecumenical Council is trinitarian, that is, the content of its dogmatic question. In addition to the dove - the Holy Spirit, the logo depicts a circle - the beginningless Father and a cross, which personifies the incarnate Son.

Icon of the UGCC Jubilee Year



Combining the celebration of these two significant dates, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church has developed a unified composition, on which, in addition to the described logos, there is a mosaic of the Intercessor (Theotokos-Oranta) from the capital's St. Sophia Cathedral - a symbol of the fullness of the united Kyiv Church.

The image of the Theotokos in the iconographic symphony with the symbols of this year's events that we are celebrating was chosen for a reason. In Her, as in the "haven of those tossed by storms" (see: Moleben to the Most Holy Theotokos), the image of Christian hope is embodied. Also, She, having said "yes" to God, became the One to whom we turn "Mother of Christ, our God" (see: Moleben to the Most Holy Theotokos). And in general, the chosen image of the Theotokos is an expression of the sincere Marian devotion of the Ukrainian people."

Spiritual Fruits of the Jubilee Year 2025

During the jubilee year, the Church offers opportunities for reconciliation, aimed at strengthening and reviving faith. The most fundamental goal of all these events is spiritual renewal, strengthening the Church as the Body of Christ. This is also a time of intensified prayer, and deepening personal relationships with God. The Jubilee year is a special opportunity to begin a new stage in life, freed from past sins. It is also a special occasion for works of mercy for body and soul: we intensify our help to the needy and support orphans, the poor and the homeless. This is an opportunity for pilgrimages to jubilee shrines as spiritual journeys for spiritual reflection, prayer, and strengthening faith. During pilgrimages to Rome and other jubilee shrines designated by the Church, pilgrims are invited to accept and experience a unique touch of God's grace and mercy through the Sacraments of Penance and Reconciliation, and the Eucharist.

The year 2025 is special for all Christians, as it marks the 1700th jubilee of the First Ecumenical Council, when for the first time all Christian bishops of the undivided Church gathered to defend their faith in Christ from attempts to distort it with the wisdom of "this world." It was then that the "Nicene Creed" was formed - a standard of correct theological thinking, with which Christians have for centuries compared their faith and behavior, moving through the stormy waves of trials and challenges of "this world" in the reliable boat of the Church of Christ, "the Son of God, consubstantial with the Father" and "co-worshipped with the Holy Spirit"; Christ, who said: "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." (John 10:9). Recognising the biblical-theological significance of the jubilee, the faithful of the UGCC are called to celebrate the Jubilee Year 2025, using the achievements of their own thousand-year-old ecclesiastical heritage, remembering that this is primarily a "favorable time" (cf. 2 Cor. 6:2) for conversion and spiritual growth, which encourages the realisation that the Lord Himself is the master of the world and human life.

Jubilee Year 2025 in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London

In accordance with the Bull of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, in every cathedral, the Eparchial/Diocesan Bishop is to celebrate Divine Liturgy as a solemn opening of the Jubilee Year on 29 December 2024. Additionally, bishops in their eparchies/dioceses, in accordance with the Norms of the Apostolic Penitentiary regarding indulgences in the Ordinary Jubilee Year 2025 (13 May 2024), have proclaimed Jubilee Pilgrimage Churches in their eparchies/dioceses. Two Jubilee Pilgrimage Churches have been proclaimed in the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Holy Family of London: the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Exile in London and the Church of Saint Andrew and Our Lady of Pochayiv in Edinburgh. The rite of opening the Jubilee Year in the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Holy Family in Exile in London will be led by the Right Rev. Kenneth Nowakowski, Eparchial (Diocesan) Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy (Diocese) of Holy Family of London, on Sunday, 29 December at 10:00 AM. On behalf of Bishop Kenneth, the rite of opening the Jubilee Year in Scotland will be at the Church of Saint Andrew and Our Lady of Pochayiv in Edinburgh, and will be led by Very Rev. Dr. Andriy Chornenko, the Vicar for Ukrainian Catholics in Scotland, and Rev. Vasyl Kren, Administrator of Church of Saint Andrew and Our Lady of Pochayiv in Edinburgh on 4 January 2025 at 11:00 AM.

During the opening liturgical rite, selected portions of the Holy Father's Bull proclaiming the Jubilee Year for the Catholic Church will be read. This will be followed by the reading of decrees proclaiming Jubilee Pilgrimage Churches within the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London. The ceremony will conclude with the opening of the designated church doors, symbolising the commencement of the Jubilee Year

All pilgrims who, in these churches, fulfill all the requirements for the indulgence (receive the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, participate in the Holy Liturgy, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father), from 29 December 2024 to 28 December 2025, will obtain a full Jubilee indulgence.

I continue to place each of you under the protection of the Holy Family, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the holy and righteous St. Joseph the Betrothed.

BLESSING OF THE LORD BE UPON YOU!

+ *Kenneth*

✠ **Kenneth**

Bishop of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of the Holy Family of London

