



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

December 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

In these final days of Advent, the season of hope, we reflect on how the Jubilee Year has reminded us that “Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love” (Spes non confundit, 3).

In coming as a lowly infant, we are reminded of God’s desire to be close to us, and “as a result, we live our lives in expectation of his return and in the hope of living forever in him. In this spirit, we make our own the heartfelt prayer of the first Christians with which sacred Scripture ends: ‘Come, Lord Jesus!’” (Rev 22:20; Spes non confundit, 19).

I invite you to join me as we close the Jubilee Year in our local Church. **The Closing Mass will take place on December 28 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. Priests will be available for confession beginning at 2 p.m. Mass begins at 3 p.m., with a reception in the Catholic Central gymnasium to follow.**

I pray that this past year has been a journey of hope, mercy and renewal for you. May the good works begun in our parishes, schools and communities continue to bear much fruit beyond this Jubilee Year.

Together, let us give thanks for the graces of this holy year and embrace the Advent promise that Christ comes to dwell among us. May this sacred season deepen our hope and ready our hearts to welcome the Lord who always draws near.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids