

HOLY DOOR



WHAT IS A HOLY DOOR?

It is a visual symbol of internal renewal, which begins with the willing desire to make peace with God, reconcile with your neighbors, restore in yourself everything that has been damaged in the past, and reshape your heart through conversion..

Cardinal-designate Archbishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix

The Holy Door serves to remind today's pilgrims of all those who came before us to bring the Catholic faith from France to "New France." May it serve as a visible sign of faith for future generations.

For a Catholic, it can be described as three things. During a Holy Year, it's a passage of purification and indulgence; a door to humility. It is also a step of spiritual journey that started by a pilgrimage, short or length full. On non Holy Years, it is a symbol of devotion, alongside a statue or a cross. And for those who haven't studied theology, it is a concept that is worth a leap into the past for better understanding.

WHERE?

At Notre-Dame de Québec will be erected and blessed the 7th Holy Door in the world, to celebrate the 350th year of the first catholic parish in North America. (The 5th and 6th are in Santiago de Compostela in Spain and in Ars in France.) Every person of willingness may pass, Catholic or not, because it is a time of introspection on the importance of one's faith. A Holy Door is not a tourist stop, nor a prestige attraction. It is a real gateway to humbleness. It is usually quite narrow and built on the side of a church, a little bit hidden. The inaugural ceremony will reflect the spirit of humility of this Door: simple and modest.

WHAT ARE ITS FEATURES?

The exterior will evoke Christ's Resurrection, his passage coming out of his tomb to receive and greet pilgrims, and inside, the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Holy Spirit. The path in the garden of Jubilee (to access the Door) will portray various and universal themes such as peace, justice, family,...

HOLY DOOR OPENING HOURS

Hours: The Holy Door is open from 8:45 a.m. to 8:15 p.m.

Monday to Sunday, until September 1 included.

Admission: There is no charge for passing through the Holy Door. However, offerings will be gratefully accepted for the upkeep of the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-cathedral, its art and religious heritage.



PASSING THROUGH THE HOLY DOOR

Follow the walkway leading to the Holy Door, and proceed through it.

The Holy Door leads into the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, which houses the relics of our forebears, the saints and blessed of Canada who blazed a path of faith for us to follow. Take a moment to pray or meditate if you wish.

As you leave the chapel, you will meet a guide who will give you a pilgrim's credential stamped with the seal of Notre-Dame de Québec as a remembrance of your visit. The credential describes the spiritual path you followed in passing through the Holy Door.

After proceeding through the Holy Door, you will be able to receive the sacrament of forgiveness. To further deepen your faith, you can attend mass, celebrated daily at 8:00 a.m. or 12:05 p.m., and/or complete your meditation by praying at the tomb of Blessed François de Laval, the first bishop of Quebec who also founded the Séminaire de Québec and the parish of Notre-Dame de Québec.

ACTIVITIES

Many activities are available with your visit to the Holy Door.

For a 30 minute preparatory catechism or for a full spiritual pilgrimage, visit—

<http://notredamedequébec.org/en/feasts-of-the-350th>
to make your reservation today.

If you wish to have a guided tour, cultural or religious, of the various churches and religious communities in Québec, or simply a tour of the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica, visit our **Pilgrimages** section to discover all your options!

FIRST HOLY DOOR

The first Holy Door dates back to 1300 and was blessed at the Saint-Peter's basilica in Rome. Before that, one of the only ways to obtain indulgence was to go on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, either with a group or as a Crusader. The access to the Holy City became harder, forcing Pope Boniface VIII to offer a new pilgrimage site, in Europe, at the request of the people. The choice was easy: the tombs of Saint Peter and Saint Paul. That year, more than 200,000 pilgrims availed the indulgence. Quickly, the three other major basilicas raised their own Holy Door, each one having their own inauguration on a different date to accommodate the pilgrims.

WHAT IS A HOLY YEAR?

Unlike the traditional way to write a date (in the year of our Lord...), not all years are considered holy. A Holy Year is usually repeated every 50 years, the Old Testament hints the Jewish tradition that a social renewal is proclaimed every half century.

The prisoners were freed, debts were annulled, sins forgiven and the slaves emancipated. God's Mercy was granted to all, it was time to start over. This tradition was a commemorative celebration of the end of their exile in Babylon (597-538 B.C.). In the Christian faith, a Holy Year grants plenary indulgence to all those who receive a Papal blessing or pass through one of the Holy Doors in the four major basilicas of Rome.

WHAT IS AN INDULGENCE?

The word itself has had bad press, but it is in fact an additional way for all Catholics to attain purification (associated with the Forgiveness of sins). When Penance is given after a confession, the sins are annulled. But since it is difficult to confess to all of one's sins, in details, there always remain a hint trace of sin that absolution cannot erase; the indulgence is somewhat of a bonus to erase (eternally) any remaining speck of sin. An indulgence is granted by acts of faith and charity, by a pilgrimage to an important sanctuary, by the passage through a Holy Door or by the communion of Saints, that being the concept of all Catholics forming the Church. Each time the Pope gives his blessing, he grants an indulgence to those who hear it, are on the premises or in front of their television. So an indulgence is a complete and eternal remission, a purification that erases all confessed sins and reverses the pilgrim, in a way, to his baptismal state. The conditions to obtain it are simple: assisting at Mass and receive communion on a pilgrimage (short or length full), confess during the previous or next week after obtaining it and pray for the Pope and the Church. Some particular conditions can be added, such as reciting the Lord's Prayer or passing through a Holy Door.

DETAILED MAP OF QUEBEC CHURCHES

Pilgrimage to the Holy Door at Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral



The opening of the Holy Door in the Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception - December 8, 2013 - marked a historic moment because it was the first Holy Door of the Catholic tradition outside Europe and the seventh in the world. It was also the official launch of the 350th anniversary of the foundation of the parish of Notre-Dame de Québec. The opening was presided over by Cardinal Gérald Cyprien Lacroix and marked the beginning of the festivities of the jubilee year for the parish inside Old Québec. The Holy Door becomes a spiritual symbol for all people of good will who will want

to live this process of pilgrimage where the passage of the Holy Door opens in a personal and communal moment.

The Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral was the first cathedral built in North America, making Notre-Dame de Québec the first Catholic parish founded north of the Spanish colonies. The 350th anniversary celebrations will honour different aspects of our society: faith, history, family, heritage, culture, and lasting legacies for future generations.

The Holy Door is first of all a real door, pierced in the wall of the Chapel of the Sacred Heart on the north side of the Basilica-Cathedral Notre-Dame de Québec. It is an open door on a church that houses a community of living faith who remembers the words of Jesus: "I am the door of the sheep" and "enter through the narrow gate". That is why the Holy Door of the Basilica-Cathedral will be a suitable location for a commitment to personal and communal faith. Its passage calls for spiritual transformation.

What is a Holy Door? A Holy Door is a symbol of oneness with the Universal Church. It is also a symbol of convocation, an invitation to persons of good will to enter, whatever their religious denominations.

"It is a visual symbol of internal renewal, which begins with the willing desire to make peace with God, reconcile with your neighbours, restore in yourself everything that has been damaged in the past, and reshape your heart through conversion."

— Cardinal Lacroix

What is the purpose of the Holy Door?

The Holy Door represents three main things; the purification, the indulgence (full and timeless purification) and is a humility door. It is a symbol of the passage of life and is a crucial step in the development of a spiritual journey. The Holy Door serves to remind today's pilgrims of all those who came before us to bring the Catholic faith from France to "New France." May it serve as a visible sign of faith for future generations.

Notre Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral Holy Door

On June 26, 2013, then Bishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix met Pope Francis, while in Rome, for a post-Synodal general audience on the new evangelization. During this amazing meeting, Pope Francis said to Bishop Lacroix: "Don't forget that Québec has had great missionaries all through its history. We must rise up Québec!"

The 350th anniversary of the foundation of Notre-Dame de Québec on September 15, 1664 by Bishop François de Laval is an important event due to the fact that Notre-Dame de Québec is the "mother-parish" of all the other Catholic parishes of Canada and the United States.

This anniversary will be an opportunity for all citizens of the greater region of Québec City, and of the whole world to celebrate 350 years of religious and patrimonial history. The celebrations target all believers, all groups of various religious beliefs, and all people of good will.

The 350th anniversary of Notre-Dame de Québec will have three main sections:

- 1. The Jubilee** A year of grace to appreciate what life gives us, to celebrate it and to project us into the future.
- 2. The Pilgrimage** A journey of faith following in the path of our ancestors whose lives traced and marked history.
- 3. The Holy Door** A passage that leads to inner peace.

Special Invitation

The Knights of Columbus, Bishop John Beahen Assembly, invite you to make a pilgrimage in the historic footsteps of our ancestors and walk through the Holy Door.

Prayers of the Pilgrim

to the Holy Door at Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral



I Am The Door

JESUS

Door of Heaven

Door of the world to love

Door to Liberty

Door of Life

You, our security, Jesus

Open for us the way to the Father.

JESUS

Door of the lambs,

Door of the flock,

Door of the green pastures

Door and shepherd,

You, perfect availability of the Father,

Jesus, we praise You.

JESUS

Door on love,

Door of love,

Door by love,

Door that saves us,

Jesus, our door,

Open for us the Heart of the Father

And lead us to the world to love.

Amen.

Prayers of the Pilgrim

to the Holy Door at Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral



Offering Prayer

LORD,
I renew to you the offering of myself
Of my heart, of my will
Of my battles and all my life.

I put my trust in You
I give You my past to purify it
My present to sanctify it

I leave my future in You
I entrust to You all the members of my family
I only have one desire
That Your Spirit never leaves me
That Your hand holds mine
Until the day when I shall be in Your arms.

Amen.

Prayers of the Pilgrim

to the Holy Door at Notre-Dame de Québec Basilica-Cathedral



In This Jubilee Year

God our Father,
We give you thanks for the gift of Faith
that you have poured on our country
and on our continent.

Thank you for the men and women that
built our society and founded it on
values of liberty, justice and peace.
Thank you for all the ways of holiness
that were opened to us
by all the people who came ahead of us.

Grant us to find in You, and in their example,
the ways of faith and hope for today.
Inspire our communities with a new missionary zeal.

After encountering You, we may have the desire
to build again, a world more just
and with more fraternal charity,
and proclaim all that You have done for us.

We ask this of You,
by the intercession of
Your Son Jesus, of Our Blessed Mother,
the saints the blessed ones of our country.
Amen.