

Mercy in Scripture:

God declares to Moses that He is “merciful and gracious, long-suffering and abounding in goodness” (Ex 34:6)

In deed, God is merciful in His forgiveness, His treatment towards the people of Israel, just as Jesus is merciful to those who cry out to Him seeking assistance and compassion, “...be merciful to me a sinner” (Lk 18:13).

“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful... (Lk 6:36)”

In order to be capable of mercy, we must first listen to the Word of God and then meditate on the Word. Only then can we adopt God’s mercy as our lifestyle.

Mercy in the Eucharist:

Penitential Act: *May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.*

Option B: Have mercy on us, O Lord ... Show us, O Lord, your mercy ... May Almighty God have mercy on us ...

Kyrie: *Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.*

Rite for the Blessing & Sprinkling of Water: *Grant, O Lord, in your mercy, that living waters may always spring up for our salvation; Lord our God, in your mercy, be present to your people’s prayers ... You also have made water the instrument of your mercy ...*

Gloria: *... you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us ...you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us ...*

Lord’s Prayer: *... graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin ...*

Fraction of the Bread: *Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us ...*

Parables devoted to Mercy:

“In these parables, God is always presented as full of joy, especially when He pardons.”

In the parables exemplifying mercy, Jesus reveals the nature of God as that of “a Father who never gives up until he has forgiven the wrong and overcome rejection with compassion and mercy.”

Take time to read three parables in particular, Luke 15: 1-32: the parables of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the father with two sons. Why are we called to show mercy? Because mercy has first been shown to us! Even when it might be difficult to forgive, joyful living comes when we let go of anger and revenge.

Beatitude of Mercy:

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.” (Mt 5:7)

Aspire to live by this beatitude during the year.

Psalms to live by:

“He forgives all your iniquity ... He crowns you with steadfast love and mercy” (Psalm 103:3-4)

Consider ways to show mercy in a concrete way by letting it flow naturally, as you show tenderness and compassion to others.

Learn from the lives of the Saints:

“I forgive ...”

Saint Maria Goretti is a wonderful example of mercy, and also the youngest canonized saint in the Church who died at the age of eleven at the hands of an attacker. On her deathbed, her last words were, “I forgive Alessandro Serenelli ... and I want him with me in heaven forever.”



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SHREVEPORT

Serving the faithful of North Louisiana

Diocesan Acts of Mercy:

The diocese is inviting every parishioner and parish family to take part in works of mercy during this Year of Mercy. Look for details in bulletins, and on websites.

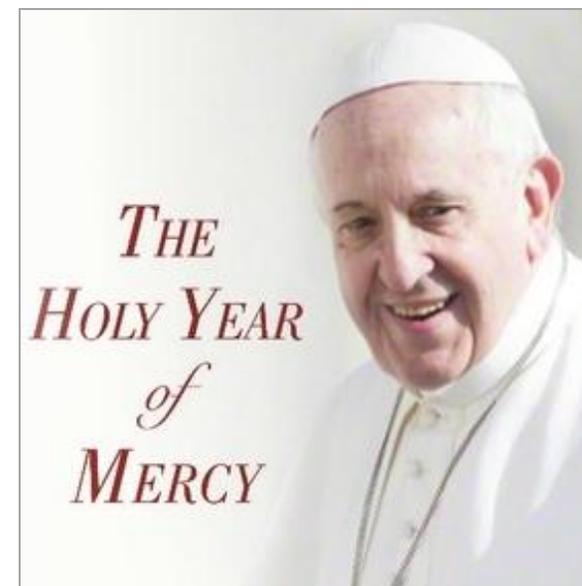
#52weeksofmercy:

Every Tuesday we will promote a new work of mercy to be completed that week. Visit the Diocesan website, www.dioshpt.org/Facebook, #52weeksofmercy, and invite family and friends to join you in acts of mercy each week.

Mercy in Action:

Each month the Catholic Connection will feature an individual or parish’s efforts in the Spiritual or Corporal Works of Mercy.

www.sjbcathedral.org/year-of-mercy-at-the-cathedral/



POPE FRANCIS DECLARES Jubilee Year of Mercy

Tuesday, December 8, 2015

Immaculate Conception,

to

Christ the King Sunday,

November 20, 2016



I have proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy as a special time for the Church, a time when the witness of believers might grow stronger and more effective.

Pope Francis, April 11, 2015

Bull of Indiction “Misericordiae Vultus”:

*“Jesus Christ is the face of the Father’s mercy.”**

Pope Francis stated, “I am convinced that the whole Church can find in this [Extraordinary] Jubilee [of Mercy] the joy to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to each man and each woman of our time. We entrust it to the Mother of Mercy, so that She may turn towards us Her gaze and watch over our path.”

The Jubilee Year of Mercy takes place on the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council in 1965. “This is of great significance, for it impels the Church to continue the work begun at Vatican II,” as stated in the Holy See communiqué.

Holy Door Pilgrimage Site:

*“We need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy.”**

In the Diocese of Shreveport, the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans has been designated as a place of pilgrimage with a Holy Door during the Year of Mercy.



Bishop Duca will celebrate the Opening of the Holy Door on Sunday, December 13, 2015, at the 5:30pm Mass.

Left: Bishop Michael Duca formally closing the Holy Door, Wednesday, August 12, 2015, in anticipation of the Holy Year.

Consider your options for a pilgrimage during this year. Each time you travel, locate the Cathedral and other holy places designated with a Holy Door and plan a visit!

Jubilee indulgences:

*“God’s forgiveness knows no bounds.”**

This Jubilee Holy Year of Mercy entails, in an important way, the granting of *indulgences*. As is traditional, in order to receive the full mercy of God’s indulgence, the faithful are asked to turn away from any attraction to sin, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, attend a Eucharist, and pray for the pope’s intentions.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Cathedral Parish will be scheduling additional times for confessions. See Advent schedule below.

Sacrament of Reconciliation opportunities:

AREA ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES

Mon, Dec 7, 5:30pm, St. John Berchmans

Wed, Dec 9, 6:00pm, Mary, Queen of Peace

Thurs, Dec 10, 6:30pm, St. Jude

Sat, Dec 12, 10:00am, Christ the King

Mon, Dec 14, 5:00pm, Holy Trinity

Tues, Dec 15, 6:30pm, St. Eliz. Ann Seton

Thurs, Dec 17, 6:30pm, St. Joseph

ADVENT CONFESSION TIMES

Penance Service, Mon, Dec 7, 5:30pm, *Cathedral*

Wednesdays, 11:00am-Noon, *Chapel*

Thursdays, 7:30-8:30am, *Chapel*

Saturdays, 2:45-3:45pm, *Cathedral*

3rd & 4th Sundays, 9:45-10:45am, *Cathedral*

Ways to Celebrate the Year of Mercy:

-- CORPORAL & SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY:
Practice the Works of Mercy on your own or in group, by participating in Outreach Ministries in our parish and local community and donating to the quarterly collections for the needy - live out the Corporal Works of Mercy daily! At the Cathedral, we will highlight special ways to live out the works of Mercy during Lent, as well as special ways to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

-- MOMENTS OF MERCY WITH POPE FRANCIS:
Throughout the year, Pope Francis will do Jubilee signs of mercy; consider ways to practice these signs of mercy and invite family members, friends and your small groups to join you. Look for more details to come as our Pope gives us guidance. There will also be short monthly suggestions on www.usccb.org for ways to make merciful acts a part of your every day (coming in December). Their website also includes monthly scriptural reflections / meditations on mercy. Reflect more deeply on God’s call to mercy and consider ways to show mercy by reaching out to the handicapped, elderly, hungry, homeless, on your own, with your family and friends or within small groups. Special outreach programs will be planned throughout the year.

*“Mercy: the word reveals the very mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us. Mercy: the fundamental law that dwells in the heart of every person who looks sincerely into the eyes of his brothers and sisters on the path of life. Mercy: the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness.”**

* Misericordiae Vultus