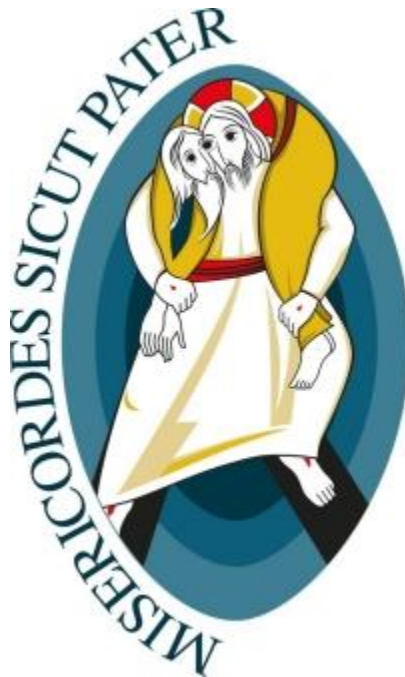




Jubilee Year of Mercy Resource Packet

December 8, 2015-November 20, 2016



Year of Mercy

Resources and Activities for Parishes & Schools

LEARN ABOUT MERCY

From the Magisterium...

- [*Dives in Misericordia*](#) Pope St. JPII
- [*Misericordiae Vultus*](#) Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis
- [Official Prayer](#)
- CCC: 1422, 1829, 2447
- CCC Definitions:
 - Mercy: The Loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends (e.g., the mercy of God to us sinners)
 - Works of Mercy: Charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbors in their bodily and spiritual needs.
- YouCAT: 314, 337, 524
- [Diocese of Orlando Year of Mercy Website](#)

Articles...

- [What does “Divine Mercy” Actually Mean?](#)
- [Does “Mercy” mean “Permission”?](#)
- [God’s Mercy is Bigger Than Any Sin](#)
- [The Measure of Mercy: Francis and the Extraordinary Jubilee Year](#)
- [Corporal Works of Mercy](#)
- [Spiritual Works of Mercy](#)

Books...

- [The Holy Year of Mercy](#): A Faith-Sharing Guide with Reflections by Pope Francis (Word Among Us Press)
- [Luke: The Good News of God’s Mercy](#), Kevin Perrotta (Loyola Press)
- [The Return of the Prodigal Son](#): A Story of Homecoming, Henri Nouwen (Image Books)
- [The Wounded Healer](#): Ministry in Contemporary Society, Henri Nouwen (Image Books)
- [Mercy in the City](#): How to Feed the Hungry, Give Drink to the Thirsty, Visit the Imprisoned, and Keep Your Day Job, Kerry Weber (Loyola Press)
- [Mercy’s Gaze](#): 100 Readings from Scripture and the Diary of St. Faustina (Marian Press)
- [Mercy](#): A Bible Study Guide for Catholics, Fr. Mitch Pacwa (Our Sunday Visitor)
- [8 Year of Mercy books](#) from the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization (Our Sunday Visitor)
- [You Did It to Me](#): A Practical Guide to Mercy in Action, Fr. Gaitley (Marian Press; Formed.org)
- [What to Do When Jesus Is Hungry](#): A Practical Guide to the Works of Mercy, Fr. Andrew Apostoli (Ignatius Press)
- [Magnificat Companion](#) for the Year of Mercy

OVERALL ACTIVITIES

- *Healing Tree*: a barren tree that grows full with leaves day by day during the Jubilee Year of Mercy as acts of compassion, mercy, forgiveness, healing are observed and noted. This could be placed:
 - School hallway
 - Church vestibule
 - Covered courtyard
- Monthly *message of mercy* to be used monthly from Jan – Nov. These could be used in announcements, bulletins, intercessory prayer.
- *Promote the corporal works of mercy* already being done in parishes, schools, youth programs through the bulletin, displays, newsletters home.
- *Jubilee door* in each classroom/building:
 - actual door decorated
 - mural of a door
 - gate could be used for smaller children/pre-school
 - Have the door blessed...blessing included.
- *Blessing bags of mercy*: prepare small gift bags with an inspiring message for: the imprisoned, the sick, the homeless, the elderly. Younger children could decorate plain, white lunch size bags and older children would fill the bags, decide on what goes in the bag.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES FOR:

Lower Grades

- *Saints of Mercy*: Highlight the characteristic of mercy/compassion/empathy in age appropriate saints by having a parade of saints, mural of saints, art project on these saints. (suggestions in the [Loyola packet](#))
- *Works of Mercy pledge*: Students pledge to perform works of mercy throughout the year. Sample pledge in the [Loyola packet](#).
- *Beads of Mercy*: "As a child, St. Thérèse, the Little Flower used a string of beads to count her sacrifices and acts of love done for God, in that way she was able to advance in perfection daily. You too, can grow in holiness by following the example of the Little Flower." Children can use them as "sacrifice/good deed beads," a decade of the rosary, or a Divine Mercy Chaplet! Each child could do this individually or an entire family, parish or school could create a larger model to be displayed or presented at a culminating event.
- Teach younger children about [Divine Mercy](#).
- Teach younger children about the [Door of Mercy](#).
- Learn about the Year of Mercy with the assistance of various [Craft projects](#).
- Create meaningful *Reconciliation services* focusing on the mercy of God

Middle Grades

- *Mercy in the Scriptures*: have youth read and prepare skits on the many examples of mercy found in the Bible, particularly in the Gospels. These could be acted out for the lower grade students.
- *Looking through the Lens of Mercy*: After studying the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, encourage the students to capture examples of mercy in action on their cellphone cameras. Create collages, displays of the mercy in action on the school, parish, home campus.
- *Emphasize the Stations of the Cross* and their connection to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Since there is fourteen of each...have the students create art work depicting these connections and write prayers that go along with both the Paschal Mystery as well as the works of mercy.
- Explanation of the term "[*Lord have mercy on me*](#)" complete with an instructional Youtube on the Jesus Prayer.
- Teach the children about [*Divine Mercy*](#), St. Faustina, the National Shrine of Divine Mercy, how to pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy. Free samples or buy the CD-Rom.

High School

- *Mercy in the Scriptures*: have youth read and prepare skits on the many examples of mercy found in the Bible, particularly in the Gospels. These could be acted out for the lower grade students.
- *Looking through the Lens of Mercy*: After studying the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, encourage the students to capture examples of mercy in action on their cellphone cameras. Create collages, displays of the mercy in action on the school, parish, home campus. A practical list of the works of mercy can be found [here](#).
- *Emphasize the Stations of the Cross* and their connection to the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Since there is fourteen of each...have the students create art work depicting these connections and write prayers that go along with both the Paschal Mystery as well as the works of mercy.
- Work with the teens to create a [bucket list](#) of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy for the year, and then put it into action.
- [*Six Weeks with the Bible: The Good News of God's Mercy*](#) by Kevin Perrotta. Do a six week study on the Gospel of Luke with a resource written for teens
- Utilize USCCB's [Two Feet of Love in Action](#) for a youth night.
- Focus *retreats* on the theme of mercy.

Adult/Young Adult

- Host a book study on mercy. Some suggested titles are listed above.
- As a group, create a [bucket list](#) of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy for the year, and then put it into action.
- Focus *retreats* on the theme of mercy.
- Follow Catholic Charities of Central Florida Instagram [@YearofMercy](#) to see examples of how the community is extending God's mercy to those most in need.

Family Life

- Free download from Sadlier: [A Prayer for a Merciful Home](#)
- Encourage families to have a *Jubilee Door of Mercy* in their home. Blessing of door provided.
- *Looking through the lens of mercy*: Families capture the corporal and spiritual works of mercy being done their homes with cell phone cameras. Display on the refrigerator or in other much visited location.
- As a family, create a [bucket list](#) of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy for the year, and then put it into action.
- Utilize the [Year of Mercy Calendar](#) as a family.

As a School or Parish Staff

- Utilize the theme of mercy for faculty/catechist retreats or days of reflection
- Host a book study for the faculty/catechists. Some suggested titles are listed above.
- Utilize the Jubilee Year of Mercy Prayer at gatherings of the faculty/staff

Other Resources/Activities

- [CRS](#): Year of Mercy Resources
- [USCCB](#): Lectio Divina "Called to Mercy"
- [Loyola Press](#): Free Year of Mercy Prayers and Activities
- [Sadlier](#): Year of Mercy Resources
- [Life Teen](#): resource for the Year of Mercy (must be a Life Teen Subscriber)
- [Pinterest](#): Year of Mercy ideas from a fellow DRE
- [Divine Mercy Library](#)
- [Year of Mercy Calendar](#) from the Dioceses of Steubenville, OH and Syracuse, NY

BLESSING OF A JUBILEE DOOR AT HOME

Gathering: All gathering before the Jubilee Door
All make the Sign of the Cross reciting: "In the name...."

Reading: A reading from the Gospel of Luke 4:18-19
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the
blind, to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

Blessing: All together pray the following:

Blessed are you, O Lord, our God, for you guide our footsteps.
You bless our coming in and our going out,
from birth to death, you hold us in your care.
Bless this door, O Lord, which we consecrate to this time of preparation.
Each day we pass this place, draw us more deeply
into your presence and the wonders of your love for us.
You are the door to the Kingdom of God,
the sheep gate to life eternal, O portal of eternal peace,
our new and living way,
loose our sins and open for us the door of salvation.
O God, protect our going out and our coming in;
let us share the hospitality of this home with all who visit us.
May the poor find rest within these walls
and all who hunger find refreshment in our home.
Lead us home through you, to you, and with you, one God for ever and ever.
Amen

Song: O God Our Help in Ages Past (Psalm 90)
All are Welcome (Haugen)
Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today, and Forever (Toolan)
Ubi Caritas (Hurd)
Digo "Si," Señor (Peña)

BENDICION DE LA PUERTA DEL JUBILEO

Reunida la familia ante la Puerta Jubilar de su hogar, el cabeza de familia ora:

La señal de la Cruz: En el nombre del Padre...

Lectura:

"El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí, porque me ha ungido para anunciar a los pobres la Buena Nueva, me ha enviado a proclamar la liberación a los cautivos, y la vista a los ciegos, para dar la libertad a los oprimidos y proclamar un año de gracia del Señor" (San Lucas 4:18-19)

Bendición:

"Bendito seas, oh Señor Dios nuestro, porque tu guías nuestros pasos. Tu bendices nuestras entradas y salidas; desde que nacemos hasta que morimos, nos tienes bajo tu cuidado. Bendice esta puerta, Oh Señor, la cual consagramos para este tiempo de preparación.

Cada día que pasemos por este lugar, atráenos mas profundamente hacia tu presencia y a las maravillas de tu amor por nosotros. Tu eres la puerta del Reino de los Cielos, la puerta hacia la vida eterna. Oh Portal de eterna paz, nuestro nuevo y vivo camino, desata nuestros pecados y abre para nosotros la puerta de la salvación.

Oh Dios, protege nuestras entradas y salidas; permítenos compartir la hospitalidad de este hogar con todos aquellos que nos visiten. Que los pobres encuentren descanso dentro de estos muros y todos los que padecen hambre encuentren alivio en nuestro hogar.

Guíanos Señor hacia ti, por tu misericordia, y llévanos contigo a la Patria celestial. Tu que vives y reinas por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

Todos pueden cantar el himno " Digo "Si," Señor" o alguna otra canción apropiada.

JUBILEE YEAR MESSAGES OF MERCY

Titus 3:4-5 But when the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the holy Spirit.

Micah 6:8 You have been told, O mortal, what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Ephesians 2:4-7 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (by grace you have been saved), raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Deuteronomy 4:31 Since the LORD, your God, is a merciful God, he will not abandon or destroy you, nor forget the covenant with your ancestors that he swore to them.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

James 2:13 For the judgment is merciless to one who has not shown mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

Psalms 136:1 Praise the LORD, for he is good; for his mercy endures forever;

1 Peter 2:10 Once you were “no people” but now you are God’s people; you “had not received mercy” but now you have received mercy.

Psalms 85: 8 Show us, LORD, your mercy; grant us your salvation.

Luke 6:37 Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Colossians 3:12-13 Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

John 3:21 But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

Psalms 145:8 The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in mercy.