

Local Events

Meet the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy

- Feb. 13 St. Pius X, Mountlake Terrace**
7 p.m. Presentation, exposition, benediction, holy hour, Divine Mercy chaplet, veneration of relics, reconciliation
- Feb. 14 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Bremerton**
1 p.m. Presentation, holy hour, veneration of relics
- Feb. 15 Proto-Cathedral of St. James the Greater, Vancouver**
6 p.m. Reconciliation, vespers, presentation, blessing with relics
- Feb. 16 Immaculate Conception, Mount Vernon**
7 p.m. Divine Mercy chaplet, presentation, veneration of relics
- Feb. 18 St. Charles Borromeo, Tacoma**
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross, presentation, veneration of relics, reconciliation
- Feb. 19 Holy Family, Kirkland**
7 p.m. Stations of the Cross, presentation, veneration of relics, reconciliation
- Feb. 20 St. James Cathedral, Seattle**
11 a.m. Reconciliation, Divine Mercy chaplet, presentation, veneration of relics

Day of Mercy

Saturday, March 5, is one of the high points of the Jubilee of Mercy in the Archdiocese of Seattle, when Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, and priests from across the archdiocese will hear confessions throughout the day at St. James Cathedral. Confessions will be heard in multiple languages from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each hour will begin with music and a brief prayer. All are encouraged to participate in this celebration of the sacrament of mercy during the Jubilee of Mercy.

www.seattlearchdiocese.org/Mercy

Living the Jubilee of Mercy

Check with your parish for a list of contacts.

Feed the Hungry.

- Prepare a meal for someone in your community who is ill, grieving or welcoming home a newborn.
- Make sandwiches and pass them out to the homeless.
- Sign up to serve at a shelter or soup kitchen.

Give Drink to the Thirsty.

- Take a glass of cool water to a neighbor doing yard work.
- Donate baby formula to a pregnancy help center or Prepares.
- Work at the drink station at a charity race.

Clothe the Naked.

- Go through your closet and give away what you don't need.
- Knit, crochet or sew blankets for a homeless shelter or pregnancy help center.

Shelter the Homeless.

- Volunteer to do manual labor to help in the upkeep of a homeless shelter.
- Become a mentor to a foster child.
- Help a family working toward adoption by hosting a fundraiser for them.

Visit the Sick.

- Volunteer at a hospital.
- Volunteer to call bingo at a nursing home.
- Visit a seriously ill member of your parish.

Visit the Imprisoned.

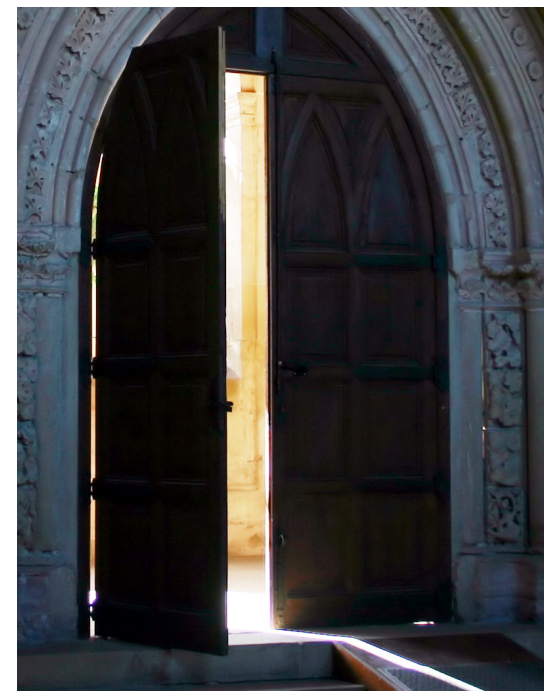
- Donate Bibles or other spiritual reading materials to a prison.
- Lead a Bible study at a juvenile corrections facility.
- Help with a Communion service or Mass at a local jail or prison.

Bury the Dead.

- Attend a rosary or funeral for a parishioner, even if you didn't know them.
- Volunteer with a hospice program.
- Supply a dish for a funeral luncheon in your parish.

Jubilee of Mercy

Experience the love of God



"In this Jubilee Year, may the Church echo the Word of God that resounds strong and clear as a message and a sign of pardon, strength, aid, and love."

Pope Francis



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What is a jubilee year?

Since ancient Jewish times, a jubilee year has stood as a reminder of God's providence and mercy — a year dedicated to providing the community with a time to come back into right relationship with God and with one another.

What is extraordinary about this jubilee year?

The Jubilee of Mercy that Pope Francis has declared from Dec. 8, 2015, to Nov. 20, 2016, is an extraordinary jubilee. This sets it apart from the ordinary cycle of jubilees, or holy years, which are called every 25 years in the Catholic Church. By calling for a holy year outside of the normal cycle, the pope emphasizes a particular event or theme — in this case, mercy.

How can we live mercy in our daily lives?

First we must receive God's loving mercy toward us and then act in that same way to all we meet. As members of the body of Christ, our lives should be a witness of mercy to those we meet on a daily basis.

How can we experience God's mercy?

Mercy begins with our receiving mercy in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation. Only when we examine our lives, confess our sins with true contrition, and experience the mercy of God ourselves are we then able to show true mercy to others.

What is a jubilee indulgence?

Pope Francis has announced that during this Jubilee of Mercy, Catholics may obtain a jubilee indulgence — a full or partial remission of the temporal punishment for sins.

How do I obtain a jubilee indulgence?

By visiting the Doors of Mercy at a cathedral or other designated church (see next panel), or by performing one of the corporal or spiritual works of mercy (see below and back panel). To obtain any plenary (full) indulgence, one must also be in the state of grace, have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, sacramentally confess their sins, receive Communion and pray for the intentions of the pope. These rites and prayers should be carried out within about 20 days before or after the indulgenced act.

What are the works of mercy?

Corporal works of mercy: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick and imprisoned, burying the dead.

Spiritual works of mercy: instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, admonishing sinners, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving offenses willingly, comforting the afflicted, praying for the living and the dead.



What are the Doors of Mercy?

One of the central components of the Jubilee of Mercy is that the Doors of Mercy at churches throughout the world will be opened. In the Archdiocese of Seattle, we have five Doors of Mercy: at St. James Cathedral, Seattle; the Proto-Cathedral of St. James the Greater, Vancouver; St. Joseph, Chehalis; Immaculate Conception, Mount Vernon; and Holy Rosary, Tacoma. Catholics are encouraged to make a pilgrimage to the Holy doors to “experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope.”

How do I prepare for reconciliation?

In prayer, review your life since your last confession, searching your thoughts, words and actions or non-actions for anything that did not conform to God's command to love him and others through his laws and the laws of his church. This is called an examination of conscience. Visit seattlearchdiocese.org/light for confession times and more information.

The rite of reconciliation

You may choose face-to-face or anonymous, whichever is most comfortable for you.

- The priest gives you a blessing or greeting.
- Make the sign of the cross and say, “Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. My last confession was [give the number of weeks, months or years] ago.”
- Confess all of your sins to the priest. (If you are unsure or uneasy, tell him and ask for help.)
- Say, “I am sorry for these and all of my sins.”
- The priest assigns a penance and offers advice.
- Say an act of contrition, expressing your sorrow for your sins.
- The priest, acting in the person of Christ, then absolves you from your sins.