



Our Parish Pilgrimage to Celebrate the Year of Mercy To Gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette
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Passing through the Holy Door and the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence

One of the many graces of the Jubilee Year of Mercy is a special plenary indulgence, which is the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sin. One of the ways to obtain the plenary indulgence this year is to make a **pilgrimage** to a church that has a designated Holy Door of Mercy. The conditions needed to gain the indulgence may be found on page 2.

Itinerary for our parish pilgrimage to La Salette Shrine to pass through the Holy Door of Mercy and to gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence on Wednesday, October 26:

Meet behind St. Mary's church at 10:45 a.m. We will carpool to La Salette Shrine at 11:00 a.m. In the car, we will recite the rosary. Arrive at La Salette Shrine at 11:40 a.m.

Gather together to recite the Year of Mercy Prayer and fervently recite the Act of Contrition. Prayers are on page 4.

Pass through the Holy Door of Mercy with devotion and reverence.

Once through the Holy Door, as a group, we will recite the Apostle's Creed, and pray for the intentions of Pope Francis. Prayers are on page 4.

Attend the 12:10 p.m. Mass at La Salette Shrine. When we receive the Holy Eucharist, let us reflect on mercy. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in You. Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy."

Arrive home by 1:45 p.m.

One condition we will not be fulfilling to gain the indulgence is to go to confession within 20 days before or after passing through the Holy Door of Mercy. You might like to consider going to confession sometime before October 26.

Confessions will not be available that day at La Salette.

You may instead decide to meet us at the Shrine at 11:40 a.m.

Fr. Brian will be joining us.

St. Mary's website (www.stmarysfranklin.org) has a webpage dedicated to the Year of Mercy.

The Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to a close on November 20.

Please consider printing this 4-page packet, if you will be joining us on October 26. We will also have copies available.

“I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy...” --Pope Francis

To Gain the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence

All members of the Christian Faithful of the Archdiocese of Boston who are truly contrite and moved by the spirit of charity, who wish to seek this indulgence must:

- Be baptized;**
- Be in the state of grace;**
- Have the intention of gaining the indulgence, which includes sorrow for sin;**
- Perform the indulgenced act of passing through a Holy Door of Mercy with devotion and reverence;**
- Be free from all attachment to sin—even venial sin;**
- Make a profession of faith by reciting the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed;**
- Observe the usual conditions:**
 - 1. Sacramentally confess their sins;**
 - 2. Participate in the celebration of, and receive, the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy;**
 - 3. Pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff, the Pope.**

While these three conditions may be fulfilled several days before or after the performance of the indulgenced work, it is fitting that Communion be received, the prayer for the intention of the Holy Father, and the profession of faith be said on the same day.

Sacramental Confession: A single sacramental confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but receiving Communion and praying for the intentions of the Holy Father are required for each indulgence. Please note that one can only receive a single plenary indulgence per day.

Prayer for the Pope: Prayer for the Pope’s intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an *Our Father* and a *Hail Mary* are suggested.

Offering Indulgences for the Holy Souls: Indulgences can always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth.

What is an indulgence? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church (#1471)*: “An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.”

The *US Catholic Catechism for Adults (p. 244)*: “Every sin has consequences. It disrupts our communion with God and the Church, weakens our ability to resist temptation, and hurts others. The necessity of healing these consequences, once the sin itself has been forgiven, is called temporal punishment. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and other works of charity can take away entirely or diminish this temporal punishment. Because of the fullness of redemption obtained for us by Christ, the Church attaches to certain prayers and actions an indulgence or pardon, that is, the full or partial remission of temporal punishment due to sin. Christ, acting through the Church, brings about the healing of the consequences of sin when an individual uses such a prayer or engages in such an action.”

From *Misericordiae Vultus*: Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy:

The practice of pilgrimage has a special place in the Holy Year, because it represents the journey each of us makes in this life. Life itself is a pilgrimage, and the human being is a viator, a pilgrim travelling along the road, making his way to the desired destination. Similarly, to reach the Holy Door in Rome or in any other place in the world, everyone, each according to his or her ability, will have to make a pilgrimage. This will be a sign that mercy is also a goal to reach and requires dedication and sacrifice. May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion: by crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us. (M.V. 14)

The Holy Door of Mercy

You may be asking, "What is a Holy Door of Mercy for?" Each day we pass through many doors: in our homes, our automobiles, our places of work and recreation. Most of the time we are simply passing through, in and out, without even thinking about the door. A Holy Door is different. Rather than just simply passing through this door, it exists to help us "pass over", to experience the grace of conversion, a significant change in the direction of our lives.

God has been opening doors throughout all of history: He opened the door of Noah's ark, to save mankind from the waters of the flood (Gn 6:16); the doorposts of the houses of the Israelites, to free them from slavery (Ex 12:22); the door of the Temple in Jerusalem, to enter into God's glory and worship (Ez 43:4); the prison door of Peter's cell, to save him from impending death. All these moments in the Bible point to the truth that Jesus himself is the door to our salvation. Christ said, "I am the door" (Jn 10:9). The Wood of the Cross was watered by the Blood of Christ and burst forth as the Tree of Life. When Christ opened wide his arms on the Cross, he opened the door to our salvation. When his disciples went to the tomb on Easter morning, they found an open door – the stone had been rolled away.

During this *Holy Year of Mercy* God invites us not simply to pass through a door, but to "pass-over" from sin to mercy, from darkness to light, from isolation to communion with God and his Church. When we "pass-over" this threshold, we encounter Christ who is the merciful face of the Father. Just as when we turn the door knob in order to enter the door of a house or a room, when we enter the Holy Door it is Christ's hand that we take, He leads us. It is his voice we hear, inviting us to be *Merciful like the Father*.

A holy door or ***porta sancta*** has been used since the fifteenth century as a ritual expression of conversion during jubilee years. Pilgrims and penitents pass through it as a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold from sin to grace, from slavery to freedom, and from darkness to light. But the door only finds meaning when we associate the door with Christ. In the words of Pope Francis, "There is only one way that opens wide the entrance into the life of communion with God: this is Jesus, the one and absolute way to salvation. To him alone can the words of the Psalmist be applied in full truth: 'This is the door of the Lord where the just may enter' (Ps 118:20)."

(Taken from the Archdiocese of Boston website)

Year of Mercy Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art good and deserving of my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

For the Intentions of Pope Francis

October

Universal: Journalists

That journalists, in carrying out their work, may always be motivated by respect for truth and a strong sense of ethics.

Evangelization: World Mission Day

That World Mission Day may renew within all Christian communities the joy of the Gospel and the responsibility to announce it.

Hail Mary ...

Our Father ...