

Deepen My Relationship with God.

This weekend marks the beginning of “**The Jubilee Year of Mercy**” as proclaimed by Pope Francis. It is a year to focus on forgiveness between brothers and sisters, to live in solidarity and hope, and to deepen our commitments to serve God and one another joyfully. It is a time to open doors, showing mercy to others and accepting God’s mercy in our lives.

The Pope is calling for a time of personal reflection to re-discover the true meaning of our faith and what we are all called to do as Catholics every day. No matter where we are in our spiritual journey we all need continuous spiritual conversion to bring us closer to our God and all that He has to offer us.

This is a very personal yet communal call from the Pope. So how will you witness mercy in your life this year? Personally I continue to work on living a merciful life and I look forward to this Jubilee Year as an opportunity to grow. Taking the opportunity to receive reconciliation more often to deepen my relationship with God. Seeking out ways to live the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in my community. And, exemplifying the importance of accepting others, forgiving where I need to and demonstrating how to give and receive mercy to my teenage children.

All who are believers in Christ are called to reflect and participate. We are **ALL** called to live the Gospel and grow in mercy. Pope Francis is reaching out to all Catholics to forgive and rebuild our church with hope, love and compassion. It is truly a time of spiritual conversion, a time to reflect and grow. Jesus teaches us in the Sermon on the Mount: “**Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs**”. We all need mercy whether we realize it or not. It is only when we recognize the truth that we have sinned and ask for forgiveness that we will receive mercy. It shows we are repenting of heart.

Today we are distributing a book titled” **Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody**”. The book is composed of eleven, short, true stories witnessing the power of forgiveness. It is an easy read; amazing stories that I personally found enlightening and inspiring. We ask that each family take one and experience the stories and the message. After spending time with the book we ask that you then pass it along to someone who may need inspiration.

It is our hope, as we begin this Year of Mercy, that we as a parish community, will begin to foster the continuous need for forgiveness and inclusion, creating a community of love, hope, compassion that welcomes all who pass through our doors and with those we interact with outside of our doors. A people that recognizes that we are all human and are all in need of mercy. Let this be the beginning of a new chapter in our journey back to God.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus we ask that the Holy Spirit touch each one of us this day and ignite a fire in our hearts and bring change to each of us so that we may foster a greater love throughout our broken world. May He keep us vigilant to always be open to opportunities to be merciful - as He is merciful to us. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen

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