

# LENT ... in light of the Jubilee Year of Mercy



Jubilee Year is a fresh opportunity for everyone to experience the great Mercy of God. The Year of Mercy is an invitation to start again. Let us use this Lent as a special time to take a spiritual journey in which we look again into our hearts, feel again our longing for forgiveness, for encouragement, for a renewed and joyful faith and for a resilient hope amidst all our difficulties.

## What is a Holy, or Jubilee, Year?

In the Old Testament part of the Bible (Leviticus 25:10) the Israelites associated it with the time of joy and pardon. It is a year of special solemnity and celebration.

Holy Years in the Catholic Church date back to the beginning of the 14th century. They were originally meant to be called every 25-50 years (at the pope's discretion), and were a time when all sins could be forgiven. The concept comes from the Biblical reference to a Jubilee when all slaves were to be set free and all debts absolved. In practice, pilgrims seeking forgiveness had to visit all four of the papal basilicas in Rome and Vatican City during the Holy Year and walk through the opened holy doors to have their sins forgiven.

These doors are only open during a Jubilee Year.



## How is the Holy Year of Mercy being celebrated?

We will have a symbolic "**Holy Door**" symbolizing the one at the Vatican and those at designated churches and shrines around the world.

We will encourage people to make the journey of Lent "**a pilgrimage of on-going conversion and renewal**" to which we are all called.

We will have the opportunity to promote the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** as a means of experiencing the Mercy and Love of the Father and thus become ambassadors of Mercy in our own lives.

We will strive to be more aware of the **corporal works of mercy** (Mathew25:35-36)

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The Jubilee of Mercy has an official website in seven languages: [www.im.va](http://www.im.va)

Twitter handle: @Jubilee\_va

Facebook Page: and accounts on Instagram, Flickr and google+

**JUBILEE FAITH SHARING** - Mondays and Thursdays - in the meeting room.

Following the outline given in the book by Pope Francis

**Monday-1:30 pm** - Leader Jeannine (693-2122)

**Thursday-1:30 pm** - Leader Marie (693-2282)



These groups will be using this faith-sharing guide which has eight sessions and features: a Gospel passage followed by a homily on that passage given by Pope Francis, questions for reflection and discussion focus on both the Scripture text and the homily. Related Scripture passages are included, as well as an action step that can be used to grow in the practice and understanding of God's mercy. This book is available to our parishioners for \$10.00. It can be for personal use or as part of the Lenten Year of Mercy sharing groups.

## FAITH SHARING - Tuesdays - Reflection on the Lenten Sunday Readings:

**Tuesdays 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm** Enhance your experience of Sunday Mass by reflecting upon the Lenten Sunday Readings with this group. Take time to "break open the Word", reflect and share. The message of the Gospel comes alive as it is related to our everyday experiences.

For more information contact: Marilyn Schroeder, marilynschro@gmail.com 705-693- 5731

## Wednesdays in Lent: Mass & Pray-as-you-go Reflection

9:30 am Mass

10:00 am approximately **10 minutes** – **Pray-as-you-Go** guided meditation stemming from the reading of the day. It includes a mixture of music, listening to scripture, questions to ponder and a concluding prayer. Persons may remain in the church following this for personal prayer.

## Thursdays in Lent: Mass & Video Series & Discussion

**Fr Ron Rholheiser on "The Abundance of God's Love"**

9:30 am Mass

10:00 am **Lenten Video** and discussion period **till 10:30 am**.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS:

**Fridays** 4:00 pm – Each week will be led by a different group from the parish with a unique set of meditations from youth, women, climate change, etc.

## PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Wednesday February 24<sup>th</sup> 3:00 pm

"**Being Forgiven and Forgiving**" Experience the abundance of God's mercy that you might give Mercy.