

WHY A HOLY DOOR?

Since 1300, there have been regular celebrations of Jubilee Years in the Church. As of 1450, Jubilee Years were called every 25 years unless calling a Jubilee would create danger to the multitude of pilgrims who would be travelling to Rome to enter through the Holy Door. Due to political unrest Jubilees were therefore not called in 1800 and 1850. There have also been Extraordinary Jubilees called to commemorate a special anniversary in the Church's history (1933 & 1983 the celebration of 1900 & 1950 years of our redemption respectively) or to call for a special period of grace and mercy (2015-2016)

As already mentioned pilgrimage to the Holy Door in Rome at St. Peter's Basilica has been a significant aspect of any Jubilee Year. Entering through the Holy Door is a symbolic action of moving from the world into the presence of God. Passing through the door, one acknowledges their sinfulness and full dependence on God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is entry through Christ, who called Himself the door (John 10.7), the way to the Father. Entering through the door is to confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Lord, and the Savior who suffered, died and rose for our salvation.



The Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

During his homily in the Basilica of St. Mary Major, Pope Francis said that those who cross the Door of Mercy's threshold are "called to enter into the merciful love of the Father with complete trust and freedom from fear."



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

This Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, like the ones before, is a call to all the faithful to go on a pilgrimage to enter through the Holy Doors of Mercy.

What is new is that during this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis has invited all dioceses around the world to designate Holy Doors at their cathedrals and shrines. The faithful are still invited to journey to Rome and enter through the Holy Doors of St. Peter's Basilica. If however the journey to Rome is not possible, the aspect of pilgrimage is still important to each of the faithful who can now make the journey to their diocesan Holy Doors of Mercy.

The main doors at Sacred Heart Cathedral have been designated and blessed as the Holy Doors of Mercy. This summer Holy Doors will also be designated and blessed at the Shrine of St. Therese in Wakaw and at St. Laurent Shrine.

WHAT IS AN INDULGENCE?

An indulgence is both a grace and an invitation to deeper conversion. Though given freely the intention of the person's heart seeking an indulgence is key.

The individual must come with a realization of this or his/her need for God's grace. Like a child coming to their parent needing forgiveness...knowing they will receive love, we as repentant sinners during this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy are invited by the Church to receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven (CCC 1471).



For more information:
www.padiocese.ca/jubilee_of_mercy

A CALL TO CONVERSION AND MISSION

Entering through the Holy Doors during this Jubilee Year is a simple, yet highly symbolic act. It is both an acknowledgement of one's need for conversion and an acceptance of one's mission to share the mercy that one has received. This Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy is not only for the faithful but for the world. All are to have an opportunity to experience God's mercy.

This is not mercy in the abstract. Pope Francis in the Bull of Indiction of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy stated, "Mercy is the very foundation of the Church's life." and "The Church's very credibility is seen in how she shows merciful and compassionate love" (10) We, the faithful are the Church; our mission is to be witnesses of God's mercy to the world.

From the Pope's homily given at the Basilica of St. Mary Major. "Let us open wide the doors of our heart to the joy of forgiveness, conscious that we have been given new confidence and hope and thus make our daily lives a humble instrument of God's love."

THE JUBILEE OF MERCY INDULGENCE

According to the September 1 letter from Archbishop Fisichella from the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization, there are two paths to receiving this indulgence:

- One: Make a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors.
- Enter through the Door with a true desire for conversion
 - Either 7 days prior or after the pilgrimage to the Holy Door
 - Celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - Attend a Celebration of the Eucharist
 - Pray for the Pope's intentions for the Church and the good of the world

Two: Perform one or more of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

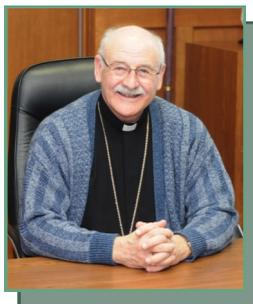
For those who are unable to travel to the Holy Doors in Rome or at their local Cathedral or Shrine are not excluded from God's mercy rather they have a special path through their sickness and suffering. In a letter written September 1, explaining the Jubilee Indulgence, the Pope explained,

For the sick it will be of great help to live their sickness and suffering as an experience of closeness to the Lord who in the mystery of his Passion, death and Resurrection indicates the royal road gives meaning to pain and loneliness. Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial, receiving communion or attending Holy Mass and community prayer, even through the various means of communication, will be for them the means of obtaining the Jubilee Indulgence.

ONE OF SEVEN SPECIAL HOLY DOOR THE ONLY ONE OUTSIDE OF EUROPE

Located in the heart of Quebec City, the Basilica-Cathedral Notre-Dame de Québec has one of seven Holy Doors, specifically designated by the Vatican as a Holy Door to be open during a Jubilee Year. On December 8, 2013, this door was designated a Holy Door as part of the 350th anniversary of Notre-Dame de Québec. Having a Holy Door in the Basilica-Cathedral is an exceptional privilege authorized by the Holy See to the first Catholic parish in North America, north of Mexico. This door is a symbol of communion with the universal Church. The faithful are invited to visit the Cathedral during this Extraordinary Jubilee Year and enter through its Holy Door.





At the beginning of this year of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we are reminded of the importance to reflect on our relationship with God, with our fellow people of this earth, and especially with those of our faith. The Canticle of Zachariah, which many Catholics pray regularly, expresses this eloquently. “He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.”

The Nativity we just celebrated shared the message that the Holy Child is joyful news for all nations: “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.” (Jn1:14) Christ’s coming revealed that the community of peoples and the love of the Trinity is for all of us.

When we recognize one another as brothers and sisters on the path of life, we realize that our journey is possible only when it is undertaken together. Once united with an attitude of mercy as exemplified by God, we are able to embrace our reality and move beyond it.

Mercy allows us to see the necessity of building bridges with each other as the Father has built with each of us. All journeys need a bridge, or many bridges, of one form or another so that we may continue our travels together regardless of terrain. However, first, we must transform the landscape and build the bridge. We must turn to the Lord for divine guidance, the doorway to this conversion. “I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.” (Jn14:6)

The Holy Doors of the Jubilee of Mercy express the significance of this conscious choice of Mercy, of accepting Christ’s invitation for us to cross over the threshold toward our Father and toward conversion. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel.” (Mk.1:14)

In the past, the Holy Doors were only in the city of Rome. Today, through the edict of Pope Francis for the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the double entrance doors of our Cathedral have become Holy Doors until the closing of the Jubilee of Mercy on November 20, 2016. Each Cathedral of the world has been offered this same privilege. Therefore, we can receive a Jubilee Plenary Indulgence locally by accepting the invitation to conversion by going through the designated and blessed doors at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Prince Albert.

As we were given the task of continuing Christ’s mission in the world through the Holy Spirit at baptism, many bridges, and much conversion will be needed from us on our journey. However, if we focus on Christ and his Good News, if we analyse more deeply and identify what areas of our life that need to be turned over to the Lord, then each time we move through the Holy Doors we will have the opportunity to receive a Jubilee Indulgence. This indulgence comes with the assurance of the forgiveness of our sins, with hope for tomorrow, and with Christ lighting the way on our new path.

This may seem like magic but it is not. Rather, it is an invitation to conversion that will not only affects us individually or those closest to us but more profoundly, it can affect and reach out to the entire world, bringing us all closer to each other and to the promised land we seek with everlasting life as brothers and sisters in Christ. Ultimately, it is an encounter with love in the form of Mercy, our Father.

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Holy Doors & Plenary Indulgences



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