

# 25 Days of Mercy



YEAR OF MERCY  
ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Pope Francis called for the Year of Mercy to begin December 8, 2015. There will be celebrations throughout the world as the Holy Doors are opened on this day. But this is to be an entire year where we are “called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Fathers’ action in our lives.” Use the 25 days to keep the Year of Mercy alive in your heart throughout the year. Each of the days (not all are Sundays) are followed by a reference (#) to a teaching on mercy found in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a scripture or liturgical year focus, and a suggested reflection or action.

<p><u>December 8</u> Opening of Holy Door <i>In the coming year, visit one of the Holy Doors to experience God who pardons, consoles and gives hope</i></p>	<p><u>December 25 – #1846</u> Christmas <i>Pray that you can see Jesus Christ as the face of the Father’s mercy.</i></p>	<p><u>January 1 - #2447</u> New Year’s Day <i>Make a resolution to memorize the Corporal/Spiritual Works of Mercy</i></p>	<p><u>January 22 - #2272</u> March for Life <i>Allow mercy to conquer the culture of death. Recommit to protect every human life.</i></p>	<p><u>February 10 - #1429</u> Ash Wednesday <i>Spend time in quiet prayer of Psalm 51 to begin Lent</i></p>
<p><u>February 21 - #211</u> Transfiguration <i>How are you being called to transformation in the light of the divine mercy of Jesus?</i></p>	<p><u>March 4-5 - #1847</u> 24 Hours for the Lord <i>Use this time of intense prayer to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.</i></p>	<p><u>March 20 - #1851</u> Palm Sunday <i>Pray the Stations of the Cross to walk with Jesus in the steps of mercy.</i></p>	<p><u>April 3 - #2616</u> Divine Mercy Sunday <i>Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet or Read from the Diary of St. Faustina.</i></p>	<p><u>April 24 - #1716</u> A New Commandment <i>Pope Francis says that forgiveness is the clearest expression of merciful love. Forgive someone today.</i></p>
<p><u>May 8 - #2635</u> Universal Prayer <i>Who are people in your life that could benefit from your prayer? Pray for them.</i></p>	<p><u>May 15 - #1513</u> Pentecost <i>The Gifts of the Spirit help us to live the challenging call to mercy. Pray for an outpouring of these gifts</i></p>	<p><u>June 3 - #2840</u> Sacred Heart of Jesus <i>Pray the prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. How does this prayer speak to your heart?</i></p>	<p><u>June 12 - #1456</u> Use today’s Responsorial Psalm (32) as a reflection for the mid-point of the Year of Mercy.</p>	<p><u>July 3 - #1864</u> The Christian Message <i>How would you explain the Christian message? Does your explanation include, mercy, pardon, hope and joy?</i></p>
<p><u>July 24 - #2298</u> The Lord’s Prayer <i>Reflect on the presence of mercy in the Lord’s Prayer.</i></p>	<p><u>August 7 - #2185</u> Keep Holy the Sabbath <i>Give Sunday to God and family that you may grow stronger and be more effective agents of mercy.</i></p>	<p><u>August 28 - #2246</u> Jesus as our Mediator <i>Today reflect on the words of St. Augustine: “It is easier for God to hold back anger than mercy.”</i></p>	<p><u>September 11 - #2298</u> Unity Walk <i>Identify one way that you can help bring about Jesus’ prayer that all may be one.</i></p>	<p><u>September 24 - #2677</u> Our Lady of Mercy <i>Pray the Rosary and think about Mary as our Mother of Mercy.</i></p>
<p><u>October 4 - #1608</u> The Miracles of Jesus <i>Think of the miracles of Jesus. In each he instills hope. Make a list of all the ways God brings hope to your life.</i></p>	<p><u>October 16 - #1861</u> Justice and Mercy <i>These are two dimensions of love. Both require openness to God’s will. Pray for this spirit of openness.</i></p>	<p><u>November 1 - #1055</u> All Saints Day <i>Mercy is not only an action of God, but criteria for identifying the children of God. Have you answered this call to mercy? How?</i></p>	<p><u>November 6 - #1994</u> Resurrection of the Dead <i>The resurrection is a profound mystery. Do you understand God to be God of the living? Pray for all those who have died this year.</i></p>	<p><u>November 20 - #1458</u> Close the Year of Mercy <i>Thank God our King for this Year of Mercy and continue to “Be Merciful like the Father.”</i></p>