

THE JUBILEE OF MERCY INDULGENCE

What is a plenary indulgence?

A plenary indulgence is a complete release from the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven (as far as their guilt is concerned). “[T]he faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains the indulgence 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.” (CCC 1471). If one does not satisfy all of the conditions for gaining the indulgence, the indulgence becomes partial, removing only part of the temporal punishment due for sins already forgiven.

A plenary indulgence may be gained once daily for oneself or for a soul in purgatory.

Why an indulgence?

“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 temporal punishment. Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and other works of charity can take away or diminish this temporal punishment. Because of the fullness of redemption obtained by Christ, the Church attaches to certain prayers and actions as 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.” (*US Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pg. 244)

What is meant by the Church’s treasury of grace?

The Church possesses a treasury which contains the inestimable merits of Christ, Mary, the martyrs and saints, and holy souls still living. Among the communion of saints is an enduring link of charity manifesting an abundant exchange of goods. In this wonderful exchange, the holiness of one profits others, well beyond the harm that the sin of one could cause others. By attaching indulgences to certain acts, the Church makes available in a greater way the mercy of God.

While granting these indulgences through her treasury, Holy Mother Church does not want simply to come to the aid of her children, but to spur them to works of devotion, penance and charity. She calls all her children to deep conversion by detachment from sin and reception of Confession in order to be open to gain the indulgence.

The following conditions apply to all plenary indulgences, including the Jubilee of Mercy Indulgence.

What are the ordinary conditions for gaining a plenary indulgence?

1. One must be baptized and in the state of grace.
2. One must have the general intention of gaining the indulgence.
3. One must receive Holy Communion, properly on the day of the completion of the indulgenced act, however within 20 days of the indulgenced act suffices – either before or after (Holy Communion must be received once for every plenary indulgence).
4. One must worthily celebrate the Sacrament of Confession either in the days prior to performing the indulgenced act or immediately following it (within 20 days is allowed but preferably on or close to the indulgenced act). One may receive several plenary indulgences on the same Confession.
5. One must manifest his communion with the Church by praying for the intentions of the Pope. Praying an “Our Father” and a “Hail Mary” for his intentions suffices, but other suitable prayers could be substituted.
6. One must have an interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, mortal and venial.
7. One must perform the indulgenced work.

The Jubilee of Mercy Indulgence may be gained beginning December 8, 2015 through November 20, 2016.

How can one gain the special Jubilee of Mercy Indulgence?

Make a pious pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of designated churches or shrines in your area chosen by the local Bishop for the Holy Jubilee Year and/or going through one of the four papal basilicas in Rome.

In Rome

- A. Basilica of St. Peter in the Vatican
- B. Archbasilica of the Most Holy Saviour at the Lateran
- C. The Basilica of St. Mary Major
- D. The Basilica of St. Paul on the Ostian Way

In the Diocese of Lafayette

- A. The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Lafayette
- B. Monastery of Mary, Mother of Grace in Lafayette
- C. Our Lady of Mercy in Henderson
- D. Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in Leonville
- E. Our Lady of Mercy in Opelousas
- F. Sacred Heart Shrine in Duralde
- G. St. Joseph in Patterson
- H. St. Martin de Tours in St. Martinville
- I. Our Mother of Mercy in Church Point
- J. Our Lady of Mercy in Rayne

Action to be performed on the occasion of a pious pilgrimage to the “holy door”

1. Brief pilgrimage to holy door.
2. Enter shrine or church with a deep desire for true conversion.
3. Celebrate Sacrament of Confession and Holy Eucharist, preferably on day of visit, but within 20 days with some time spent reflecting on mercy.
4. Pray the Creed while visiting the shrine or church.
5. Pray for the Pope’s intentions.

For the elderly, confined, and sick

“For them 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 which gives meaning to pain and loneliness.” – *Pope Francis, Letter on Jubilee Indulgence*

They may gain the indulgence by:

- Living with faith and joyful hope this moment of trial
- Receiving Holy Communion or attending Mass and community prayer, even through various means of communication, i.e. TV, radio, internet, etc.

For those incarcerated

A visit to the prison chapel may gain them the Jubilee plenary indulgence. “May they all be touched in a tangible way by the mercy of the Father who wants to be close to those who have the greatest need of forgiveness.”

– *Pope Francis, Letter on Jubilee Indulgence*

The Holy Father is asking the Church to rediscover the richness of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Each time one of the faithful performs one or more of these works they may gain the indulgence.

Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.

“It is indeed my wish that the Jubilee be a living experience of the closeness of the Father, whose tenderness is almost tangible, so that the faith of every believer may be strengthened and thus testimony to it be ever more effective.” – *Pope Francis, Letter on Jubilee Indulgence*

Explanation of detachment from sin

Gaining a plenary indulgence requires a disposition of mind and heart which totally excludes all attachment to sin, both mortal and venial. This means that I am diligently trying to become aware of sin in my life and that there is no sin that I am aware of that I am not wholeheartedly trying to uproot in my life. When these conditions or dispositions are not adequately present the indulgence becomes partial.

A Devout Visit to the Mobile Confessional (Spiritual Care Unit)

Pope Francis, through his Grand Penitentiary, His Eminence Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, has granted the Jubilee Plenary Indulgence in the Diocese of Lafayette to the faithful who are truly repentant, compelled by charity, with hearts united to the spiritual ends of the Holy Year of Mercy, devoutly visit the mobile confessional (SCU) for confession and there pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. This is valid on any day during the entire Holy Year of Mercy and can be obtained for oneself or a soul in purgatory by way of suffrage. Locations during the year for the SCU are given at Fete-Dieu du Teche Facebook.

Note: Front cover quote taken from Pope Francis’s Letter on Jubilee Indulgence.

“Be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful.”

– *Luke 6:36*

Pope Francis’s theme for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy
December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016

Visit us at www.jesusrucified.net

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

– *Pope Francis*



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