



**JUBILEE OF MERCY**  
ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO  
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***Plenary Indulgence for the Observance of the Jubilee of Mercy Holy Year***  
**December 8, 2015 – November 20, 2016**

Pope Francis has granted special Indulgences to the faithful who observe and take part in the celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy. In this year, the Pope has noted, “we need constantly to contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace.” By participating in any of the various observances of this Year, and while fulfilling the usual conditions (see below), one may gain this special Indulgence.

**What must one do in order to receive the special Plenary Indulgence?**

In order to gain this special Indulgence, a Catholic is required first to make sacramental Confession, receive the Eucharist at Mass, make a profession of faith and offer prayers for the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.

In addition to and in conjunction with fulfilling these conditions, one may then take part in any of the following observances of the Jubilee of Mercy.

Make a pilgrimage to Holy Name Cathedral, or any one of the designated Jubilee Parishes, and there walk through the designated Holy Door, and make a brief visit. *Parishes designated in the Archdiocese of Chicago can be found on the Archdiocesan Jubilee of Mercy website ([www.jubileemercy.org](http://www.jubileemercy.org)) and on the website of the Office for Divine Worship ([www.odw.org](http://www.odw.org)).*

Those for whom, for various reasons, it will be impossible to enter the Holy Door, particularly the sick and people who are elderly and alone, e.g., confined to the home, the Holy Father noted, “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. 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.”

For those who are incarcerated, whose freedom is limited, the Jubilee Year has always constituted an opportunity for great amnesty. They may obtain the Indulgence in the chapels of the prisons. May the gesture of directing their thought and prayer to the Father each time they cross the threshold of their cell signify for them their passage through the Holy Door, because the mercy of God is able to transform hearts, and is also able to transform bars into an experience of freedom.

The Pope has asked the Church in this Jubilee Year to rediscover the richness encompassed by the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The experience of mercy, indeed, becomes visible in the witness of concrete signs as Jesus himself taught us. Each time that one of the faithful personally performs one or more of these actions, he or she shall surely obtain the Jubilee Indulgence.

Furthermore, the Jubilee Indulgence can also be obtained for the deceased. We are bound to them by the witness of faith and charity that they have left us. Thus, as we remember them in the Eucharistic celebration, thus we can, in the great mystery of the Communion of Saints, pray for them, that the merciful Face of the Father free them of every remnant of fault and strongly embrace them in the unending beatitude.