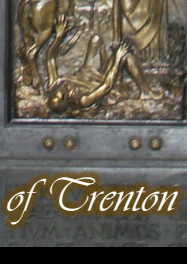


# of Mercy Door



of Trenton



## Prayer Before Crossing the Threshold of the Holy Door

V. Open the gates of righteousness;  
R. I will enter and thank the Lord.  
V. This is the Lord's own gate;  
R. Through it the righteous enter.  
(Psalm 118)

Lord God, You open the doors of Your Mercy to all who come to You. Look upon me, Your child, a sinner, and receive me into Your arms. As I enter into Your house, may You enter into my heart. Refresh me with the double grace of sorrow for my sins and the knowledge of Your loving mercy extended to all who call upon Your Name.

Let us go forth on the peace of Christ!  
Amen.

## Prayer After Crossing the Threshold of the Holy Door

V. How lovely your dwelling;  
R. O Lord of Hosts.  
V. Blessed are those  
who dwell in your house!  
R. They never cease to praise you.  
V. Better one day in your courts;  
R. Than a thousand elsewhere.  
(Psalm 84)

Lord God, I am filled with the knowledge of Your unending Mercy. As I have entered into Your house I ask You to enter into mine that You be near me each day. Fill me with Your grace that I may open my heart again and again to receive Your Mercy. Grant that I may be merciful like the Father throughout my life.

Let us go forth in the peace of Christ!  
Amen.

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Cover Picture: The Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Rome.

# Jubilee Year



The Diocese



## WHAT IS AN INDULGENCE?

An indulgence is a gift from the treasury of graces possessed by the Church. The Pope has extended to everyone who passes through a Holy Door, the opportunity to receive a the Jubilee Indulgence, a *plenary indulgence*.

A plenary indulgence is the complete remission of all temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven. In addition to prayerfully crossing through the Holy Door, the Pope has established five conditions to be met in order to receive this indulgence:

- 1) You must be in a state of grace.
- 2) You must go to Confession within about 20 days.
- 3) You must receive Holy Communion within about 20 days.
- 4) You must make a Profession of Faith and pray for the intentions of the Pope (typically one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and one Glory Be).
- 5) You must have “the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin”.

One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each indulgence.

## WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."*

(Luke 4:18-19)

The first Jubilee Year was proclaimed in 1300 by Pope Boniface VIII. The 'Jubilee Year' or 'Holy Year' is a special time of grace in the life of the Church. Since that first Jubilee, there have been only 29 others. Pope Francis has called for a **Jubilee of Mercy** to be held from **8 December 2015** until **20 November 2016** in order to draw the eyes of the Church and of the world, in a particularly focused way, to the splendor of the mercy of God.

As we celebrate this Jubilee Year of Mercy we are called by Pope Francis to greater conversion of heart, greater fidelity to the Sacrament of Confession, and greater efforts to be beacons of mercy in our world.

## WHAT IS A HOLY DOOR?

The Holy Door is an special part of the celebrations which take place during a Jubilee Year. The use of these doors dates back to at least 1475. The Holy Door is a unique door in each of the Major Papal Basilicas in Rome which is ordinarily sealed with brick, but which is opened for Jubilee Years when pilgrims cross through it as a symbolic gesture. The symbolism of these doors is thought to come from the ancient practice of offering 'sanctuary' in churches to those who had run afoul of the law. So too, today, the Church remains a home for sinners and invites us to cross the Threshold of the Holy Door and open our hearts to receive the mercy of Christ.

As not everyone can travel to Rome to cross the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, The Most Reverend David O'Connell, CM, Bishop of Trenton, has designated a door in our parish to serve as a local Holy Door during the Jubilee of Mercy. In this way, greater numbers of the faithful may receive the fruits of the Jubilee offered according to the wishes of the Holy Father, Pope Francis.

## HOW DO I OBTAIN THE JUBILEE INDULGENCE?

“I wish that the Jubilee Indulgence may reach each one as a genuine experience of God’s mercy, which comes to meet each person in the Face of the Father who welcomes and forgives, forgetting completely the sin committed. To experience and obtain the Indulgence, the faithful are called to make a brief pilgrimage to the Holy Door, open in every Cathedral or in the churches designated by the Diocesan Bishop [...] as a sign of the deep desire for true conversion. [...] **It is important that this moment be linked, first and foremost, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist with a reflection on mercy. It will be necessary to accompany these celebrations with the profession of faith and with prayer for me and for the intentions that I bear in my heart for the good of the Church and of the entire world.**”  
(Pope Francis, Letter, 1 Sep. 2015)

The Jubilee Indulgence can be gained only once a day and may be applied to yourself or to souls in Purgatory.

The prayers mentioned by Pope Francis can be found on the back of this pamphlet.