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## St. John Neumann Religious Education

# Family Faith Connection

January 8, 2016

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## Year of Mercy

### What is the Year of Mercy?

The Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is a remarkable occasion during which the entire Catholic Church, under the humble leadership of Pope Francis, opens wide the doors to the saving mercy of Christ. The Year of Mercy is celebrated **from December 8th, 2015**—the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of Vatican II— to the Solemnity of Christ the King on **November 20, 2016**.

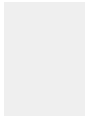
During this special period of time in the Church, Pope Francis calls all Catholics to be profound witnesses to mercy and to "find the joy rediscovering and rendering fruitful God's mercy, with which we are all called to give comfort to every man and every woman of our

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time." To learn more, [visit the Vatican's official Year of Mercy website](#), or [read a summary of the Papal Bull](#) in which the Holy Father announced the Extraordinary Jubilee Year.

### What is a Jubilee Year?

In the year 1300, Pope Boniface VIII called the very first Jubilee. Drawing from early Christian and Jewish traditions and understandings of Jubilee, the Jubilee was celebrated as a special time of joy and pardon. It is a year that emphasizes the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a sacrament vital for the forgiveness of sins. The special graces that we can receive this Jubilee are the same ones the faithful could receive over 700 years ago. [Read more about the history of a Holy Year.](#)

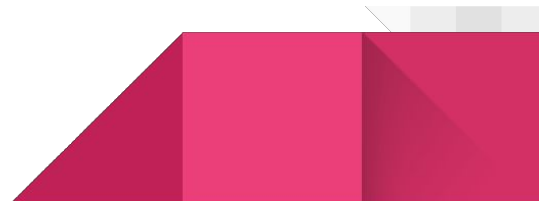


### ***What are the Corporal Works of mercy?***

Pope Francis has asked us to rediscover the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Throughout the Gospels Jesus admonishes us to follow his example, an example that sets down tangible ways we might better serve our brothers and sisters in need. As its name implies, the Corporal Works are directed toward serving the body: corpus, in Latin, means "body."

### **THERE ARE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY**

- **Feed the hungry**
- **Give drink to the thirsty**



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- Clothe the naked
  - Shelter the homeless
  - Visit the sick
  - Visit the imprisoned
  - Bury the dead

### ***What are the Spiritual Works of Mercy?***

While the Corporal Works of Mercy focus more on the needs of the body, the Spiritual Works focus on the needs of the soul. Just as we should help others with their physical needs, so too must we help them with their spiritual needs.

### **THERE ARE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY**

- Admonish the sinner
- Instruct the ignorant
- Counsel the doubtful
- Bear wrongs patiently
- Forgive offenses willingly
- Comfort the afflicted
- Pray for the living and the dead

#### **A Family Prayer Starter**

Give us new eyes, Lord, to see our lives in the light of your love.

Too often our fear, neediness, anger, or hurt fog our vision.

Help us to see your providence in the glory of trees, lakes, and cloudless skies.

Help us to see your generosity in the many gifts we enjoy each day.

Help us to see your wisdom in the rhythm of the days, the weeks, the seasons, and the years.

Help us to see your image in the faces of everyone we meet and to know your goodness in the joy and love we feel for one another.

We ask you this because we know you love us. Amen.

<http://www.holyyearofmercy.com/>