

HOW DOES THE HOLY DOOR WORK?

Just how do I do this Holy Door thing? This is a common question many pilgrims visiting St. Leo's Holy Doors for the Year of Mercy ask.

Literally, if it is during the week, call the parish office and you will be greeted by one of the staff. (See hours and more specific schedules below.) The middle front doors of church will be opened for you. Special pamphlets, flyers, and Pope Francis's prayer are some materials on hand for your own personal prayer and reflection.

Figuratively, enter simply. Enter with a heart wide open. The doors are a "gate" to a renewed heart, full of forgiveness, full of mercy, and full of grace. Walking through is a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold with faith and hope, from darkness to light, from old to new.

We look forward to sharing this opportunity and hope you will visit St. Leo during this special journey year.

- Stephanie Sepate



PRAYER OF POPE FRANCIS FOR THE JUBILEE

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman; "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, Of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with His anointing, So that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.