



MERCY MOMENTS

December 2016



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Advent Penance Services in the Schenectady Area: Dec. 12 @ 11 AM & 7 PM-St. Kateri Tekakwitha (Union St.) Dec. 13 @ 7 PM-St. Luke's and Immaculate Conception in Glenville Dec. 14 @ 7 PM-Our Lady of Grace in Ballston Lake Dec. 21 @ 7 PM-Corpus Christi in Round Lake				1 Honor the season of Advent-take time for daily reflection and prayer	2 The birth of Jesus is our ultimate Christmas gift. Don't let the commercialized experience bring stress to this joyous occasion.	3 Help with a holiday giving program in your parish or community
4 2nd Sunday of Advent-Visit usccb.org for daily advent activity & prayer suggestions	5 Be patient and forgiving	6 Perform a random act of kindness	7 Pearl Harbor Day-Remember today all those whose lives have been impacted by war. Pray for peace	8 The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9 "God's mercy toward us is linked to our mercy toward our neighbor" Pope Francis	10 Take a small gift and visit someone who is lonely or sick this holiday season
11 3rd Sunday of Advent	12 Be kind and generous	13 Perform a random act of kindness	14 Invite someone to join your upcoming Christmas festivities	15 Perform a random act of kindness	16 "If you want a heart full of love, be merciful" Pope Francis	17 Bake today and share some sweet treats with others
18 4th Sunday of Advent	19 Be thankful	20 Perform a random act of kindness	21 First Day of Winter Think of all those who will need help to stay warm and safe this winter. Research local shelters and find out how you can help.	22 Perform a random act of kindness	23 "It is not enough to experience God's mercy in one's life; whoever receives it must also become a sign & instrument for others" Pope Francis	24 Christmas Eve
25 Christmas 	26 Visit usccb.org for daily activity and prayer suggestions for the Christmas Season	27 Perform a random act of kindness	28 "Our prime purpose in life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them." Dalai Lama brainyquote.com	29 Pray for others every day	30 "We don't have to go far to come up with grand projects to be charitable. Often the people closest to us could use our help" Pope Francis (im.va)	31 New Year's Eve "Do not let the sun set on your anger" Eph 4:26 Have a new year filled with Peace, Hope & Love!

The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy has concluded. While the Jubilee of Mercy was a time for us to bring mercy to the forefront of our minds, to experience mercy and to be more merciful, the conclusion of the Jubilee Year does not mean the conclusion of mercy in our lives. The conclusion of the year is a good time to reflect on the meaning of the Jubilee Year and how we can keep it with us in our daily lives going forward.

In announcing the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis revealed that the motto of the Jubilee Year was “Merciful like the Father”. He went on to tell us that “In mercy, we find proof of how God loves us. He gives his entire self, always, freely, asking nothing in return. He comes to our aid whenever we call upon him... The assistance we ask for is already the first step of God’s mercy toward us. He comes to assist us in our weakness. And his help consists in helping us accept his presence and closeness to us. Day after day, touched by his compassion, we also can become compassionate towards others.”

The corporal and spiritual works of mercy give us a framework of all the ways we can show our compassion towards others. Pope Francis advised that the Jubilee Year, “...will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God’s mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples.”

(Misericordiae Vulus, iubilaeummisericordiae.va)

Going forward may we all be ever mindful of the mercy we are given so freely by our loving God and the opportunities we have in our daily lives to show mercy to our brothers and sisters.

CORPORAL
WORKS of
Mercy

Feed the hungry
Give drink to the thirsty
Clothe the naked
Shelter the homeless
Visit the sick
Visit the imprisoned
Bury the dead

SPIRITUAL
WORKS of
Mercy

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