



Introduction of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

Seeing a great need for healing and mercy throughout the world, Pope Francis has called this liturgical year a *Year of Mercy* for the Catholic Church. With this in mind, it is important for us to understand that in order to receive God's mercy, we must be able to show mercy to others.

The ***works of mercy*** are the charitable actions we do to support our neighbor with their spiritual and bodily needs. The **Corporal works of mercy** focus on *material* and *physical* needs, while the **Spiritual works of mercy** concentrate on their *spiritual* and *emotional* needs. When we bring these actions of true Christian love into the world, the more Christ is made present in a "***real***" way to others. We will be focusing on these works of mercy during this Lenten season and as disciples of Christ we are called to practice them daily through our actions and almsgiving.

There are 14 Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Prior to Mass during Lent, we will discuss a few of them each week so we can better understand them and find practical examples to help us apply them to our daily lives.

The 7 Corporal Works of Mercy:

- 1. Feed the Hungry.***
- 2. Give Drink to the Thirsty.***
- 3. Clothe the Naked.***
- 4. Visit the Imprisoned.***
- 5. Shelter the Homeless.***
- 6. Visit the Sick.***
- 7. To Bury the Dead.***

The 7 Spiritual Works of Mercy:

- 1. Admonish the Sinner.***
- 2. Instruct the Ignorant (Uninformed).***
- 3. Counsel the Doubtful.***
- 4. Comfort the Sorrowful.***
- 5. Bear Wrongs Patiently.***
- 6. Forgive All Injuries (Offenses).***
- 7. Pray for the Living and the Dead.***

During this Lenten season, let us ask God to open our hearts and our eyes to the needs of our neighbors, so that we may participate in and be recipients of His glorious mercy.

"Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

Luke 6:36