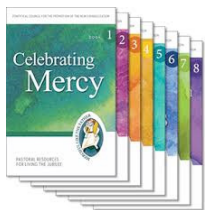


Celebrate a Year of Mercy

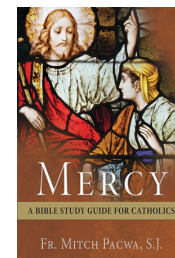
Pope Francis has called the special *Jubilee Year of Mercy* to begin Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. It will finish on Nov. 20, 2016, the day celebrated that year as the feast of Christ the King.



Year of Mercy Series (Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization) This series of 8 books, promulgated by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, are the official catechetical resources for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Pope Francis will be speaking on these themes in his weekly catechesis throughout the year. Titles include: Celebrating Mercy / The Parables of Mercy / Mercy in the Fathers of the Church / The Saints in Mercy / Mercy in the Teachings of the Popes / Corporal Spiritual Works / Confession: The Sacrament of Mercy / The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Experience of Mercy. Study guides for each book, available [here](#) to download.

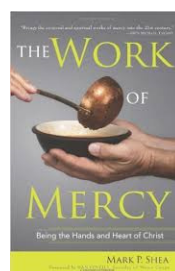


Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics (Fr. Mitch Pacwa) Our Sunday Visitor, 2015. Fr. Pacwa leads us to a deeper understanding of mercy through the study of Israel's long, slow struggle to experience mercy. By looking carefully at their experience of turning away and returning to God, we begin to understand that God's love, shown through His mercy, is more powerful than sin. Perfect for a parish small group study, or for personal reflection, each of the six sessions in Mercy: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics will help us rediscover the incredible history of God's mercy in our own lives, which in turn will lead us to an understanding of the importance of extending God's love and mercy to the world around us.

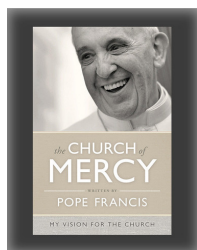


Divine Mercy (Stephen J. Binz) Twenty-Third Publications 2015. God's mercy, in both the Old and New Testaments, is the core of biblical revelation and the expression of God's own heart. God cares deeply about the plight of people and shows deep compassion in their suffering. Again and again, God demonstrates faithful love for the world and calls people to a joyful and abundant life. Our experience of divine mercy encourages and obliges us to become witnesses of mercy ourselves. If God treats us mercifully and forgives us, then we too must forgive and demonstrate works of mercy to one another.

A Home Full of Mercy: The Gospel of Luke in the Family: A Study Guide (Vincenzo Paglia) St. Pauls, 2015. The purpose of this book is to help you in the reading of the Gospel of Luke each day in your home as a family. Pope Francis has recommended that this Gospel - called by many the "Gospel of Mercy" accompanies us in a special way during the Jubilee of Mercy in 2016.



The Work of Mercy: Being the Hands and Heart of Christ (Mark Shea) Servant Books, 2011. This book tackles the works of mercy in a reverent way, with attention to the many puzzles and complications that arise for the faithful Catholic who tries to live out the works of mercy.



The Church of Mercy: A Vision For the Church (Pope Francis) Loyola Press, 2014. Pope Francis has captured the world's attention with his seemingly counterintuitive approach to leadership. In "The Church of Mercy," readers get a first-hand look at Pope Francis's vision of the good news of Christian hope and mercy. Designed for a broad readership, "The Church of Mercy" is a compilation of essays, speeches, and homilies by Pope Francis since his election on being a Church that exists among and for the people, solidarity with the poor, and the need to demolish the idols of power and money.

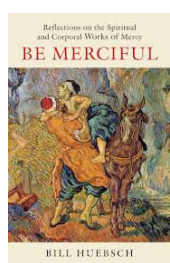
The Archdiocese of Seattle has devoted a [webpage](#) to the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Find formation resources, local events, parish resources and pilgrimage information. Check back frequently for updated content.

[Crossing the Threshold of Mercy: A Spiritual Guide for the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy](#) (Mark-David Janus) Paulist Press, 2015. Readers follow along the events of this important year, taking inspiration from prayers, words of Sacred Scripture, the thoughts of Pope Francis, and the words of those that inspire him. Beginning, with the Opening of the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis encourages us to reflect upon the central importance of mercy in the life and meaning of the Church today. Crossing the threshold means leaving behind doubt and fear and allowing God's love to embrace us. This pilgrimage is spiritual not geographic; it represents the journey of our lives, a journey through our self-understanding, a journey that leads us to a complete and final trust in the love God is for us.

[Faustina: Apostle of Divine Mercy](#) (Catherine Odell) Our Sunday Visitor, 1998. An ordinary Polish nun between the World Wars was granted extraordinary visions of God's mercy. At times ridiculed and even persecuted, Saint Faustina never wavered in her faith in that revelation. This biography is illustrated with contemporary photographs and includes a chapter of Saint Faustina's own words and prayers.

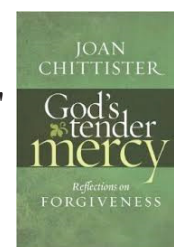


[Be Merciful: Reflections on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy](#) (Bill Huebsch) Twenty-Third Publications, 2015. In calling us to reflect on the traditional works of mercy, Pope Francis stands in the very center of the Christian message. He has asked the whole Church to reflect on the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy as a way of making mercy real in our everyday lives. Huebsch offers six complete sessions on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy for individual and small group use. Ideal for Youth Ministry, RCIA, Small Christian Communities, Families, and Individuals who want to grow in living with mercy.



[Mercy's Gaze: 100 Readings from Scripture and the Diary of Faustina](#) (Vinny Flynn) Marian Press, 2013. Compiled by best-selling author Vinny Flynn, Mercy's Gaze breaks new ground as a first-ever themed collection of both Diary passages and Scripture verses intended to inspire prayerful reflection. Vinny has selected parallel passages from Scripture and the Diary of Saint Faustina that develop key mercy themes and encourage you to gaze on Jesus. This is rich spiritual fare for 100 days of prayer and reflection, with the Diary revealed as a Gospel of Mercy.

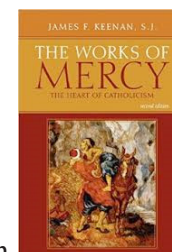
[God's Tender Mercy: Reflections on Forgiveness](#) (Joan Chittister) Twenty-Third Publications, 2010. Sister Joan Chittister takes difficult and even mysterious concepts and "breaks them open" for us. Here she tackles the virtue of mercy and its connection to forgiveness. She challenges us to stop judging, accusing, and criticizing those we label "sinners" and to see ourselves in their number. She invites us to be realistic about our own actions before we "throw that first stone" at another. This is spiritual reading at its very best.



[Freedom and Forgiveness: A Fresh Look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation](#) (Paul Farren) Paraclete Press, 2014. This book explores the sacrament focusing on the two people who confess – God and the penitent. God is the primary confessor when he confesses his forgiveness for and trust in the one who is celebrating the sacrament. The gift of freedom, the existence of hell, and the role of conscience are discussed at length.

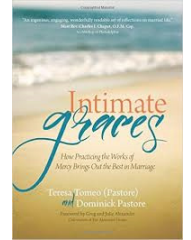


[The Works of Mercy: The Heart of Catholicism](#) (James F. Keenan) Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008. Being a Catholic means being merciful, the willingness to enter into the chaos of another. This book explores the seven corporal and seven spiritual works of mercy and considers how we invoke mercy both in the church in the Eucharistic liturgy and in our homes, with family and friends.



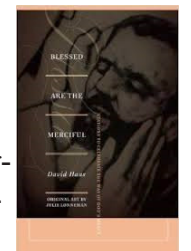
[Mercy: The Essence of the Gospel and the Key to Christian Life](#) (Walter Kasper) Paulist Press, 2013. From one of the leading intellects in the Church today, one whom Pope Francis has described as a "superb theologian", comes perhaps his most important book yet. Available for the first time in English, Cardinal Kasper looks to capture the essence of the Gospel message. Compassionate, bold, and brilliant, Cardinal Kasper has written a book which will be studied for generations.

[Intimate Graces: How Practicing the Works of Mercy Brings Out the Best In Marriage](#) (Teresa Tomeo) Tomeo and her husband demonstrate how applying the fourteen traditional virtues of Catholic spirituality can foster deeper intimacy in any marriage. The couple uses personal stories and reflections, as well as the experiences of other Catholic couples, to show how a husband and wife can become, in a real way, a haven of compassion and virtue for each other. Tomeo and Pastore each write in their own voice and include reflection questions, practical suggestions, and a prayer at the end of each chapter.



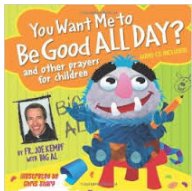
[Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul](#) (St. Maria Faustina Kowalska) Marian Press, 2011. The Diary is a dramatic telling of Faustina's amazing encounter with The Divine Mercy our Lord Jesus Christ. The Diary chronicles God's invitation to turn to His mercy as a source of hope for the world. In it, we are reminded to trust in the Divine Mercy of Jesus and seek His forgiveness. And as Christ is merciful, so, too, are we instructed to be merciful to others. The message of Divine Mercy has become an integral part of Catholic faith, including the celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter as Jesus had requested of St. Faustina. The Diary is truly a book that inspires people to turn with trust to Jesus and guides the reader through an intimate journey of prayer and devotion that ultimately leads to God's mercy.

[Blessed Are the Merciful: Stations to Celebrate the Way of God's Mercy](#) (David Haas) Clear Faith Publishing, 2015. Pause during this Jubilee Year of Mercy and make a spiritual pilgrimage of prayer and reflection to contemplate the mystery of God's healing mercy in these new Stations of the Cross. Over and over we encounter in these Stations of Mercy a gracious God whose presence is more powerful than our weakness. The theme of God's mercy weaves through our faith tradition. God never tires of drawing us into this gift of mercy spilled out and overflowing. Blessed Are the Merciful adeptly and creatively gathers a collection of songs, scriptural passages, psalms and meditation which celebrate and remind us that we are steeped over and over again in God's extravagant and tender mercy which is freely offered, freely given.



[The Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids](#) (DVD) EWTN Catholic Network, 2009. St. Faustina teaches her young friends Kristin, Enrique and others about the Divine Mercy Devotion and how to pray the Chaplet. Covering such topics as the origins of the Divine Mercy image, the importance of the Sacrament of Confession, and much more.

[Faustina](#) (DVD) Polart Distribution, 2003. In 2000, Sister Faustina was canonized as the first saint of the new millennium. This stirring and evocative film depicts her life, from her girlhood through miraculous healings and her evolution within the Catholic Church. Based on Faustina's spiritual diary.



[You Want Me to Be Good All Day? And Other Prayers for Children](#) (Fr. Joe Kempf) Liguori, 2009. A collection of rhyming prayers, with illustrations, in which a monster named Big Al is faced with some of the challenges of growing up while learning about compassion, responsibility, and individuality, with an audio CD of prayers.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has a Jubilee Year of Mercy [webpage](#) where Vatican resources, prayers and meditations, latest news and more can be found.

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