



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 (21C)

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Q: What is a good definition of mercy?

A: To best understand what mercy is, in the Christian sense of the word, it may be more helpful to begin by ruling out what mercy is not. According to theologian Fr. John Colbett, O.P., mercy is not simply the strong granting favor to the weak. Such a way of thinking is often used to mask or rationalize pride since the dispenser of mercy is essentially caught thinking of themselves as superior to the one they are helping. Neither is mercy a matter of granting something to a person who is undeserving of it. This kind of thinking is actually quite judgmental and maybe even spiteful since it leads one to see the receiver of mercy as having no dignity or worth. Colbett says the best way to think of Christian mercy is to see it as restoring the dignity of another or lifting them back up to their rightful place as a precious child of God. So the Year of Mercy is intended to be a year of “restoration” for those whom life has beaten down.

Q: Can you please explain again the significance of a Jubilee Year? What about Jubilee doors?

A: The Jubilee Year is actually a custom that Christians retained from their Jewish roots. In Leviticus 25-27 and Numbers 36, we can read about the Jewish concept of Jubilee under the law which was meant to reflect a spirit of joy and mercy even in the beginning. The Jubilee custom was also closely linked with the Sabbath. You may recall in Genesis that at God’s request the 7th Day or Sabbath Day was set aside for rest and renewal of the people’s covenant with God. This idea also extended to the assignment of years. Every 7th Year was referred to as a Sabbatical Year where the people were asked to refrain from work. For instance, farmers were not permitted to plant crops on the 7th Year (because even creation was granted this rest) and, instead, they were expected to grow more than needed and store up supplies in silos for that 7th Year. After a 7 of 7s of years (7 x 7 or 49 years), the 50th year was known as the Jubilee Year. This year was extra special as all slaves were to be

freed, crimes and debts were pardoned, prisoners were set free, etc. This ordinary Jubilee was kept every 50 years and Christians continued it. Our last ordinary Jubilee was in 2000 and our next will not be until 2050 but Pope Francis, in exercising his papal authority surprised everyone by declaring 2015-2016 as an Extraordinary Jubilee with this focus on mercy.

Then what about Jubilee Doors? How do they fit in and what are they meant to signify? How are they used? How long does the distinction of Jubilee Doors apply? Well, as an officially designated pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year, our parish church is one of those select buildings with Jubilee Doors. Ours were blessed on Sunday, December 13th at the Pope’s request and they are marked by a yellow and white banner (papal/Vatican colors). It is through these doors that each pilgrim is to pass in order to successfully mark the completion of their pilgrimage. That action along with the practice of: 1) receiving communion, 2) making confession, 3) praying for the intentions of the Pope, and 4) striving to have perfect contrition for your sins (i.e. sorrow for your sins because you love God and not because you fear punishment) are the basic requirements for receiving a plenary or partial indulgence, which is a pardoning/healing from the temporal punishment due to sin. In short, these indulgences are among the most powerful blessings/graces of mercy that the Church can bestow. You are all encouraged to pass through those Jubilee Doors as often as you are able over the course of this Year of Mercy and truly experience God’s blessing. If you are unable to participate in confession or communion at this time due to personal circumstances, do what parts you can. God’s mercy is for you too and for anyone who seeks conversion and contrition for their sins. Have a blessed Year of Mercy!

Note: All questions come from parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish or St. Joseph Mission and they are presented to you anonymously. I hope this is a useful learning opportunity for all and if you have questions of your own that need answered please let me know in person or email them to hearttoheart.ks@gmail.com

UN-DECORATORS NEEDED!

With the baptism of Jesus the Christmas season comes to an end and the decorations must be taken down and packed away. This year that will take place on Monday, January 11th from 9:30 -11:00.

Questions? Call BJ Buxton @541.772.8292



UPCOMING PILGRIMAGE

Make a pilgrimage during this year of Divine Mercy. Father Ken will lead Sacred Heart on a pilgrimage to Poland, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Italy.

Dates: September 16 to October 2, 2016.

We will visit the convent of Sister Faustina, who received the image of Jesus and the message of His Divine Mercy to share with the world, and we will enter the Holy Doors of St Peter's in Rome in this Jubilee year (plus many other wonderful places).

Please come to an informational meeting on Saturday, January 16th at 4:30PM in the parish hall. For information and registration forms, please contact Beckie at 541-601-4457 or bkantor@hotmail.com or Lillian at 541-779-2134.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary invites ordinary Catholics, in good standing with the Church, who want to get closer to God, regardless of age, sex, race, color, or place of national origin, to join us. Legion members meet on Wednesdays, for about 1 1/2 hours, beginning with a Rosary, and a Spiritual reading from the Legion handbook. Members visit the sick or those confined in homes in pairs, bringing Communion and promoting the work of Christ. In November, we visited 536 people that could not come to Church. To join this ministry call the Parish Office. Don't worry about your lack of experience, talent, speaking ability, etc. It doesn't matter. What is needed is your desire to help.

THANK YOU CHURCH DECORATORS!

The weeks leading up to Christmas are so busy and yet more than 20 wonderful people found time to help decorate our church. What a gift, not only to our parishioners but to all those who are visiting. May you be richly blessed for your selfless giving. With much appreciation, BJ Buxton

"RESTING IN THE ARMS O MERCY"

A Traditional Retreat for Women

January 15 - January 17, 2016 at St. Rita Retreat Center

Come away for a weekend of peaceful contemplation focused on the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Mass, Eucharistic adoration, the Liturgy of the Hours and opportunities to celebrate Reconciliation amidst generous periods of quiet will be included. We will be blessed by the ministry of Fr. Jim Clifford, OSA, of Providence Hospital, Fr. Justus Alaeto, Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart, & Fr. Stephen Fister, Director Emeritus of the retreat center.

The retreat begins with dinner at 5:00 pm on Friday and will end on Sunday by noon. The recommended donation is \$115 and includes 5 meals and two nights accommodations. To facilitate a quiet, peaceful environment, registration will be limited, so we encourage you to sign-up soon. E-mail Jeanne Ellen at weavingthesacred@aol.com or call 541-855-1333 to register. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you with all the details.

7:00 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

- M. Jan. 11: +Dante Lenardon
- T. Jan. 12: +David Smith
- W. Jan. 13: Bob & Carol Moyer
- Th. Jan. 14: Chris Presley
- F. Jan. 15: Elssy Kinyon

8:30 a.m. DAILY MASS INTENTIONS

- M. Jan. 11: Ed Baich
- T. Jan. 12: Altar Society
- W. Jan. 13: +Josefina SN Mitchell
- Th. Jan. 14: +Joanna & +William Van Smoorenburg
- F. Jan. 15: +Bob Kelly
- Sat. Jan. 16: +Shirley Williams

PLEASE PRAY for the sick of our parish especially:

Teri Gieg, Reese Baker, Diane Williams, Gladys Schibusch, Bill Reifers, Grace Hill, Lucy Caro, Frances Maltoni, Mary Harbaugh, Louise Sutch, Judith Rosario, Peg Morgan, Joyce Farrell, Joanne Hafner, Evelyn Bockast, Jonathan Cotta, Patty Wittenbock, Bill Schueller, Cynthia Sugiura, Ramona Rosales, Trudy Omann, Kathy Steiner, Frank Perez, John Kuchler, George Halvorsen, Justin Berlandi, Marie Casilio, Vicki & Lorraine Harris, Shizuka McCue, Sgt. Joseph Lowery, Eileen Van Dyck, Beverly & Dick Handley, Don & Jean Palese, Millie Zarosinski and Colleen Cantwell. **Please pray for the deceased of our parish especially:** +Paula George, +Sue Caswell, +Shelly Dee, +Paul Dellapenta, and +Lucille Tingbert.



SACRED HEART YOUTH MINISTRY

Contact Whitney Compton, Youth Minister: wcompton@archdpx.org
Please e-mail Whitney for her **NEW PHONE NUMBER**

CONFIRMATION CLASS! This Wednesday January 13 we continue with Lesson 13. Bring your books and please arrive between 5:45 and 5:55. Doors close and class starts at 6:00pm! Susan Erno will lead the Core Team and we will have class even though I am away.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT: This retreat is mandatory and scheduled for January 30-31st 2016 at Mountain Lakes Bible Camp in Klamath Falls. Check in Saturday Morning, January 30, between 6:30 and 7:00am. We have secured a bus but the bus will not accommodate everyone so we will also have chaperones to drive! **MORE INFORMATION WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR TEEN ON JANUARY 20th after Confirmation Class AND January 24th after youth group!!!**

NUN RUN: Applications for the NUN RUN are now available in the parish office during office hours. A NUN RUN is a discernment trip for women who have an interest in the religious or those who may want to explore the option of religious life! We will head to the San Francisco Bay area to visit convents (cloistered nuns, bi-lingual religious communities, active communities, etc) Missionaries of Charity, Carmelites, Poor Clares to name a few! We will pray with them, ask questions, share meals and/or join in their activities.

YOUTH GROUP:

EDGE and LIFE NIGHT – January 10, 2016
XLT

ADOPT A CONFIRMANDI IS BACK!

Commit to personal prayer for a Confirmation youth throughout the year as the student prepares for Confirmation. To adopt a Confirmandi and pray for that teen throughout the year please contact Whitney Compton at wcompton@archdpx.org with a simple message that says; "I'd like to Adopt a Confirmandi!"

XLT ADORATION: TONIGHT ... ADORATION! for the whole vicariate, Sunday, January 10 at Shepherd of the Valley Catholic Church in Central Point from 7:00p-8:30p. Edge, Life Teen, and Young Adults are welcome to join us for Adoration. Following Adoration there will be a social from 8:30p-9:30p. Parents are responsible for transportation or knowledge of transportation for their teens and are strongly encouraged to stay and enjoy adoration with their teen (especially those in EDGE). There will be a sign in/out form at event for older teens that may drive themselves with the permission of their parents. Don't Miss Out On This Awesome Opportunity!

YOUNG ADULTS AGE 18-35: To receive our e-mail please contact Whitney at wcompton@archdpx.org.

MEDIA KIOSK FEATURE OF THE WEEK **Changed Forever: The Sacrament of Baptism**

Father Mike Schmitz is one of the leading speakers to young people in the Church today. In this presentation, he explains how Christians truly become sons and daughters of God the Father for all eternity through the sacrament of Baptism.

Following the presentation, Lighthouse Catholic Youth has provided a bonus segment from Father Mike that explains the topics of "Infant Baptism" and "No Salvation Outside the Church".

Cost: Books \$4 CDs \$3 Booklets \$2 Pamphlets 50c
Place payment in slot on lower right side of the kiosk

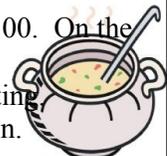
SACRED HEART BOY SCOUT TROOP 1 **CHILI COOK-OFF**

Come to a fun-filled scout event that puts cooking skills and competition between 3 Troops to the ultimate test. This friendly competition will take place at St. Mary's High School, 816 Black Oak Drive, this Monday, January 11th at 6:30PM. For \$5.00 dollars you get to choose 8 of the chili's; then after that \$1.50 for each additional 3. Please come out to support the Boy Scouts of America. For additional information call Dylan Moncus at 661-916-0273.

ALTAR SOCIETY NEWS

First meeting of the year is Monday, January 11, with Rosary at 10:30 and meeting at 11:00. *On the*
Agenda: Easter Monday Luncheon; Plant Sale, and "Game Day".

Lunch featuring a favorite soup. Bring a salad or dessert and your own place settings.
Come and join us; share your thoughts and wishes for a more active organization.



A STUDY OF CATHOLICISM
with Father Ken Sampson

Going deep - our Catholic faith



Wednesdays -- 12:30-1:30 or 6:00-7:00PM
in the Parish Hall Drop ins welcome!
Come join in - ever learning ever young!



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC SCHOOL NEWS

Celebrating 150 years of excellence... with heart

AUCTION NEWS

Our 20th Annual School Auction will be a ROARING TWENTIES THEME and is sure to be a ton of fun! The event at the Inn At The Commons on Saturday, March 5th. If you are a carpet cleaner, medical provider, hair dresser, tree trimmer, we would love you to consider a gift certificate donation. We are also looking for tickets to professional sports teams, vacation homes/ time share units, a beach house, a house in Sunriver/Bend area, anything we can package to help drive the biggest fundraising event for our school. Contact LeeAnn Loftin, SHCS Events Coordinator, for more information or if you can help! [541-772-4105 ext. 119](tel:541-772-4105).

Did You Know?

We love to hear from alumni, both recent and not-so-recent! If you'd be willing to participate in an interview project for our middle schoolers, or have a memory of the school or a teacher you'd like to share, please contact Jackie Ardrey at jackieardrey@gmail.com.

Thinking about Catholic school for your Children?

Please let us show you what's special about Sacred Heart School. We'd be happy to give you a tour and connect you with current parents to answer questions. Please contact the school at [541-772-4105](tel:541-772-4105) for a tour. Financial support is available.

Prayer Request

Please keep our students who are making their First Reconciliation this month in your prayers. It is an exciting time as we celebrate Reconciliation and prepare for First Holy Communion in May.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Today, the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, is a good day to recall and renew our baptismal vows, and to celebrate the wonderful gift God has given us. Today offers us an opportunity to explore the Sacrament of Baptism with worshipers of all ages. Maybe you could try some of the following ideas with your children.....

Invite your child's godparents to drop in and share a meal together or just spend time as the family of God. Moms, Dads and children can recall and celebrate their baptisms by coming forward, dipping their fingers into the baptismal font, and saying silently, "I belong to God," "I am baptized," "I am a beloved child of God," or some similar phrase.

Bring out the baptismal gowns if you have saved them.

Reminisce about each child's baptismal day, which is his or her rebirth in Christ.

Challenge children to do as Martin Luther did - when they wash their face each morning, say "I am God's loved child."

Costumes....If you borrowed one of the costumes for the Children's Christmas Eve Mass please return it to me at Religious Ed classes or to the front desk at the Parish Office. There is a big demand for these costumes at every Nativity Mass so please help me to recycle these for use in 2016!! Thank you

Religious Education Classes are open to any child from Preschool through 5th grade every Sunday at 9:50am until 11:15am at Sacred Heart School.

For information or questions contact Mary Stallard [541-779-4661](tel:541-779-4661) ext: 107

OFFERTORY DONATIONS

	Period through	
	12/27/2015.....	12/28/2014
Offertory Received to date	466,112.37	461,910.45
Amount Budgeted	465,000.10	471,749.99
Over (Under) Budget	1,112.27	(9,839.54)

Thank you for your generous support of the parish. Thank you to the parishioners using online giving. Our online giving program works great if you are out of town. Please see <https://sacredheartmedford.weshareonline.org> if you are interested in using the program.

Thank you Advertiser of the Week
Hearthstone Nursing & Rehabilitation
*Please thank our Advertisers
with your patronage.*

UPCOMING BREAKFASTS

- Jan. 10: Spanish Breakfast in the Hall**
- Jan. 17: Knights of Columbus Breakfast**
- Jan. 24: Coffee and Donuts**



Meeting God Where We Are

From the Spirituality Committee

As we continue on our journey in this Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, we look this month at two organizations that exemplify the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. Many of our fellow parishioners are involved in the work of these two organizations, but many more workers are needed. Perhaps you could consider joining one or both of these groups this year.

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The Legion of Mary

The Extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy began December 8, 2015 and runs through November 20, 2016. One of the corporal works of mercy is to visit the sick, and this is the work of the Legion of Mary.

Legion of Mary members bring Jesus' presence weekly to those in homebound residences, assisted living homes, foster homes, and nursing/rehabilitation centers who cannot come to Church for Mass. We also visit patients at our two local hospitals for Communion or prayers. We encourage the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation for these patients, and our members report back to the parish office to request a priest when an individual wishes to go to confession or be anointed.

The Parish Legion group is an extension of the pastor, to be at his disposal to do spiritual work. It is an honor and privilege to be in this kind of ministry because we are evangelizing to our Catholic community in what we do. Giving Communion to the homebound is a very personal, spiritual experience. The people you visit look forward to seeing you every week, and it is a very positive, personal experience.

The parish territory is divided as follows: North and South Medford, Jacksonville, South and Central Medford, Phoenix, and Talent. We average 498 visits a month with 15 active members.

If you are interested in helping to bring Jesus' presence into the community, we meet every Wednesday from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the Parish Hall. After our meeting, we proceed to go visit the homebound. You give at least 3 to 4 hours of your time once a week. If this is your calling, please call the Parish Office.

Jane Horton

The 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**

Thoughts on Corporal Works of Mercy associated with St. Vincent's service to the Poor and Needy

As part of St. Vincent de Paul, we have opportunities to grow in our faith through the application of Corporal Acts of Mercy as we serve the poor and needy in our community. The exercising of two of those Acts, **Feeding the Hungry** and **Clothing the Naked** readily present themselves while serving at St. Vincent's. Blessed Mother Theresa can guide us toward the growth in faith associated with applying these Acts of Mercy by focusing on her statement "love the poor, as Jesus's presence is disguised in them". In addition, we at St. Vincent's have the opportunity to be disciples of Christ and work toward seeing Christ in the eyes of those we serve.

We and many other volunteers are presented the opportunity to directly **Feed the Hungry** many times a day through our Lunch and Pantry programs. These cold and wet days of Winter present us with families and individuals that are hungry and in need of good nourishment. Often when asked, "When was the last time you had food?", these poor and needy individuals will often answer, "It has been more than a day since my last food." Recently, St. Vincent's encountered a mother who was living in a leaky mobile home with her family and could not provide for the food needed for them. Fortunately, St. Vincent's was able to provide her with the necessary food.

These cold and wet days of Winter also presented us with a recent opportunity to apply the **Clothe the Naked** Act of Mercy at St. Vincent's. During the Winter months we open our warm and dry dining room early in the morning to allow homeless individuals to come and have hot coffee and any donated Danish we might have available. This past week, as a volunteer drove into our grounds, she found an individual standing under an awning with light weight clothing on and no shoes. She quickly let the person in our dining to warm up and saw to it he had something warm to drink. After she tended to that she went into our Urban Rest Stop and gathered up warmer heavier clothing including shoes and returned to him. When she returned, she found the individual weeping and commenting that did not know how he could continue with life. He thanked her for her kindness and seemed to decide he could go on.

In these experiences, we grow in our faith because, as we stated above, Jesus is with us when we do it. We are reminded of the value of Saint Faustina's prayer of Mercy, "Help me O Lord, that my eyes may be merciful, so that I may never suspect or judge from appearance, but look for what is beautiful in my neighbors' souls and come to their rescue."

Len and Mary Anne Hebert

The Spiritual Works of Mercy
Convert the sinner * Instruct the ignorant * Counsel the doubtful * Comfort the sorrowful
Bear wrongs patiently * Forgive injuries * Pray for the living and the dead