

Holy Door Links:

Pope Francis Opening the Holy Doors at St. Peter's Basilica:

Watch:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/12039994/Pope-Francis-opens-bronze-doors-at-St-Peters-Basilica-in-Vatican-City.html>

Listen:

http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/12/08/pope_francis_opens_holy_door_at_st_peters_basilica/1192816

History of the Holy Doors:

<http://catholicstraightanswers.com/what-is-the-significance-of-the-holy-door/>

Who can I bless with kindness today?



St. Mary Immaculate Religious Education

December 8, 2015 — November 20, 2016

Year of Mercy



Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy

What are the Holy Doors?

Since the year 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII declared the First Holy Year, the Catholic Church has regularly celebrated “Holy Years”. A major aspect of the Holy Year has been to make a Pilgrimage to Rome to make reparations for sin and to renew the conversion of one’s life. A symbolic act performed by each Pilgrim has been to pass through the Holy Door.

Christ identifies himself as “the door” and makes it clear to us that no one can come to the Father except through Him. Therefore to pass through the doors from the outside of St. Peter’s into the basilica symbolizes the passing from this world into the presence of God.

In opening the door, the Holy Father has traditionally struck the door three times with a silver hammer. The three strikes have symbolic meaning:

1—Moses striking the rock so that water would come forth.

2—God striking the earth to free St. Paul and Silas from prison.

3—As our Lord hung upon the cross, the soldier struck His most Sacred Heart and out flowed blood and water.

In every instance the striking symbolizes the release of graces flowing abundantly to the faithful.

Moreover, when the doors are open, the “obstacles” of passage to our Lord are removed.

May this key remind me to keep the door of my heart open to sharing the love and mercy of God with others.



Return this tag with your name written on the front and your acts of mercy written on the back.

Explanation and Challenge

Today at class, we officially opened our own Holy Doors to represent our recognition of the Year of Mercy here at Religious Education.

We gathered each grade level in the vestibule of the school to explain what our Holy Doors are and what they represent. During our time together we prayed that we all would be open vessels to receive God’s bountiful mercy AND that we become conduits of that mercy for others.

We challenged each of our students to open the doors to their own hearts so that they may be more kind and compassionate to others—to mirror God’s mercy to others, just as Jesus mirrors God’s mercy to us.

Each student was given a Key (taped on the opposite page). We ask that this key be kept in a prominent spot to act as a reminder of our challenge for this Year of Mercy. With the new year just beginning, help your family make resolutions to live out this Year of Mercy sharing God’s mercy with others.

As you adapt these new habits—take the tag that is attached to the center page and tell us what you are doing. Write your name on one side, and on the other, tell us what merciful habits you have woven into your routine. Return the tag to the RE office and we will hang it on our Tree of Mercy. Watch our tree grow as our acts of mercy increase.