

# Making Our Pilgrimage to the Holy Doors



## Travel Tips:

- ✓ Check the Mass times at the church you are planning on visiting. Make sure you'll get there at a time when you can tour the church. Here are the sites:
  - [Baltimore Basilica, Baltimore](#)
  - [Cathedral of Mary Our Queen, Baltimore](#)
  - [Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City](#)
  - [Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg](#)
  - [St. Ignatius, Hickory](#)
  - [St. John the Evangelist, Frederick](#)
  - [St. Mary's, Annapolis](#)
  - [Sts. Peter and Paul, Cumberland](#)
- ✓ **Download and print off your [Archdiocesan Holy Doors Passport](#)** before leaving. Get it signed and dated when you are there!
- ✓ Read the [brief history and fun facts](#) about the church on your way.

## Visiting a Church

Whenever we enter a Catholic Church, we first look for the **tabernacle**. This contains the Blessed Sacrament, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. The hosts in the tabernacle were consecrated at a prior Mass. The tabernacle is usually behind the **altar**. If there is a red candle burning near it, called the **sanctuary lamp**, it signifies that the Blessed Sacrament is inside the tabernacle. Once we see the tabernacle, we turn towards it and **genuflect**. A genuflection is when we bend our knee in reverence, making an act of faith that we are in the presence of our King.

When we visit a church outside of Mass, this is a great opportunity to make a visit with Jesus. Take a few minutes to say hi, talk to Him, and ask Him to come in to your heart spiritually. This type of prayer is called a **spiritual communion**.

## The Holy Doors

*Can I walk through them?* Yes! That's what you came to do! Walking through the holy doors has great significance. It reminds us that in John 10:9 Jesus says He is the door, and we must enter through Him to be saved. When we walk through the holy doors we are symbolizing that we are walking away from sin (choosing to separate ourselves from God) and we are walking into the presence of God, embraced by His merciful love. Plus, during this Jubilee Year there are special graces given for it – see next page!

*“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him.” –Revelation 3:20*

**Other questions?** Interested in more information on [the significance of the Holy Door](#)? What's [the best thing I can do](#) during the Year of Mercy? Find more info at [archbalt.org](#)



# YEAR of MERCY

*No one is excluded from God's mercy. – Pope Francis*

# The Graces of the Jubilee Year



## Holy Door Pilgrims: Get ready for an outpouring!

Pope Francis reminds us that Jubilee years bring with them special graces. “In this Jubilee Year, let us allow God to surprise us. He never tires of casting open the doors of his heart and of repeating that he loves us and wants to share his love with us.” ([MV 25](#)) A particular grace that is available during this Jubilee of Mercy is an indulgence.

## Indulgences: A Marred Name

*These still exists?! Shouldn't we get rid of them?!* Let's not confuse abuses with actuality. During the Middle Ages, there were leaders in the Church who abused their power and lied to many saying that they could buy indulgences from them, and these indulgences would help or guarantee a place in heaven for themselves or a loved one. Like most effective lies, there were granules of truth interlaced.

## Indulgences: The Real Deal

The Church, receiving her authority from God Himself, is a vehicle through which God has chosen to dispense His grace. Indulgences are one of many ways by which we can receive grace. The grace of an indulgence takes away some (partial indulgence) or all (plenary indulgence) of the temporal punishment of sin. In other words, sins damage our soul, and before a soul can enter the full glory of heaven these consequences of sin must be repaired. The reparation can take place on earth or in Purgatory. An indulgence expedites the reparation.

\*Check out the [Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1471](#) for more.

## Indulgences: How-To

In addition to the prayer or action (in this case passing through a Holy Door), there are conditions that must also be met for the indulgence to be gained. These are:

- Be in the [state of grace](#);
- Have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin, even venial sin;
- Sacramental confession of sins within several days of the indulgenced act;
- Receive the Holy Eucharist within several days of the indulgenced act;
- Pray for the intentions of the Pope.

Indulgences can be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased; choose your intention and let God give the grace!

**One Total or One Each?** Great news – you can receive one plenary indulgence per day. So space out your visits and let the mercy flow!

**Looking for More?** Here's [everything you need to know about the Year of Mercy](#). You can start working through [these 56 suggestions](#) of how to fill your year with mercy. And consider one of these traditional prayers that plead for God's mercy:

[Novena to Our Lady Undoer of Knots](#)

[The Chaplet of Divine Mercy](#)

Find more info and resources at [archbalt.org](#)



JUBILEE OF MERCY  
MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

