



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
SAINT PETERSBURG
Courageously Living the Gospel

MERCY

FINDING HOPE THROUGH

MERCY



2025 Jubilee Year

1,000,000
Acts of Mercy
Challenge

INVITATION FROM BISHOP GREGORY L. PARKES



Finding Hope Through Mercy is an initiative of the Diocese of Saint Petersburg's 2025-2029 Pastoral Plan, "A Call to Conversion - Courageously Living the Gospel". For reference, in the Pastoral Plan, please see Goal 8, Call to Conversion 1, Putting it into Action 1 (on page 40).

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin this Jubilee Year of Hope, I write to you with deep joy and a heart filled with gratitude. The Holy Father calls us, in this special year, to renew our faith in the power of hope. In the papal proclamation of the Jubilee Year, *Spes Non Confundit*, (Hope Does Not Disappoint), Pope Francis reminds us that hope is not a mere wish, but a living force rooted in God's unshakable promises. It is through hope that we come to experience the fullness of His mercy.

Christian hope, as the Holy Father so beautifully articulates, is not something that fades in the face of trials, but rather it is the light that shines brightest in the darkest moments. Hope does not deceive, and it does not disappoint. When we place our hope in Christ, we find the strength to persevere, knowing that Christ walks with us through every difficulty and suffering. It is this hope that leads us to be merciful to others, as we are first recipients of the boundless mercy of God. Through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we put our hope into practice, offering tangible signs of God's love to the world in need. We are not simply performing acts of charity; we are participating in the hope that God has already given us. Each act is an expression of Christ's love, a beacon of His mercy, and a powerful reminder that we are called to be instruments of His love in the world.

We began this year with our new pastoral plan "A Call to Conversion: Courageously Living the Gospel." Our focus, our priorities for the next five years is to **place God first in all things, to love as God loves and serve as Christ serves, and to go and make disciples**. One of our first initiatives is a challenge! I challenge every one of us in the five counties that make up the Diocese of Saint Petersburg to together complete one million (1,000,000) Works of Mercy by Advent 2025. I am asking every parishioner, every parish, every school and every youth group to spend time throughout the year being merciful through the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. These acts are accomplished by treating others with kindness and mercy within our families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, parishes and communities. I am asking every parish and school to provide formation to their parishioners and students in order to understand

how to live out these Works of Mercy in daily life and then to set a goal of how many they, as a parish or school community, will undertake throughout the year. Invite others, perhaps those who haven't been to Church in a while, or those without a religious affiliation, to assist you. By doing so, **imagine the transformation that will take place in Pinellas, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando, and Citrus Counties if 1,000,000 acts of mercy were gifted to others.**

This Jubilee Year of Hope invites us to engage more deeply in these Works of Mercy. May the Holy Spirit continue to strengthen us in our journey, that we may be true witnesses of hope and mercy. Let us pray that, through the grace of this Jubilee Year, we may live out, with renewed vigor and commitment, the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in our homes, within our families, in our workplaces and schools, in our neighborhoods and parishes throughout the Diocese. As we are all called to conversion, may we reflect the boundless mercy of our Heavenly Father as we serve as His instruments of hope.

Please join me in 2025, as we, together, carry out God's kingdom through a million acts of mercy!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory L. Parkes

Most Reverend Gregory L. Parkes
Bishop of Saint Petersburg



The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy

According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2447, the Works of Mercy are charitable actions by which we come to the aid of our neighbor in his or her spiritual and bodily necessities.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. The Spiritual Works of Mercy have long been a part of the Christian tradition, appearing in the works of theologians and spiritual writers throughout history.

Corporal Works of Mercy:

Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

Spiritual Works of Mercy:

Teach others about God and the Faith, counsel the doubtful, encourage reconciliation with God and others, bear wrongs patiently, forgive offenses willingly, comfort the afflicted, pray for the living and the dead.

Corporal Works of Mercy Examples

Examples for each of the Corporal Works of Mercy. This is not an exhaustive list, many more examples can be found online.



FEED THE HUNGRY

- Prepare a meal for your family and schedule at least one family meal per week.
- Put your phone away when eating with others.
- Choose not to overeat and avoid wasting food when shopping, preparing meals, and eating.
- Help in local efforts like the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Catholic Charities, Catholic Outreach, Helping Hands, and local food banks and food pantries.
- Serve at a local soup kitchen.
- Make a meal(s) for someone who is ill or who had a friend or relative pass away.
- Share a meal and conversation with someone who is homebound or who lives alone.
- Before meals: thank God and the cook for the food and pray for those lacking food.
- Participate in food drives.
- Schedule one family meal per week.
- Practice spiritual Holy Communion at least once a day (praying with Jesus in the Eucharist when one can't physically receive the Eucharist).
- Sign up for a gleaning project.
- Prepare or share a meal with someone grieving (the grief may be many months old).
- Bringing meals to a neighbor at a difficult time, such as after a stay in the hospital or at the death of a loved one.
- Re-visit the practices of fasting and abstinence, use the resources to help someone who needs a meal.

GIVE DRINK TO THE THIRSTY



- Provide a healthy water supply and infrastructure.
- Fix plumbing leaks.
- Show gratitude for the plentiful water we have by conserving water in our daily activities.
- Take a cold glass of water to a neighbor working outside.
- Pass out water bottles to the homeless or prepare blessing bags with water to share with people you often encounter at street corners.
- Give a bottle of water to a construction worker, lawn maintenance worker, or anyone who is working under the searing sun.
- Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to Mass (those who thirst for the knowledge of God).
- Donate baby formula.
- When sharing something with someone in need, our sharing should be considerate. Be thoughtful of their needs. (Cold water in the heat of the day.)
- If a child (or spouse) asks for a drink in the middle of the night, serve that child cheerfully with compassion.





CLOTHE THE NAKED

Clothing provides for two basic human needs: protection and dignity.

- Clean out closets and have a collection at Mass or take clothes to a local charity.
- Provide baby clothes to a local crisis pregnancy center.
- Finding the grace to be patient while dealing with a toddler who only wants to wear the blue shirt or helping a teen dress attractively, yet modestly.
- Donate clothing for school children.
- Provide socks and underwear for a local homeless shelter.
- Volunteer at a local charitable thrift store.
- Dress modestly and appropriately to show self-respect as well as respect for others.
- Help an elderly person put on their socks.
- Instead of buying clothes we want but do not need, use the same amount of money to buy new clothing items to donate to a thrift-shop or homeless shelter.
- If we discover a product/item was produced at the cost of the human dignity of those who made it, we should boycott that product and let the manufacturer know why.
- Confront the crime of sexual exploitation in society, particularly the plague of pornography.

SHELTER THE HOMELESS



- Show hospitality to newcomers and visitors and invite them to return.
- Volunteer or donate resources to organizations that help the homeless.
- Support your local homeless shelter.
- Provide a home for orphans and foster children.

- Build a house with Habitat for Humanity.
- Help local refugees.
- Welcome parishioners at the beginning and end of Mass.
- Make your family, co-workers, or anyone you encounter each day feel at home by showing your hospitality, acceptance, and respect for them.
- If someone is begging, give them a kind word and spare change. Treat them with dignity.
- Working to make your house a beautiful, orderly, welcoming and hospitable home reminds your family of their dignity as Children of God.
- Participate in the Diocesan Mission effort with Christ in the City (May 18-June 8, 2025)



VISIT THE SICK

- Visiting the sick can start with your family who might be having a tough day... By offering hot tea, a back rub, or making their favorite dish, etc.
- Volunteer at the hospital or assisted living, help residents connect with their loved ones via phone or video – dialing, or positioning the phone so they can talk.
- Provide companionship or housekeeping for the sick, mentally ill, elderly, and homebound.
- Join a ministry to the sick, bring communion to the homebound and nursing homes.
- Help the elderly to sign, address, and mail cards.
- Do yardwork or handyman tasks for the homebound.
- Drop off dinner to someone whose family member is sick.
- Call the parish for a priest to anoint someone who is in hospital or about to have a major surgery. Anointing of the sick is for the healing of both the body and spirit.
- Bring someone to an Anointing of the Sick service at the parish.

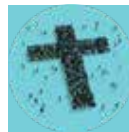
- Volunteer at John XXIII Residence in Lutz (or another assisted living center).
- Help drive the elderly to their doctor's appointment(s) and Sunday Mass.
- Offer spiritual bouquets for the sick.
- Make visits or cards to someone who is ill to remind them they are not alone. But be sensitive to individual needs – some people prefer privacy when unwell.
- Be humble to ask those who are sick what help they want (instead of assuming we know already).
- Pray for our loved ones who are sick, as well as our neighbors who have no friends or family at hand.
- When a child or spouse (or other loved one is sick) and you are called to care for them, refuse to treat him or her as a burden or inconvenience, even though your schedule has been thrown into chaos.

VISIT THE IMPRISONED



Also consider those imprisoned by the circumstances of life.

- Visit those in jails and prisons.
- Help the families of prisoners.
- Write to inmates who need social contact, try reaching out to a prison ministry.
- Provide Bibles, prayer books, or other religious literature for prisoners.
- Provide jobs to former prisoners.
- Visit the elderly shut-ins in our parishes, the residents of homes for the aged, and those who are trapped in addictions of various kinds.
- Call someone who is homebound and offer to go grocery shopping to them.
- Invite someone who is homebound and offer to bring them to Mass.
- If we give a child a time-out, visit them a few minutes later and talk them through their error, teach them what to do instead and work to rebuild their relationship with you. Show our children they still have worth and dignity even when they mess up.



BURY THE DEAD

- Provide companionship to the dying.
- Make a meal for a grieving family.
- Attend funerals/wake services.
- Attend a funeral even when the person is unknown to us or join a funeral ministry
- Comfort to the family of the deceased.
- Share grief support programs/materials with the grieving.
- Volunteer in your parish bereavement ministry.
- Help a widow or widower with tasks and invite them to events.
- Visit a cemetery and pray for the dead and take flowers.
- Join a respect life ministry or participate in their events.
- Volunteer with cemetery cleanup days.
- Pray the Divine Mercy chaplet and rosary with and for people who are dying.
- Send a note or make a phone call on the 6-month and one-year anniversary after the death of their loved one.
- Participate in a cemetery clean-up
- Donate to a parish fund to help those who cannot meet funeral expenses.
- Have Masses celebrated for the repose of the souls who have died.
- Help a child deal with the loss of a pet, or face the death of a beloved relative (requires compassion and sensitivity, even as you deal with your own grief).



Spiritual Works of Mercy Examples

Examples for each of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. This is not an exhaustive list, many more examples can be found online.



COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

Everyone has moments of doubt in their faith journey. Nevertheless, we should always remember that Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and turn to him along our way.

- Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may eventually become wise” (Prov 19:20).
- Answer questions patiently, even if the answer is obvious.
- Has someone asked you for advice? Orient your response to Christ, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.
- Follow Christ with the witness of your life so that others may see God’s love revealed in your actions.
- Answer questions others have about the faith (consulting Catholic sources).
- Accompany a friend who is struggling with believing to join a parish group for service or faith formation, share a book you found useful in dealing with your friend’s faith concern, and worship at Sunday Mass.



TEACH OTHERS ABOUT GOD AND THE FAITH

Learn about our faith and be open to talking with others about our beliefs. There is always something more to discover about our faith.

- Go on a service trip or short term mission trip. No time? Donate to support someone on their service trip.
- Volunteer to help with religious education, OCIA, and youth programs at your parish
- Invite someone to go to Mass with you.
- Know your faith! Read through the USCCA to find out more about the Catholic faith and how to live it.
- Enroll your children/teens in a Catholic School, Parish Religious Education Program, or the Parish Youth Ministry Program.
- Ensure your children receive the sacraments.



COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

Be open to listening and comforting those who are dealing with grief. Even if we aren’t sure of the right words to say, our presence can make a big difference.

- Lend a listening ear to those going through a tough time.
- Make a home cooked meal for a friend who is facing a difficult time.
- Write a letter or send a card to someone who is suffering or grieving.
- Reach out to someone who is going through a difficult time. A few moments of your day may make a lifetime of difference.





FORGIVE OFFENSES WILLINGLY

Do not judge, be supportive in helping others find their way and gently correct their mistakes. We can all learn to walk more closely with Christ.

- In humility we must strive to create a culture that does not accept sin, while realizing that we all fall at times.
- Don't judge, but guide others towards the path of salvation (see Mt. 7:1-2).
- When you correct someone, don't be arrogant. We are all in need of God's loving correction.
- We should journey together to a deeper understanding of our shared faith.
- Forgive those who have wronged or offended you. Do not gossip or complain about them to others.
- "Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother's eye" (Mt 7:5).



PRAY FOR THE LIVING AND DEAD

Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others. Joining together in prayer for the living and the dead entrusts us all into God's care.

- Request a Mass intention for a friend or family member who is going through a tough time.
- Request a Mass intention for a friend or family member who has passed away.
- Keep your own book of prayer intentions, writing down the names of those who you are keeping in your prayers.
- Ask a friend or family member if there is anything you can pray for them about.
- Through prayer, entrust your cares and concerns for those around you to God.
- Attend an adoration or prayer service.
- Pray for all vocations: to the priesthood, religious life, married life, and single life.



BEAR WRONGS PATIENTLY

Do not be bitter about wrongs done against you. Place your hope in God so that you can endure the troubles of this world and face them with a compassionate spirit.

- Frustrated with someone? Step away from the situation, take a few deep breaths, pray the Our Father, asking God for patience.
- Remember to forgive with grace and patience when someone wrongs you. Do not gossip or complain about them.



ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION WITH GOD AND OTHERS

Forgiving others is difficult because we do not have God's limitless mercy and compassion. Jesus teaches us to forgive as God forgives, relying on him to help us show others the mercy of God.

- Drive someone to a reconciliation service.
- We learn to say sorry as kids, but how often do we really mean it? Let go of offenses, forgiveness transforms hearts and lives.
- Participate in "24-hours for the Lord" or other reconciliation service.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Request forgiveness from others you have wronged (from your spouse, siblings, children, co-workers).



Videos

Video samples that focus on the works of mercy. These are just a small sampling of what is available.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOqL_wAk6sQ



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxqtdMwklKs>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDZA1CEMxqo>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaFk7nIPmMU>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=elicK8TngFU>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NOM8Hs_5eE

Readings During Year C

The following Sunday readings for 2025 lend themselves to formation on the Works of Mercy.

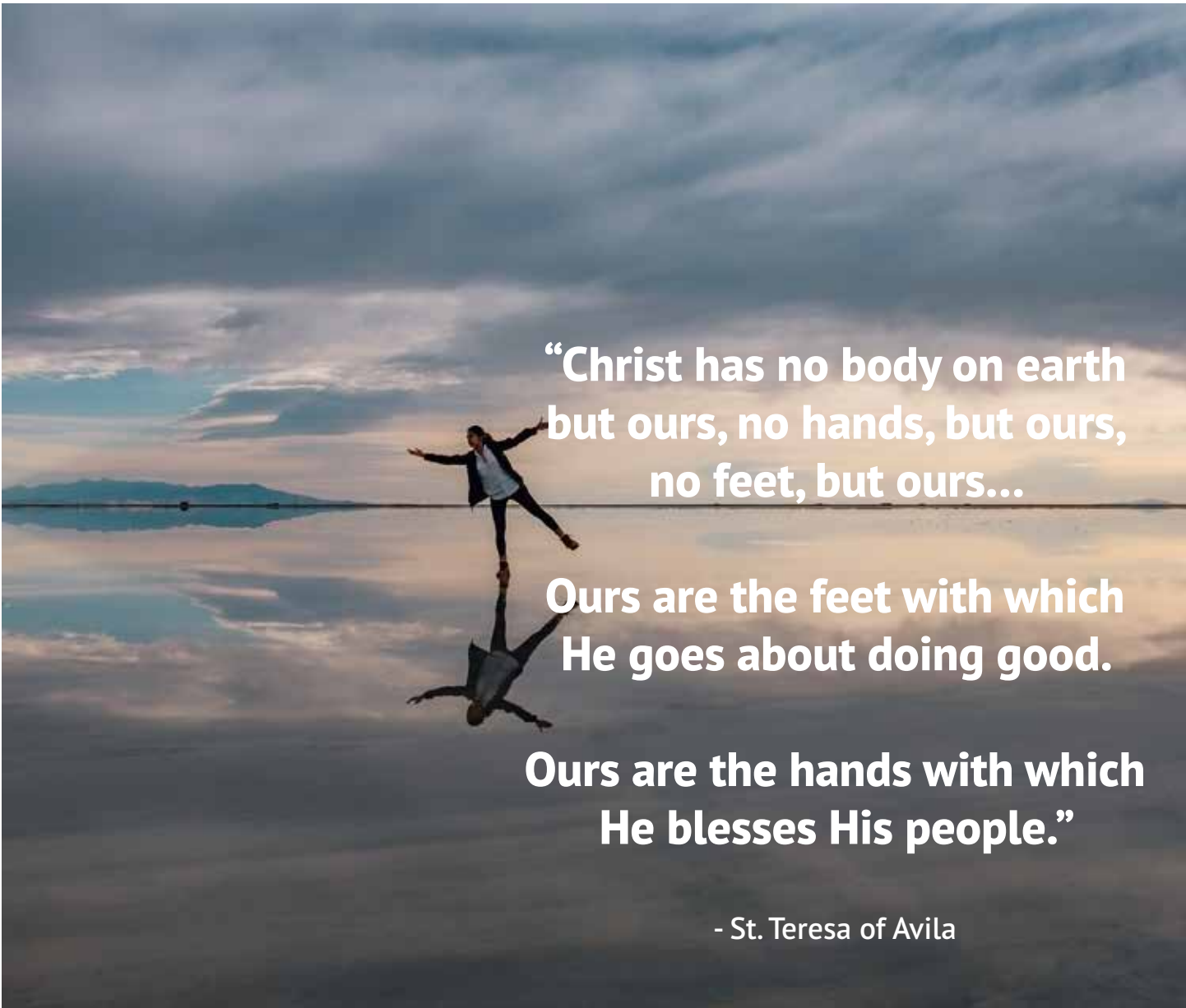
Please note: The first three Sundays of Lent are not included (though there are several tie-ins) due to the Jubilee Year's 24 Hours for the Lord Initiative during that same timeframe.

WORK OF MERCY	DATE	SUNDAY	READING	SYNOPSIS
All 7 Corporal	2/23	7th OT	Luke 6:27-38	Be Merciful as Your Father is Merciful
All 7 Corporal	5/18	5th Sunday of Easter	John 13:31-33a, 34-35	Love One Another as I Have Loved You
All 7 Corporal	7/6	14th OT	Luke 10:1-12, 17-20	Instructions to the 72
Feed The Hungry	2/9	5th OT	Luke 5:1-11	Jesus and Peter Go Out Into the Deep and Catch "Fish"
Feed The Hungry	2/16	6th OT	Luke 6:17, 20-26	Blessed Are You Who Are Now Hungry, For You Will Be Satisfied.
Feed The Hungry	5/4	3rd Sunday of Easter	John 21:1-19	Do You Love Me? Feed My Sheep
Feed The Hungry	6/22	Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Luke 9:11b-17	Feeding of the Five Thousand (5 Loaves and 2 Fish)
Feed The Hungry	7/20	16th OT	Genesis 18:1-10a / Luke 10:38-42	Abraham Extends Hospitality to 3 Visitors / Jesus Visits Mary and Martha, Mary Stays at Jesus' Side
Feed The Hungry	7/27	17th OT	Luke 11:1-13	Friend, Lend Me Three Loaves of Bread...
Give Drink to the Thirsty	7/20	16th OT	Luke 10:38-42	Jesus Visits Mary and Martha, Mary Stays at Jesus' Side
Give Drink to the Thirsty	9/25	26th OT	Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and Lazarus
Clothe the Naked	2/23	7th OT	Luke 6:27-38	From the Person Who Takes Your Cloak, Do Not Withhold Even Your Tunic
Shelter the Homeless	3/30	4th Sunday of Lent	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	The Prodigal Son
Shelter the Homeless	5/25	6th Sunday of Easter	John 14:23-29	We Will Come to Him and Make our Dwelling with Him.
Shelter the Homeless	7/13	15th OT	Luke 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan
Visit the Sick	3/30	4th Sunday of Lent	Cycle A: John 9:1-41	The Man Born Blind
Visit the Sick	4/27	2nd Sunday of Easter/ Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 5:12-16	The Sick and Those Disturbed by Unclean Spirits Are Cured.
Visit the Sick	7/13	15th OT	Luke 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan
Visit the Imprisoned	4/6	5th Sunday of Lent	John 8:1-11	The Woman Caught in Adultery
Visit the Imprisoned	5/18	5th Sunday of Easter	Revelation 21:1-5a	Behold, I Make All Things New.
Visit the Imprisoned	6/29	Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul	Acts 12:1-11	The Angel of the Lord Visits/Frees Peter from Prison
Bury the Dead	4/6	5th Sunday of Lent	Cycle A: John 11:1-45	The Resurrection of Lazarus
Bury the Dead	5/11	4th Sunday of Easter	John 10:27-30	I Give them Eternal Life, and They Shall Never Perish.

WORK OF MERCY	DATE	SUNDAY	READING	SYNOPSIS
All 7 Spiritual	4/13	Palm Sunday	Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49	The Passion of Christ
All 7 Spiritual	5/18	5th Sunday of Easter	John 13:31-33a, 34-35	New Commandment
All 7 Spiritual	7/13	15th OT	Luke 10:25-37	The Parable of the Good Samaritan
Bear Wrongs Patiently	2/23	7th OT	Luke 6:27-38	Love Your Enemies
Bear Wrongs Patiently	11/23	Christ the King	Luke 23:35-43	The Crucifixion of Jesus
Comfort the Afflicted	4/6	Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	John 8:1-11 Cycle A: John 11:1-45	The Woman Caught in Adultery/ Rising of Lazarus
Council the Doubtful	6/22	Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Luke 9:11b-17	The Feeding of the Five Thousand
Council the Doubtful	9/14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	John 3:13-17	The Son of Man Must Be Lifted Up
Encourage Reconciliation with God and Others	3/2	8th OT	Luke 6:39-45	The Blind Leading the Blind
Encourage Reconciliation with God and Others	10/5	27th OT	Luke 17:5-10	Faith as a Mustard Seed
Encourage Reconciliation with God and Others	10/26	30th OT	Luke 18:9-14	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
Forgive Offenses Willingly	3/30	4th Sunday in Lent	Luke 15:1-3, 11-32	The Parable of the Prodigal Son
Forgive Offenses Willingly	4/6	5th Sunday of Lent	John 8:1-11	The Woman Caught in Adultery
Pray for the Living and Dead	4/27	Divine Mercy	John 20:19-31	Jesus Appears to the Disciples
Pray for the Living and Dead	6/1	7th Sunday of Easter	John 17:20-26	The Prayer of Jesus for His Disciples
Pray for the Living and Dead	7/27	17th OT	Luke 11:1-13	The Lord's Prayer and Teachings on Prayer
Pray for the Living and Dead	10/19	29th OT	Luke 18:1-8	The Parable of the Persistent Widow
Teach Others About God and the Faith	2/16	6th OT	Luke 6:17, 20-26	The Beatitudes and Woes
Teach Others About God and the Faith	3/25	Annunciation of the Lord	Luke 1:26-38	The Annunciation
Teach Others About God and the Faith	9/21	25th OT	Luke 16:1-13	The Parable of the Dishonest Steward
Teach Others About God and the Faith	9/28	26th OT	Luke 16:19-31	The Rich Man and Lazarus

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”

-1 Peter 1:3



“Christ has no body on earth
but ours, no hands, but ours,
no feet, but ours...”

Ours are the feet with which
He goes about doing good.

Ours are the hands with which
He blesses His people.”

- St. Teresa of Avila

Websites with Informational Material:

The following are some of the websites out there with informational materials and resources on the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

USCCB



Our Sunday Visitor



Divine Mercy



Ministry

Example Ideas

The following are some ideas for ministries that participate in the Works of Mercy, check with your local parish for what is available there and how you might get involved.

Ministry examples of works of mercy:

- Respect Life – Baby formula, diaper, or clothing collections
- Funeral Ministry - Praying for the dead and attending funerals
- Ministry to The Sick - Taking communion to the sick
- Assisted Living/Homebound Ministry - Visit the John XXIII Residence and sing songs or help residents connect with family and friends over Facetime/Zoom
- Hospitality Ministry - Welcoming visitors and newcomers
- Prison Support Ministry - Writing letters to inmates
- Grief Support Ministry – Give comfort to those who are grieving with a simple note letting them know you are praying for them
- Prayer Ministry – Attend adoration, pray for the living and the dead, pray for the success of the challenge
- Financial Assistance Ministry – Assist people with paying rent, utilities or groceries
- Drive the elderly to Mass
- Cemetery clean-up
 - St. Louis Catholic Cemetery, Tampa
 - Calvary Catholic Cemetery, Clearwater
 - Resurrection Cemetery, Seffner
 - Sacred Heart Cemetery (St. Joseph), Dade City

Example Partner Community Organizations

CATHOLIC ORGANIZATIONS TO SERVE WITH:

- Catholic Charities: www.ccdosp.org
Contact Lou LRicardo@ccdosp.org. Catholic Charities has expressed the intention to partner with parishes and schools who will be hosting Mercy Events.
- Society of St. Vincent de Paul: www.svdptampa.org
- Pinellas Hope: www.pinellashope.org
- Tampa Hope: www.ccdosp.org/tampa-hope
- John XXIII Residence: www.angelsseniorliving.com
Catholic Assisted-living, contact DeaconPeterB@dosp.org
- Daystar Life Center (Pinellas): www.daystarlife.org
- Daystar Life Center (Citrus): www.daystarcitruscounty.org
- Nativity Outreach Food Bank: www.nativitycatholicchurch.org/foodbank
- Sacred Heart, Tampa - Hands of Hope: www.sacredheartfla.org/get-involved/franciscan-care/hands-of-hope
- Feeding Tampa Bay – Trinity Café: www.feedingtampabay.org
- Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops: www.flaccb.org/death-penalty *(also, pro-life, sex trafficking, and other advocacy ministries)*
- VIDES+USA (Salesian Ministry): www.vides.us
- Christ in the City: www.christinthecity.org *(Partnering with DOSP for a diocesan mission event in Tampa from May 18 - June, 8, 2025. Contact ChristInTheCity@dosp.org.)*

OTHER NON-PROFITS TO SERVE WITH (By County):

Citrus County

- Meals on Wheels: www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org
- Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind: www.LVIB.org
- One Body Village, Stop Child sex slavery: www.onebodyvillage.org

Hernando County

- Meals on Wheels: www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org
- Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind: www.LVIB.org
- One Body Village, Stop Child sex slavery: www.onebodyvillage.org
- The Angelus: www.theangelus.com
- The Arc Nature Coast: www.thearc-naturecoast.org

Hillsborough County

- Home Makers of Hope: www.homemakersofhope.com
- The Life Center of the Suncoast: www.thelifecenterofthesuncoast.com
- Habitat for Humanity: www.habitathillsborough.org
- Meals on Wheels: www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org
- One Body Village, Stop Child sex slavery: www.onebodyvillage.org
- Metropolitan Ministries: www.metromin.org
- Faith Café: www.faithcafetampa.org
- The Spring of Tampa Bay: www.thespring.org
- Created Tampa: www.createdwomen.com
- Somebody Cares Tampa Bay: www.sctb.org

Pasco County

- Meals on Wheels: www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org
- Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind: www.LVIB.org
- One Body Village, Stop Child sex slavery: www.onebodyvillage.org
- Kairos Prison Ministry: www.kairosfl.org
- Metropolitan Ministries: www.metromin.org
- The Volunteer Way: www.thevolunteerway.org
- Sunshine Christian Homes: www.sunshinechristianhomes.com
- Safety Town: www.pascosheriffcharities.org/pso-organizations/
- Youth and Family Alternatives: www.yfainc.org
- Gulfside Healthcare Services: www.gulfside.org
- Sunrise of Pasco County: www.sunrisepasco.org
- The Arc Nature Coast: www.thearc-naturecoast.org

Pinellas County

- Meals on Wheels: www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org
- One Body Village, Stop Child sex slavery: www.onebodyvillage.org
- Metropolitan Ministries: www.metromin.org
- Gulfside Healthcare Services: www.gulfside.org
- Homeless Empowerment Program: www.hepempowers.org
- Created Tampa: www.createdwomen.com
- Somebody Cares Tampa Bay: www.sctb.org
- House of Prayer: www.divineprovidence.org/house-of-prayer



MAKING IT COUNT

To facilitate the process of counting acts of mercy, the Diocese has provided an electronic form on its website www.Mercy2025.org. On the website, along with the form, you will find a list of participating entities, displaying their total count as well as separate tallies for adults and youths.



**MERCY is the force that
reawakens us to new life and
instills in us the courage to
look to the future with HOPE.**

Pope Francis

Prayers

Excerpt From Pope Francis' Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.
Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.
We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer of Entrustment to Divine Mercy

O Lord, our God.
We place our trust in You,
Because you are mercy itself.
We repent of our sins and turn to You for mercy.
We trust You to provide for our every need, according to Your will.
Help us to forgive others as You forgive us.
We promise to be merciful by our deeds, words and prayers.
Though we have fears because of human weakness, we rely on Your infinite goodness and mercy.
We entrust to You the future of our planet, our Church, our nations, our families and all our needs.
With loud cries we implore your mercy on us and on the whole world.
Look upon us, created in your image and likeness.
Form us in the Heart of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit into the living images of mercy.
May all come to know the depth of Your mercy and sing the praises of Your mercy forever.
Amen!

God's Mercy - Saint Catherine of Siena (1347-1380)

Merciful Lord, it does not surprise me that you forget completely the sins of those who repent. I am not surprised that you remain faithful to those who hate and revile you. The mercy which pours forth from you fills the whole world. It was by your mercy that we were created, and by your mercy that you redeemed us by sending your Son. Your mercy is the light in which sinners find you and good people come back to you. Your mercy is everywhere, even in the depths of hell where you offer to forgive the tortured souls. Your justice is constantly tempered with mercy, so you refuse to punish us as we deserve. O mad Lover! It was not enough for you to take on our humanity; you had to die for us as well.
Amen.

“During the Holy Year, we
are called to be tangible
signs of **HOPE** for
those of our brothers and
sisters who experience
hardships of any kind.”

- *Spes Non Confundit* (Hope Does Not Disappoint)
Papal Bull of Indiction (proclamation) for the Jubilee Year 2025

