



HUMILITAS

Promoting Lives of Virtue, Inspired by the Humility of
our Patron St. Charles Borromeo.



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www.stcharlesperu.org

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church

58 W. 5th Street, Peru, Indiana

Jubilee Year of Mercy

I hope by the time you are reading this that you will have already heard about the Jubilee Year of Mercy, which began on December 8, 2015 and will continue until November 20, 2016. In this, our latest parish newsletter, we hope to highlight the unique opportunities our parishioners have to celebrate this Year of Mercy. But first, you may ask, “*What is the Jubilee Year of Mercy?*”

Within the Scriptures one discovers the inspiration for a jubilee year. In particular, within the Old Testament Book of Leviticus (Chapter 25) we hear the Lord’s command that every seven years Israel should neither plant their fields, trusting that during this year the Lord would feed all of the people. This “seventh year”, or “sabbath year” was similar to our observance of the Sabbath rest each week (on the seventh day). Further, after every seven sabbath years Israel was to practice a jubilee year. The jubilee was similarly a time to leave the fields unplanted, but it was also a period of atonement, in which to forgive debts and to free those sold into slavery on account of debt. The goal was to bring greater justice, redemption, liberation, safety and peace for all throughout the land. The jubilee was truly a year of grace (Cf. America, p.14).

As Pope Francis explained, “*at times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father’s action in our lives*” (Misericordiae Vultus, 3). He further encourages us throughout this year “*to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters*” (MV 10). This Year of Mercy is an opportunity to reflect upon God’s mercy just as it is an occasion to “*open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters*” (MV 15). Yes, this year is not only about giving thanks for the mercy we continue to receive from our loving heavenly Father, but also an opportunity to respond to the suffering of members in our family, community and throughout our world.

As we begin this Jubilee Year of Mercy, our staff members hope to highlight the opportunities each of you will have to experience God’s grace and mercy, as we celebrate the Sacraments and God’s love for us. We hope also to highlight and afford you with opportunities to help us in responding to the misery of the world through our ministries as disciples of Christ. Sometimes we’ll highlight existing ministries as we encourage more parishioners to participate. At other times throughout the coming year we’ll highlight unique opportunities such as our annual parish mission (look inside for more information), service opportunities in our community, or mission trips abroad (potentially to our sister parish in Haiti and/or Guatemala)! And I would always encourage you all to think outside the box, to let the Holy Spirit direct you in developing new ministries as we come together as a community of believers.

Ultimately, this Jubilee Year of Mercy is an opportunity for us to “proclaim, praise and love” as our parish mission statement directs us. Having been “*touched by [God’s] compassion, we also can become compassionate towards others*” (MV 14). ~ Fr. Adam Mauman



FAMILY CATECHESIS

One of the Spiritual Works of Mercy is to “Instruct the ignorant.” When our children are baptized, we are given the perfect opportunity to live this directive. The priest or deacon says to the parents at the time of the baptism, “Parents you have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. Do you understand what you are undertaking” (*Rite 39*)? All of us say yes to that question, but how many of us fully comprehend what that means? We are promising to educate our children in the faith. Yet many parents today feel inadequate in their understanding of Church teachings.

The Church also promises to assist parents in this difficult and sometimes confusing role. Family Catechesis was developed to support parents as they undertake the challenge. Once a month during Faith Formation there is Family Catechesis. A topic is chosen as the focus for the day, and teachers use the Religious Education standards on the topic to develop their lesson plans. On the same day, parents can attend a class about the topic and are also given ideas that will help them extend the lesson for the next month at home. Hopefully, everyone goes home on somewhat the “same page,” and the children will be more apt to actually absorb the lesson when it is reinforced at home.

The topics for the remaining part of the school year are:

- January 24—Are there Shades of Sin?
- February 21—Reconciliation
- March 13—Liturgy of the Hours

In April there will be a family service project planned in place of the Family Catechesis.

While Family Catechesis is tailored to the needs of families, everyone is welcome to come. The information segment is appropriate for anyone who attends, and grandparents may actually find the ideas and activity suggestions helpful, as well. We meet during Faith Formation from 10:30-11:45 on the designated Sundays in room 8 at the school.

“And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man” (Lk. 2:52). May our children do the same under our guidance, as Jesus did under the care of Mary and Joseph.



Parish Mission - September 2016

A three day mission is being planned for this fall on the ACTS OF MERCY presented by Frank Runyeon.

Frank has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts over the past 20 years. He has performed the gospel for hundreds of thousands of people in almost every state in America. He is perhaps still best known, however, for his many roles on television...in *As the World Turns* opposite Meg Ryan, *Santa Barbara*, and *General Hospital*, as well as many others. Frank is a graduate of Princeton University with a degree in Religion, and has studied acting in New York and Los Angeles. He received his Masters from Yale Divinity School and General Theological Seminary in 1994.

During the three day mission in our newly renovated church, he will be highlighting MERCY themes from the Gospels of John and Luke, and from the epistle of St. James: John: Signs of Mercy; Luke: Stories of Mercy; and James: Works of Mercy. You will hear some of the most famous stories ever told, stories we have heard many times. You will join Jesus on the road and be as surprised as the disciples were to hear the stories that Jesus is telling—and discover what you may have been missing!

Save the dates: September 18, 19, and 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm each night. You won't want to miss it!

LIFT - Living In Faith Today

Living In Faith Today (LIFT) was conceived as a group to minister to the needs of some parishioners who were living on the periphery...those with special needs. However, it is not an exclusive group; everyone is welcome! After all, at the end of each Mass we are charged to take our faith into the world! And that is exactly what the members of LIFT are about—their mission is to live the Corporal Works of Mercy. They begin each session with a short scripture reading and prayer, and then they work on projects.

LIFT has made soap for Food Finders and assisted on the day Food Finders is here. They have made blankets for the police and fire departments, collected coats for the needy, rung bells for the Salvation Army during Advent, and made sun-catchers for the nursing homes. They have also assisted our parish by serving drinks at the Epiphany Brunch last year, raking leaves on parish grounds, donating money to the church renovation fund by selling items they made, and assembling ornaments for the Jesse Tree this year. While this list is not exhaustive, it reflects their commitment to the Works of Mercy.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Country Roads, Take Me Home

For the past two years our High School Youth Ministry has been travelling to Appalachia during the summer months to serve on mission trips to the region. Last year we made our first trip to Bethlehem Farm in West Virginia. Bethlehem Farm is a Catholic community in Appalachia that transforms lives through service with the local community and the teaching of sustainable practices. As we fostered relationships with each other and the community at the Farm, we got to partake in challenging service projects. The Farm also encourages and teaches about sustainable practices such as conserving water and electricity, and living out our call as Catholics to “care for our common home”. For the past two years, we’ve made a trip to McKee, Kentucky, as well, to meet and work with the people that live in that area. McKee is situated in the poorest region of the United States; each trip there has been an eye-opening experience to the drastic effects poverty has on stymying growth for not just families, but whole communities. But the financial situation doesn’t keep anyone down: the people that we’ve met in McKee are some of the most joyous and hopeful people you could ever happen to meet. This year we will continue our traditional traversal to Appalachia, but it is also exciting to announce that we be taking an international mission trip to Guatemala in 2016 as well. The trip aims to take a group to the country to aid in low-income construction, and inspire those that make the trip to continue serving at home and abroad!



Above: Repainting and renovating a travel center showcasing the history of McKee and Jackson Co.
Below: Showing off after constructing a wheelchair ramp.



Ask Luke for a form for Bethlehem Farm if you're interested! Trips to Guatemala and McKee are still TBA (at the time of this writing), so keep a look out for those in the coming weeks!



Beatitudes, Not Boredom

So many nights during the year when students show up for Life Teen, I ask them what they did over the weekend. Inevitably, many will respond with the classic teenage answer: “Nothing”. From what everyone has told me, if there isn’t a sporting event or dance, every high school student in Peru sits and stares at their walls over the weekends. And they say that school is boring!

I would not stand for this. For close to ten years now, I have made at least one mission trip annually (sometimes three or four). While traveling to Appalachia or Haiti is not usually feasible over a weekend during the school year, it IS possible to get that mission trip experience here at home. So if the kids like watching paint dry, I’d at least give them the opportunity to do so after having painted that wall for someone who needed it.

Since September, every month we have had a “Service Saturday”: a chance to do works of service and mercy right here at home. We’ve baked bread for helping hands, raked leaves to help clear yards, and we will be delivering gifts to those who received them from our Giving Tree (although that will technically be on a Sunday).

As the Year of Mercy moves forward, we’ll continue our service on specific Saturdays each month. Keep your eye on the calendar, because for the upcoming year we’ll be doing everything from visiting people in nursing homes to learning about faithful citizenship and maybe, just maybe, doing some home repair—just like on those big fancy mission trips.

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Pope Francis' Prayer for 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. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"



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.