

OUR BLESSED VOICES

THE MEASURE OF MERCY

Mercy is a theme that is held close to the heart of Pope Francis, and is the central topic of his episcopal motto “miserando atque eligendo,” which he chose when he was ordained a bishop in 1992. One translation of the motto, taken from a homily given by St. Bede on Jesus’ calling of St. Matthew, is “with eyes of mercy”.

On March 13, 2015, Pope Francis declared a Jubilee Year of Mercy to begin on Dec. 8, 2015, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, and end on Nov. 20, 2016, the feast of Christ the King. More than a dozen individual celebrations have been scheduled during the Jubilee of Mercy including a special Jubilee for Divine Mercy, April 1-4, 2016, which coincides with Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, 2016.

In ancient Hebrew tradition, the Jubilee Year was celebrated every 50 years and was intended to restore equality among the children of Israel by providing opportunities for families who had lost their property and even their personal freedom to regain them. It was also a year in which the wealthy were reminded that their Israelite slaves would again become their equals and regain their rights.

The Catholic tradition of practicing the Jubilee Year began with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300, and since 1475 an Ordinary Jubilee has been celebrated every 25 years in order to allow each generation to experience at least one during their lifetime. However, as is the case with Pope Francis’ 2016 Holy Year of Mercy, an extraordinary Jubilee can be called for a special occasion or for an event that has a particular importance. Until now there have only been 26 ordinary Jubilee celebrations, the last of which was the Jubilee of 2000.

Divine Mercy is for everyone

The message of The Divine Mercy is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God never tires of us asking for his Mercy and forgiveness. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus known as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God’s mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. Devotion to The Divine Mercy involves a total commitment to God as Mercy. It is a decision to trust completely in Him, to accept His mercy with thanksgiving, and to be merciful as He is merciful.

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy spend

time to learn more about Christ’s infinite Mercy, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you. Pope Francis assures us that “the way we treat others has a transcendent dimension: ‘The measure you give will be the measure you get’ (Mt 7:2). It corresponds to the mercy which God has shown us: ‘Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful’ (EG, 179).

Never forget that in the love of Christ we are never ultimately defined by any of our failures, but rather by what sometimes is an overwhelming fact, that God truly loves us and, despite our failings and sins, he forgives us through the grace and mercy of his Son and our divine Savior, Jesus.

- Jesus, I Trust In You - - Saint Faustina
~ Pray for us.





FEST QUEST 2015

Blessed Sacrament's annual fall fundraising event, Fest Quest, "An Old Fashioned Carnival" was held on Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th at Blessed Sacrament School. What a wonderful event it was with so much support, help and planning from members of the Blessed Sacrament parish family. The grand total of money raised was \$38,899!

Each year the Fest Quest event raises funds for a particular project or need at the church or school. For the past two years the event has raised money which will go towards the much needed tuck-pointing project for the school building. Why is this necessary you might ask? Tuck-pointing repairs the mortar joints on the building. Our 90-year old school has served us well but is in need of tuck-pointing to ensure that no water seeps into the building causing additional damage. With the funds raised from this year's Fest Quest event we are more than 2/3 the way to meeting our \$85,000 goal to complete the tuck-pointing project. Donations are still being accepted for the tuck-pointing project and can be made through the church or online

through our GoFundMe Campaign.

This year Fest Quest featured our new Saturday evening tradition of a fun filled, adult's only night with pizza from Valentino's and our live auction. The live auction had so many amazing items on it, donated by many Blessed Sacrament parishioners. Many popular items returned to the auction block again this year including the Prime Rib Dinner and Monthly Pies donated by Holly & Jerry Kruger. New to the auction this year was a freezer donated by Jason and Sheri Suelter. Guests were able to also bid on two quarters of beef to fill up their freezers for the winter. Father Rynearson served as the emcee for the evening and a wonderful time was had by all. In addition to the money raised through the auction, guests on Saturday night raised more than \$2,500 to be used for the purchase of a new sound system for Blessed Sacrament!

The main Fest Quest events were held on Sunday, October 18th and had activities for the entire family. New to this year's event was a brand new selection of games and prizes

for children provided by Fun Services. The Game Truck also visited Fest Quest this year providing a fun way for our Jr. High students to play a variety of video games. Also new this year was fall-themed meal of chili and cinnamon rolls. Thanks to the amazing generosity of House of Hunan who also provided a hundred Chinese meals and eggrolls for the parish meal. What a wonderful celebration of the many cultures our parish represents. Guests were treated to wonderful sweet treats and desserts in our always popular Sweet Shoppe after lunch. Once again we were blessed by the outpouring of support from our community and parish family who made it possible for us to have over a hundred baskets on our silent auction. Our silent auction and the annual raffle are such an important part of the overall Fest Quest event; they wouldn't be possible without the help of so many wonderful volunteers.

Fest Quest is a wonderful way to help support projects within our parish but it's also a great way to catch up with old friends and make new ones. The fellowship and community building



that come out of Fest Quest is worth more than money could ever be. Thank you so much to the many generous sponsors and donors who helped to make the event possible. Also a very sincere thank you to each and every Fest Quest volunteer who helped all along the way. Fest Quest requires more than a hundred volunteers to make the event run smoothly and every single person who assisted is greatly appreciated.

Planning for Fest Quest 2016 is right around the corner and will begin in January 2016. If you are looking for a fun way to give back to Blessed Sacrament we ask you to prayerfully consider getting involved with Fest Quest. It's a wonderful, time honored tradition at Blessed Sacrament and we look forward to what next year brings. Be sure to check the bulletin for upcoming Fest Quest news and announcements.

FEST QUEST 2016

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR

OCTOBER 15TH & 16TH



Blessed Sacrament Church
1720 Lake Street
Lincoln, NE 68502

Address service requested

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Blessed Sacrament Events Calendar

MAY

- 5 Holy Day of Obligation - Ascension
- 15 Pentecost
- 25 Last day of School
- 29 Corpus Christi Processional and Ice Cream Social

JUNE

- 4 Corpus Christi

AUGUST

- 6 CCD Early Bird Registration Weekend
- 7 CCD Early Bird Registration Weekend
- 13 CCD Early Bird Registration Weekend
- 14 CCD Early Bird Registration Weekend
- 14 Back to School Open House
- 16 First day of School
- 24 CCD Religious Education Year Begins
- 24 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Classes for "New" CGS Students
- 31 CCD Mass with KoC

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: Classes for ALL CGS Students

OCTOBER

- 15 Fest Quest - Adults only Live Auction (Tenative)
- 16 Fest Quest - Family Festival & Parish Meal (Tenative)

NOVEMBER

- 1 Holy Day of Obligation - All Saints Day
- 24 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 8 Holy Day of Obligation - Immaculate Conception
- 25 Holy Day of Obligation - Christmas

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THE MEASURE OF MERCY
FEST QUEST 2015 REPORT