



Ref# BB-151202

December 2, 2015

Dear Clergy, Religious, Seminarians and Faithful of the Eparchy of Saskatoon,

DECREE
**On The Occasion Of The Proclamation Of
The Holy Year Of Mercy In The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church**

I, Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSsR, decree a temporary Holy Door will be designated at the Cathedral of St. George's in Saskatoon. This will take place during the Holy Year of Mercy beginning December 8, 2015 until November 20, 2016 as a sign of solidarity for all to enter and come to know God's mercy in accordance with the Papal Bull of Pope Francis *Misericordiae Vultus*. Further, as directed by His Beatitude Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, in his Pastoral Letter on the occasion of the proclamation of the Holy Year of Mercy in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, other temporary Holy Doors are designated in the following locations and I will open and bless them with a prescribed service and ritual on these dates:

December 12, 2015	5:00PM	St. Basil's Church	REGINA
December 24, 2015	10:00PM	St. George's Cathedral	SASKATOON
December 25, 2015	3:00PM	St. Joseph's Home	SASKATOON
December 25, 2015	7:00PM	Shrine to Blessed Nun Martyrs Olympia & Laurentia	SASKATOON
December 26, 2015	5:00PM	St. Mary's Church	YORKTON
December 27, 2015	11:00AM	Ss. Peter & Paul Church	CANORA

On April 12, 2015 during the Solemn Vespers at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, Pope Francis formally announced the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. This announcement takes place when the Holy Father reads a document called a BULL. For a digital copy of this Papal Bull *Misericordiae Vultus*, go to : http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_bolla_20150411_misericordiae-vultus.html) This is an extraordinary Holy Year since Holy Years are normally every 25 years, the last being 2000.

The Jubilee Year begins with the opening of the first Holy Door in Rome at St. Peter's Basilica on December 8, 2015. Regarding the Holy Door during the Jubilee Year of Mercy Pope Francis said, "On that day, the Holy Door will become a Door of Mercy through which anyone who enters will experience the love of God who consoles, pardons, and instills hope". **The official theme for this year is "Merciful Like The Father" based on Lk 6:36 "Be merciful, as your Father is merciful".**



In the weeks following, more Holy Doors will be opened in Rome and in major cities around the world. The doors will be open for a full year so we will have many opportunities to pass through them as we better understand the grace and spiritual conversion associated with them.

The churches that have had a Holy Door established permanently for many years now are, for example, in Rome

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and Spain (“Holy Doors for Holy Year” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_door). However, one was established by Pope Francis most recently in Quebec City here in Canada. (see <http://www.sanctuairesquebec.com/en/notre-dame-de-quebec-basilica-cathedral/sanctuaire/holy-door>).

They have them not only closed between Holy Years (normally every 25 years), but sealed with a wall of brick and mortar. Within that wall, is placed a box that may contain various items, but most important of all - the key to unlock the Holy Door. In the days leading up to the ceremonial opening of the Holy Door by the Pope, workers break down the wall and remove the key box and give it to the ones assisting in the opening. The wall was broken down at St Peter's earlier in preparation for the actual opening that takes place on December 8 2015. May we take full advantage of the Holy Year for our own personal renewal before God and the renewal of our parish and our whole Church! With this in mind, we will have a special Holy Door dedication in our Ukrainian Catholic Church. Patriarch Sviatoslav has directed that there be a Holy Door especially in St. George's Cathedral in Saskatoon and any other location according to the local Bishop. He has also asked that his Pastoral Letter be read in all churches on Sunday December 13, 2015.

All parishes are also asked to plan special events to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Please notify our Cathedral office or Chancery office about your plans so that we can notify all other parishes in the Eparchy of your event(s). We will do our best, through Chris Pidwerbeski our Communication Office Coordinator, to spread this good news through our Eparchial website.

Lastly, I want to highlight how Patriarch Sviatoslav quotes the Holy Father in his pastoral letter to us. **“Our mercy should primarily be directed to our family members and neighbours, so that in the words of Pope Francis, the door of every home becomes “the door of mercy”.** Indeed, you can personally decorate or designate the front doors of your personal homes as a ‘holy door’, so that you are reminded to extend the mercy of God to all who enter.

In continued service to Christ,

Most Rev. Bryan Bayda, C.S.R.
Eparch of Saskatoon



Prayer of Pope Francis 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. 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 of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.