



**DIOCESE OF TOLEDO
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS**

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For Immediate Release
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**Rite of the Opening of the Holy Door of Mercy
at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral
10 a.m. Sunday, December 13, 2015**

Bishop Daniel E. Thomas will open the Holy Door of Mercy at Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral at the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 13, when all Holy Doors in the Diocese of Toledo will be opened.

The Rite of the Opening of the Holy Door of Mercy at Rosary Cathedral (2535 Collingwood Blvd., Toledo) will begin with a procession from the Monsignor Bernard Smith Auditorium to the Cathedral, entering through the side entrance nearest Collingwood.

Bishop Thomas has designated three other Holy Doors of Mercy in the Diocese of Toledo along with Rosary Cathedral. They are the Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Sorrowful Mother Shrine in Bellevue and Divine Mercy Parish in Paulding.

A holy door or *porta sancta* was first used in the 15th century as a ritualistic expression of conversion. Pilgrims and penitents pass through a Holy Door as a gesture of leaving the past behind and crossing the threshold from sin to grace. This ritual is associated with prayer, pilgrimage, sacrifice, confession and indulgences.

Pope Francis on Tuesday marked the beginning of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy in the Catholic Church by opening the Holy Door in Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. The Jubilee Year of Mercy is celebrated not only in Rome, but in every diocese around the world. It concludes November 20, 2016 on the feast of Christ the King.

Traditionally, every 25 or 50 years the Holy Father proclaims a holy year, which features special celebrations and pilgrimages, emphatic calls for conversion and repentance, and the offer of special opportunities to experience God's grace through the sacraments, especially confession. Extraordinary holy years, like the Year of Mercy, are less frequent, but offer the same opportunities for spiritual growth.

The biblical theme chosen for the Jubilee Year of Mercy is "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful," from the Gospel of Luke.

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