

# Sacramental Gift Guide 2016

Faith-Inspired Presents for Everyone on Your List

**W**ith Easter and springtime approaching, it is time for many families to celebrate the sacraments of baptism, Eucharist and confirmation.

The Register's annual guide features gifts for babies being baptized, children making their first Communion, teens being confirmed, new Catholics entering the Church and couples getting married. (Prices are subject to change.)

To order: EWTNRC.com or (800) 854-6316.

## Matrimony



### WEDDING ROSARY: FRESHWATER PEARL

This heirloom rosary's beads are genuine freshwater pearls, with tiny aqua crystal accents. The Our Father beads are solid bronze medals with two adjoining rings supported by a cross, symbolizing Christian marriage on each side. The center is a solid bronze medal showing Our Lady of Lourdes on one side and the Grotto of Lourdes on the reverse; the crucifix is also solid bronze, with a rose at each of the four ends. It comes in a rustic, handmade wooden keepsake box. Rosary measures approximately 27 inches when laid flat. Item: RW1B, \$330.



### WEDDING CRUCIFIX

Perfect gift for a wedding or anniversary, the wood cross features a pearlized enamel overlay in the center as well as interlocking wedding rings at the base. The corpus and rings are made of pewter. Measures 10 inches. Made in the U.S. Item: 7119E, \$45.



### MARRIAGE OF MARY AND ST. JOSEPH

This beautiful depiction of the wedding ceremony of St. Joseph to the Blessed Virgin Mary in the presence of the rabbi is framed under glass in a decorative gold wood frame and measures 10 inches x 12 inches. Item: 109B1, \$33.

## RCIA



### SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION WALL CROSS

This wall cross depicts the three sacraments of initiation — baptism, Eucharist and confirmation — with the Scripture "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 29:11). At the bottom is also depicted the sacrament of reconciliation, which is generally received in preparation for first Communion. This wall cross is made of a resin-stone mix and is painted bronze. It measures 6 inches x 8 1/2 inches, with a keyhole hook for hanging. Item: 66963, \$14.

### SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION KEEPSAKE BOX

This bronze-colored resin keepsake box is an ideal way to store special mementos collected with each sacrament. Each side depicts a different sacrament; and on the fourth side is "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord" (Jeremiah 29:11). Measures 3 1/2 inches square. Item: 66877, \$17.

### TRINITY CRUCIFIX ON CHERRY WOOD

This crucifix wall plaque features a pewter overlay that depicts God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is mounted on a cherry wood base and measures 4 1/4 inches x 5 3/4 inches. On the back is a keyhole for hanging. Item: 80140, \$30.



## Confirmation

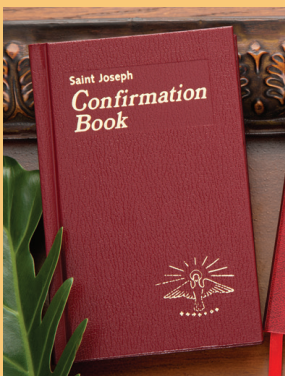
### HOLY SPIRIT ROSARY WITH RED ENAMEL

This rosary features iridescent red beads and a 2 1/4-inch crucifix. The Holy Spirit center medal features a red enamel overlay on the front with the gifts of the Spirit listed on the reverse. Item: 65441, \$20.



### ST. JOSEPH CONFIRMATION BOOK

This is an ideal book for confirmation candidates. Contains the confirmation rite, prayers, instructions and readings from the Gospel. Printed in two colors with large type and inspiring illustrations. Hardcover with ribbon. 288 pages. Item: 24904, \$9.



### GILDED DOVE CONFIRMATION ITEMS

This confirmation set features the Holy Spirit depicted by a white dove and gold rays. The words "Come, Holy Spirit" and "Fill My Heart With Your Holy Gifts" are included. Each is made of a resin-stone mix. The frame measures 7 1/4 inches x 7 1/4 inches and holds a photo measuring 4 inches x 6 inches. The box measures 2 1/8 inches high x 2 1/5 inches long x 2 inches wide and can hold a rosary. Frame, Item: 65951, \$17.50; Box, Item: 65952, \$9.50.



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## Year of Mercy Aids and Tools

Good Reads and Views for The Special Jubilee

YEAR OF MERCY  
BY JOSEPH PRONECHEN

The Jubilee Year of Mercy presents everyone with a life-changing moment, but no one should set out on a momentous journey without the proper directions and tools. Several are readily available to get the most out of this special year.

*Doors of Mercy* is a formation program designed for everyone from daily Massgoers to inactive Catholics.

"It can also be done by a family, Bible study, men's and women's groups, Knights of Columbus councils — the sky is the limit, in terms of a group," said Father Jeffrey Kirby, who appears on each DVD as the host of the eight-part series and is one of the presenters.

"The main goal is to share the covenants of salvation history in light of Divine Mercy, highlighting how much God has shown his mercy to each one of us," added Father Kirby, an author and the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., vocation director.

Joining him as presenters on the other DVDs are Father Chris Alar of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, authors Paul Thigpen, Rose Sweet and Joseph Pearce, and Mary-Rose Verret, co-founder with her husband Ryan of "Witness to Love: Marriage Preparation Renewal Ministry."

The *Doors of Mercy* program from St. Benedict's

Press (MercyStudy.com) walks participants through God's revelation up to this special time of mercy. The five great covenants of the Bible are covered, beginning with Adam and Eve and proceeding to Jesus opening the doors of mercy on the cross and the revelation of Divine Mercy to St. Faustina.

The program examines such areas as how the sacraments are necessary for mercy and conversion of heart. The presenters give insights showing the power of Divine Mercy and how God reveals his mercy in ordinary and extraordinary ways.

As Father Alar explained, "God is saying, 'I want to share my love in these covenants with man — culminating in the New Covenant of Jesus Christ. Please turn back to me.' Faustina was able to reiterate that message, yet bring in new devotions to help us understand in a practical way God's mercy."

Father Kirby explained that each lesson or session "explains the practical ways each lesson can be lived," he said. "After each lesson, there's immediate application." For instance, one area deals with reconciliation of marriage and harmony within the family.

Father Kirby emphasized the overall program goal is "to present [the idea of] covenant in light of mercy and provide a program of mercy for the participants, so they can really live as a people for mercy during this jubilee year. This is a fully prepared

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## Tools

### CONTINUING PAGE B3 STORY

program to help a parish (or group) really live the jubilee year. We don't want the jubilee year to pass anyone by."

*Beautiful Mercy* from Matthew Kelly (DynamicCatholic.com) is another excellent companion for the jubilee.

Subtitled *Experiencing God's Unconditional Love So We Can Share It With Others*, this book follows each of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy through the insights of more than 25 well-known Catholics.

Jack Beers, Dynamic Catholic's spokesman for this book and team leader of first Communion and first reconciliation initiatives, describes it as readable and practical, since each chapter is written by a different author and runs no more than 1,200 words. "You can always pick it right back up without feeling like you're lost," he said.

Beers said *Beautiful Mercy* is an excellent companion to help celebrate this Year of Mercy to full benefit.

"Reading this book will cause you to see the world through the lens of God's incredible mercy," he noted. "You will encounter the mercy of God personally and receive simple, tangible and practical ways to extend the mercy you have received to others."

As Beers reflected, "For the most part, we don't realize what we should have done or could have done until the moment has passed. This book will give you the present-moment awareness you need to, let's say, recognize that someone is in a state of affliction, and it will give you the tools to know when comforting that afflicted person means simply listening, encouraging or spending quality time."

He recommends people read a chapter every day and then ask God to show them how they might live out that work of mercy during the day ahead. The book can be used effectively for parishes, small groups and individuals, Beers explained. "The works of mercy inspire readers to realize that extraordinary acts of love are possi-



ble for ordinary, everyday people."

Two more new series promise to lead groups and individuals to best celebrate this Year of Mercy.

*Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told* from Father Michael Gaitley of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception is a 10-part DVD series produced by Augustine Institute. In the series' opening, Father Gaitley says, "Now is a time of great and extraordinary grace for the Church and the world. In fact, [God] seems to be telling us that he desires to give us unprecedented grace and mercy in response to the unprecedented evil in our modern world."

"I think the timing is perfect," Marian Father Alar said about this

release as well as the second, *You Did It to Me: Putting Mercy Into Action*.

"God's mercy is infinite, but the time of mercy is not. Jesus told St. Faustina, 'Now is the time of mercy. ... If you don't pass through the doors of my mercy, you must pass through the doors of my justice.'"

Father Alar underlined the need "now" for this time of mercy. He observed that "Pius XII said in the 1950s mankind is more sinful than at the time of the Flood. In the 1950s, we didn't have legalized abortion, the birth-control pill, pornography on demand or gay marriage. What would Pius XII call [society] today if he saw it?"

"There's no question that today we are more lost than the Israelites in the desert," Father Alar said. "We have the fullness of revelation in Christ, which they didn't yet. God keeps flooding us with grace and mercy, and the Pope is trying to wake us up. God is giving us every opportunity to turn back to him. This is the time of mercy, and we have to use this opportunity to turn back to God."

*You Did It to Me: Putting Mercy Into Action* is a five-part series that aired on EWTN during December 2015.

In the opening, Father Gaitley says, "I think many of us are intimidated by the works of mercy, and we're afraid to embrace them as a way of life because we think they're going to be difficult or complicated. But they're not."

Father Gaitley summarizes the corporal and spiritual works of mercy under the umbrella of the five scriptural works of mercy and shows how they fit there. "This is the way we will be judged," said Father Alar, referring to Jesus making clear what we need to do to get to heaven: Feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; welcome the stranger; clothe the naked; comfort the sick; and visit those in prison (Matthew 25:31-46). This series clearly shows how to be merciful to others.

*The Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told* series — available with or without workbook — is true to Father Gaitley's best-selling book of similar title.

God has been constantly

reminding us of his mercy. And, in the 20th century, he raised up St. Faustina and gave her five new channels of grace, "new ways to understand the message of mercy which is timeless," Father Alar said. These include the feast of Divine Mercy, the image of Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy novena, the 3 o'clock hour of mercy and the Chapel of Divine Mercy. Overall, *Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told* spotlights mercy in our times, connecting it with Fatima and the witnesses of Sts. Maximilian Kolbe, Faustina and John Paul II.

Both series (available at ShopMercy.com) have "a beautiful way to synthesize long, verbose topics into a way a 12-year-old or a 90-year-old can easily understand," according to Father Alar.

*33 Days to Merciful Love* is the newest book by Father Gaitley. Subtitled *A Do-It Yourself Retreat in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy*, it's a sequel to *33 Days to Morning Glory* and uses the same 33-day preparation format.

The book is a consecration to Divine Mercy in the style of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, one of the most beloved saints. Father Gaitley writes that "it follows the theology of her 'Offering to Merciful Love,' which is essentially a consecration to Divine Mercy." He further explains that "her Offering to Merciful Love is really the culmination of her whole spiritual teaching on the Little Way, the crowning of her path to holiness."

In his conversational style, Father Gaitley leads readers to the same consecration.

Bishop Edward Scharfenberger of Albany, N.Y., has endorsed the book (ShopMercy.com). "It's an answer to all those who want to do something about that 'personal relationship with Jesus Christ,' which sometimes sounds more like a flowery fantasy for cherubs on clouds," he wrote.

"This is not a book for angels, but for the ordinary little person in each of us — including clergy, scholars, and bishops. ... It opens hearts, including my own, to a fuller meaning of Divine Mercy (with the help of St. Thérèse of Lisieux)."

Joseph Pronechen is the Register's staff writer.

## Sacramental Reads for Kids

BY KERRY CRAWFORD AND PATRICIA A. CRAWFORD

The building blocks of a strong and joyful faith, Pope Francis tells us, are the sacraments. Help the children in your domestic church build spiritual muscle and understand more about the sacraments with sacrament-focused books.

### *Child's Guide to the Seven Sacraments*

PaulistPress.com (800) 218-1903

Dominic must write a school report on the seven sacraments. He turns to Bible stories, library books and memories of those sacraments received by him, family members and friends. The sacraments become more accessible to young readers as Dominic recalls, for example, his neighbor Julia being confirmed and a friend's hospitalized grandpa receiving the anointing of the sick. Ages 5-9.

### *God Is With Me Always and Everywhere*

Store.Pauline.org, (800) 876-4463

"I was baptized and I became/A child of God that day; Now God is with me always./ Everywhere, in every way." This joyful, rhyming book reminds children that baptism brings us into the family of God in a very special way. Ages 4-7.

### *A Child's Guide to Baptism*

PaulistPress.com (800) 218-1903

Anthony, a proud big brother of a soon-to-be-baptized sibling, invites readers to come along and learn about this first and very special sacrament. As the pages unfold, he learns about the grace-filled power that is now offered to us through the sacrament. The friendly, straightforward language is accessible for even younger children and is sprinkled with interactive questions that offer great starting points for discussion. Ages 5-9.

### *My First Holy Communion Book*

Ignatius.com, (800) 218-1903

This beautifully illustrated and wonderfully told story traces God's love for his children found in selected Bible stories and, in a very special way, the Eucharist. The other sacraments, life in the Church, prayer and an examination of conscience round out this keepsake book. First communicants may record information, write a prayer and paste a photo on a memory page for their special day. Ages 7 and older.

### *Your First Communion: Meeting Jesus, Your True Joy*

Ignatius.com, (800) 218-1903

This commemorative first Communion gift book features the joyful words of Pope Francis, paired with inviting illustrations. The Holy Father's words offer a virtual catechesis. The rich text is full of good lessons, encouraging words and a constant reminder of the joy that Jesus brings. Ages 7 and older.

### *A Little Book About Confession for Children*

Ignatius.com, (800) 218-1903

While little in size, this book is jam-packed with everything children and parents want to know about the sacrament of penance. Two dozen questions — including "What if I'm scared to go to confession?" — are addressed. Ages 7 and older.

### *Sophie Wonders About Marriage*

Liguori.org, (800) 325-9521

Sophie's mom explains that her ring is her most precious piece of jewelry because it is a symbol of her marriage to Sophie's dad. When Sophie's parents were married in the Church, Sophie learns, they promised to love each other forever. This book is part of a set of seven books, each focusing on a different sacrament of the Church for very young readers. Ages 4 and older.

The Crawford sisters write from Pittsburgh.

IN THIS, THE YEAR OF MERCY, YOU CAN HELP RESTORE SIGHT TO THE BLIND IN THE POOREST REGION OF AFRICA.



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## First Communion



### MY FIRST COMMUNION: SILVER & GOLD PICTURE FRAME

This beautiful keepsake frame is made of a resin-stone mix and painted white, silver and gold. It has an easel back and features a gold chalice with a host to represent the holy Eucharist and a cross with wheat, bread and grapes on the left. The rectangular space will display a 4-inch x 6-inch photo and has the words "My First Communion" imprinted below it. Measures 8 inches wide x 8 1/2 inches high. Item: 40944, \$20.

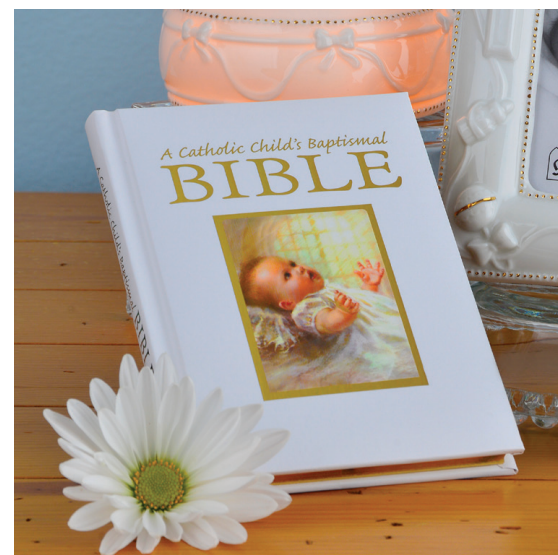
### MY FIRST COMMUNION: SILVER & GOLD KEEPSAKE BOX

This charming keepsake box is made of a resin-stone mix and painted in silver, white and gold. The lid is a separate piece and features a gold chalice with a Host to represent the holy Eucharist with the words "My First Communion" imprinted around the edge. Measures 2 3/4 inches in diameter and 1 1/4 inches high (3/4 inches deep on the inside). Rosary not included. Item: 40947, \$10.50.

### MY FIRST COMMUNION STATUE

From the Renaissance Collection of Joseph's Studios, this sweet statue is a beautiful reminder of a child's first Communion. It is made of a resin-stone mix and measures 9 1/2 inches high x 5 1/2 inches wide x 5 inches deep. Boy's, Item: 47745; Girl's, Item: 47744. Both \$45.

## Baptism



### A CATHOLIC CHILD'S BAPTISMAL BIBLE

This beautifully illustrated book includes many stories from the Old and New Testaments, a family record section and prayers. Hardcover. 95 pages. Item: 14001, \$20.



### BABY BAPTISM GIFT SET

The perfect three-piece set to complement the blessed day includes a bib with lace detailing and an embroidered cross, socks with gold-stitched cross and a 40-inch square blanket with a satin ribbon accent and beautiful embroidered cross. The set comes in a display box with a clear lid tied with a white ribbon bow. Item: 26318, \$45.



### GUARDIAN ANGEL CRIB MEDAL

This beautifully detailed pewter medal features the popular image of a guardian angel keeping watch over her charges crossing a dangerous bridge. The round medal is 2 1/2 inches in diameter and comes with a white satin ribbon. The back can be personalized by an engraver. Item: PW12G, \$16.