

February Reflections from Pope Francis...

January 31st – February 6th

What a beautiful thing that the Church begins her daily prayer with the words, 'O God, come to my assistance. O Lord, make haste to help me'. The assistance we ask for is already the first step of God's mercy toward us. He comes to visit us in our weakness. And his help consists in helping us accept his presence and closeness to us. Day after day, touched by his compassion, we also can become passionate towards others."

—Pope Francis

February 7th – 13th

I think we too are the people who, on the one hand want to listen to Jesus, but on the other hand, at times, like to find a stick to beat others with, to condemn others. And Jesus has this message for us: mercy. I think—and I say it with humility—that this is the Lord's most powerful message: mercy."

— Pope Francis

February 14th – 20th

"As we can see in Sacred Scripture, mercy is a key word that indicates God's action towards us. He does not limit himself merely to affirming his love, but makes it visible and tangible. Love, after all, can never be just an abstraction. By its very nature, it indicates something concrete: intentions, attitudes, and behaviors that are shown in daily living. The mercy of God is his loving concern for each one of us. He feels responsible; that is, he desires our well-being and he wants to see us happy, full of joy, and peaceful. This is the path which the merciful love of Christians must also travel. As the Father loves, so do his children. Just as he is merciful, so we are called to be merciful to each other."

— Pope Francis

February 21st – February 27th

"In the Gospel the essential thing is mercy. God sent his Son, God made himself man in order to save us, that is, in order to grant us his mercy. Jesus says this clearly, summarizing his teaching for the disciples: 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful' (Lk 6:36). Can there be a Christian who isn't merciful? No. A Christian must necessarily be merciful, because this is the center of the Gospel. And faithful to this teaching, the Church can only repeat the same thing to her children: 'Be merciful', as the Father is, and as Jesus was. Mercy."

— Pope Francis