

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 27, 2025

Holy Hour 3pm-4pm

Exposition,
Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Meditation & silent prayer
(Blessing of Images will be *after*
the Holy Hour)

The Feast Day of Divine Mercy

You may have grown up listening to readings and homilies concerning mercy, but have you really thought about its meaning? What is mercy, and why is it so important to the salvation of our souls? Mercy, simply stated, is Compassionate Love. God's love for each of us is so complete and full that it overflows upon us to relieve us of our sins, suffering, and miseries. This mercy is most dramatically seen in Christ's passion and death on the cross. Unfortunately, many people haven't acknowledged the connection of their salvation with this ultimate act of mercy

Therefore, Christ chose to reveal Himself to a humble nun, Sister Faustina of Poland, to explain His Message of Mercy and give her the mission of spreading its devotion. **My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy** (699). Jesus warns her about the world's indifference and increasing separation from Him, but He wants to intercede for us and protect us from His Father's Divine Judgment by pouring out His Mercy on us **Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy** (300). This is where Divine Mercy Sunday comes in.

Divine Mercy Sunday was specifically given to us by Christ: **I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially poor sinners...Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet** (699). This amazing day, which falls on the Octave of Easter, offers us complete protection from Divine Wrath if we approach Him with a contrite heart. In other words, Christ promises us complete forgiveness of sins and punishment for those who "participate fully" in Divine Mercy Sunday. To fully participate in this feast day, and receive these graces, we must do what Christ has asked:

- † **Celebrate** the Feast on the Sunday after Easter
- † Sincerely **repent** our sins
- † Place our **complete trust** in the Lord
- † Go to **Confession** (up to 20 days prior to Feast)
- † Receive **Holy Communion** on the Feast Day
- † **Venerate** the Divine Mercy Image
- † **Be merciful** to others in actions, words and prayers

As Christ explained to St. Faustina: **I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My Mercy** (1109).

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The Divine Mercy Image

The earliest element of the Devotion to the Divine Mercy revealed to St. Faustina was the Image. On February 22nd, 1931 Jesus appeared to her with rays radiating from His heart and said, Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world. (47) I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory. (48) I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature": Jesus, I trust in you." (327) The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender Mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who dwells in their shelter, for the Just Hand of God shall not lay hold of him. (299) Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush, lies the greatness of this image, but in My Grace. (313) By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My Mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works." (42)

Confession- Be Not Afraid

Our Lord in His Great Mercy gave us the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The gospel that is read on Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us of this. Jesus breathed on the disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

Jesus is truly present in the Sacrament of Reconciliation for each and every one of us, no matter how great our sins. He is our Merciful Savior who forgives and restores life.

In the 1930's, Christ revealed Himself to a humble nun, St. Faustina, and asked that she be His secretary by writing down His message of mercy to the world. In her diary, she shares with us a loving reminder of Christ's presence in this amazing sacrament: **When you go to confession, to this fountain of mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul** (1602).

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The Feast of Divine Mercy

Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (300).

This extraordinary promise Christ makes means complete cleansing from the effects of our sins, like a second Baptism.

Normally, when we receive absolution from our sins in confession, we still will have to atone for them later. These forgiven sins still leave a blemish on our souls that must be purified before we can attain heaven, thus the time in Purgatory. But now, The Lord is calling **you** to be washed clean in His Love and Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday. Christ says:

Souls that make an appeal to My mercy delight Me. To such souls I grant even more graces than they ask. I cannot punish even the greatest sinner if he makes an appeal to My Compassion (1146).

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- † To admonish sinners
- † To instruct the ignorant
- † To counsel the doubtful
- † To comfort the sorrowful
- † To bear wrongs patiently
- † To forgive all injuries
- † To pray for the living and the dead

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Confession - Be Not Afraid

Tell souls where they are to look for solace; that is, in the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation]... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated (1448). Here the misery of the soul meets the God of mercy (1602). Come with faith to the feet of My representative (1448). I myself am waiting there for you I am only hidden by the priest, but I myself act in your soul (1602). **Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to me, and I will fill it with My light (1725)**

As Pope Benedict XVI explains in his first encyclical, "God is Love," we need to imitate Jesus' humility. As He humbled himself and joined His Life with ours, so we should follow Him in humility by doing what He asks. Be not afraid. He's waiting for you with open arms in this sacrament no matter how long it's been... Jesus, I trust in You!

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- † To feed the hungry
- † To give drink to the thirsty
- † To clothe the naked
- † To visit and ransom the captives
- † To shelter the homeless
- † To visit the sick
- † To bury the dead

3 PM The Hour of Great Mercy

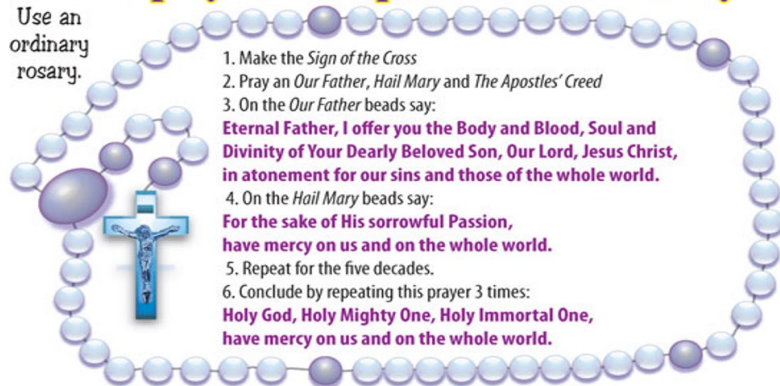
In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the cross.



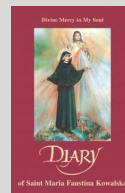
"At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion". (1320).

How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use an ordinary rosary.



1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. Pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and The Apostles' Creed
3. On the Our Father beads say:
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.
4. On the Hail Mary beads say:
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.
5. Repeat for the five decades.
6. Conclude by repeating this prayer 3 times:
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



Divine Mercy Devotional Materials

If the Divine Mercy message has piqued your interest, look for more information and books about Christ's Message of Mercy given to St. Faustina. Consider taking this next step toward our Merciful Savior.

For Divine Mercy devotional materials please contact

Mary Sue Himpler
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The Divine Mercy Novena

Good Friday through Easter Saturday

Jesus asked that the Feast of the Divine Mercy be preceded by a Novena to the Divine Mercy which would begin on **Good Friday**. He gave St. Faustina an intention to pray for on each day of the Novena. During the Solemn Novena leading to Divine Mercy Sunday, the **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** should be offered each day for the day's intentions.

- † **Good Friday:** All mankind, especially sinners
- † **Holy Saturday:** The souls of priests and religious
- † **Easter Sunday:** All devout and faithful souls
- † **Easter Monday:** Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
- † **Easter Tuesday:** The souls of separated brethren
- † **Easter Wednesday:** The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- † **Easter Thursday:** The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- † **Easter Friday:** The souls who are detained in purgatory
- † **Easter Saturday:** The souls who have become lukewarm

Prayer to the Divine Mercy

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your Holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.(950)

