

IN PREPARATION FOR  
**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**  
( THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EASTER SUNDAY )

Our Lord appeared many times to Sister Faustina Kowalska beginning in 1931. The Church has examined the revelations to Sister Faustina and concluded that the message to her from God is authentic and the extraordinary grace promised by Jesus on the Feast of Mercy is a gift of grace from God equaled only by the grace of Holy Baptism. On April 30, 2000 Sister Faustina was canonized Saint Faustina. The same year, in response to Our Lord's request, Blessed Pope John Paul II instituted *the Sunday after Easter Sunday* to be known and celebrated every year as "*Divine Mercy Sunday*."

The message of Divine Mercy is at the heart of the Gospel. It represents the truth and the call of the Gospel and is proclaimed by the Late Blessed Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical "Rich in Mercy," as the message for our time: "*The Church must consider it one of her principal duties – at every stage of history and especially in our modern age – to proclaim and to introduce into life the mystery of Divine Mercy, supremely revealed in Jesus Christ*".

**SHORT HISTORY OF THE  
DEVOTION TO DIVINE MERCY**

On February 22, 1931, Sister Faustina records: "*I saw Jesus dressed in a white garment. He held one hand raised in blessing and the other hand was touching his garment at the breast. From under the garment came two rays of light, one red and the other pale*". Jesus said: "*Paint a picture according to the vision you see and with the signature, 'Jesus, I trust in You'. I desire that this picture be venerated first in your chapel and then throughout the whole world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I further promise to the soul, victory over enemies here on earth especially at the hour of death. I Myself, shall defend that soul as My own glory.*"

Later Sister Faustina's Spiritual Director told her to ask Jesus what the rays signified and Jesus explained to her – "*The rays represent the Blood and Water which gushed from the depths of my Mercy when My agonizing Heart was pierced on the Cross. The pale rays symbolize the water, which cleanses and purifies the soul: the red rays represent the blood, which gives new life to the soul. The rays will shield the soul before the*

*justice of My Father. Fortunate are those who live in this shelter, for the justice of God will not reach them there”.*

Jesus told Sister Faustina: *“The greater the sinner, the greater the mercy. Summon all those to confidence in the incomprehensible depth of My Mercy for I desire to save all. The well of Mercy was opened wide with a lance on the Cross, for all souls. I do not exclude anyone”.*

Again and again, Our Lord visited Sister Faustina and repeated His appeal to sinners, calling them to His open arms, saying: *“Know, my daughter, that My Heart is Mercy itself. From this sea of mercy graces pour out upon the whole world. No souls that come to Me depart without being comforted. All misery vanishes in My Mercy: and every grace, redemptive and sanctifying, stems from this source”.*

On another occasion, Jesus complained of our lack of trust in Him, saying: *“Distrust tears at My Heart. The lack of confidence in chosen souls hurts Me most. Despite my inexhaustible love, they do not trust Me. Tell ailing mankind to draw close to My Merciful Heart and I will fill them with peace. Mankind will not find solace until it turns with confidence to My Mercy and love”.*

### THE FEAST OF MERCY

Our Lord instructed Saint Faustina that a nine day novena of the following prayer (*Chaplet of Mercy*) should be offered beginning on Good Friday in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday: *“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”.* Jesus said: *“My daughter, speak to the world of My inexhaustible Mercy. I desire that this feast be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, especially for poor sinners. The very depths of My Mercy will be opened on that day. I will pour out a sea of graces upon those souls that will approach the fount of My Mercy on this day . . . Say unceasingly this chaplet. Anyone who says it will receive great mercy at the hour of death”.* Jesus also promised that: *“The souls that will go to confession in preparation, and Communion on the Feast of My Mercy will obtain a complete remission of all sin and all punishment”.* According to this great promise, Jesus is offering all souls a chance for a new “baptism” each year, giving everyone an opportunity to “wipe their soul clean”.

The remarkable grace of the Feast of Divine Mercy is like the grace of Baptism. The Sacramental grace of Baptism received by an adult is not only the removal of original sin but is also the forgiveness of all personal sins and any punishment for those sins. For the soul who prepares for the Feast of Mercy by confessing their sins in the Sacrament of Penance and then receives Holy Communion on the Feast Day, their soul is wiped clean, as in Baptism, receiving a full remission of all sins from their past life as well as a full pardon from all punishment due to those sins. **In other words, Jesus raised Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy to the rank of a second Baptism for those who also go to confession in preparation for the Feast Day.** Exhorting people to hasten to Him before it is too late, Jesus said: *“Before I come as the just one, I first open the gates of My Mercy. He who does not pass through the gates of My Mercy must pass through the gates of justice”.*

### THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

Our Lord requested the *“Chaplet of Mercy”* be recited on the beads of the Rosary in the following way:

1. First say one *“Our Father”*, one *“Hail Mary”*, and the *“Apostles Creed.”*
2. Then on the *“Our Father Beads”* say this prayer:  
*“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”.*
3. On the *“Hail Mary Beads”* say this prayer:  
*“For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world”.*
4. In conclusion after the five decades say 3 times:  
*“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world”.*

It is this Chaplet that our Lord requested to be used as a 9 day Novena, from Good Friday to Divine Mercy Sunday in preparation for the Feast of Divine Mercy.

**WHAT JESUS ASKS OF US IN ORDER FOR US TO RECEIVE THE SPECIAL GRACE PROMISED BY HIM ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY**

1. Divine Mercy Sunday, should be preceded by a 9 day Novena of Chaplets to the Divine Mercy beginning on Good Friday.
2. That we contemplate, on the Feast Day, the Mystery of Redemption as the greatest revelation of Divine Mercy towards us.
3. The Image of the Divine Mercy is to be ceremoniously blessed on the Feast Day, exposed to all taking part in the celebration and publically venerated.  
( **At Holy Trinity Church – Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm** )
4. Confession and Holy Communion on the Feast Day. If confession is not available on the Feast of Mercy it should be as close to the Feast Day as possible. Communion, as always, should be a worthy one free from all sin, and must be accompanied by complete Trust in Divine Mercy.
5. An act of Mercy should take place in our lives, as part of our preparation for the feast. We should be merciful to others in our: **1) Words, 2) Deeds & 3) Prayers.**

**1. MERCIFUL WORDS**

Forgiving and comforting.

**2. MERCIFUL DEEDS**

Any of the corporal works of mercy:

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked / needy.
4. Shelter / help the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

**3. MERCIFUL PRAYERS**

Prayers of mercy for the world.

If a soul taking advantage of this great gift in all sincerity and with proper contrition, was to die after receiving Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy and before committing another sin, the soul would go immediately to Heaven, **without any time in Purgatory - regardless of past life.** This is the unbelievable, but awesome and little understood love and mercy of God for sinners. **Don't miss out on this awesome gift from God !**