

Divine Mercy Sunday

First Sunday after Easter Each Year



Rejoice in the Resurrection Rejoice in God's Mercy

Every family needs God's mercy. Every family should know about the Feast of Mercy. Lenten prayers, fasts, alms giving and good deeds afford us the opportunity to prepare well for the reception of Divine Mercy showered upon the world in an extraordinary way the Second Sunday of Easter each year. Turn to the Lord with trust for all of your needs, spiritual as well as temporal. Ask for much and join the hundreds of thousands that have received hope, healing and answers to many prayers on this special day. Rejoice in the Resurrection. Rejoice in God's Mercy.

"The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive."

(Jesus to St. Faustina, *Diary*, 1578)

During Mercy Sunday celebrations in Vilnius, Poland in 1935 St. Faustina recorded:

When he [Blessed Fr. Michael Sopocko] began to speak about the great mercy of the Lord, the image [Divine Mercy] came alive and the rays pierced the hearts of the people gathered there, but not all to the same degree. Some received more, some less. (417)

"No soul that has called upon My mercy has ever been disappointed."

HOW TO RECEIVE THE GRACES OF THE FEAST OF MERCY

An abundance of mercy is offered to those who:

- Are merciful to others through deed, word and prayer
- Make a good and sincere confession during Lent
- Worthily receive Holy Communion on the Feast Day (or Saturday vigil)
- Venerate the image of The Divine Mercy
- Trust in God's Mercy

Join the Divine Mercy for America Campaign, a network of faithful souls committed to spreading the message and praying for our nation. Visit DivineMercyforAmerica.org to learn more and to join the team. Together we can make a difference!

Immerse Yourself in Mercy The Feast of Mercy

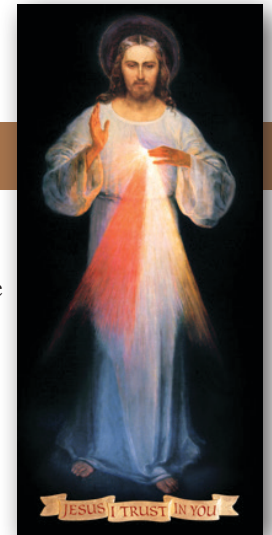


When Jesus revealed the sacred image of Himself as The Divine Mercy to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska on February 22, 1931, He declared: "I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy." (*Diary*, 49)

A DAY OF EXTRAORDINARY GRACE

Jesus repeatedly asked that this ancient, forgotten feast be officially proclaimed by the Church. Christ promised that on this day His Mercy would be overflowing to those who would ask for it. Jesus told St. Faustina:

"My daughter, tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy." (699)



On the Feast of Mercy, Sunday, April 30, 2000, Saint Pope John Paul II fulfilled the Lord's request when he decreed, "The Second Sunday of Easter from now on throughout the Church will be known as 'Divine Mercy Sunday.'"

THE PROMISES OF THE FEAST OF MERCY

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet." (699)

"Ordinarily, only the sacrament of Baptism effects in the soul the 'complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.' Reception of the Eucharist in a state of grace ordinarily remits only venial sin, while strengthening the soul against both venial and mortal sin (Catechism, 1394-1395). But on Mercy Sunday reception of Holy Communion worthily and with trust in God's Mercy pours out upon the soul a complete renewal of baptismal grace." - Rev. Ignacy Rozycki, STD, Former Member of the Holy See's International Theological Commission.

Excerpts taken from the Diary of St. Faustina © 1987 Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., Stockbridge MA
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