

# Come to the Feast of Divine Mercy!

**Calling all Catholics to the Feast of Mercy on the Sunday after Easter, April 16, 2023.**  
**Did you know that the Lord said this feast would one day be the “last hope of salvation”?**  
**Considered what would happen to you if you suddenly died in the state of mortal sin?**



In the 1930's, our Lord Jesus requested through St. Faustina, that a very special Feast of Divine Mercy be established in His Church and solemnly celebrated on the First Sunday after Easter every year.

In the Jubilee Year 2000, Saint Pope John Paul II fulfilled the will of Christ by establishing this special Feast of Divine Mercy, in the Catholic Church, and gave it the name “**Divine Mercy Sunday**”!

**What is so special about this Feast of Divine Mercy?** It is the promise of the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment for any soul that would go to Confession and then receive Jesus in Holy Communion on that very special Feast of Divine Mercy!

Why would Jesus offer us something so great at this time? Jesus told St. Faustina that she was to prepare the world for His Second Coming and He would pour out His Mercy in very great abundance before He comes again as the Just Judge and as the **very last hope of salvation**.

So how can we better understand why the Lord has chosen this specific Sunday to open up the Divine Floodgates? If we look into the Old Testament in Leviticus 16:29-34 & 23:26-28, we will see that God demanded that Moses set a, once-a-year, day of atonement for the people to receive the forgiveness of their sins. The Day of Atonement was on the last day of a 10 day feast that the Jews still call the "High Holy Days" and the "10 Days of Awe".

God told Moses that this feast was to be for them the "Sabbath of Sabbaths" or in other words, their greatest feast. It was for them "an annual preparation for the Judgment" and they looked forward to this feast every year. This feast for the Jews of today is Yom Kippur. So if God chose a special day of grace back in the Old Testament, why wouldn't He do the same for us, especially when the Old Testament points to the new? And isn't Easter our Sabbath of Sabbaths or our Feast of Feasts? The Church celebrates Easter for 8 days which culminates on the Octave Day of Easter, on the following Sunday.

If you count from Holy Thursday all the way to Divine Mercy Sunday, the Octave Day of Easter, you will have a full 10 days. Are not these 10 days, for us, the "High Holy Days" or the "10 Days of Awe"? The Church expects us to celebrate the feast of Easter for a full 8 days. That is why they have made all of those 8 days, between Easter and the Octave Day of Easter, solemnities, the highest form of celebration possible. No other feast, not even Christmas can match it.

Jesus made it very clear that He would pour out a whole ocean of graces on that day and that the Divine Floodgates would be wide-opened. Jesus promised that the soul that would go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, on that day, would receive the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment. Jesus has made it very simple for us; go to Confession and receive Holy Communion! The Church has backed up the promise of Jesus with the special Plenary Indulgence for Divine Mercy Sunday and has given us 20 days to confess our sins. This, in itself, is a wonderful grace, because it allows most of us to confess our sins during Lent, in preparation, and this will allow room near Divine Mercy Sunday for those souls who have not confessed their sins, for the indulgence. Jesus said that every time we enter the Confessional that He Himself is there waiting for us, and that He is only hidden by the priest. Jesus said never to analyze what sort of a priest that He is making use of, but for us to reveal our souls to Him and that He will fill us with His peace.

**If you have been away** from the Catholic faith and have any questions about coming back home, please talk to a priest at any Catholic Church. The beauty of the Catholic Church is that its teachings and practices are the same at all of its parishes. You may have concerns, such as: marriage outside of the Church; un-confessed abortions; or other issues that could be preventing you from receiving Holy Communion or you may have questions about the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Don't consider yourself as without hope. Our Lord Jesus wants to pardon completely even the worst sinners possible. Remember, Jesus has come for sinners, not the righteous. Jesus said that even if our sins were as numerous as the grains of sand, they would be lost in His Ocean of Mercy. If you are truly repentant of your sins and are well prepared to confess your sins in the Sacrament of Confession, you'll experience a tremendous peace. You'll experience a great weight lifted from you and get a brand new start in life!

# Why pray the Chaplet of the DIVINE MERCY

JESUS himself revealed the Chaplet of the DIVINE MERCY to St. Faustina and asked her to pray the Chaplet unceasingly. JESUS told her: **Say unceasingly the chaplet that I have taught you. Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death.** The Chaplet of DIVINE MERCY is one of the most powerful prayers we could possibly pray. JESUS told St. Faustina: **Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy.**

## How to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy is prayed on ordinary Rosary beads:

### 1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross:

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Spirit*

### 2. Opening Prayer (Optional prayer, but especially prayed at the 3 o'clock hour)

*You expired Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and the ocean of Mercy, opened up for the whole world.*

*O Blood and Water, which gushed from the Heart of Jesus, as a fountain for us, we trust in You. (3 times 'O Blood and Water)*

### 3. (Essential opening prayer - on the first 3 beads after the Cross)

#### **The Lord's Prayer (Our Father)**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.*

#### **Hail Mary**

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

#### **Apostle's Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*

### 4. On the 'Our Father' beads pray:

*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.*

### 5. On the 'Hail Mary' beads pray:

*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have Mercy on us and on the whole world. (10 beads)*

### 6. Closing Prayers (After completing the 5 decades)

*Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have Mercy on us and on the whole world. (3 times)*

### Closing Prayers (optional)

*Eternal God, in whom Mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible. Look kindly upon us and increase your Mercy in us, so that in difficult moments, we may not despair nor become despondent but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your Holy Will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.*

### April 16<sup>th</sup> in Church

2:00-3:00 pm Holy Hour

3:00 pm Chaplet in English & Spanish

