

Dear Parish Family,

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who so generously support our parish. I am so very grateful to all who contributed so generously to our Easter collection. This is a very challenging time for all and I am so very thankful to all of you. Please remember that online giving is now available on the parish website.

Today is the Octave of Easter, also known as Divine Mercy Sunday. *The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy.*

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

A - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

B - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

C - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

When Pope John Paul canonized Sr. Faustina (making her St. Faustina), he also, on the same day, surprised the entire world by establishing Divine Mercy Sunday (the feast day associated with the message) as a feast day for the entire Church. The feast day falls on the Second Sunday of the Easter season. On that day, Pope John Paul II declared, "This is the happiest day of my life." (italicized text taken from <https://www.thedivinemercy.org>)

Each Sunday, while the stay at home order is in effect, I will be offering a live-streamed Mass on St. Mary Parish Facebook page at 9:00 a.m. If you are unable to watch at that time, the Mass will remain on the parish website so that you can watch at a later time. Let's continue to pray for all those who are impacted by the Coronavirus.

God bless you.

Fr. Dan Redmond