

*St. Andrew Catholic Church Stuart, Florida*

# DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus, I trust in you!

Peace be  
with you.

As the Father  
has sent Me,  
So I send you.

Receive the  
Holy Spirit,  
whose sins  
you forgive  
are forgiven  
them, and  
whose sins  
you retain  
are retained.

*April 11, 2021 Divine Mercy Sunday*

John 20:21-23

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# Prayers Before Mass

*April 11th, 2021 Divine Mercy Sunday*

*All of the information needed for today's liturgy is found in this bulletin, including Readings, and Responses.*



## Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and the snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.

**Mary, Queen of the Apostles and Patroness of our Diocese, Pray for us.**

## Penitential Act: A

### The Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

## Diocesan Prayer for God's Protection in the face of the Coronavirus Pandemic

Loving and gracious God, as in all times, we turn to You and implore Your protection and healing as we face a new threat to our health and peaceful well-being in the coronavirus pandemic before us. Help us to be united with each other and with all of our brothers and sisters around the world affected by this illness. We pray for all those in the medical field who are assisting patients and in the field of science who are discerning a cure, as well as for all government leaders. Remember those who, through this virus, have passed from this life as well as their families in their loss.

At this time of fragile uncertainty, we also humbly implore You to grant us prudence, hope, courage and patience. Dispel from us fear, panic and distrust which disrupt us in spirit to the detriment of our well-being.

We make our prayer in the name of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who always cured those who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons.

**Our Lady, Patroness of our Diocese, Queen of the Apostles and Comforter of the Afflicted, Pray for us. Amen.**

## Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks, for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father, Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.**

## Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, **All bow at the words that follow, up to and including** and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church, I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

#### ***A reading from the Acts of the Apostles***

*Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19*

The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common.

With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all.

There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

**Psalm 118:2-4,13-15,22-24**

**R. (1) Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

Let the house of Israel say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

Let those who fear the LORD say,  
"His mercy endures forever."

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

I was hard pressed and was falling,  
but the LORD helped me.

My strength and my courage is the LORD,  
and he has been my savior.

The joyful shout of victory  
in the tents of the just:

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**

The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.

By the LORD has this been done;  
it is wonderful in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;  
let us be glad and rejoice in it.

**R. Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.**



#### **March 18, 2021 Message to Mirjana**

"Dear children In a motherly way I am calling you to return to the joy and the truth of the Gospel, to return to the love of my Son - because He is waiting for you with open arms; that everything you do in life you do with my

Son, with love; that it may be blessed for you; so that your spirituality may be internal, and not just external. Only in that way will you be humble, generous, filled with love and joyful; and my motherly heart will rejoice with you. Thank you."

### **SECOND READING**

#### ***A reading from the first Letter of Saint John***

*1 John 5:1-6*

Beloved:

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is begotten by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves also the one begotten by him. In this way we know that we love the children of God when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whoever is begotten by God conquers the world. And the victory that conquers the world is our faith. Who indeed is the victor over the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came through water and blood, Jesus Christ, not by water alone, but by water and blood.

The Spirit is the one that testifies, and the Spirit is truth.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord;

Blessed are those who have not seen me, but still believe!

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **Gospel**

*John 20:19-31*

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! LET THE HOLY ANTHEM RISE

Opening Song

Anonymous



1. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Let the ho-ly an-them rise, And the  
2. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Like the sun from out the wave, He has  
3. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Bless-ed Je-sus, make us rise From the



1. choirs of heav-en chant it In the tem-ple of the skies; Let the  
2. ris-en up in tri-umph From the dark-ness of the grave. He's the  
3. life of this cor-rup-tion To the life that nev-er dies. May your



1. moun-tains skip with glad-ness, And the joy-ful val-leys ring With ho-  
2. splen-dor of the na-tions, He's the lamp of end-less day; He's the  
3. glo-ry be our por-tion, When the days of time are past, And the



1. san-nas in the high-est To our Sav-ior and our King!  
2. ver-y Lord of glo-ry Who is ris-en up to-day!  
3. dead shall be a-wak-ened By the trum-pet's might-y blast!

Text: 87 87 D; Anon.; probably American, ca 1887, alt. Music: *St Basil's Hymnal*, 1889.

# SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY

Closing Song

HYMN TO JOY



1. Sing with all the saints in glo-ry, Sing the res-ur-  
2. Oh, what glo-ry, far ex-ceed-ing All that eye has  
3. Life e-ter-nal! heav'n re-joic-es: Je-sus lives who  
4. Life e-ter-nal! O what won-ders Crowd on faith; what



1. rec-tion song! Death and sor-row, earth's dark sto-ry,  
2. yet per-ceived! Ho-liest hearts for a-ges plead-ing,  
3. once was dead; Join with all the heav'n-ly voic-es;  
4. joy un-known, When, a-mid earth's clos-ing thun-ders,



1. To the form-er days be-long. All a-round the  
2. Nev-er that full joy con-ceived. God has prom-ised,  
3. Child of God, lift up your head! Pa-tri-archs from  
4. Saints shall stand be-fore the throne! Oh, to en-ter



1. clouds are break-ing, Soon the storms of time shall cease; In God's  
2. Christ pre-pares it, There on high our wel-come waits; Ev-'ry  
3. dis-tant a-ges, Saints all long-ing for their heav'n, Proph-ets,  
4. that bright por-tal, See that glow-ing fir-ma-ment, Know, with



1. like-ness, peo-ple wak-ing, Know the ev-er-last-ing peace.  
2. hum-ble spir-it shares it, Christ has passed th'e-ter-nal gates.  
3. psalm-ists, seers, and sa-ges, All a-wait the glo-ry giv'n.  
4. you, O God im-mor-tal, Je-sus Christ whom you have sent!

Text: 87 87 D; 1 Corinthians 15:20; William J. Irons, 1812-1893; fr. *Psalms and Hymns*, 1873, alt.  
Music: Ludwig van Beethoven; adapt. by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867.



## March 25, 2021 Message to Marija

"Dear children! Also today I am with you to tell you: Little children, who prays does not fear the future and does not lose hope. You are chosen to carry joy and peace, because you are mine. I have come here with the name 'Queen of Peace' because the devil wants peacelessness and war, he wants to

fill your heart with fear of the future - but the future is God's. That is why, be humble and pray, and surrender everything into the hands of the Most High Who created you. Thank you for having responded to my call."

# Congratulations



## Congratulations to the following winners of the 2021 St. Andrew Annual Parish Give-Away!!!

- 1st Prize \$ 5,000. Ted Huffman CASH!
- 2nd Prize \$ 2,000. Nathan Elias Choxom CASH!
- 3rd Prize \$1,000. Sharon Dutler CASH!
- 4th Prize \$ 500. Florence Oreiro CASH!
- 5th Prize \$ 500. Robert Sullivan CASH!
- 6th Prize \$ 500. Jack Klett CASH!
- 7th Prize \$ 500. Gail/Floyd Hodge CASH!

*Thank you!*

We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who helped sell this years tickets for Saint Andrew Catholic Church Annual Parish Give-A-way:

A shout out to John Sullivan for making the signs and to Patricia Linsalata for organizing & coordinating.

- |               |                   |                     |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Norma Thomas  | Nancy Sbordone    | Gerri Brandenburger |
| Denise Harden | Sara Matera       | Karen Jensen        |
| Mark Cestaro  | Louise Cestaro    | Barbara Ginnetti    |
| Tom Williams  | Michelle Williams | Gerri Murray        |
| Sherry Taylor |                   |                     |

## Thank you



We at St. Andrew Catholic Church express our deepest appreciation to "Palm City Palms" for your most generous and kind donation of the palms & flowers for our Palm Sunday celebration. Your donation goes above and beyond what we could have ever hoped to imagine. Thank you for all of your incredible help.

*May you rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*



**The Prayer Shawl Ministry** will be meeting first Wednesday of every month at 10:30am. We are happy to be back in our regular meeting room A in the church with social distancing and masks. We have continued making shawls to give to parishioners, their family and friends. Anyone needing a shawl to celebrate and or comfort loved ones, please contact the person listed in this notice. We have recently received requests from St. Andrew Flocknotes, which we are happy to respond to. We also thank donors who have supplied us with yarn. We welcome any new people who would like to join us in this giving ministry.

contact: Norma 772 919 5963 nolio91@gmail.com



### March & April Schedule

Sun	Apr-11	CCD	
Wed	Apr-14	CCD	
Sun	Apr-18	CCD	
Wed	Apr-21	Last Class	
Sun	Apr-25	Last Class	
Wed	Apr-28		First Communion Practice 6:00Pm in the Church
Sat	May-1	Practice / Reconciliation	Readers only for the communion mass meet 9:30am in the church. Communion practice for all children is 10:00am in the church. Reconciliation meet at 11:00am in the church
Sun	May-2		First Communion Mass 12:00. Students must be at church before 11:00 am

## Adoration & Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena

Will resume Wednesday April 14th, 2021  
Please note: No Adoration April 9th 2021

The Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help is held on

**Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm; followed by Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction At 8:00pm.**



*All are welcome. Come spend some time with our Lord and Blessed Mother.*

**Saint Andrew  
Catholic Church**

2100 SE Cove Road  
Stuart, Florida 34997  
772-781-4415



Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30am  
Monday-Friday 7:30am  
**Holy Days:** Vigil 4:00pm  
7:30am & 6:00pm

**Confession:**

Saturday: 2:30pm  
Those wishing to receive the sacrament should be here at 2:30

**First Friday**

7:30am Mass followed by individual confessions

**First Saturday**

7:30 Mass followed by individual confessions

**Pastor**

Reverend John Barrow

**Retired Assisting Clergy**

Monsignor Blase Gintoli  
Monsignor James Moore

**Deacons**

Deacon Louis Romero  
Deacon Matthew Bartlett  
Deacon Andre Boucher

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday  
9am-12Noon  
Saturday 2-4pm  
Sunday  
9am-12Noon

**Youth Activities**

DRE: Mrs. Donna Hernandez



Registration CLOSED

*April 11th, 2021 Divine Mercy Sunday*



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Apr. 10	Sat.	4:00pm	Helen Martin+
Apr. 11	Sun.	7:30am	Robin Srebot Ziesmer+
Apr. 11	Sun.	9:00am	Bobby Cara+
Apr. 11	Sun.	10:30am	Nina Snow Gebrian+
Apr. 11	Sun.	3:00pm	Mass of Divine Mercy
Apr. 12	Mon	7:30am	Gloria Weis+
Apr. 13	Tues	7:30am	Tom & Phyllis Cote'(Liv)
Apr. 14	Wed.	7:30am	Joseph P. Oreiro+
Apr. 15	Thurs.	7:30am	Rev. Joseph McManus+
Apr. 16	Fri.	7:30am	Dominick Scotto+
Apr. 17	Sat.	4:00pm	John & Greta Parduba +
Apr. 18	Sun.	7:30am	Dolores Holoubek+
Apr. 18	Sun.	9:00am	Bernice Weichert+
Apr. 18	Sun.	10:30am	Conrad Zulauf, Sr. +
Apr. 19	Mon.	7:30am	Deceased Priests+
Apr. 20	Tues.	7:30am	Constance Norcia+
Apr. 21	Wed.	7:30am	Deceased Priests+
Apr. 22	Thurs.	7:30am	Michael Magi+
Apr. 23	Fri.	7:30am	Kathleen Dixon+
Apr. 24	Sat.	4:00pm	John Coffey+
Apr. 25	Sun.	7:30am	Melinda Welsh+
Apr. 25	Sun.	9:00am	Anne & Patrick Moore+
Apr. 25	Sun.	10:30am	Rev. Msgr. James Moore(Liv)
Apr. 26	Mon.	7:30am	Rita Berry+
Apr. 27	Tues.	7:30am	Samuel Healander+
Apr. 28	Weds.	7:30am	Bob Banasiewicz+
Apr. 29	Thurs	7:30am	Deceased Priests+
Apr. 30	Fri.	7:30am	Alexandro Conte+
May 1	Sat.	7:30am	Mothers Day Novena
May 1	Sat.	4:00pm	Helen Martin+
May 2	Sun.	7:30am	Mothers Day Novena
May 2	Sun.	9:00am	Michael Magi+
May 2	Sun.	10:30am	Robert Boobar+
May 2	Sun.	12:00 noon	First Holy Communion



**Adult Education (RCIA)  
& Lectors**  
Christine Michaelian  
Thursday 6:30pm-8:00pm

**Adoration**

(Resume April 14th, 2021)  
Weds. Evenings 6-8pm  
in Church

**Servants of the Eucharist &  
Care of the Sick**  
Kathleen Sullivan

**Annulments**

John Ginnetti

**Men of Saint Andrew  
Dave Olio**

Monday evening 6:30-8pm  
davidolio333@gmail.com

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Norma Olio  
1st Wednesday of each month  
from 8:30am-10am

**Pro-Life Ministry**

Michele Williams

**Bible Study**

Tuesday 10:00am  
Tuesday 6:30pm

**Ignatian Spirituality  
Prayer Group**

Weds. 8:30am-10:00am  
(Lenten Retreat Thurs. 8:30am)

**Disciples of Prayer**

Camille Lascari &  
Bob Greeson

**Parish Website**

saintandrewcatholic.org  
Webmaster;  
Michael Brennan

**Community Outreach**

**APOSTLES OF  
JOHN PAUL II**

Please call for an  
appointment  
772-291-0002

**Rosary Maker's Ministry**

Kathleen Sullivan  
Wednesday 10:00am

**Ushers**

Jane Engelbrecht  
ejanybrainy@yahoo.com

**Legion of Mary** Friday 8:15am



**Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

Please join us in praying the Chaplet after the daily 7:30am Mass.  
We pray for our Country, our Priests and for the Sanctity of Life.



## Weekly Announcements



The Sanctuary  
Candles are for  
the intention of  
**The Brown Family**



The Candles at the Shrine of Our  
Lady of Perpetual Help are for the  
intention of  
**Claudia Spinelli, Her Living  
Intentions.**



The Candle in the Adoration  
Chapel of the Two Hearts is  
for the intention  
of  
**A Special Young Man.**

**APOSTLES OF JOHN PAUL II**  
2100 SE Cove Road, Stuart, FL 34997



OPEN Friday 9-12Noon  
Please call for an appointment  
772-291-0002 WE ARE HERE TO HELP



*Rosary  
Maker's  
Ministry*

We are celebrating our 3rd Anniversary!  
We have made over 18,000 Rosaries for  
our Parishioners, Hospitals, Nursing Homes,  
Assisted Living, Prisons and many foreign  
countries.

Thank you APOSTLES OF JOHN PAUL II for  
making this possible.  
Please join us Wednesday at  
10 AM in Classroom C

## A gift of prayer



### The Sanctuary Candles



Are the two candles at both sides of the altar and can  
be memorialized .

The cost is \$15 per candle and 2 are  
needed, therefore the cost is \$30 for two weeks.  
Memorialized names will be announced in the bulletin.



### Our Lady of Perpetual Help Candles

The candles in front of the picture of  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help  
at the front of the church beside the pulpit can be  
purchased as memorials. The cost is  
\$15.00 per candle and two are needed, therefore, the  
price is \$30.00 for two weeks. Memorialized names will  
be in the weekly bulletin and announcements.



## St. Theresa and St. Joseph Memorial Candles

Annual Memorial Candles are available for your  
personal intentions. The candle will be lit for  
**one year at a cost of \$100.00.**

If you are interested in any of these candles, please stop  
by the church office after the Mass and we would  
be happy to order a plaque for you.

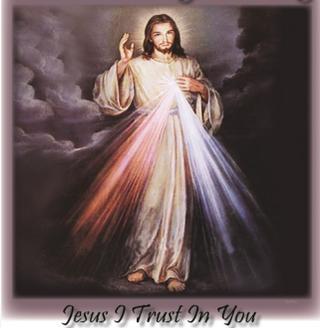


We love having you as part of our Flock!  
Keep in touch with us via email and text!

Text **4ANDREW to 84576** or connect with  
us online at  
[saintandrewcatholic.org/stay-in-touch](http://saintandrewcatholic.org/stay-in-touch)



## Divine Mercy Sunday



**April 11th, 2021  
at 12:00pm**

**Exposition of the Blessed  
Sacrament, Confessions,  
Recitation of the Rosary  
(Joyful, Sorrowful &  
Glorious mysteries),  
Readings from the Diary of  
St. Faustina and Benedic-  
tion.**

**3:00pm Novena & Chaplet of Divine Mercy**

### Divine Mercy Sunday

O greatly merciful God, infinite Goodness, today all mankind calls out from the abyss of its misery to your mercy, to your compassion, O God; and it is with a mighty voice of misery that it cries out. Gracious God, do not reject the prayer of this earth's exiles! O Lord, goodness beyond our understanding, who are acquainted with our misery through and through and know that by our own power we cannot ascend to you, we implore you: fill us with your grace and keep on increasing your mercy in us, that we may faithfully do your holy will all through our lives and at the hour of death. Let the omnipotence of your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as your children, await your final coming...

O Lord, I want to be completely transformed into your mercy and to be your living reflection. May the greatest of all divine attributes, that of your unfathomable mercy, pass through my heart and soul to my neighbor.

Help me, O Lord, that my ears may be merciful, so that I may give heed to my neighbor's needs and not be indifferent to their pains and moaning.

Help me, O Lord, that my tongue may be merciful, so that I should never speak negatively of my neighbor, but have a word of comfort and forgiveness for all.

Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful and filled with good deeds, so that I may do only good to my neighbors and take upon myself the most difficult and toilsome tasks.

Help me, O Lord, that my feet may be merciful, so that I may hurry to assist my neighbor, overcoming my own fatigue and weariness

Help me, O Lord, that my heart may be merciful so that I myself may feel all the sufferings of my neighbor...

May your mercy, O Lord, rest upon me.

O Jesus, I want to live in the present moment, to live as if this were the last day of my life. I want to use every moment scrupulously for the greater glory of God, to use every circumstance for the benefit of my soul. I want to look upon everything from the point of view that nothing happens without the will of God. God of unfathomable mercy, embrace the whole world and pour yourself out upon us through the Merciful Heart of Jesus. ~*Saint Faustina Kowalska*~

From *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, the diary of Sister Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament (+1938) a Polish sister of Our Lady of Mercy. She was canonized in 2000.

The first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be **acts of mercy**...I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it (742). Thus, to fittingly observe the Feast of Mercy, we should:

1. **Celebrate** the Feast on the Sunday after Easter;
2. Sincerely **repent** of all our sins;
3. Place our complete **trust** in Jesus;
4. Go to **Confession**, preferably before that Sunday;
5. Receive **Holy Communion** on the day of the Feast;
6. **Venerate\*** the Image of The Divine Mercy;
7. **Be merciful** to others, through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf.

*\*to venerate a sacred image means to perform some act or gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents, in this case, our Most Merciful Savior*

*The soul that will go to Confession (within 20 days before or after "Mercy Sunday") and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. "*

### Reconciliation

When human love has been betrayed, it is not enough just to feel contrite. One must also say so, promise to change, and then receive the forgiveness of the other. It is interesting to note that most psychologists agree on how dangerous it is to mental health to bottle up guilt, and how unloving a relationship becomes when it lacks openness. Similarly, one who has acted contrary to the bond of love with Christ longs to tell him so, and to reaffirm his love and to be forgiven. The contrition should be as loud and concrete as the unloving deed was...

If in human love forgiveness is followed by the embrace of reconciliation, how is this to be duplicated in relationship to Christ, who is not physically present to us? It must be by virtue of some spiritual presence which is yet concrete enough to serve man's need for the full vivid moment. We cannot show that the Sacrament of Penance is the only way that Christ could have accomplished this result; but perhaps analysis may help us to understand it as an invention of love by considering the words Christ said to his disciples, **Whose sins you forgive they are forgiven**. The priest serves not as a particular man—certainly not a mere busybody, or even as a psychologist of the spirit—but as the *visible representative of Christ's forgiving love*. This sacrament concretely applies the redemption Christ enacted for those sins which negate, and even sometimes destroy, the bond of love between the soul and God.

*By Ronda Chervin*

*Ronda Chervin is a convert from Judaism, professor of philosophy and theology.*

**OUR LORD'S PROMISES ATTACHED TO THE PRAYING OF THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY AS REVEALED TO ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA**

1. "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image (of Divine Mercy) 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." (*Diary*, 48)

2. "The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death." (*Diary*, 754)

3. "When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one." (*Diary*, 1541)

4. "When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just Judge but as a merciful Savior." (*Diary*, 1541)

5. "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." (*Diary*, 687)

6. "Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. 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...I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy." (*Diary*, 687)

7. "To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (*Diary*, 1521)

8. "The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion for sinners. Know, my daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered." (*Diary*, 1397)

9. "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...I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (*Diary*, 1320; also, cf. *Diary*, 1572)

10. "Souls who spread the honor of My mercy...at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior." (*Diary*, 1075)

11. "The two rays denote Blood and Water...These two rays issued 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...I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy... whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy." (*Diary*, 299-300)

12. "I desire that the Feast of Mercy...be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter...The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (*Diary*, 699)

13. "Through this chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will." (*Diary*, 1731)

14. "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world." (*Diary*, 1485)

**Note:** Excerpts taken from the *Diary* of St. Faustina Kowalska, titled *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, ©1987, Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, Stockbridge, MA 01263.

**LORD JESUS**, THANK YOU FOR ST. FAUSTINA'S FAITHFULNESS TO WRITING ABOUT YOUR MERCY, SO THAT EACH WORD WRITTEN IS AVAILABLE TO US AS YOUR WORD. MAY WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR GIFT BY REGULARLY READING HER DIARY TO AID US IN OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE.

**IN THANKSGIVING**

O JESUS, ETERNAL GOD, I THANK YOU FOR YOUR COUNTLESS GRACES AND BLESSINGS. LET EVERY BEAT OF MY HEART BE A NEW HYMN OF THANKSGIVING TO YOU, O GOD. LET EVERY DROP OF MY BLOOD CIRCULATE FOR YOU, LORD. MY SOUL IS ONE HYMN IN ADORATION OF YOUR MERCY. I LOVE YOU, GOD, FOR YOURSELF ALONE (1794).

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*Mother's Day Novena of Masses For the intention of our mothers, living or deceased.*

The Mass intentions for our **Mother's Day Novena of 9 consecutive days of Masses** for the intention of our mothers, living or deceased, must be returned to the church office to be placed on the altar before **April 30th**.

On the outside of the envelope are printed lines for you to write down the names of the mothers you would like remembered in our Novena Masses. They can be your biological mother, wife, stepmother, mother-in-law, God-Mother, etc. There are more lines on the back of the envelope too. After writing their name, please insert your donation for the Masses in the envelope and place it in the offertory basket next weekend, or drop it off at the church office no later than **April 30th** as our Novena Masses begin on Saturday, **May 1st**.

