

Divine Mercy Devotion



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| Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: | “An apostle of the Divine Mercy” and “Secretary of His Mercy” Author of <i>Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul</i> |
| Divine Mercy Novena: | Begins on Good Friday (March 25), ends on Divine Mercy Sunday (April 3) |
| Divine Mercy Sunday: | First Sunday following Easter Sunday This year, Divine Mercy Sunday falls on April 3. Renamed: Sunday of Divine Mercy |
| Divine Mercy Chaplet: | Can be prayed daily esp. at 3:00 p.m. – The Hour of Mercy Instructions may be found on the reverse side. EWTN (channel 56) broadcasts the Divine Mercy Chaplet every weekday afternoon at 3 p.m. |
| Divine Mercy Holy Hour: | Here at St. Mary’s <u>every</u> Sunday from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. (excluding Easter) Please join the Divine Mercy Holy Hour on Mercy Sunday (April 3) in St. Mary’s lower church from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. |

Divine Mercy Sunday (taken from USCCB website)

Saint Faustina: Mankind’s need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an “eclipse of the sense of God” and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. Bl. John Paul explains:

This was precisely the time when those ideologies of evil, nazism and communism, were taking shape. Sister Faustina became the herald of the one message capable of off-setting the evil of those ideologies, that fact that God is mercy—the truth of the merciful Christ. And for this reason, when I was called to the See of Peter, I felt impelled to pass on those experiences of a fellow Pole that deserve a place in the treasury of the universal Church. ~ Pope Saint John Paul II, Memory and Identity (2005)

Divine Mercy Sunday: St. Faustina’s Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed, for example:

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. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. ... Let no soul fear to draw near to Me. ... It is My desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy. (Diary, no. 699)

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

The Image: Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that “Jesus, I trust in You” be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: “I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish” (Diary, no. 48) and “By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls” (Diary, no. 742).

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy: The Chaplet was also given to St. Faustina with this promise: “Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you” (Diary, no. 1541). “Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... 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 that the whole world know My infinite mercy” (Diary, no. 687). [Instructions for its recitation are provided on the reverse side.]

The Divine Mercy Novena: Jesus gave St. Faustina nine intentions for which to pray the Chaplet beginning on **Good Friday and ending on Sunday of the Divine Mercy.** (<http://www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/novena.htm>)

HOW TO PRAY THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY (taken from USCCB website)

Recite on rosary beads

- **Optional Opening Prayers [bead 2]:**

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

O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy,
envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

- **Our Father [bead 3], Hail Mary [bead 4] and the Apostle's Creed [bead 5]**

- **For each of the five decades** (On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, 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.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

- **Concluding prayer** (Repeat 3 times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

- **Optional Closing Prayer**

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

- **EWTN:** On Divine Mercy Sunday, EWTN usually carries the ceremony live on channel 56 (Comcast) from the National Shrine in Stockbridge, MA.

- **National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, Stockbridge, MA** (114 miles from St. Mary's, Franklin)

Read about the plans for Divine Mercy Sunday weekend, April 2-3, 2016:

www.thedivinemercy.org/shrine/mercysunday/

- **Betania II:** 154 Summer St, Medway. Betania has pilgrimages and events for Divine Mercy Devotion.

- **Spiritual Work of Mercy: To Pray for the Living and the Dead**

If you would like to pray a holy hour at home, please download the Eucharistic Holy Hour for Divine Mercy Sunday program: <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/divine-mercy-sunday.cfm>

- **Plenary Indulgence (taken from Vatican website)**

To ensure that the faithful would observe this day [Divine Mercy Sunday] with intense devotion, the Supreme Pontiff himself established that this Sunday be enriched by *a plenary indulgence*: granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the *Our Father* and the *Creed*, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. "Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!");