

DIVINE MERCY: A QUICK GUIDE

- A MESSAGE OF GRACE & MERCY FOR OUR TIMES -

Divine Mercy Sunday is one week after Easter Sunday.

“On that day all the Divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened.” (Diary, 699)

WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY?

Saint Maria Faustina was a poor uneducated Polish nun, born as Helen Kowalska (1905-1938). Her life was marked with the stigma of suffering and mystical graces, with frequent conversations with Our Lord about His mercy. Jesus said to St. Faustina, “My daughter, be at peace; do as I tell you. Your thoughts are united to My thoughts, so write whatever comes to your mind. You are the secretary of My mercy. I have chosen you for that office in this life and the next life. That is how I want it to be in spite of all the opposition they will give you. Know that my choice will not change” (Diary of St. Faustina, 1605).



Jesus explained: “The two rays represent the Blood and Water, when I was pierced by the lance on the Cross,” (Diary, 299) and “I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know it” (Diary, 341). The image is a visual reminder of all that Jesus did for us through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection and a reminder of what He asks; that we trust Him and that we be merciful to others.

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

On April 30, 2000 JP II canonized St. Faustina, making her the first saint of the new millennium. At that time, he officially established the first Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, adding it to the Church’s universal liturgical calendar. He said it was the happiest day of his life. Then in 2002, he entrusted the world to the Divine Mercy at the new *Sanctuary of Divine Mercy* in Łagiewniki (district of Kraków) in Poland. On April 27, 2003, Divine Mercy Sunday, JP II granted a plenary indulgence to Catholics around the world, who celebrate this feast. The Holy Father had a great devotion to the Merciful Saviour as the Divine Mercy and understood the urgency of the message and devotion for our times. He said, **“The hour has come when the message of Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope and to become the spark of a new civilization; the civilization of Love.”** John Paul II died on the Eve of Divine Mercy Sunday, Saturday, April 2, 2005. The Vigil Mass of Divine Mercy Sunday had been celebrated by his bedside; he expired shortly after.



DID YOU KNOW?

Easter does not end on Easter Sunday. Rather, it begins the fifty days of the Easter Season leading to Pentecost Sunday. The first eight days, or the *Easter Octave*, culminates with the first Sunday after Easter: *Divine Mercy Sunday*. To rightly observe DM Sunday, i) attend Mass, ii) get to Confession (within 8 days either way), iii) venerate the DM image, iv) practice acts of mercy. Google *Apostolic Penitentiary Decree regarding indulgences attached to devotions in honour of Divine Mercy* for indulgence info.

PROMISES OF DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In a series of revelations, Jesus taught St. Faustina that His mercy is unlimited and available even to the greatest sinners and He revealed special ways for people to respond to His mercy. Our Lord’s promise to grant complete forgiveness of sins and punishment on the Feast of Divine Mercy is recorded at least three times in the Diary. Jesus said, “The soul that will go to Confession* and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins” (Diary, 699) In this, Our Lord is emphasizing the infinite value of Confession and Communion as miracles of mercy. Our Lord’s promise of complete forgiveness is both a reminder and a call. It is a reminder that He is *truly present* and *truly alive* in the Eucharist, waiting for us to receive Him, and also waiting for us all to be washed clean in His love through Confession, no matter how terrible our sins. He is offering us a clean slate, a new start. But beyond this, we need to understand something else; on the Feast Day, He is offering us not just a single grace but unlimited graces. “On that day all the Divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened” (Diary, 699).

*Confession within 8 days before or after is fine.

THE FEAST OF DIVINE MERCY

Jesus requested that the Sunday after Easter be officially established in the Church as the Feast of Divine Mercy: “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” (Diary, 699). St. Faustina’s diary contains at least 14 passages in which the Lord makes reference to this desired Feast Day.

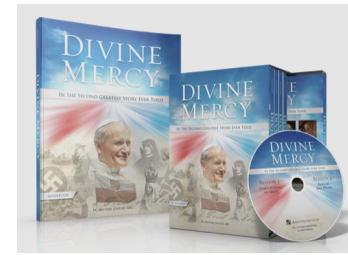
THE DIVINE MERCY IMAGE

On February 22, 1931, St. Faustina saw a vision of Jesus with rays of mercy streaming from the area of His Heart. He told her to have an image painted to represent this vision and to add the signature, **“Jesus, I trust in You!”**





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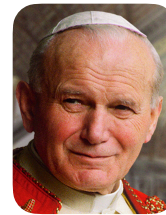
THE FACE OF MERCY narrated by Jim Caviezel

(Find THE FACE OF MERCY by doing a simple search on the website.)

“Since his election to the papacy, Pope Francis has inspired millions by urging us to embrace mercy, ultimately revealed in the face of Christ. Now comes an extraordinary new film on this powerful message that brings hope, healing, and forgiveness to a broken world. **Narrated by Jim Caviezel, The Face of Mercy** explores the history and relevance of Divine Mercy in our turbulent times. Watch its story unfold, from an unpretentious Polish nun who experienced powerful visions of a merciful God, to her countryman Saint John Paul II who propelled the message of Divine Mercy onto the world stage, and the Year of Mercy bestowed upon the Church by Pope Francis. Filmed in stunning **4K** and seamlessly weaving together theology and history with modern testimonials and visual effects, this stirring film creates a remarkable tapestry of what constitutes the face of mercy in our modern world. Meet the woman who found freedom in forgiveness after seeing her family wiped out by **genocide**; the former-**NFL linebacker** who walked away from football to share Christ's mercy with the homeless; the **baseball player** who traded MLB ambitions for the monastery; the **priest with a drug-dealing past**, and the young widow who chose mercy towards her **husband's killer**. These moving testimonies will remind us all that Divine Mercy is not just a devotion of the past or some abstract theology—it is alive, it is present, and it will transform the world. (This movie is not rated, but was created with an adult audience in mind. It contains scenes of war and historic violence. We would recommend Parental Guidance and that parents preview it before watching with children.)” **Running Time: 58 mins**

DIVINE MERCY: The Second Greatest Story Ever Told

(Find DIVINE MERCY: the Second Greatest Story Ever Told by doing a simple search on the website.) “Renowned speaker and author **Fr. Michael Gaitley** tells the dramatic history of God’s love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. Featuring the brilliant cinematic artistry of the Augustine Institute’s film studio, the vast panorama of God’s work of mercy in the world unfolds as a story to be experienced.”
A series of 10 episodes, each just under 30 minutes.



“The hour has come when the message of Divine Mercy is able to fill hearts with hope and to become the spark of a new civilization; the civilization of Love.” JP II

From the diary of a young Polish nun, Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a special devotion to Jesus the Divine Mercy (DM) began to spread in the 1930s. **Pope St. John Paul II** canonized St. Faustina in 2000, making her the first saint of the new millennium and instituted the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope Francis declared an Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy from November 2015-16 in continuity with JP II thus emphasizing, with him, the importance of the message of Divine Mercy for our time.

For more information on Divine Mercy, visit the official Divine Mercy website at <https://www.faustyna.pl/zmbm/en> or www.divinemercysunday.com

Prepared by St. Thomas More Parish, Edmonton, AB

