



[If you haven't already, begin your meal with meal prayer, then take turns reading these boxes aloud, following the directions where applicable]

Easter

It's hard to remember sometimes that Easter - the celebration of Jesus rising from the dead - is such a shocking event! After celebrating it for two thousand years, we might forget that this story literally changed the world. Jesus' closest friends didn't even expect him to conquer death - they arrived at his tomb on Sunday ready to anoint his body and complete his burial, only to find that he had risen! Recall a couple weeks ago, on Palm Sunday, when we pondered how the Jewish people were hoping that Jesus would rescue them from the Romans, their source of daily suffering - but now on Easter Jesus reveals that he cares for us so much that he set his sights on an even greater enemy - the eternal suffering of sin and death itself.

Therefore, Easter is not only a day, but an entire season of celebrating within the Church. Easter lasts for 50 days, ending with Pentecost. The Easter season is a season of joy. Pope John Paul II said "We are an Easter people and Alleluia is our song!"

Divine Mercy Sunday

The Sunday after Easter is a special celebration, called "Divine Mercy Sunday." On this day, we celebrate God's love for us, which we call mercy.

Mercy is love that sees another's pain and chooses compassion, even though that person deserves a punishment.

The message of Divine Mercy is ABC:

- A**sk for God's mercy
- B**e merciful to others
- C**ompletely trust in God's mercy

Jesus told St Faustina this is the most important message of our time - the world will not know peace until it turns to Jesus' mercy. And then he gave her 5 ways to devote ourselves to his mercy, FINCH:

- F**east - Celebrate with Confession and Communion
- I**mage - The image Jesus asked St. Faustina to create
- N**ovena - Praying the nine-day prayer given by Jesus
- C**haplet - Praying the prayers of mercy given by Jesus
- H**our - Praying at 3pm, the hour of Mercy when Jesus died

Read more about this feast and these devotions in the handouts this week!

Discussion

[These questions are a spark for conversation, not a strict outline.]

- How has the first week of Easter been? How have you celebrated Jesus' resurrection?
- Share about a time when God did more than you expected - a time when you were greatly blessed.
- If someone asked "what is mercy?" how would you explain it? Share an example of when you have shown or were given mercy.

Activity & Prayer

[For this activity section, you will need the additional resource provided by the parish. If you don't have it, you can download it on our website]

Read at least one of the resurrection accounts from the scripture chart in the handout and discuss the included questions.

Then, review the handouts to learn more about Divine Mercy and choose at least one way that your family will devote yourselves to God's mercy.

End by praying the chaplet of divine mercy together

- Check out the "extras" section for the chaplet to pray along to in song or spoken.
- Consider letting children color one bead at a time on the coloring chaplet included in the handout as they pray along.
- You might choose to do one decade with small children.

Extras

Series of videos exploring Easter through Art:

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/easter-in-art-the-harrowing-of-hell-part-1-of-3>

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/easter-in-art-the-resurrection-part-2-of-3>

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/easter-in-art-mary-magdalen-part-3-of-3>

Living the Easter Season and Pondering the Resurrection

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/augustine-institute-show-living-easter-as-a-season>

Via Lucis Stations of Light

<https://amenapp.org/prayer/t89z9p>

Sacramental Life

Confirmation AND First Reconciliation/Communion Students - your whole family should attend on April 12 6-7:30 pm at St Augustine for a formation night.

Divine Mercy Chaplet SPOKEN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pdnzUjmkzA>

SUNG

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKIOLyYs3Os>

Talk on Divine Mercy

<https://watch.formed.org/videos/divine-mercy-101-with-fr-chris-alar-mic>

Series of videos on Divine Mercy, including key saints and events:

<https://watch.formed.org/divine-mercy-with-fr-michael-gaitley>

Looking Ahead

For Next Week, April 19:

- See the parish or website for additional handouts

Upcoming:

- Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16:
 - 11:15 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Divine Mercy Chaplet
 - 11:30 Confessions
 - 12:30 Benediction
 - Divine Mercy Sunday is an opportunity for plenary indulgence. The usual conditions are as follows: sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, prayers for the Holy Father. A Plenary indulgence is the removal of all temporal punishment due to one's sin which is necessary for the entry into heaven. Purgatory also removes/purifies one of temporal punishment due to sin.
- First Communion Retreat Sat April 15

