

Divine Mercy

Review the handouts to learn more about Divine Mercy and choose at least one way (letter of FINCH) that your family will devote yourselves to God's mercy.

Feast - **Celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday with Confession and Communion**

- *Jesus said to St Faustina: "On that day [Divine Mercy Sunday], the very depths of My tender mercy are opened. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. ...On that day, all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened." (Diary of St. Faustina, 699)*
- Regarding Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus told St. Faustina, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment" (699). Now, that's a big deal. It means that if we were to die right after receiving this grace, then we wouldn't have to go to purgatory! In other words, our slate is wiped clean.
- The good news about the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday is that to receive it, you simply need to go to confession before or on the feast – the experts say within 20 days – be in the state of grace (no mortal sin), and receive Holy Communion with the intention of obtaining the promised grace. Of course, we should also do acts of mercy such as forgiving people, praying for others, and having the intention to be more merciful to our neighbor.

Image - **Develop a devotion to the image of Jesus as he appeared to St. Faustina**

- Jesus told St. Faustina to have an image painted just as He looked when He appeared to her. She obeyed and had it painted by a Polish artist, Eugene Kazimirowski. It took him more than 12 tries before Faustina accepted it as satisfactory.
- Jesus' right hand is raised in blessing. Also, He's taking a step toward us, and two rays of light issue from His Heart: a red ray and a pale ray, representing the blood and water that gushed forth from His pierced side on the Cross. At the bottom of the image, Jesus wanted a prayer to be written, "Jesus, I trust in You."
- He also promised to give great graces through it. He said: "By means of this image, I shall be granting many graces to souls." (742)

Novena - **Pray the nine-day prayer given by Jesus**

- A novena is nine days of prayer in a row.
- Jesus taught St. Faustina a novena that He wanted her to pray and that we can all pray. Each day He asked that a different group of people be entrusted to Him (for example, "all sinners" on day one and "all priests and religious" on day two).
- It can be prayed at any time, but a special time to pray it is in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. The starting date for the novena, combined with praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, is Good Friday, and it ends on the Saturday after Easter Sunday, the day before Divine Mercy Sunday. (Novenas typically end the day before the feast.) While you don't have to pray this novena to obtain the grace of Divine Mercy Sunday, it is a good way to prepare, and Jesus promised, "By this novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls."

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Chaplet - **Pray the prayers of mercy given by Jesus**

- This is a prayer that's prayed on ordinary rosary beads, and it's pretty popular today – perhaps because it can be prayed in a short amount of time (about seven minutes).
- On the "Our Father" beads of the rosary, we 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." It's a bold prayer, and it can be bold, because it relies on infinite merits: Christ's infinite sacrifice of love on the Cross.
- On each "Hail Mary" bead, we pray, "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world." In other words, as we're holding up to the Father His Son's infinite sacrifice of love, we keep repeating: "Mercy, mercy, mercy."

Hour - **Pray at 3pm, the hour of mercy, when Jesus died**

- Because Jesus died on the Cross for us at 3 p.m., every day between 3-4 in the afternoon is known as the Hour of Great Mercy. During this hour, Jesus asked St. Faustina to pray the Stations of the Cross, provided her duties permitted it, or at least to take a moment to recall Jesus' passion.
- In other words, He wants us to recall His sacrifice of love. He wants us to think about what He did for us on the Cross. He simply wants our love. So, make "the three o'clock habit" and remember Jesus' sacrifice of love for us, even if only for a moment.
- Jesus also promised that it's a huge time of grace. Thus, we can look at this hour as a kind of mini-Divine Mercy Sunday that we have every day. So, it's also a great time to pray for our loved ones, especially for the conversion of unrepentant sinners, and to recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Find other ideas like Divine Mercy Crafts and Sundaes here:

- <https://www.catholicicing.com/celebrating-divine-mercy-sunday-with-kids/>



Adapted from <https://marian.org/divine-mercy/what-is-it>

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