

# Catechesis for the Second Sunday of Easter

## Divine Mercy Sunday – April 11, 2021

**Please join us at 3:00 PM for Divine Mercy Holy Hour**

✝ **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

✝ **Divine Mercy Chaplet & Benediction**

On Sunday, April 30, 2000, Pope John Paul II, during the celebration of the canonization of Sister Mary Faustina Kowalska, announced that the Second Sunday of Easter would also bear the title of Divine Mercy Sunday. In a follow-up statement on May 23, 2000, the Vatican Press Office published the decree of 5 May 2000 of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, that declared the official name of this liturgical day to be **"Second Sunday of Easter – Divine Mercy Sunday"**. This Vatican decree clarifies that the liturgy of the Second Sunday of Easter and the readings of the Divine Office will continue as established in the Missal of the Roman Rite. (This change is very much like: Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), or the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Good Shepherd Sunday).

Devotion to the Divine Mercy is an authentic spiritual movement within the Catholic Church. It should be noted that, although many devotees of St. Faustina focus on Divine Mercy as recorded in her spiritual diary, the overwhelming experience of God's divine mercy is the foundation of Holy Scripture and the teachings of the Church, The Paschal Mystery, celebrated in special solemnity and overflowing joy in the Easter Triduum and the Fifty Days of Easter is all about the divine mercy and compassion of God's love for all. This is our ancient faith. It is not a novelty or innovation.



It is the bedrock of our liturgical life. Seen in this light, it is quite fitting to entitle the octave day of Easter "Divine Mercy Sunday." It is also proper, in preaching and other forms of pastoral formation, to speak from Sacred Scripture and the prayer text of that day about the mystery of divine compassion that underlies the Church's Easter Faith.

### **Mercy Prayers**

There are many prayers invoking the Mercy of God. However, the two main prayers of the Divine Mercy Message and Devotion are the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy and the Divine Mercy Novena.

### **The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy**

Prayed on ordinary rosary beads, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer that extends the offering of the Eucharist, so it is especially appropriate to use it after having received Holy Communion at Holy Mass. It may be said at any time, but our Lord specifically told Saint Faustina to recite it during the nine days before the Feast of Mercy

It is likewise appropriate to pray the Chaplet during the "Hour of Great Mercy" three o'clock each afternoon (recalling the time of Christ's death on the cross). In His revelations to Saint Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special remembrance of His Passion at that hour.

### **How to Pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy (on ordinary rosary beads)**

- The Our Father
- The Hail Mary
- The Apostle's Creed
- *On large bead before each decade:*  
Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul & Divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world
- *On the 10 small beads of each decade:*  
For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world
- *Concluding Doxology: (after five decades)*  
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

*“On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon the souls who approach the Fount of My Mercy.”*

(Jesus to Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, *Diary*, paragraph #699)