

Liturgical Living: Divine Mercy Sunday

In the year 2000, Saint John Paul II canonized Saint Faustina and declared that the Second Sunday of Easter would be called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Church. This year, we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday on April 12.

Divine Mercy Sunday focuses on the gift of mercy and love given through Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The Gospel reading for this Sunday is John 20: 19-31, where Jesus appears to his disciples and offers them peace and forgiveness. He commissions them to carry out His mission of forgiveness and mercy, and grants them the power of the Holy Spirit to do so.

The Lord Jesus chose Sr. Maria Faustina as the Apostle and "Secretary" of His Mercy, so that she could tell the world about His great message, which Sr. Faustina recorded in a diary she titled *Diary: Divine Mercy in My Soul*.

From the *Diary*, 699, Jesus said of Divine Mercy Sunday: "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.** On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."

A full plenary indulgence is granted to those who meet the Divine Mercy Sunday indulgence condition, and go to confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the intentions of the Pope. For a full explanation of the indulgence, [read this](#).

Here are a few ideas on how to celebrate this feast:

- If you do not already have the Divine Mercy image in your home, consider getting an icon or print.
- Celebrate this day with [Divine Mercy "Sundaes"](#) after dinner.
- Pray the [Divine Mercy chaplet](#).
- Make this child-friendly [Divine Mercy watercolor project](#).

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