

## Getting to know you

January - February - March 2026

# Saint Faustina Kowalska Saint Maximilian Kolbe

### We've Missed our Friends . . .

In November 2025, our area received much-needed rainfall after a prolonged period of drought. Unfortunately, the heavy rains resulted in significant water damage to our Children's Liturgy Room and Reliquary, with the damage spreading to the east side of the church. The parish responded promptly to address the situation, but further investigation revealed the extent of the damage was more severe than initially anticipated.

Due to necessary repairs, the Children's Liturgy Room was closed to ensure everyone's safety. Accordingly, the 10:00 AM Sunday Children's Liturgy was cancelled until further notice. As a result of the water damage, the First-Class Holy Relics of Saints Faustina Kowalska, Maximilian Kolbe, and Peter Claver were temporarily relocated to the Rectory for their protection.

In addition to these repairs, the planned upgrades to the church sound system were undertaken along with the installation of larger screens for teleprompting. The church was closed for many weekdays with Mass and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament taking place in alternative spaces.



GOOD NEWS! All the construction and repairs in the church are complete. We now have a great sound system and beautiful new TV screens. The Children's Liturgy Room and Reliquary will reopen on Saturday, March 28 at the Palm Sunday Vigil Mass. This means the relics of our Saint friends will be back in the Reliquary. It will be announced when the Sunday 10 am Liturgy for the Children is ready to resume. Details are pending.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during the construction. And now it is time to celebrate the return of our Relic Saints Faustina, Peter Claver and Maximilian Kolbe. Welcome back to their places of honor!

*Jesus instructed St. Faustina to pray*

### The Chaplet of Divine Mercy as a Novena

Join us for the Novena at  
**St. Peter Claver Church at 3 pm**  
starting on Good Friday April 3.

We will pray every day at 3 pm  
EXCEPT the 2 Saturdays,  
(4/4 & 4/11), when we will pray at  
8 am. Each day we will pray for a  
different group of souls as Jesus directed:



### Divine Mercy Sunday is April 12

This year First Friday and First Saturday occur during Holy Week. The Easter Triduum observances take precedence. We will resume these devotions in May.

### Divine Mercy Novena Starting Good Friday

Jesus instructed St. Faustina that He desired that the Chaplet be prayed as a novena. Most especially He wanted it prayed in the days leading up to the Feast of Divine Mercy. It is to start on Good Friday.

Doesn't it seem odd to start a novena during the Easter Triduum? Are we not focusing on the Crucifixion and the sadness of Jesus in the tomb, then focusing on the Easter Vigil, followed by the morning of Resurrection? Why are we gathering again at 3 pm on Easter Sunday in church to pray this novena instead of resting and eating our Easter candy? Some reflection on this provides the answer. At 3 pm on Good Friday is the very moment that the lance pierced the side of Jesus and blood and water flowed from His wound creating the fountain of

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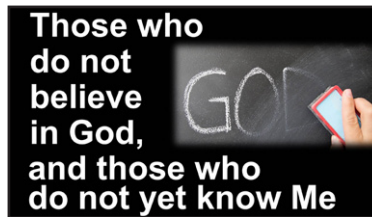
mercy for the world. It is the first Hour of Great Mercy. It is the perfect moment to begin our petitions.

Jesus said to St. Faustina: **“On each day you will bring to My Heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy, and I will bring all these souls into the house of my Father. You will do this in this life and in the next. I will deny nothing to any soul whom you will bring to the fount of My mercy. On each day you will beg my Father on the strength of My bitter Passion, for graces for these souls”.** (Diary 1209)

St. Faustina said that she did not know how to make this novena and which groups of souls to bring first. Jesus told her the following groups in this order:

- 1 - Good Friday - All mankind, especially sinners
- 2 - The souls of priests and religious
- 3 - All devout and faithful souls
- 4 - Those who do not believe in God & those who do not yet know Him
- 5 - Those who have separated themselves from the Church
- 6 - The meek and humble souls and the souls of little children
- 7 - Souls who especially venerate and glorify His Mercy
- 8 - Souls who are detained in purgatory
- 9 - Souls who have become lukewarm

While Jesus told her which souls to pray for, St. Faustina is the one who composed the actual petitions. **Why do the prayers seem rather redundant? She says the same thing twice using a little different wording.** It is easy to overlook one detail when praying this in a group. Faustina paid close attention to what Jesus said about begging mercy from the Father into whose house He will bring these souls. Her petitions are first addressed to Jesus asking His Mercy, and then we clearly hear her turn to God the Father. Now her words begin with “Eternal Father” . . . as she complies with the request by begging of His Mercy as well.



If you have the diary, it would be beneficial to read the text from the diary each day yourself, taking the time to become still and absorb the words. There are additional passages which are not found in the text we are praying from during the group novena. It is easier to see the petition as being presented to both Father and Son of the Trinity. The passages are *Diary entries 1209 through 1229*.

We will pray the novena every day at 3 pm EXCEPT on the 2 Saturdays, (4/4 & 4/11), when we will pray at 8 am due to parish scheduling needs.

### Coming Soon . . .

As you all know, Saint Maximilian Kolbe is one of our resident saints. We have his First Class Relic permanently in our parish. How about watching a movie about his life?



Our parish will be hosting a screening of **Triumph of the Heart** sponsored by the Parish Faith Formation, Knights of Columbus and Filipino Catholic Community Group. Coming soon.

## **Feast of Divine Mercy / Divine Mercy Sunday**

In His appearances to St. Faustina, Jesus specifically asked for this feast. He said: **“I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want that this image which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.”** (*Diary 49*)

When St. Faustina went to her superiors and asked for this to be done, she was told there was already such a Feast. When she went back to Jesus to report what they had said, He replied: **“and who knows anything about this feast? No one. Even those who should be proclaiming My Mercy and teaching people about it often do not know about it themselves. That is why 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 about it.”** (*Diary 341*) So with a small beginning but ever increasing, the Feast was celebrated just as Jesus specified. On Divine Mercy Sunday 2000, Pope St. John Paul II elevated this day as a Feast for the Universal Church at the same time he canonized St. Faustina. He was reported to have said it was the happiest day of his life.

Jesus put great emphasis on this special day and the graces it would impart. **“I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. 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 graces 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.”** (*Diary 699*)

This special Feast will be celebrated at all the weekend Masses April 11 & 12 here at St. Peter Claver. We encourage everyone to **wear red** - the color of Divine Mercy. **Bring a flower** (one or more) to place by the Image to represent your loved one(s), living or deceased. On their behalf, bring their soul to Jesus on this day when the floodgates are wide open to His Mercy. There will be vases available for the flowers. After the Noon Mass (only) join us for a POT LUCK LUNCH in the Hall hosted by Divine

Mercy Ministry. All are welcome. At 3:00 pm we will culminate in praying the CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY in the Church.

We still have some Divine Mercy image T-shirts to commemorate the Enshrinement of our First Class Relics, St. Faustina, St. Maximilian Kolbe, and St. Peter Claver. These and 3rd class Relic Prayer Cards and Rosaries will be available after the noon Mass. (Love offerings are welcome).

### **Prayer after Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday** *As recommended by Fr. Chris Alar MIC.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a poor sinner.

Jesus, you promised St. Faustina that the soul who has been to confession (I have), and the soul that receives Holy Communion (I just did), will receive the complete forgiveness of all sin and punishment. Please give me this grace.



*Divine Mercy Sunday 2025*

## Observing Lent with Saint Faustina

Throughout this Lent, I am a host in Your hand, Jesus. Make use of me so that You may enter into sinners Yourself. Demand anything You like; no sacrifice will seem too much for me when souls are at stake. (*Diary, 1622*)

On the First Friday of the month, before Communion, I saw a large ciborium filled with sacred hosts. A hand placed the ciborium in front of me, and I took it in my hands. There were a thousand living hosts inside. Then I heard a voice, **“These are hosts which have been received by the souls for whom you have obtained the grace of true conversion during this Lent.”** That was a week before Good Friday. I spent the day in great interior recollection, emptying myself for the sake of souls. (*Diary, 640*)

Oh, what joy it is to empty myself for the sake of immortal souls! I know that the grain of wheat must be destroyed and ground between millstones in order to become food. In the same way, I must become

destroyed in order to be useful to the Church and souls, even though exteriorly no one will notice my sacrifice. O Jesus, outwardly I want to be hidden, just like this little wafer wherein the eye perceives nothing, and yet I am a host consecrated to You. (*Diary, 641*)

Holy Thursday [4/14/1938]. Today I felt strong enough to take part in the ceremonies of the Church. During Holy Mass, Jesus stood before me and said, **“Look into My Heart and see there the love and mercy which I have for humankind, and especially for sinners. Look, and enter into My Passion.”** In an instant, I experienced and lived through the whole Passion of Jesus in my own heart. I was surprised that these tortures did not deprive me of my life. (*Diary, 1663*)

During adoration, Jesus said to me, **“My daughter, know that your ardent love and the compassion you have for Me were a consolation to Me in the Garden [of Olives].”** (*Diary, 1664*)

We invite you to share your story of an answered prayer or religious experience through the intercession of our Saints. Please contact Joe and Merle Delatorre at 858-566-0777 & 858-776-0481. You can also send us an email to [stfaustinarelic@gmail.com](mailto:stfaustinarelic@gmail.com).

### Let us Pray to Our Lord

*God loves all of us and He always listens. Let us pray.*

- ✝ For Pope Leo XIV, may he lead us in prayer for peace in the whole world.
- ✝ For peace and safety for everyone affected by war, especially in the Middle East, and for our military servicemen.
- ✝ For our political leaders, may the Holy Spirit lead them to proper decisions and peace.
- ✝ For all the sick, we pray for their healing.
- ✝ May God touch the hearts of all who are away from Him.
- ✝ For all families, we ask you to bring them together as one in love and faith.
- ✝ For our loved ones who have passed away, may they rest in peace.

*Jesus, I Trust in You.*



### Announcements & Upcoming Events

- **Every First Wednesday** of the month at 6:00 pm – Holy Mass.
- **Every Wednesday** at 7:00 pm – Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Prayer to St. Faustina at the church.
- **Divine Mercy Novena** April 3 through 11. See page 1.
- **First Friday, May 1** at 7:30 am – First Friday Mass, at 7:00 pm – Mass and Adoration with Divine Mercy Chaplet in Song. Confession available until 9:00 pm.
- **Every Friday** at 3:00 pm – Hour of Great Mercy: Divine Mercy Chaplet in the church.
- **First Saturday, May 2** at 7:30 am – First Saturday Mass, Holy Rosary, & meditation.
- Check our Saint Peter Claver church website or bulletin for details and other events at our parish.

*We invite you to attend any or all the events our parish offers and encourage you to bring a friend.*

