

Getting to know you

June - July 2025

Saint Faustina Kowalska Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Let us focus on the Hour of Great Mercy.

In October 1937 in Krakow, Poland, Jesus instructed Sister Faustina to observe the hour of His death, which He called the “hour of great mercy for the whole world”. (*Diary 1320*)

At Saint Peter Claver parish we honor this request from Jesus every Friday at 3pm in the Reliquary / Children’s Liturgy Room in the church. Praying as a group (two or more gathered in His Name), we pray for the intentions which Jesus specified. We also pray for those who have asked for our prayers, the intentions written by visitors to the Reliquary, and personal intentions which we bring to Jesus in this moment. We pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the prayer to Saint Faustina. Whoever is there prays together, taking a decade as it happens. We invite everyone to join the group, and if we have more people than will fit into the Reliquary room, we will expand into the Church.

Father George Bobowski, director of the Lay Institute of Divine Mercy which directly supports the Divine Mercy Shrine at Christ The King Church, shares his counsel on better understanding the Hour of Great Mercy. He writes: “The hour of the Lord Jesus’ death, 3pm, is a privileged time in regard to the devotion to the Divine Mercy. At that hour, in spirit we stand beneath Christ’s cross in order to entreat for mercy for us and the whole world for the sake of the merits of His passion. The Lord Jesus said to Sister Faustina: “At three o’clock implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world”. (*Diary 1320*) Immediately, it needs to be explained that what is meant here is not sixty minutes but the moment of Jesus agony on the cross, therefore — the prayer at 3pm.

The Lord Jesus did not say what the exact wording of the prayer at 3pm should be. However, He said that we can make the Stations of the Cross, visit the Blessed Sacrament and if there is no time for it — if only for a brief moment — we can unite ourselves with Him, dying on the cross, wherever we happen to be. The subject-matter of the prayer

Hour of Great Mercy

Jesus said to Saint Faustina:
**At three o’clock, implore My
mercy especially for sinners.**

...
**This is the hour of great mercy
for the whole world.** *Diary 1320*

We invite you to pray

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
as a group, inside the church, in the
Children’s Liturgy Room/Reliquary Shrine

EVERY FRIDAY at 3 pm

Open to **EVERYONE**. Come as often as you can.



Divine Mercy Ministry

is the mystery of the Lord’s Passion. “It was the hour of grace for the whole world,” Jesus said on another occasion, “mercy triumphed over justice”. (*Diary 1572*)

Jesus instructed Sister Faustina on how to observe the Hour of Mercy.

He told her:

- To beg for God’s mercy for the entire world, and especially for sinners.
- To meditate on His Passion, especially on the fact that at the moment of death He was forsaken; to those who did this He promised that He would grant the grace of understanding the value of His Passion. Jesus pointed out that there were three necessary conditions which had to be met for prayers at this hour to be heard:

1. The prayers were to be addressed to Jesus;
2. The prayers should be said at three o’clock in the afternoon;
3. The prayers were to refer to the values and merits of His sorrowful Passion.

“In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion”.
(*Diary 1320*)

Our Saints are Listening to You, Come Visit them at our Reliquary.

Most of us have heard stories about fellow Catholics who have received favors granted by God through the intercession of our Holy Mother Mary and other Saints. Stories like these spark interest and hope, so that we too, may find relief from our problems. If you are having a rough day and you feel that your journey is going downhill, we invite you to visit our reliquary and present your petitions to our Saints who are always ready to help. Saint Faustina Kowalska, Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Saint Peter Claver are residents of our parish. They are a permanent part of our community!

Our three resident Saints are here waiting to hear your stories and challenges! We invite you to come, visit and write to them. Blank petition/prayer cards are available at the reliquary. We encourage you to address it to any of our resident Saints, then drop off your petition in the basket. The petition cards are collected (without being read), bundled up, and are placed on the altar during the monthly First Friday Holy Mass. Please be advised that to protect your privacy, no human being will read your petition card.

Since the arrival of Holy Relics from Poland in June 2024, we have received numerous anecdotes from parishioners (elderly and teenagers), who have testified about receiving favors through the intercession of our Saints enshrined in our parish



reliquary. Many have come forward with written statements, witnessing to the fact that their requests for medical and family issues were granted!

These blessings are not exclusive to parishioners of Saint Peter Claver. They must be shared to God's children within our Archdiocese. As agreed between Bishop Slawomir Szkredka, our former Pastor, Father Riz Carranza and the religious nuns and priests from Poland, these relics were gifted to our parish on the condition that they will be shared to other parishes who have a need for them. Guidelines have been crafted and are being reviewed so we can properly handle the Holy Relics who will travel to different parishes on a regular basis. We respectfully request your prayers so the Holy Spirit may guide and protect us, while we do our best to support this agreement.

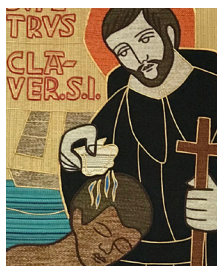
If you are interested in participating in this activity, please send us an email with your contact information: stfaustinarelic@gmail.com.

In our previous newsletters, we have shared religious experiences through the intercession of our relic saints. This is an Invitation to share your experience of an answered prayer. Please contact Joe and Merle Delatorre at 858-566-0777 & 858-776-0481. You can also send us an email to stfaustinarelic@gmail.com.

Upcoming Feast Days of our Saints



Saint Maximilian Kolbe's Feast day is August 14, the day of his martyrdom. The Church venerates him as the patron saint of amateur radio operators, drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, and prisoners. Pope Saint John Paul II declared him "the patron of our difficult century".



The Feast day of St. Peter Claver is celebrated on September 9th. He is known as the patron saint of African missions and enslaved people. He is also associated with human rights and race relations.

St. Faustina is known as the patron saint of Divine Mercy. Through her life and writings, and especially in her Diary, she has taught the world about the depths of God's merciful love. Her **Feast day is October 5**.



Prayer to Saint Faustina by the Holy Father John Paul II: *May your message of light and hope spread throughout the world, spurring sinners to conversion, calming rivalries and hatred, and opening individuals and nations to the practice of brotherhood.*

Thanks be to God, to raise up these Saints at a time when the world needs their example the most. And to think that their relics rest in the shrine here at Saint Peter Claver church. As Fr. Riz would say . . . it is an Awesome Reality! Blessed Saints of God, pray for us.

Goodbye, Farewell and See you Later!

Father Riz Carranza celebrated his 45th year of Priesthood, his retirement, and his birthday last June 21, 2025 with a Mass of Thanksgiving followed by a lunch reception. The next day parishioners had the opportunity to greet him after all the Masses. There are mixed emotions among us as he leaves Saint Peter Claver. Sadness because we will definitely miss him. Happiness because he will enjoy his retirement traveling between Simi Valley, and Las Vegas (where he will stay with his brother) and Magallanes, Sorsogon, Philippines, his hometown where he grew up and first decided that he would like to be a priest. Wherever he finds himself, Father Riz plans to offer his help to parishes as needed. He continues to assist Father Paolo here at Saint Peter Claver in the transition.

Father Mike Sezzi, our associate pastor has left Saint Peter Claver as well after he had completed his term. He is at Saint Bernard Catholic Church in Los Angeles as Administrator. Parishioners had the opportunity to wish Father well after all the Masses on June 14-15.

Thank you, Father Riz and Father Mike for your service to Saint Peter Claver parish. Enjoy your new ventures and we wish both of you the best, always.

Hello and Welcome!

As of July 1, 2025, we say hello and welcome to Father Paolo Garcia our new Administrator, and Father Henry Okeke our new Associate Pastor. We are so happy you are here!



Left to right: Father Henry Okeke, Deacon Melecio Zamora, Father Paolo Garcia.

Our Newsletter

We invite you to read the previous issues of our newsletter, *Getting to know you, Saint Faustina Kowalska, and Saint Maximilian Kolbe*.

Our first newsletter was published November 2023 and we now have a total of 13 issues and approximately 160 subscribers. You can go to our parish website at www.saintpeterclaver.org / Saint Faustina Relic Information and you can read all the issues of the newsletter; in color and available in English and Spanish.

We also invite you to become a subscriber (free). You can scan the QR code located on the back page of this newsletter or by sending an email to stfaustinarelic@gmail.com.



Prayer to Saint Faustina

Dear Saint Faustina, I have come to know you as a friend. I ask you to plead to the Lord for me the prayer I ask of you. In times of doubt, dear friend, implore the Lord's Mercy as you did so often here on earth, that I may remember who I am, and to what His mercy has called me.

In times of fear, implore His Mercy that I may ever remember to trust, and trust again, in joy, and in the knowledge that God is preparing me for a beautiful mission.

Please pray dear Saint Faustina, that I may never forget that the abyss between my Lord and I has been bridged by His tender mercy. He will continue to be faithful and heal me of anything which stands in the way of His Will. My life is in His Hands.



Thank you dear friend. Pray with me the prayer Our Lord taught you to spread throughout the world; Jesus, I trust in You! Remind all pilgrims of life that if our trust is great, there is no limit to Jesus' generosity. Amen.

Let us Pray to Our Lord

- ✙ For our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, that through the guidance of the Holy Spirit he leads the Church to ever greater holiness and peace.
- ✙ For the religious clergy, may the Holy Spirit always guide them.
- ✙ For Father Riz Carranza in his retirement after 45 years of serving as a priest.
- ✙ For Father Mike Sezzi as he lead the parishioners of Saint Bernard Catholic Church, Los Angeles.
- ✙ For Father Paolo and Father Henry as they lead the parishioners of Saint Peter Claver.
- ✙ For the health and healing of all the sick.
- ✙ For peace and safety of the community of Simi Valley and the whole world.
- ✙ For the hungry, the poor and those seeking shelter.
- ✙ For Peace, Love, Faith and Trust in the Mercy of Jesus.

Jesus, I Trust in You. Please hear our prayers. Amen.

Announcements & Future Events All are Welcome!

- July 31 at 4 pm - Confession
- August 1 at 7:30 am First Friday Mass. The petitions from the Relic Shrine to ask our Saints' intercession will be placed on the Altar at the start of Mass. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed on the altar all day and overnight into Saturday.
- August 1 at 7:00 pm – First Friday Holy Hour of Divine Mercy at the church.
- August 2 at 7:30 am – Holy Mass followed by First Saturday Holy Rosary and Meditation at the church.
- Every 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:45 pm – Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by Holy Mass.
- Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm – Our Mother of Perpetual Help Novena and Divine Mercy Chaplet at the church.
- Every Friday at 3 pm – Hour of Great Mercy – Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet as a group at the Reliquary Shrine/Children's Liturgy Room.
- Confession every Saturday at 3 pm to 4:30 pm

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

An invitation . . .

from Father Juan Ochoa, Rector, Divine Mercy Shrine

Make a pilgrimage to the Archdiocesan
Divine Mercy Shrine, located at

Christ the King Church

624 Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004

a sacred place of prayer, reflection, and healing.
Shrine is open limited hours. Call (323) 465-7605
before planning a visit.

Save the date . . .

DIVINE MERCY CONGRESS Nov. 8 & 9 2025

to be held at Christ the King Church

This event will gather clergy, religious, and laity from across the region in a powerful expression of faith, unity, and evangelization centered on the message entrusted to Saint Faustina Kowalska.

- Daily Mass and Eucharistic Adoration
- Powerful talks by renowned speakers and clergy
- Opportunities for Confession and personal prayer
- Testimonies, workshops, and community fellowship
- A special Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Bilingual: English and Spanish

Registration Details to come.

