



# Family Faith FORMATION

## April

Dear Families,

Welcome April and Holy Week. Among the somber observations of Good Friday, we begin the Divine Mercy Novena. In the Diary of St. Faustina, Jesus asked that the Feast of Divine Mercy, known today as Divine Mercy Sunday, be preceded by a Novena to The Divine Mercy. A Novena is nine days of prayer in preparation for a feast. In the case of the Novena to The Divine Mercy, we pray the Chaplet of The Divine Mercy each day for a specific intention. Our Lord told St. Faustina, "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy, that they may draw ... strength and refreshment and whatever grace they need in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary, 1209).

Divine Mercy Sunday: St. Faustina's Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday) be observed. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. This year it is celebrated on Sunday, April 12th.

The Image: Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in a vision, with his right hand raised in a blessing and his left touching his garment above his heart. Red and white rays emanate from his heart, symbolizing the blood and water that was poured out for our salvation and our sanctification. The Lord requested that "Jesus, I trust in You" be inscribed under his image. Jesus asked that his image be painted and venerated throughout the world: "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish" (Diary, no. 48) and "By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls" (Diary, no. 742).

Attached you will find a coloring page of the Divine Mercy Image and Divine Mercy Sundaes. Here is a [link](#) to the Novena— which can be sent to your inbox daily, with video and audio versions.

In Christ,

Pam



\* **Apr 2:** St. Francis of Paola \* **Apr 4:** St. Isidore of Seville \* **Apr 5:** St. Vincent Ferrer \* **Apr 7:** St. John Baptist de la Salle \* **Apr 11:** St. Stanislaus / St. Gemma Galgani \* **Apr 16:** St. Bernadette Soubirous \* **Apr 21:** St. Anselm \* **Apr 23:** St. George / St. Adalbert \* **Apr 24:** St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen \* **Apr 25:** St. Mark, Evangelist \* **Apr 28:** St. Peter Chanel / St. Gianna Beretta Molla \* **Apr 29:** St. Catherine of Siena \* **Apr 30:** St. Pius V

## Divine Mercy Sunday (Ice Cream) “Sundaes”

Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, and asked her to have a painting made of this vision with the words “Jesus I Trust in You”. Here is the image:



The ice cream was made to mirror the Divine Mercy image:  
**“The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls.”– St. Faustina’s diary.**





*JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!*