



Divine Mercy Sunday

In 1931, Jesus appeared to Sr. Faustina in Poland and expressed his desire for a feast celebrating his mercy. Jesus told Sr Faustina: "Humanity will not find peace until it turns trustfully to divine mercy" (Diary, p. 132). The Feast of Mercy was to be on the Sunday after Easter and was to include a public blessing and liturgical veneration of His image with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You." All priests were to proclaim God's great mercy on this day. "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" (Diary, no. 699).

This promise of mercy has been affirmed by the Church,

which has made Divine Mercy Sunday an occasion for receiving a plenary indulgence, "the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sin whose guilt has already been forgiven" (CCC, no. 1471). The plenary indulgence is granted to the faithful under the usual conditions (Confession, Eucharist, prayer for the intentions of the pope, and complete detachment from sin, even venial sin). The faithful may either take part in the prayers and devotions held in honor of Divine Mercy in any church or chapel or recite the Our Father and Creed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus.

How to Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Optional Opening Prayers:

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

Our Father, Hail Mary and the Apostle's Creed

For each of the five decades

(On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray)

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

(On each of the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)

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

Concluding prayer (Repeat 3 times)

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Optional Closing Prayer

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

The Annunciation of the Lord

Typically, the Annunciation of the Lord is celebrated on March 25, or 9 months prior to Christmas and the birth of Jesus. The Annunciation of the Lord is celebrated this year on April 9, 2018, as the feast is moved to the nearest Monday when the Solemnity falls on a Sunday. Since March 25, 2018, was Palm Sunday and the Solemnity could not be celebrated during the Octave of Easter, it was moved to April 9.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, recalls the visit by the Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce God's favor on her (see Luke 1:26-38). Gabriel said to Mary that she would conceive a child, even though Mary had had no prior relations with a man, and instructed her to name the baby, Jesus. The Archangel Gabriel proclaimed that her child would be called "Son of the Most High." The Annunciation of the Lord is a celebration of the Incarnation of Christ in Mary's womb.