

Did you know that in the 1930's Our Lord Jesus requested through St. Faustina that a Feast of Divine Mercy be established and solemnly celebrated in His Church on the First Sunday after Easter every year?

In the year 2000 after many years of study by the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II fulfilled the will of Christ and officially established that Feast of Divine Mercy and named it Divine Mercy Sunday.

What is so special about this new Feast of Divine Mercy you might ask? It is the promise of the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment for anyone that would go to Confession and receive Communion on that very special Feast of Divine Mercy!

Why would Jesus offer us something so great right now? Jesus told St. Faustina that she was to prepare the world for His Second Coming and He wants to pour out His Mercy before He comes again as the Just Judge and as a last hope of salvation.

If you have been away from the practice of your Catholic faith and if you would like to come back into the Church, then this is the perfect opportunity for you if you are prepared to repent of your sins.

Many former fallen-away Catholics have taken advantage of this great feast to get a brand new start in life and to be totally prepared to stand before the Lord. Don't miss out on this incredible gift of mercy that is available in every Catholic Church!

## For Non-Catholics

If you are not currently a Catholic and think that you would want to become a member of the Catholic Church, then come in and ask about joining our faith.

The Catholic Church has a history that spans almost two thousand years and she has remained steady in her teachings. We love tradition and the Bible and have kept it intact and accurate to this very day.

For adults, we have special programs like R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults); and for your children, we have a two year religious education program so they can also receive Holy Communion.

If you are not a member of the Catholic Church you can still attend our services, but you can only partake of the Body of Christ in Holy Communion after you have successfully completed R.C.I.A. training.

In the meantime, you may come up in the Communion line to receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest as a sign that you want to receive a blessing. Our services are based on the Bible and Church tradition since its beginnings.

For the Feast of Divine Mercy, you can still receive a partial indulgence if you pray on Divine Mercy Sunday to the Lord Jesus, with a contrite heart, words such as these: "Merciful Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy on me, a poor sinner".

## If you have been away

from the Catholic faith and you have any questions about coming back home, then come in and talk to one of our priests at any Catholic Church. The beauty of the Church is that it's the same at all parishes.

You may have concerns about marriage outside of the Church or other issues that could prevent you from receiving Holy Communion or you may have questions about the Sacrament of Reconciliation, often referred to as making a Confession.

Don't consider yourself as without hope. Jesus wants to pardon completely even the worst sinners possible. Jesus has come for sinners, not the righteous.

Jesus said that even if our sins were as numerous as the grains of sand, they would be lost in His Ocean of Mercy.

If you are truly repentant of your sins and are well prepared to confess your sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, you will experience a tremendous peace. You will experience a great weight lifted from you.

When you have confessed your sins in the Sacrament of Reconciliation then you must continue to practice your faith as a good Catholic. This involves attending Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation, supporting your local parish, confessing your sins yearly and receiving Communion during the Easter season.

## Jesus is in the Confessional

One of the most reassuring things Our Lord Jesus revealed to us through Saint Faustina includes the several times when He indicated to her that He is really there in the Confessional when we are making our individual Confessions to the priests.

Jesus said that every time we enter the Confessional that He Himself is there waiting for us, and that He is only hidden by the priest. Jesus said never to analyze what sort of a priest that He is making use of, but for us to reveal our souls to Him and that He will fill us with His peace.

Some have wondered why Jesus would want us to confess our sins to a priest, but the answer is in the very first instruction that Jesus gave to His Apostles directly after His Resurrection from the dead.

On the evening of the Resurrection, Jesus walked through the door of the Cenacle where the Apostles were hiding and said to them “Receive the Holy Spirit, what sins you forgive are forgiven them, what sins you retain are retained”. This was the start of the Sacrament of Confession.

For sure that command was not only for the Apostles, and then forgotten, but for that power to be passed on to the ordained priests of today in the Catholic Church.

Jesus said that the greater the sinner, the greater the right they have to His mercy!

## To celebrate properly the Feast of Divine Mercy

and receive the forgiveness of all sins and punishment, you must go to Confession to a Catholic priest within 20 days before or after Divine Mercy Sunday. If you are in the state of very serious or mortal sin, you must confess them before receiving Holy Communion or you will also commit a sacrilege which is a very serious sin.

If you haven't been going to Sunday Mass without any good reason, you may be in a state of serious sin and you must confess before receiving Jesus in Communion.

Parish contact information:

## *Come to the Feast of Divine Mercy*



on the Sunday after Easter, April 3, 2016