

Dear Parishioners,

Understanding the need for God's mercy for us, during this year of Mercy, along with the Universal Church we will be praying the Divine Mercy Novena starting on Good Friday, 19th April, 2019, at 3.00 pm and end with the special prayer service on the Divine Mercy Sunday 28th April, 2019 at 3.00 pm. This is for both St. Peter and St. Mark parishes but will be held at St. MARK Church all those days. Deacon Darrell and I, will be leading the Novenas and the Service on feast day. I invite parishioners from both the parishes to join us praying for God's unconditional Love and Mercy through this devotion. May you have a wonderful Holy Triduum! God Bless You.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Fr. Michael J. Antony



The Divine Mercy - Novena and the Feast

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is a relatively recent but very popular devotion revealed by Our Lord to **St. Maria Faustina Kowalska**, a Polish nun. On February 22nd, 1931 Christ Jesus appeared to St. Faustina and revealed the Image with rays radiating from His heart and said, "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus I trust in You. I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and throughout the world." (*Diary 47*)

- **I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over its enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I myself will defend it as My own glory. (*Diary 48*)**
- **I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature": Jesus, I trust in You." (*Diary 327*)**
- **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. These two rays issued forth from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. (*Diary 299*)**
- **Not in the beauty of the color, nor of the brush, lies the greatness of this image, but in My grace. (*Diary 313*)**
- **By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works. (*Diary 742*)**

On Good Friday 1937, Christ Jesus appeared to her and asked her to recite this chaplet for nine days, starting on Good Friday and ending on the Octave of Easter (the Sunday after Easter Sunday), now known as **Divine Mercy Sunday or The Feast of Mercy**. The chaplet is most often recited during those nine days, but it can be prayed at any time of the year, and Saint Maria Faustina recited it almost unceasingly.

Concerning the Feast of Mercy Jesus said:

- ♦ **Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (*Diary 300*)**
- ♦ **I want the image 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*)**
- ♦ **This Feast emerged from the very depths of My mercy, and it is confirmed in the vast depths of my tender mercies. (*Diary 420*)**
- ♦ **I want to grant complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of My mercy. (*Diary 1109*)**

St. John in his first letter insists on the presence of the invisible with the visible, the Spirit with the water and the Blood. The Image of the pierced side of Christ pouring out blood and water reminds us that the Cross, love in action, is the price of mercy. "As I have loved you so also should you love one another."
