

Divine Mercy Sunday

We have all seen this striking image in our church's sanctuary, but many of us may not know much about it. It is called the image of Divine Mercy, and here is its origin...

In the 1930's Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy. As the ideologies of evil, nazism and communism were taking shape, Sister Faustina was chosen to herald the message that God is mercy. There were 14 occasions when Our Lord requested that the Feast of Divine Mercy be observed, so that we may receive the ocean of graces that pour forth from the Fount of Mercy. Pope Saint John Paul II established this feast for the Universal Church in 2000, the year when Saint Faustina was also canonized.



The image of Divine Mercy shows how Our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina in a vision: His right hand is raised in a blessing. His left hand touches 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" (Saint Faustina's Diary, no. 48) and "By means of this image I will grant many graces to souls" (Diary, no. 742).

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy was also given to Saint Faustina with this promise: "Encourage souls to say the chaplet which I have given you" (Diary, no. 1541). "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death. ... Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy. I desire that the whole world know My infinite mercy" (Diary, no. 687). Instructions for its recitation can be found at www.thedivinemercy.org.

We will offer a parish observance of Divine Mercy today, Sunday, April 24 as follows:

- 1:30 PM Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, quiet time for prayer
- 2:30 PM Divine Mercy Holy Hour, including the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- 3:30 PM Benediction

Please join in celebrating this beautiful feast day!

Jesus, I trust in You.