

Divine Mercy



in my pocket

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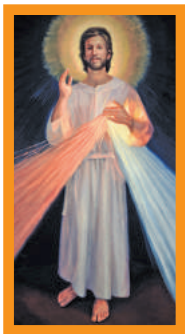
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What Is Divine Mercy?



Divine mercy is all about how much God loves us. God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to save us from our sins. In Jesus we can see God's great mercy, his divine mercy. Jesus suffered and died on the Cross for us. He did this out of his great love for all people. Jesus wants us to feel his love. He always shows us mercy. That means we can always trust him. We never have to be afraid of Jesus. He understands the secrets of our hearts. Even if it seems like no one else understands, Jesus does.

We should try our best to avoid doing anything wrong. But when we do and we

are sorry for what we have done, we can always go to Jesus and he will forgive us. Jesus wants to forgive our sins. He wants to help us to avoid sin in the future. He does all of this in a special way through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Jesus also asks us to share with others what he gives to us. He wants us to treat others with mercy. We can show mercy in the things we do, and the things we say. For ideas on how to treat others with mercy, you can see the section on the works of mercy on page 14.

Another thing we can do to practice mercy is to pray for others. Jesus gave us a special prayer called the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He appeared to a simple Polish nun, Saint Faustina. He taught her the chaplet and asked her to pray it, especially for other people. Jesus wants everyone to experience his mercy, even those with many sins. By praying this simple and beautiful prayer, we can help bring God's mercy to others.

Who Is Saint Faustina?



The Divine Mercy Chaplet came to us through Saint Faustina Kowalska. She was born in Poland in 1905, and she knew she wanted to become a nun when she was only seven years old! When she was twenty, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. The sisters asked her to do ordinary things like cooking and tending the garden.

Jesus chose Sister Faustina for a special mission: to spread the message of divine mercy in the world. Jesus himself appeared to her and taught her many things. Faustina had a hard time because some of the sisters didn't believe that Jesus had spoken to her.

They probably thought: *She is so ordinary! Why would Jesus come to her?* But Jesus chose Faustina because she was humble. He taught her the prayers of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Faustina taught it to others and little by little the devotion spread.

Jesus also asked Faustina to have an image painted to show what he looked like when he appeared to her. Faustina found an artist to paint this picture of God's beautiful mercy. The image shows the risen Jesus standing with two rays of light coming out from his heart. One ray is red and one is white. These rays represent the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' heart on the Cross when the soldier pierced it with a sword.

Faustina died on October 5, 1938, when she was only thirty-three years old. World War II began the next year. That made it hard to spread the message Jesus gave to Faustina, but it did become well known later. Pope John Paul II named Faustina a saint in the year 2000.



How Do I Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet?

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is recited using ordinary rosary beads made up of five decades. The two optional opening prayers are from the diary of Saint Faustina.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
2. Opening Prayers (*optional*)

You died, 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 three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in you!

3. One Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

4. One Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

5. One Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

6. On the larger bead we 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.

7. On the ten smaller beads of each decade we pray:

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

8. Repeat for the remaining decades:

Pray one *Eternal Father* (where in a Rosary you would pray a Lord's Prayer) and then pray *For the sake of his sorrowful passion . . .* ten times (where in a Rosary you would pray the Hail Marys).

9. Conclude by praying three times:

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