

Sunday of Divine Mercy



We have experienced agony in our addictions, only to be offered resurrection through honesty and mercy. We were saved and called to teach those who suffer. We show our wounds to the newcomer, to the stagnate old timer, and to the complacent member on thin ice. We offer ourselves, our histories of self-obsession, our isolation and pain, and, most importantly, our resurrection.

Our Lord gave Saint Faustina a set of prayers to invoke His mercy known as the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. One prayer includes: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins, and those of the whole world." The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a helpful way to reemphasize God's plan of mercy for us and the world.

Through recovery from addiction, we get a unique chance to witness our small acts of repentance be met with God's mercy for us. When these two forces meet, spiritual growth takes place. Saint Augustine summarized this by suggesting we, "Pray as if everything depended on God. Work as if everything depended on us."

The Church recognizes the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. This day concludes what is known as the Easter Octave and calls us to rejoice in the merciful love of God as it is revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospel Reading this Sunday testifies to the peace that Christ brings into our lives, overcoming fear and uncertainty.

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."

After Jesus's crucifixion, his disciples were hiding out hoping they wouldn't be next. When Christ arrives, he simply offers a word of peace, shows the wounds of his death, and reminds them that they are to be sent out into the world. However, they will not be alone as the power of the Holy Spirit—which dwells in us today—will be their advocate.

We can find comfort in the support from others whom have been in a similar situation and testify to the presence of God in their lives today. In a very Christian way, we gain trust when we are privileged to see the wounds of those in our fellowship. With the witness of others, we can align with the spirit of Divine Mercy and proclaim, "Jesus, I trust in you!"

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- How have you experienced growth and new life through the process of other people showing you their emotional, physical, and spiritual wounds?
 - What is it like for you to share honestly and openly in a Christian fellowship?

- What actions, prayers, devotions, or spiritual routines strengthen your trust in God on a regular basis?

Peace and Easter Blessings

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Easter Sunday Mass Readings

1st Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 1:3-9

Gospel: John 20:19-31