



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

April 11th Holy Hour with Benediction from 2pm until 3pm

On February 22, 1931 Our Lord appeared to St. Faustina and told her he wanted a Feast of Mercy celebrated each year in each church. On April 30, 2000 Pope John Paul II declared the Sunday after Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday. It is a day that celebrates the paschal mystery with the focus on God's covenant of mercy. It is a day of complete forgiveness and pardon, like the day of atonement in the Old Testament (LV16) -- all our sins and the punishment due to them would be atoned for. *"I want to grant a complete pardon to the souls that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy. (Diary, 1109)*

The Message of Divine Mercy is that God is merciful. He is love itself poured out for us, and He wants no one to escape that merciful love.

1. **Veneration of an image of Jesus, The Divine Mercy.** *"I want the image to be 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) (Veneration of a sacred image or statue has historically meant a gesture of respect because of the person whom it represents, such as a bow or a genuflection on the knee or knees.)
2. **Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Confession is required, preferably before this feast. You must be in the state of sanctifying grace.
3. **Celebration at a Feast of Mercy Mass and the reception of Holy Communion.** *"I desire that the feast of Mercy be a refuge and a shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On this day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion will obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary, 699).*
4. **Extending mercy to others.** To profit from those great gifts we must fulfill the conditions of the Divine Mercy devotion. Trust in God's goodness and active love toward neighbor. Not only are we to *receive* His mercy, but we are to *use* it, being merciful to others by our actions, by our words, and by our prayers on their behalf; in other words, by practicing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

Plenary Indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday

Further information may be found at

http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_trib_appen_doc_20020629_decree-ii_en.html

Three conditions for the plenary indulgence

And so the Supreme Pontiff, motivated by an ardent desire to foster in Christians this devotion to Divine Mercy as much as possible in the hope of offering great spiritual fruit to the faithful, in the Audience granted on 13 June 2002, to those Responsible for the Apostolic Penitentiary, granted the following Indulgences:

a plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you!);

A partial indulgence, granted to the faithful who, at least with a contrite heart, pray to the merciful Lord Jesus a legitimately approved invocation.

For those who cannot go to church or the seriously ill

In addition, sailors working on the vast expanse of the sea; the countless brothers and sisters, whom the disasters of war, political events, local violence and other such causes have been driven out of their homeland; the sick and those who nurse them, and all who for a just cause cannot leave their homes or who carry out an activity for the community which cannot be postponed, may obtain a plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday, if totally detesting any sin, as has been said before, and with the intention of fulfilling as soon as possible the three usual conditions, will recite the Our Father and the Creed before a devout image of Our Merciful Lord Jesus and, in addition, pray a devout invocation to the Merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in you).

If it is impossible that people do even this, on the same day they may obtain the Plenary Indulgence if with a spiritual intention they are united with those carrying out the prescribed practice for obtaining the Indulgence in the usual way and offer to the Merciful Lord a prayer and the sufferings of their illness and the difficulties of their lives, with the resolution to accomplish as soon as possible the three conditions prescribed to obtain the plenary indulgence.

From: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/tribunals/apost_penit/documents/rc_trib_appen_pro_20000129_indulgence_en.html

5. It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.