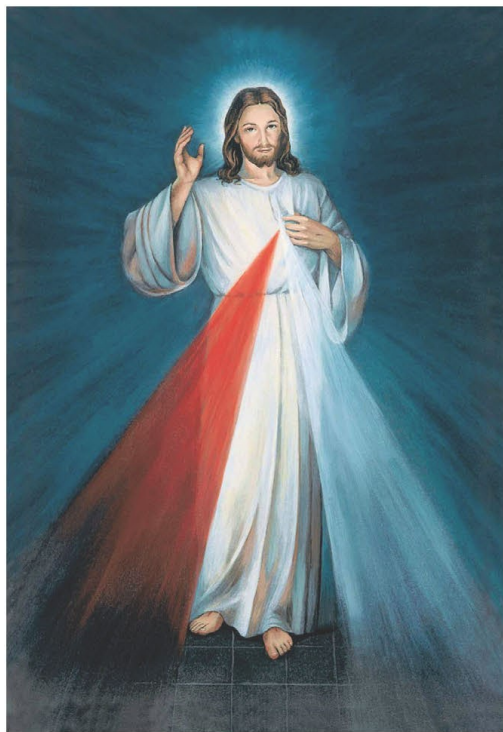
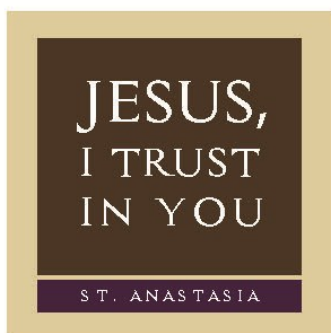


**How would you like
to go straight to heaven
when you die
without having to go
to purgatory?**



**Then
you need
to know
about**

**Divine Mercy
Sunday!**



For years, you may have noticed that the Sunday after Easter is celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday. And maybe you've never given it much thought beyond a simple, "Oh, that's nice!" But, this feast is one that has great importance and can be a blessed opportunity for you! Why? Because Jesus desires to pour out "an ocean of graces" upon YOU!

In St. Faustina's diary (Divine Mercy in My Soul), Jesus said,

"The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

What does this mean?

This means that if someone receives the graces of Divine Mercy Sunday properly, the state of their soul at the time of death would be as if they had just been baptized – completely clean, free from all sin and punishment, and ready for heaven.

Here's what it means theologically:

- All mortal and venial sins are forgiven (through Confession)
- All temporal punishment due to sin is wiped away (no purgatory needed).
- The soul is in a state of grace, pure and united with God's mercy.
- If a person died immediately after receiving these graces, they would, by God's mercy, go straight to heaven.

It's as if God is saying: "This is a new beginning. Your soul is spotless. Come to me!"

WHAT IS DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY?

Divine Mercy Sunday is celebrated on the Second Sunday of Easter. It is based on the private revelations of St. Faustina Kowalska, which recommended a particular devotion to the Divine Mercy.

For more information, go to thedivinemercy.org

So, how do I receive these graces on Divine Mercy Sunday?

1) Go to Confession

It doesn't have to be on the same day, but you need to be in the state of grace on the day you receive Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. If you have sinned in between the time of your last confession and Divine Mercy Sunday, you would have to go to confession before receiving Holy Communion on that day.

2) Receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday (in a state of grace).

3) Trust in God's mercy.

4) Perform an act of devotion to Divine Mercy

Such as the praying the "Divine Mercy Chaplet" or veneration of the Divine Mercy image.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY SERVICE

1:15 pm in the Church

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reflection on Divine Mercy, pray the Rosary, quiet meditation, Divine Mercy Chaplet and benediction.

5) Be detached from sin and truly open to God's mercy.

The graces given on Divine Mercy Sunday is one of the most extraordinary spiritual gifts in the Church – sometimes called the "greatest day of grace" after Baptism itself! It is greater than a plenary indulgence, because a plenary indulgence requires a kind of spiritual perfection (no attachment even to venial sin) and if that's missing it becomes only partial. But on Divine Mercy Sunday, Jesus pours out the fullness of mercy, even if the soul is still imperfect, as long as it comes to Him with trust and a repentant heart.

Understanding this, can you see why I feel an obligation to inform you of the incredible mercy Jesus offers us on Divine Mercy Sunday? It is certainly not just another feast day in the liturgical calendar!

- Fr. Steve
St. Anastasia Catholic Church
Troy, Michigan

THE DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

It is not necessary to pray the Divine Mercy Novena to obtain the graces worthily, but doing so is a good preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. It actually consists of a novena of chaplets, recited from Good Friday through the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus promised: "By this novena [of chaplets], I will grant every possible grace to souls." For more information on how to pray the Divine Mercy Novena, go to originaldivinemercy.com

**A Great
Opportunity
to go to
Confession
before
Divine Mercy
Sunday...**



IN DEPTH:

What is temporal punishment due to sin?

Let's first state the Church's teaching on the consequences of sin:

- 1) Eternal punishment (hell), which is forgiven through Confession.
- 2) Temporal punishment (a kind of purification or penance), which may remain even after Confession. Therefore, even after sin is forgiven in Confession (meaning you're no longer guilty in God's eyes), there can still be damage caused by the sin – to yourself, to others, and to your relationship with God. The Church teaches that this leftover "damage" needs to be healed or purified. That healing is called temporal punishment.

Purification of temporal punishment can happen:

- In this life: through prayer, acts of charity, suffering, penance, etc.
- After death: In purgatory, where the soul is purified before entering heaven.

Understanding purgatory: The Church teaches that purgatory is a state of purification after death for souls who die in God's grace but still have some attachment to sin or temporal punishment left. It's not a second chance – everyone in purgatory is ultimately on their way to heaven – but there's still healing or cleansing needed before standing in God's full presence.

The graces from Divine Mercy Sunday are greater! Jesus, on this day, pours out an "Ocean of graces" which means not only are all of your sins forgiven, but also all temporal punishment due to sin is wiped away – similar to what happens at Baptism!