

The Message of Divine Mercy

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.

The message is that God wants us to turn to Him with trust and repentance while it is still a time of mercy, before He comes as the just Judge. This turning with trust to Him who is Mercy itself is the only source of peace for mankind. Turning to and imploring God's mercy is the answer to the troubled world. There is no escaping that *answer*.

The Response of Trust and Conversion

What God most wants of us is to turn to Him with *trust*. And the first act of trust is: *receive* His mercy. To trust God is to rely on Him who is mercy itself. The Lord wants us to live with trust in Him in all circumstances. We trust Him because He is God, and He loves us and cares for us.

His mercy is always available to us, no matter what we have done or what state we are in, even if our sins are as black as night, and we are filled with fears and anxieties.

The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My mercy (Diary, 723)

But there is more we can do. As Catholic Christians, we can go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and be reconciled to God and to humanity. The Lord wants us to live reconciled with Him and one another.

The Response of Mercy Toward Others

Not only are we to *receive* His mercy, but we are to *use* it. We use God's mercy in what are known as the Corporal and Spiritual works of Mercy.

The *Corporal Works of Mercy* are: feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the travelers, comforting the prisoners, visiting the sick, and burying the dead. The *Spiritual Works of Mercy* include teaching the ignorant, praying for the living and dead, correcting sinners, counseling those in doubt, consoling the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, and forgiving wrongs willingly.

It's Scriptural

The message of mercy is the content and the challenge of Sacred Scripture. In the Hebrew Bible we see a God of mercy who calls His people to be merciful. In the New Testament Jesus exhorts us:

Be merciful even as your Father is merciful
(Lk 6:36, RSV).

He sets the highest goal for us and expects us to obtain it by His merciful love:

Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy (Mt 5:7, RSV).

When He comes again, He will judge us on our mercy toward one another:

Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brethren, you did it to me (Mt 25:40).

It's the Teaching of St. John Paul II

The message of The Divine Mercy – Jesus Himself – is at the heart of the gospel. The message of mercy presents the truth and the call of the gospel to our present age. This message of mercy is proclaimed by St. Pope John Paul II, in his encyclical *Rich in Mercy*, as the message for our age:

...the Church must consider it one of her principle duties – at every stage of history and especially in our modern age - to proclaim and to introduce into life the mystery of mercy, supremely revealed in Jesus Christ (14).

Mercy – The Message And Response Through the Ages

The message and response of mercy is not something new. In the past God spoke a message of mercy through the patriarchs and prophets – through Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah and many others.

In the last days God has spoken to us by His Son, Jesus Christ, who is Mercy personified and incarnated.

God continues to speak a word of mercy even to our generation, through the Church and its shepherds, and through Holy men and women – mystics – whom God has chosen as His vessels.

In our century He revealed Himself to Sister Faustina, a simple and holy nun in Poland during the 1930's. He called her to be His secretary and His apostle of mercy. He spoke to her of His mercy and the way He wants us to respond to it.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy

Our Lord not only taught Sister Faustina the fundamentals of trust, and of mercy to others, but He also revealed special ways to live out the response to His mercy. These we call the *devotion to The Divine Mercy*. The word “devotion” means fulfilling our vows. It is a commitment of our lives to the Lord who is Mercy.

By giving our lives to The Divine Mercy – Jesus Christ Himself – we become instruments of His mercy to others, and so we can live out the command of the Lord:

Be merciful even as your Father is merciful
(Lk 6:36, RSV).

Through Sister Faustina, Our Lord gave us special means of drawing on His mercy: an Image of The Divine Mercy, a Chaplet of The Divine Mercy, a Feast of Mercy, a novena, and prayer at the 3:00 o'clock hour – the hour of His death.

These special means are in addition to the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, which have been given to the Church.

The Image of the Divine Mercy

Jesus appeared to Sister Faustina with rays of red and pale light streaming from the area around His heart. His hand was raised in blessing, recalling the scene of Easter Sunday night (see John 20:19-23).

He asked Sister Faustina to have this vision painted along with the words, “Jesus, I Trust in You!”

He presented this image to remind people to trust in His mercy, and to come to Him for mercy:

I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy.

That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in you (Diary, 327).

Jesus explained that the rays represented the blood and water which flowed from His pierced side and taught Sister Faustina the prayer:

O blood and water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You (Diary, 84)

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Our Lord taught Sister Faustina a prayer for mercy that she was to pray “unceasingly.”

He told her that by praying in this way her prayers would have great power for the conversion of sinners, for peace for the dying, and even for controlling nature.

We too can pray this chaplet, using ordinary Rosary beads of five decades. Prayer cards are available at each church to teach us the words.

The Feast of Divine Mercy

Our Lord asked Sister Faustina to pray and work towards establishing the Feast of Divine Mercy on the Sunday after Easter. He told her:

On that 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 shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary, 699).

It is a day that would celebrate the paschal mystery with a focus on God’s covenant of mercy. It would be a day of complete forgiveness and pardon, like the Day of Atonement in the Old Testament (see Lev 16) – all our sins and the punishment due to them would be atoned for.

We can already celebrate this “Mercy Sunday” by going to Confession (eight days before or after) and receiving Holy Communion on that day. We can honor the mercy of the Lord by our prayers and works of mercy.

The Novena before the Feast

In preparation for the Feast of The Divine Mercy, the Lord asked Sister Faustina to make a novena of prayer from Good Friday to the following Saturday.

These nine days of prayer (the word “novena” means nine) before the Feast of Mercy are like the nine days of prayer in the upper room before the day of Pentecost (see Acts 1:14).

For each of the nine days, our Lord gave Sister Faustina a different intention: all mankind, especially sinners; the souls of priests and religious; all devout and faithful

souls; those who do not believe in Him and those who do not yet know Him; the souls of the separated brethren; the meek and humble souls and the souls of the little children; the souls who especially venerate and glorify His mercy; the souls detained in purgatory; souls who have become lukewarm.

I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fount of My Mercy, that they may draw from there strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death (Diary, 1209).

We, too, can make a novena of prayer for these intentions and others, especially by praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Three O’clock Hour

In his revelations to Sister Faustina, Jesus asked for special, daily remembrance at three o’clock, the very hour He died for us on the cross:

At three o’clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony: This is the hour of great mercy for the whole world. I will allow you to enter into My mortal sorrow. In this hour, I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion (Diary, 1320).

At 3:00 o’clock we can pray:

You expired, 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, envelope the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us (Diary, 1319).

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You (Diary, 84).

The Spiritual Life of Sister Faustina

The spiritual life of Sister Faustina was based on her humility and her obedience to the will of God. On this foundation the structure of her spiritual life was formed – devotion to the Eucharist, Confession, Mary, suffering and intercession.

Peace

The *only source of peace* in our troubled world is the mercy of God. The Lord made it clear to us through Sister Faustina:

Mankind will have no peace until it turns with trust to My mercy! (Diary, 300).

The essence of the message and the devotion to The Divine Mercy is: TRUST and MERCY.

In the words given to Sister Faustina: Jesus, I trust in you!

To acquire more materials about Divine Mercy, visit: <http://www.marian.org>

Gems of Wisdom from the *Diary of Saint Faustina*

852. Today the Lord's gaze shot through me suddenly, like lightening. At once, I came to know the tiniest specks in my soul, and knowing the depths of my misery, I fell to my knees and begged the Lord's pardon, and with great trust I immersed myself in His infinite mercy. Such knowledge does not depress me nor keep me away from the Lord, but rather it arouses in my soul greater love and boundless trust. The repentance of my heart is linked to love. These extraordinary flashes from the Lord educate my soul. O sweet rays of God, enlighten me to the most secret depth, for I want to arrive at the greatest possible purity of heart and soul.

Please Welcome Fr. Randy This Weekend

Fr. Randy Gonzalez, a Missionhurst missionary, will preach at five Masses this weekend at StA, StB, and OLS. He is from the congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A second collection will be taken. **Make checks out to our churches** and we will compile the money and send one check to the Archdiocese of Denver to forward to Fr. Randy's mission.

Missionhurst was originally founded in 1862 for the conversion of China. Today it serves some of the most remote places of Mongolia, Indonesia, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Missionhurst starts new farm projects, builds new chapels and schools, and lays clean water supply lines, among other things.

First Friday and Saturday Masses Available at OLS

Notice the daily Mass schedule for this week.

The Majesty of the Mass

The Sacrifice [of the Mass] is celebrated with many solemn rites and ceremonies, none of which should be deemed useless or superfluous. On the contrary, all of them tend to display the majesty of this august Sacrifice, and to excite the faithful when beholding these saving mysteries, to contemplate the divine things which lie concealed in the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

-Council of Trent

Office Closed at Our Lady on Tuesday, August 2

After the completion of morning Mass and Holy Hour on Tuesday, the office will be closed.

First Tuesday Confessions at St. Bernard Cancelled in August

Confession is available Wed. at 9:10 a.m.

"Forgiven and Set Free" Bible Study

While society tells us that abortion is not a big deal, those of us who have experienced abortions know differently. Abortion is a life-changing experience. Some of the symptoms of post abortion stress are: guilt, emotionally numb, depression, panic feelings,

sleep disturbances, eating disorders, feelings of inferiority, anger, crying spells, alcohol/drug abuse, and suicidal thoughts.

The main goals of the this Bible study are to truly understand God's character and attributes, to accept God's forgiveness for the sin of abortion in our heads and in our hearts, to forgive those who played a part in our abortion decision, to process the denial, anger, guilt, depression and shame associated with that event.

The next class is runs from Aug 2 to Oct 11, 2016. Need info? Contact Pat confidentially at 361-442-3532 or patpulliamjmj@gmail.com

Calendar of Events

- Aug 6-7; 13-14.** Welcome Fr. Bob Fisher for Masses
- Aug 9 (Tue).** *Catholic Women Today*, OLS, 5:30 p.m.
- Sep 3-4.** Sale of goods from Jerusalem after Masses
- Sep 8 (Thu).** Begin Religious Education at OLS

Mass Collections, July 23 – 24

St. Anne	\$ 3766
St. Bernard	2401
Our Lady of the Snow	2611
St. Peter	749
St. Ignatius	854
Total	\$10381

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat--Roberto Rodriguez & Cristian Rivera

Sun--Daniel Silva & Daniel Wolbach

Mon--Joseph Goodwin & Justin Doerr

Tue--Nicolas Nunez & Patricio Chuquimarca

Wed--Phuoc (Joe) Bui & Red Braz

Thu--Adam Bradshaw & Adrian Hernandez

Fri--Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Jul 30, StA, 5 p.m., Peter and Kathleen Brownell

-Sat, Jul 30, StB, 7:30 p.m., Spencer Gardner

-Sun, Jul 31, StB, 7 a.m., Barry and Aimee Kroneberger

-Sun, Jul 31, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Scott and Donna Webb

-Sun, Jul 31, StA, 12 noon, Parishioners and visitors

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Aug 1, StA, 8:30 a.m., Danita McGinn

-Tue, Aug 2, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Dale and Becky Redeker

-Wed, Aug 3, StB, 8:30 a.m., Engelbert Family

-**Thu, Aug 4, OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, John and Carolyn Murphy

-**Fri, Aug 5, OLS, 8:30**, Fr. Michael intention

-**Fri, Aug 5, OLS, 6 p.m.**, John and Carolyn Murphy

-**Sat, Aug 6, OLS, 8:30 a.m.**, Fr. Joseph's intention

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StI = St. Ignatius (Walden); StP = St. Peter

-Sat, Jul 30, StI, 4 p.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Jul 31, StP, 10 a.m., +Richard Dubois