



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEFINED UNIQUE TIMES DO NOT TAKE AWAY GOD'S GRACES

This is the 20th year the church has celebrated Divine Mercy Sunday. It was added to the calendar when Saint Pope John Paul II canonized the humble Polish nun Sr. Maria Faustina Kowalska a saint on April 30, 2000, he declared in his homily:

“It is important then that we accept the whole message that comes to us from the word of God on this Second Sunday of Easter, which from now on throughout the Church will be called ‘Divine Mercy Sunday’.

“In the various readings, the liturgy seems to indicate the path of mercy which, while re-establishing the relationship of each person with God, also creates new relations of fraternal solidarity among human beings.”

The prominent visual for the day is a painting of Jesus that St. Faustina guided a Polish artist to create based on a vision she had in 1931.



Jesus is shown in most versions as raising his right hand in blessing and pointing with his left hand on his chest from which flow forth two rays: one red and one white (translucent).

“The rays streaming out have symbolic meaning: red for the blood of Jesus (which

is the Life of Souls), and pale for the water (which justifies souls),” from the Diary of St. Faustina - 299.

The whole image is symbolic of charity, forgiveness and love of God, referred to as the “Fountain of Mercy”.

The depictions often contain the message “Jesus, I trust in You!” (Polish: *Jeżu ufam Tobie*).

Sunday of the Divine Mercy is also a day to receive special graces as defined by what some say is the most important message from Jesus Christ that St. Faustina shares in her diary:

*I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those 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. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet (Diary of St. Faustina, 699).*

So, how can we receive these special graces Christ spoke of to St. Faustina? Fr. Chris Alar, a priest with the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception and frequent guest and host on EWTN regarding the Divine Mercy Sunday, offers the following reflection for this year's unique position we are in as faithful:

Even though churches are closed, and you cannot go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, you can receive these special graces on Divine Mercy Sunday. Fr. Alar defines three things to do on Divine Mercy Sunday with the intention to turn away from sin in your life:

### 1. Make an Act of Contrition

Since you are unable to get to Confession, make an Act of Contrition, instead. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Among the penitent's acts contrition occupies first place. Contrition is ‘sorrow of the soul and detestation for the sin committed, together

with the resolution not to sin again” (1451). You thereby will be completely forgiven of all sins, even “mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible” (*Catechism*, 1452).

### 2. Make a Spiritual Communion

Since churches are closed and you cannot receive Holy Communion, make a Spiritual Communion instead, asking God to come into your heart as if you received Him sacramentally — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. For instance, you can say this:

#### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You were already there, I embrace You and unite myself to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You. Amen.

Again, do this act of trust with the intent to return to the sacrament of Holy Communion as soon as possible.

### 3. Say a prayer like this:

Lord Jesus Christ, You promised St. Faustina that the soul that has been to Confession [I'm unable, but I made an Act of Contrition] and the soul that receives Holy Communion [I'm unable, but I made a Spiritual Communion] will receive the complete forgiveness of all sins and punishment. Please, Lord Jesus Christ, give me this grace. Amen.

Unlike a plenary indulgence, there is no requirement of having perfect detachment from sin. In other words, as long as we have a desire for this grace and intention to amend our lives, we can be completely cleansed with grace similar to our original Baptism. It is a way to really start over in our spiritual life!

Learn more about Divine Mercy Sunday through the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy at: [WWW.THEDIVINEMERCY.ORG/CELEBRATE/GREATGRACE/DMS](http://WWW.THEDIVINEMERCY.ORG/CELEBRATE/GREATGRACE/DMS)

## From the Desk of Superintendent Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.

Department of Catholic Schools • [www.WVCatholicSchools.org](http://www.WVCatholicSchools.org)

### WORD OF GRACE FOR WV CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Happy Easter! We truly get to say that over and over from now through Pentecost on May 31st. I love this season so much – the trees and shrubs in colorful bloom; the sweet fragrance of the flowers caught in a soft breeze; and the sun kissed cheeks and noses of our little ones after playing outside on a bright afternoon.

It is a time of hope and joy that is revealed right before us. In your child's religion lessons and in our Mass readings during this time we learn about the rich beginnings of our church through the Acts of the Apostles. The amazing story and power of the Holy Spirit will unfold. You will see these scriptures give us hope and encouragement. It was the Holy Spirit that moved the Apostles way out of their comfort zone so they could build the church and go *"to all the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8)"* to share God's grace.

With tongue in cheek we as adults feel like we are going *"to all the ends of the earth"* to do and give our best to our children, our jobs, and our families. By now we have become used to our new habits. We haven't done that alone. The 12 gifts of the Holy Spirit - love (charity), joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, modesty, self-control, and chastity (living disciples of Christ) - enable us to conquer our struggles, failures, and challenges. As I talk to our principals, teachers, and families, I can tell the Holy Spirit is helping all of us push aside the chaos and anxiety to bring peace and order.

With that said, I want to make it clear that all our school staff are here and will continue to be here for you and your children. So, let's continue to reset ourselves, continue to work hard, and continue to be givers as we renew our faith by trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us.

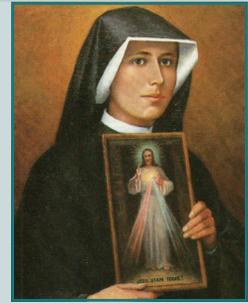
*"In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" -Acts 20:35*

Bless you always and in all ways this Easter season.

Peace,



Mary Ann Deschaine, Ed.S.



### WHO IS ST. MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA?

St. Faustina Kowalska was a young Polish nun born at the beginning of the 20th century. Over the course of several years she had visions of Jesus, whereby she was directed to share Christ's message of love and mercy in an image she was directed to have painted for the world to see.

St. Faustina received her first revelation of the merciful Jesus in Plock, Poland in February 1931. At the time, she had made her first vows as one of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

In 1933, after she made her perpetual vows, her superior directed her to move to the convent house in Vilnius. She stayed there for three years and this is where she received many more visions of Jesus. Vilnius is also where she found a priest to be her spiritual director, the now-BI. Michael Sopocko.

With the help of Fr. Sopocko, St. Faustina found a painter to fulfill the request Jesus had made to her in one of the visions – to “paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You” – and in 1934 the painter Eugene Kazimierowski created the original Divine Mercy painting under St. Faustina's direction.

St. Faustina recorded all of her visions and conversations with Jesus in her diary, called *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, also found under the title *The Diary of St. Maria Faustina*. In it she wrote the words of Jesus about the graces that would pour out on anyone who prayed before the image:

*"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend [that soul] as My own glory."*

In March 1936 St. Faustina became sick, with what is believed to have been tuberculosis, and was transferred back to Poland by her superiors. She died near Krakow in October 1938, at the age of 33.

### FEELING THE LOVE FROM OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER SCHOOL

## ORGANIZERS INVITE ALL TO JOIN IN ANNUAL NOVENA TO SANTO NINO DURING PANDEMIC



By Colleen Rowan

Each year, beginning on the first Saturday after Easter, the Novena to Santo Niño is celebrated at the Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston. It is a joyous celebration presented by the Filipino Community of West Virginia and Ohio and parishioners of the basilica co-cathedral.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, there will be no gathering in the church. But the Novena to Santo Niño will go on with faithful invited to pray at home.

“We would like to share this novena with the rest of the diocese,” said Maricel Bernardo, coordinator.

“As we practice social distancing, we can still celebrate Santo Niño together by praying the novena in our homes,” parish officials posted on the basilica co-cathedral’s Facebook page April 15. “We ask that you pray the novena at 6:30 p.m. daily or when you are able. Please keep in your prayers the first responders, essential workers, and the individuals who risk their health and safety every day. Pray for each other, our nation, and the world as we battle this pandemic together. Viva Santo Niño!”

The novena will be celebrated from April 18 to April 26. The daily Masses will not be celebrated except on the last day of the novena. That Mass will be livestreamed on the Sacred Heart Facebook page at 10 a.m. with Very Rev. Donald X. Higgs, Assoc. V.F., rector of the basilica co-cathedral, as the celebrant. The Mass will be celebrated for Santo Niño with the novena after Mass.

“Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and physical distancing practice, we are unable to celebrate the nine days in the church this year,” Bernardo said. “We will be sending e-mails as well as printing the novena in our church bulletin.”

Novena prayers are available in the April 15 post on the Sacred Heart Facebook page so that individuals and families can pray the novena at home. To access the church bulletin, prayers, and for more information, visit the parish’s Facebook page at: [FACEBOOK.COM/BASILICASACREDHEART](https://www.facebook.com/basilicasacredheart).

More information about the novena may also be found by visiting the basilica co-cathedral website at [SACREDHEARTCOCATHEDRAL.COM](https://www.sacredheartcocathedral.com) and clicking “Bulletins” in the top menu.

The basilica co-cathedral is a Diocesan Shrine of Santo Niño de Cebu, the patron and protector of the Philippines.

## LIVE IN THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION

Don’t let anyone steal your joy. Choose to live in the joy of Christ’s resurrection no matter what challenges you face.

The following is an excerpt from an April 21, 1979 homily given by Pope John Paul II:

“It gives to Christians everywhere strength at every turn in life. It makes us sensitive to humanity with all its limitations, sufferings, and needs. The resurrection has immense power to liberate, to uplift, to bring about justice, to effect holiness, to cause joy.

“In a true sense, joy is the keynote of the Christian message. My wish is that the Christian message may bring joy to all who open their hearts to it.... *Faith is our source of joy.* We believe in a God who created us so that we might enjoy human happiness—in some measure on earth, in its fullness in heaven.

“We are meant to have our human joys: the joy of living, the joy of love and friendship, the joy of work well done. We who are Christians have a further cause for joy: Like Jesus, we know that we are loved by God our Father. This love transforms our lives and fills us with joy. It makes us see that Jesus did not come to lay burdens upon us. He came to teach us what it means to be fully happy and fully human. Therefore, we discover joy when we discover truth—the truth about God our Father, the truth about Jesus our Savior, the truth about the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts.

“We all have been called to accept this joy in our lives. It is given to us again each.... The life of grace, which we carry within us, is the life of the risen Christ. Consequently, through grace, a joy beats within us, and nothing can take it away. As Jesus promised his disciples: ‘Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you’ (John 16:22).”

*This text was featured on the Word Among Us website, [WAU.ORG](https://www.wau.org), where you can find more like it, daily readings, meditations, and other helpful resources.*

MASS READINGS FOR APRIL 19, 2020  
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

**Lectionary: 43**

**First Reading: ACTS 2:42-47**

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their property and possessions and divide them among all according to each one's need. Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes. They ate their meals with exultation and sincerity of heart, praising God and enjoying favor with all the people. And every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

**R. (1) Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting. or R. Alleluia.**

Let the house of Israel say, "His mercy endures forever." Let the house of Aaron say, "His mercy endures forever." Let those who fear the LORD say, "His mercy endures forever."

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting. or R. Alleluia.**

I was hard pressed and was falling, but the LORD helped me. My strength and my courage is the LORD, and he has been my savior. The joyful shout of victory in the tents of the just:

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting. or R. Alleluia.**

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. By the LORD has this been done; it is wonderful in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it.

**R. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, his love is everlasting. or R. Alleluia.**

**Second Reading 1PETER 1:3-9**

Brothers and sisters:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may

prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Although you have not seen him you love him; even though you do not see him now yet believe in him, you rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, as you attain the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**Alleluia JOHN 20:29**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

You believe in me, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord; blessed are they who have not seen me, but still believe!

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel JOHN 20:19-31**

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."

Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Now, Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book.

But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

## KEEPING THE EASTER “SEASON” HOLY

By: Bernadette McMasters Kime, D.Min.

The Coronavirus pandemic began in the middle of Lent. As Christians, we were already in the time when the Church calls us to refocus our spiritual lives by recalling Jesus’ journey into the desert, contemplating our own sinfulness, engaging in acts of sacrifice, and spending more time in prayer. Being asked to literally retreat from the world, in a way seemed to fit well with the meaning of the season of Lent. We were called to sacrifice so much of our ordinary way of life and we found ourselves with more time for personal prayer and spiritual reflection.

Then Holy Week came. Many of us were tuned into our televisions or computers to participate in modified Holy Week liturgies celebrated by our own Diocesan clergy. Even amid our isolation at home, the traditions of the Last Supper and Passion of the Lord were already deeply rooted in our Catholic consciousness.

Easter Sunday was, of course, the climax of our spiritual celebrations. In addition to watching Easter Mass on TV or internet, households gathered in joyful celebration sharing special foods and recalling Jesus Christ’s triumph over sin and death.

But Easter is not over. Our Church calendar sets aside fifty days known as the Easter Season. Nestled within the Easter season is the Feast of the Ascension when forty days after Easter, Jesus ascended into heaven and ten days later when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles on the Feast of Pentecost.

So now that all the hype of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are over, how can we keep the spirit of the Easter Season alive when we are still in isolation?

One way is to spend time with the daily readings the Church gives to us during the Easter season. They are rich and contain significant meaning especially those from the Acts of the Apostles. The Book of Acts tells of the early followers of Jesus as they attempt to make sense of their new reality now that Jesus had gone back to the Father, as well as their struggle to spread his mission. We too must forge a new way of being Church during the Coronavirus pandemic. The Acts of the Apostles and the post-Resurrection Gospels can help us remain steadfast in our faith and give us strength during these uncertain times.

The weekly readings are provided for you in this bulletin. Daily readings may also be accessed on-line at the USCCB Website at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). There are many online Catholic publishers offering reflection questions to accompany the readings. For example, [www.livingwithchrist.us#covid](http://www.livingwithchrist.us#covid) and Liturgical Training Publications, [www.ltp.org/resources-during-crisis](http://www.ltp.org/resources-during-crisis) to name a few.

Our diocesan website [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org) and our Facebook page at [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/DIOCESECATHOLICCHARLESTON](https://www.facebook.com/diocesecatholiccharleston) also provide a plethora of enrichment resources, encouraging stories, and the latest news from the diocese to the Vatican.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

That we may continue to proclaim the Resurrection of the Lord and Christ’s triumph over death, especially in this time of sadness and confusion, we pray . . .

That the catechumens and candidates who were unable to be brought into full communion of the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, may be filled with joyful anticipation and hope until we can once again gather as a community of faith, we pray . . .

That healthcare workers, first responders, all those in the in the service industry may be kept safe from the Coronavirus, we pray . . .

That government officials may be filled with wisdom and right judgment, as they make important decisions regarding the wealth and welfare of those they serve, we pray . . .

*Lord hear our prayer*



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MAY 5, 2020**

WV Catholic Schools provide challenging academics complimented with life and leadership lessons in empathy, morals, responsibility, and faith.

We give our students a strong foundation for the future – spiritually, academically, emotionally, and socially – all in a Christ-centered Catholic environment.

**God is in our schools!**

Join us online May 5th as we rally our families, parishioners, alumni, and school supporters to raise funds, share our faith, and build our online community during our first Diocesan Catholic Schools Giving Day,

**One Mission, One Day to Make a Difference.**

**#OneMissionOneDay**

**OneMissionOneDay.org**

## A LITTLE CATHOLIC HUMOR



**"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME AFTER CLASS."**



**"YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY SIMILAR."**

## Liturgy of the Hours LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.

[EBREVIARY.COM](http://EBREVIARY.COM) [LITURGY OF THE HOURS](#)



## YOUTH MINISTRY CONTINUES

YOUNG WV CATHOLICS invites teens to be part of

*project*YM  
LIVE  
A WEEKLY LIVE YOUTH NIGHT

Instead of feeling cooped up, encourage your teen to feel energized by participating in the PROJECT YM LIVE event and Young WV Catholics Zoom conversation. Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry Interim Director, Shawn Madden, invites you to find out more and sign up at:

[www.youngwvcatholics.com/ymlive.html](http://www.youngwvcatholics.com/ymlive.html)

Project YM, a national youth ministry organization, streamed its first hour-long live youth night last week. It was attended online by more than 9,000 households! The event at [projectym.com/live](http://projectym.com/live) had games, prizes, a solid message, and engaging prayer. Help middle and high school students you know by sharing this opportunity.

**LOL** WV CATHOLIC RADIO  
Light of Life Radio Ministry  
BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU

Berkeley Springs - Hancock, MD	FM	96.3
Berkeley Springs	FM	107.9
Clarksburg-Bridgeport	FM	97.5
Dunbar - Charleston	AM	1450
Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
Star City - Morgantown	FM	89.7
Summersville	FM	91.3
Wheeling - Martins Ferry, OH	FM	90.7

You can find LoL Radio online at [LoLRadio.org](http://LoLRadio.org)

## ONLINE RESOURCES TO CHECK OUT THIS WEEK:

In addition to our diocesan website, [DWC.ORG](http://DWC.ORG), check out:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, for resources presented in text, audio, and video formats. Daily Readings written: [USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS](http://USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS) Daily Readings audio: [USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS-AUDIO.CFM](http://USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS-AUDIO.CFM) Video Reflection [USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/REFLECTIONS/INDEX.CFM](http://USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/REFLECTIONS/INDEX.CFM)  
*The usccb.org site will also give you tutorials on how to pray the Rosary, the Divine Chaplet, and other prayers and devotions.*
- National Catholic Register for Catholic news, stories, blogs, etc. at [NCREGISTER.COM](http://NCREGISTER.COM)
- The Catholic News Service for the latest headlines for Catholics [WWW.CATHOLICNEWS.COM](http://WWW.CATHOLICNEWS.COM)
- My Daily Living with Fr. John Chapin Engler at [MYDAILYLIVING.COM](http://MYDAILYLIVING.COM)
- Fr. James DeViese - Altar-ed State: [WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCyPoCad75CF3rgiFeyJy5HQ](http://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/CHANNEL/UCyPoCad75CF3rgiFeyJy5HQ)
- Music ministries on Facebook: *My Heart is Ready*, [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WWW.DAVIDHAAS.US](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WWW.DAVIDHAAS.US) and *John Angotti Music Mission*, [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOHNANGOTTIMUSICMISSION](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JOHNANGOTTIMUSICMISSION)