

TRUST FALL

An Edge Night on Divine Mercy Sunday

EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is to prepare the youth for and explain the Church's celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. This Edge Night will provide the youth with an understanding of the feast and personal applications to their faith.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night begins with a Gather dynamic where teams race against one another, silently leading their blindfolded teammates to find an object and place it in a bucket. The Proclaim shares the story of St. Faustina and discusses what it means to accept and live God's unending mercy. During the Break, the youth participate in a small group discussion and create a single decade of the rosary on which they can pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. The Send wraps up the Edge Night with everyone praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on the single decade of the rosary that they created.

MAIN IDEAS

- The Church uses a liturgical calendar that sets aside specific days and seasons to celebrate different parts of our faith.
- This week the Church celebrates Divine Mercy Sunday, a day that reminds us that Jesus died for

our sins and wants nothing more than to reconcile us to Him.

- Accepting Christ's mercy requires that we be mindful of our sins and trustingly ask God to forgive us and change our hearts.

ENVIRONMENT

Make the Divine Mercy image the focal point of your meeting space. To represent the rays of blue and red from the Divine Mercy image, decorate the left side of the room red and the right side of the room blue. Use red and blue tablecloths, streamers, and confetti, and incorporate the colors wherever else you can.



MEDIA

Edge Video Support 2: "Saintly Minute: St. Faustina" (lifeteen.com)

"New Every Morning," Audrey Assad with Matt Maher (*Inheritance*, Audrey Assad and Daniel James, 2016)

"Oh Mercy," Audrey Assad, Stu Garrard, and Matt Maher (*Beatitudes*, Stu Garrard, 2017)



SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:9-13, 9:10-13; Luke 15:11-23; Ephesians 2:4-10; Romans 5:8



CATECHISM

396-409, 1163-1165, 1171-1173, 1430, 1434-1439, 1846-1848

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth, introduce any youth there for the first time, and begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night, using the following as an example:

This week we join the Church in celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us that Easter is not about candy and eggs; rather, it is about Jesus dying and rising to conquer death and forgive us of our sins. This Sunday we rejoice in knowing that God loves us so much that He sent His Son to us and continues to offer us mercy through the work of the Church.

Trusty Bucket (20 min)

This game is played in small groups.

1. Each team lines up single-file. Each person places their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them.
2. Blindfold everyone except for the last person in each line.
3. Once the blindfolds are on, place a bucket somewhere in the room.
4. Place one item for each team somewhere in the room. (The item can be anything a blindfolded person could easily pick up and place in the bucket.)
5. Explain to the non-blindfolded players that they must guide their teammates to their team's designated item and then to the bucket so they can deposit their item. They cannot talk or leave their place in the line.
6. The first team to place their item in the bucket wins.



SUGGESTIONS

To avoid the teams running into one another, have the teams go one at a time and time them. The team with the fastest time wins.



STEP IT UP

Once the team has placed their item in the bucket, have the person at the front of the line move to the back and become the leader. Have the youth pass his or her blindfold off to the former leader, and have a Core Member remove their item from the bucket, placing it in a new spot. Continue until everyone has had a chance to lead their team.

PROCLAIM

“Trust Fall” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 42 to 48.

BREAK

DIY Chaplet of Divine Mercy (20 min)

Before the Edge Night, find instructions online for how to make one decade of the rosary out of knotted rope or using beads. Print the instructions and purchase enough materials so each youth can make one decade of the rosary.

Divide the youth into small groups. Provide each small group with the instructions and materials to create one decade of the rosary. Have the Core Team help the youth make their one decade of the rosary and explain that the

prayers for the Chaplet of Divine Mercy are prayed using the rosary, so what they are creating can be used for both the rosary and the chaplet.

As they make their one decade of the rosary, lead the youth through the following questions for discussion:

- Had you heard of divine mercy before this Edge Night?
- What part of the teaching stood out to you? Why?
- Do you think you are good at forgiving others? Why or why not?
- Do you think you are good at asking for forgiveness from others? Why or why not?
- Do you think you are good at asking for forgiveness from God? Why or why not?
- What is one thing you can do to live more mercifully?



SUGGESTIONS

Before the youth make their single decade rosaries, have them think of one person in their lives who could use more of God's merciful love. Invite them to offer up making their decade for the person. Consider challenging them to give this single decade of the rosary to the person and teach him or her how to pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.



STEP IT UP

Enable the youth to make a full-size rosary at home by giving them the instructions and materials that will help them pray both the rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy on their own.

Eighth Grade Adaptation

Use the following questions for a more challenging discussion for eighth grade youth:

- Do you think sin impacts you and your life? Why or why not?
- Have you ever had an experience where you were shown undeserved mercy, by Jesus or someone else? How did it impact you?
- How often do you examine your conscience, checking for sin in your life?
- How often do you go to Reconciliation?
- What are some actions you can take to accept Jesus' mercy?
- What are some actions you can take to show mercy to others?
- Who is one person, besides God, you need to ask for forgiveness from?

SEND

Chaplet of Divine Mercy (20 min)

Bring the youth back to the large group with the single decade of the rosary that they made during the Break. Explain that the Chaplet of Divine Mercy is a set of prayers St. Faustina received in her visions of Jesus and is prayed on rosary beads. Remind the youth that mercy requires action on our part, recognizing our sins and accepting God's grace.

Give each youth a copy of the *Chaplet of Divine Mercy* handout, which can be found on the *March 2019 Edge USB* and online at lifeteen.com under Edge Support: *March 2019*. If they are not familiar with the prayers, review them before beginning. Let the youth take home the single decade of the rosary that they made, so they can pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy (and rosary) at home.

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Proclaim Details

To cover the basic information, follow along and craft the talk based off of the bullet points. If the youth are ready to take it deeper, incorporate a few of the Going Deeper call out boxes, picking the ones the youth would relate to the most.



GOING DEEPER

Check inside these boxes for tips and ideas on how to take your youth a little deeper with the Proclaim.

LITURGICAL YEAR INTRODUCTION (optional)

- The Church follows what we call the “liturgical year.” Like the normal calendar year, the liturgical year has seasons and holidays or holy days. Unlike the normal calendar year, though, the entire liturgical year focuses on God. (CCC 1163, 1171)
- The liturgical year consists of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. During each of these seasons, we focus on a different aspect of the life of Jesus and are invited to grow in our relationship with God in various ways.
- The liturgical year allows us to see Christ’s life, death, and Resurrection in a new light. It also allows us to actively celebrate the work Christ has done and is doing for us and within us. (CCC 1164-1165)



GOING DEEPER

Using CCC 1172-1173, describe how the liturgical year also celebrates Mary and the saints.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES

- *Share a story about a time when you received forgiveness.*
- We generally do not like it when people do not like us. No one wants to be disliked forever because of one mistake or bad decision. We all want to be forgiven for our failings.
- *Invite the youth to raise their hands if they sometimes hold grudges and have a hard time forgiving.*
- While we like being forgiven, we can find it hard to forgive. We sometimes hold grudges and withhold our forgiveness.
- There is a line in the Our Father we often say without thinking: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We are asking God to forgive us, but only to the extent that we show forgiveness to others.
- God never withholds His mercy and love, but He will not force it upon us either. He will only give us what we are open to receiving. The mercy we are willing to show others is the same amount of mercy we will be able to receive from God.



GOING DEEPER

Expand upon this idea using the example of water in a bucket. The bucket we use to give mercy is the same bucket we will use to receive it. If we only pour out a little to others, we are only able to receive a little of the massive amount of love and mercy God wants to give us.

- The definition of mercy is “compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one’s power to punish or harm.”



GOING DEEPER

Explain that in cases where someone has committed a serious offense against them, they are called to work toward forgiving that person. However, it does not mean that they have to think what happened was OK or that they let the person back into their lives, especially if it is not safe.

- While we may not think we are harming someone by not forgiving them, any grudge we hold harms the relationship.
- The Our Father reminds us that we all need mercy.
- No one is perfect and we all fail. However, that does not mean we are incapable of showing love and mercy to others.
- We all sin against God and require His mercy. We all hurt others and need to seek their mercy. We all get hurt by others and need to show them mercy.

- This week we join the entire Church in celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday. God’s divine mercy is different than the mercy we experience from humans. Today we celebrate that God, in His divine mercy, always offers us perfect and complete forgiveness.

HAVE MERCY

- After Adam and Eve committed the first sin, all humans inherited a fallen nature.
- Throughout the Old Testament, many people tried to overcome humanity’s sinfulness and repair our relationship with God. As they were all fallen human beings themselves, none of them succeeded.



GOING DEEPER

Using CCC 396-409, provide a deeper explanation of original sin and its impact on all of humanity.

- God knew that, because of our sinfulness, we could never repair our relationship with Him on our own.
- If you look back to the definition of mercy, God could have easily punished us for our sins or made us take on all of the horrible consequences of our sins — the worst of all being eternal punishment in hell.
- But He does not. In fact, He does the opposite.
- In the ultimate display of His divine mercy, God sent His Son to die on a cross to forgive our sins. (CCC 1846)
- Rather than punish us for our sins and failings, Jesus takes them upon Himself. He takes on all of the consequences of our sins, forgives us, and opens up the greatest thing we could ever hope for — eternal happiness in heaven forever.

- Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is not the end of divine mercy. God's mercy is not a one-and-done deal. God continues to offer each of us His divine mercy every time we sin.



GOING DEEPER

Explain how the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist and Reconciliation, are opportunities to tangibly receive God's mercy.

- But God does not impose His love and mercy; He does not force them upon us. Rather, He patiently waits for us to be open, to realize our failings, and to come to Him freely seeking His love, forgiveness, and mercy. (CCC 1847)
- Divine Mercy Sunday is also a day to recommit to being honest about our sinfulness, to confidently ask for mercy when we sin, and to show mercy to others.

APOSTLE OF DIVINE MERCY

- Divine Mercy Sunday exists because of two important people: St. Faustina and St. John Paul II. While St. John Paul II is a popular saint, you may not have heard of St. Faustina.
- Saint Faustina lived in Poland in the early 1900s. She longed to become a religious sister but was rejected from many religious orders because her family was poor. When she finally entered a convent, she was given lowly chores.
- But Jesus did not care about Faustina's wealth or status. He knew how much she loved and believed in Him. Jesus began appearing to her, asking her to share the message of divine mercy with the world.

- The message of divine mercy was not new. Jesus asked St. Faustina to share about God's mercy, not because He forgot to tell us but because we do not always trust that God wants to forgive us.
- Saint John Paul II was deeply moved by St. Faustina and the message of divine mercy. He declared Sr. Faustina a saint and created today's Divine Mercy Sunday. Saint John Paul II believed we could solve many of the world's problems if we trusted in God's mercy and were more merciful to others.
- How do we follow the message of divine mercy that St. John Paul II, St. Faustina, and Jesus so desperately want to remind us of? What steps can we take to trustingly ask God to forgive us when we sin and to share mercy with others?
- The Church provides many ways to grow in mercy. To start, we must remember mercy is not solely about changing our actions. Changing our actions is good, but mercy is ultimately about changing our hearts. (CCC 1430)
- Since mercy is about repairing our relationship with God, we should take time to be with God in prayer. In particular, we should take time to pray with Scripture, directly encountering God's word. (CCC 1434, 1437)
- We should also fast or give up things that distract us from God. The Church marks special days and seasons of penance on the liturgical calendar. We should participate in these special times, as they are opportunities to fast and examine if we are honoring our relationship with God. (CCC 1434, 1438)
- Mercy is also about repairing our relationships with others. When we go out of our way to be kind, showing others mercy comes more naturally. We should try to imitate Jesus by actively seeking ways to love and help others, especially people who are often rejected. (CCC 1434-1435)

