



## Minute of Mercy

### PURGATORY

***“My mercy does not want this but My justice demands it.” (Diary, 20)***

*We were separated from God when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, so great of an offense to God that it caused a chasm between man and God and His justice demanded death of body. It was a separation so great that only God, Himself could repair the damage done, for man was incapable to pay. So God the Father sent His only Son to repair and pay the debt we owe to the Father. Through His life, passion, death and resurrection, the Son opened the gates so sinful man could have the chance to enter heaven. This does not mean we ourselves have nothing to work out. As St. Paul says in Philippians 2 verse 12, “...continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who is the one who, for His good purpose, works in you both to desire and to work.” “I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.” (Luke 12:59)*

*Purgatory is just another way God shows His infinite mercy and love to all His children. He shows how great His desire is for us to be with Him in heaven for all eternity. Even a great saint like St. Faustina was shown the condition of her soul when in one vision she was summoned to the judgment seat of God and was told she was guilty of one day in Purgatory. “I wanted to throw myself immediately into the flames of purgatory, but Jesus stopped me and said, **“Which do you prefer, suffer now for one day in purgatory or for a short while on earth?”** (Diary 36) This gives us a clearer understanding, especially for cradle Catholics, the purpose, meaning and value of our suffering when we were taught to “offer it up”. We can assist others and our own souls by offering up our suffering and praying for the Poor Souls in Purgatory. While there is great suffering in purgatory as related to us by St. Faustina, their own prayers for relief were in vain and their greatest torture was “the longing for God.” The good news is once we have paid our debt, whether it be here on earth or in Purgatory, we have the assurance of entering the beatific vision for eternity.*

*This brings us to this great Feast of Divine Mercy, for on this day Our Lord told St. Faustina, **“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 (eight days before or after) and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. (Diary 699)** (Please refer to the Church’s complete guidelines for a plenary indulgence.) This is the infinite love and mercy of Jesus and His burning desire to bring us to Himself.*

## Mercy in Action

*This week’s **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray a Hail Mary when passing a cemetery for the holy souls in Purgatory; or clean the grave of a family member.*