

What is the feast of Divine Mercy Sunday that we celebrate on the second Sunday of Easter? Where did it come from, is it approved by the Church, and what does it have to do with us? First let's talk about where it started. The Church recognizes that Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, from the order of Our Lady of Mercy, was obediently and willingly used by God to give the messages of Jesus to us and the Church. This took place in the 1930's in Poland.

The connection that Divine Mercy has in the liturgy and sacraments of the Catholic Church is remarkable.

Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Cracow Poland, later known as Pope John Paul II, called on his former seminary professor, Rev. Ignacy Rozycki, and they analyze meticulously all the Diary writings of Sister Faustina and provide the proof necessary for the Church to lift the ban on St. Faustina's writings. Originally, the writings had been banned due to misinterpretation of the translation from Polish to English.

St. Faustina recorded 14 revelations from Jesus concerning His desire for this feast of Divine Mercy to be help on the second Sunday of Easter.

The Lord expressed His will regarding this feast in His very first revelation to St. Faustina. in her *Diary* entry 699 The most comprehensive revelation can be found: Jesus speaking to Sister Faustina said. **“My daughter tell the whole world about My inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and a 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 are opened all the divine floodgates through which graces flow. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet.”**

Let me make this clear. Divine Mercy Sunday is NOT a feast based on St. Faustina's revelations. Divine Mercy is not about her it is the about the flood of merciful graces promised by Jesus relayed through her.

Pope St. John Paul II on May 5, 2000 had The Proclamation of Divine Mercy Sunday written. The Pope Decreed **“Acceding to these wishes, the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II has graciously determined that in the Roman Missal, after the title “Second Sunday of Easter,” there shall henceforth be added the appellation “or Divine Mercy Sunday and has prescribe that the texts assigned for that day in the same missal and the Liturgy of the Hours of the Roman Rite are always to be used for the liturgical celebration of this Sunday.”**

So, to the question is it approve by the Church, it is not only approved. But part of our Liturgy and Sacraments, the Holy Mass and Liturgy of the hours. The one thing I must touch on again is the promise I read to you from Jesus and that is that anyone who gives a good confession and receives the Holy Eucharist on Divine Mercy Sunday or the Eve will be forgiven of all sin and punishment. To give you an Idea of how important that is let me read to you the words Rev. Rozycki who helped John Paul II translate the diary, **“In the promises cited, Christ made the remission of all guilt and punishment contingent on the reception of Holy Communion on the Feast of Divine Mercy. In other words, in this regard, He raised it to the rank of a "second Baptism." It is obvious that in order to effect a complete forgiveness of sin and punishment the Holy Communion received on the Feast of Divine Mercy must not only be partaken of worthily, but it must also fulfill the basic requirements of the Divine Mercy devotion in order to effect the entire remission of guilt and punishments. However,**

received unworthily, without trust in Divine Mercy and devoid of some deed of mercy toward neighbor, it would be a contradiction of Devotion to the Divine Mercy. Instead of the exceptional grace, it would bring down upon the recipient the Divine Wrath.

One of the devotions of Divine Mercy is the novena **starting on Good Friday.** Everyday you pray for different souls, that is an act of Mercy, you can give food to the hungry, donate money to the needed, pray for the dead, and so on. Everyday do an act of Mercy. Go to Reconciliation and give a good confession. Receive Holy Communion on Divine Mercy Sunday worthily, that means going to confession doing the penance the priest gives you, and that promise will be given to you. No other time except Baptism are we that pure.

With each of the devotions and Divine Mercy Sunday Mass. this is just the tip of the ice Berge. I highly recommend you read Sister Faustina's diary and go to Marian.org. there is lots of information there. Please continue to read and look at everything on this web page about Divine Mercy. The novena, how to say Chaplet of Mercy, acts of Mercy and all we post.