

# EASTER SEASON FROM HOME

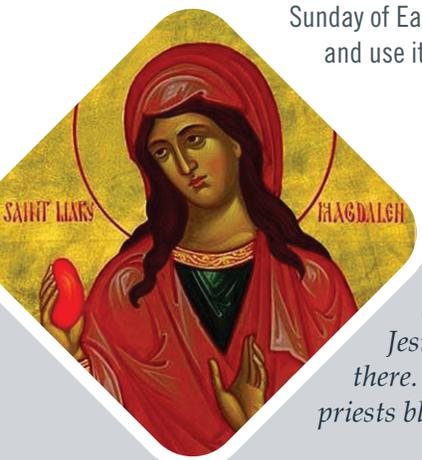
SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER — *DIVINE MERCY*

## A LIVING HOPE

Today we celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter — Divine Mercy Sunday. After Jesus was crucified, the disciples were full of fear, hiding behind locked doors. But locked doors could not withstand Jesus' love and mercy. Scripture tells us that "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" (John 20:19).

At this time, many of us may feel like the apostles did when they were locked in that room. We may feel isolated and alone, afraid or concerned about a future filled with so much uncertainty. But today we continue to celebrate once again the resurrection of the Lord. Neither fear nor locked doors can keep Jesus out!

This guide includes suggestions to help you and your family celebrate the Second Sunday of Easter at home. Remember, this guide is for you — feel free to adapt and use it in the way that best fits your family's needs and situation.

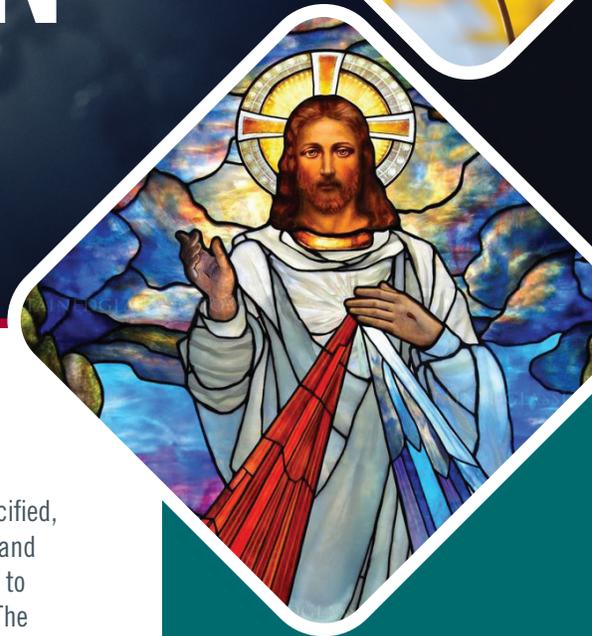


## Did You Know?

*Since apostolic times, the egg has been a popular symbol of Easter. The shell represents the closed tomb of Jesus which is then broken open to reveal that Jesus is not there. He has risen from the tomb. In many Catholic churches, priests bless Easter eggs and distribute them at Easter Mass.*

## PREPARING FOR THE LITURGY

- Decorate your prayer corner with white and gold. Include Easter flowers and other symbols like Easter eggs or butterflies.
- Dress up in your Sunday best — the risen Christ is coming into your heart and your home today!
- Download and print the scripture readings at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).
- Feature an image of Divine Mercy in your prayer corner.
- Open your heart to God's Divine Mercy. Ask God and others for forgiveness.



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

For a step-by-step guide on praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy with your family, see page 4.



## SCRIPTURE READINGS

FIRST READING  
ACTS 2:42-47

SECOND READING  
1 PT 1:3-9

GOSPEL READING  
JN 20:19-31

## FOR REFLECTION

- In today's first reading, we hear that the disciples "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). How does your family devote itself to these four elements of faith? What area would you like to improve on today?
- In the second reading, St. Peter says, "We may have to suffer various trials so that the genuineness of our faith may prove to be for the praise, glory, and honor of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). How has the current health crisis impacted your faith? How can you find new ways to glorify God during this trial?
- In the Gospel, Jesus says, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." In this time of social distancing and stay-at-home orders, who can you reach out to today to share the love and mercy of Christ?
- Like the apostles, is there something in your life that you are scared of or trying to hide from? Unlock and open the door of your heart to God, tell him what you are afraid of and say, "Jesus, I trust in you."
- The apostle Thomas would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead unless he saw for himself. How did Jesus respond to Thomas' doubt? Is there something that you are doubting or struggling with? Follow the example Thomas and tell Jesus what it is. Then listen for Jesus' response.



## *Peace Be with You*

As we celebrate this Second Sunday of Easter, let us remember that Jesus is with us. He enters our homes and our hearts, saying to each of us, "Peace be with you." Today and every day, let us rejoice for "God, in his great mercy, has given us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:3). On this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us come together with those closest to us and renew our trust in God's abundant mercy.



**“ God, in his great mercy, has given us a new birth to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ”**

*1 PETER 1:3*

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## DIVINE MERCY SUPPLEMENT

### JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

Beginning in 1931, Jesus appeared to a Polish nun named Sr. Faustina Kowalska 14 times. He instructed her to paint an image according to what she saw, with the signature: "Jesus, I trust in You." Jesus told her that the image was to be venerated first in her chapel at the convent and then throughout the world. He promised that any soul that venerates this image will not perish" (cf. Diary of St. Faustina, 47-48).

### *Did You Know?*

*The image of Divine Mercy is rich with symbolism. The pale ray stands for the water that flowed from the side of Christ which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the blood which is the life of souls. The two rays together are signs of the very depths of Christ's tender mercy when his agonized heart was opened by a lance on the cross (cf. Diary of St. Faustina, 299).*

### THE FEAST OF MERCY

Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. We recognize that through his death and resurrection, Jesus has given each of us a share of his Divine Mercy. His heart overflows with love and compassion for us. As we gather in prayer, let us ask God to forgive our sins and renew our trust in his abundant mercy.





# THE CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY

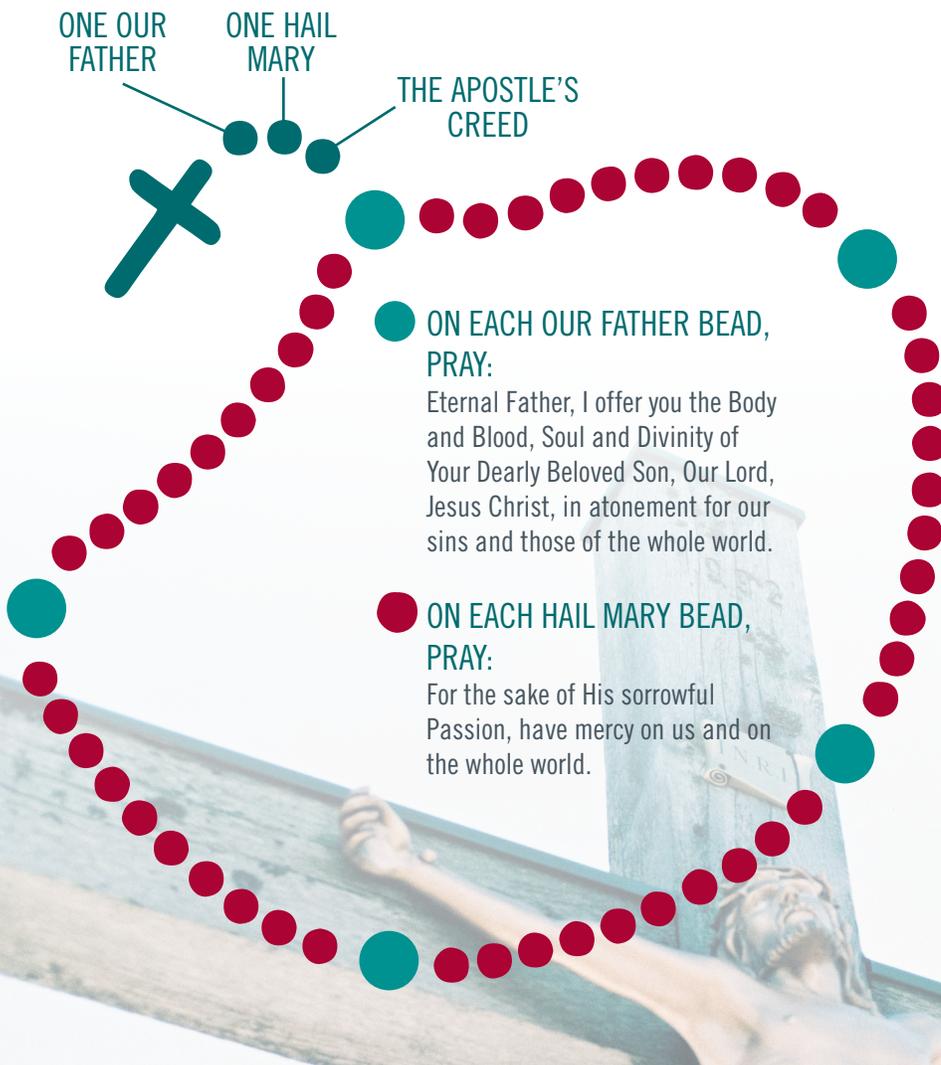
## OPENING PRAYER:

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, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

## REPEAT 3 TIMES:

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!

## PRAY...



## CONCLUDING PRAYER (REPEAT 3 TIMES):

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

## CLOSING PRAYER:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.