

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy (*Diary* 742).

The graces of My mercy are drawn by means of one vessel only, and that is trust. The more a soul trusts, the more it will receive (*Diary* 1578).

Q. Is it required to pray the Divine Mercy Novena in order to receive the extraordinary graces on Divine Mercy Sunday?

A. No, the graces of Divine Mercy Sunday are obtained by receiving Holy Communion worthily, with great trust in God's mercy. The Novena is a devotion which is a good preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. It actually consists of a novena of chaplets, recited from Good Friday through the Saturday before Divine Mercy Sunday. Jesus promised: **By this novena [of chaplets], I will grant every possible grace to souls** (*Diary* 796).

Q. Some people in our parish insist that we must go to Confession on Mercy Sunday because that's what St. Faustina wrote in her *Diary*. They want to do what she said, not some interpretation of it. Do I need to attend Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday?

A.Cardinal Macharski, the Archbishop of St. Faustina's own archdiocese of Krakow, Poland, wrote a pastoral letter to all his priests on January 30, 1985, on how to prepare for and celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. In it he said that all of Lent should be a preparation to celebrate Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday worthily. The Sacrament of Reconciliation should be received sometime in Lent, not put off until the last minute (Holy Week). We go to Confession with the intention of repentance and to amend our lives, and we should live in such a way as to be worthy to receive Holy Eucharist. If we have any venial sins, a good Act of Contrition will take away those sins.

St. Faustina did not go to Confession on Divine Mercy Sunday. For example, we find in *Diary* entry 1072 that she went on the day before in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. It was not the custom at that time to make Confessions on Sundays. Our Lord would not have asked her, or any of us, to do what is impossible. It would be impossible for everyone to go to Confession on Mercy Sunday.

Q. What extraordinary graces are available on Divine Mercy Sunday?

A. Our Lord revealed to St. Faustina His desire to literally flood us with His graces on that day. He told her: **On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. The soul that will go to Confession [beforehand] and receive Holy Communion [on that day] shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment** (*Diary* 699).

The theologian who examined St. Faustina's writings for the Holy See, Rev. Ignacy Rozycki, explained that this is the promise of a *complete renewal of baptismal grace*, and in that sense like a "second Baptism" (in much the same way that St. Catherine of Siena called sacramental Confession, undertaken out of true love of God, an "ongoing Baptism") (*The Dialogue*, no. 75).

The extraordinary graces promised to the faithful by our Lord Himself through St. Faustina should not be confused with the plenary indulgence granted by Pope John Paul II for the devout observance of the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday). The Decree of the Holy See offers:

"A plenary indulgence, granted under the usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of Supreme Pontiff) to the faithful who, on the Second Sunday of Easter or Divine Mercy Sunday, in any church or chapel, in a spirit that is completely detached from the affection for a sin, even a venial sin, take part in the prayers and devotions held in honour of Divine Mercy, or who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or reserved in the tabernacle, recite the Our Father and the Creed, adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus (e.g. Merciful Jesus, I trust in You!)..." [as the [Holy See’s Apostolic Penitentiary](#) has decreed, and provided the communicant is in a state of grace for Communion, **sacramental confession can be received within twenty days either before or after Divine Mercy Sunday.**]

Q. When should I go to confession?

A. You do not have to go to confession on Mercy Sunday itself. We know from her *Diary* that St. Faustina made her confession in preparation for Mercy Sunday on the day before (*Diary* 1072). In fact, all of Lent should be a preparation to make a good confession to receive Holy Communion worthily on Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday.

Sin is the only obstacle to our fervent reception of Holy Communion, and our sins can be wiped away by the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The important thing is to receive Holy Communion on these great feast days in a state of grace, and with great trust in God's mercy. Don't wait until the last moment, take advantage of the extra confession time that is made available during Lent.

Holy Family Parish

Florence—Marion—Pilsen

Pastor: Fr. Isaac Coulter



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Office Hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9am–3:15pm
Secretary: Rose Davidson

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: *Pilsen Tues. 5pm - midnight; Tampa Weds. 8am - noon; Marion Thurs. 6am – Fri. 8am.*

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD: *30 minutes before every Mass, or by appointment.*

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, PSR, RCIA: *Contact the church office for information.*

Saturday, Florence 5pm

EMHC: Bob & Marlene Herzet

Lector: Bob Gayle

Ushers: James Cyr, Bob Herzet

Gift Bearers: Reilly & Susan Reid

Servers: volunteers

Church Cleaners: Dale & Tootsie Snelling

Sunday, Marion 8:30am

EMHC: Ken Stuchlik, Jackie Palic, Loretta Turk

Lector: Brad Yazel

Ushers: Donald Raymer, Tim Baxa

Gift Bearers: Tim Baxa family

Servers: Jordy & Jymer Raymer, Kadon Mercer

Rosary: Theresa Cady

Coffee & Rolls: Ken & Malinda Stuchlik

Church Cleaners: Gene & Bruce Winkler

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

THIS WEEK’S HOLY MASSES & INTENTIONS

Tues., 4/2—Fri., 4/5

No Mass

Sat., 4/6 Florence 5pm

+ Mauro Medina

Sun., 4/7 Marion 8:30am

Jeff & Theresa Cady

Family of the Month

For the Parish

Pilsen 10:30am

Liturgical Assignments for April 7, 2024

Divine Mercy Sunday

R 552B B 923B

Homebound EMHC: **Marion:** Laurie Holub

Hillsboro: Mark & Pam Jones

Sunday, Pilsen 10:30am

EMHC: Anjanette Vinduska, Jeanne Rziha, Peggy Kleiber

Lector: Diane Oborny

Ushers: Val & Phillip Klenda, Dale Klenda, Ralph Klenda

Gift Bearers: Gene & Valerie Welter

Servers: Eli & Evan Klenda, Seth Klenda

Rosary: Tim & Monica Svoboda

Join Fr. Isaac on the Kapaun Pilgrimage May 30 - June 2

It's time to register for the 16th Annual Fr. Kapaun Pilgrimage, May 30 - June 2. Join pilgrims from all over the United States as we walk the 60 miles from Wichita to Fr. Kapaun's hometown of Pilsen. It's a time of prayer, fellowship, and getting to know Fr. Kapaun on the plains where he was raised and first served as a priest. The journey is challenging but joyful. Learn more and register at <https://frkapaun.org/pilgrimage/>.

THANK YOU to all who helped decorate our churches for Holy Week and Easter. They are beautiful!

POPE FRANCIS TWEETS: Haste and impatience are enemies of the spiritual life. God is love, and those who love never tire; they are not irascible and do not give ultimatums; they know how to wait. We would do well to contemplate the Crucified One to make His patience our own.

The roots of our faith are planted in the barren soil of Calvary, where Jesus, in death, made hope spring up. He opened the way to heaven; He gave us eternal life; He brought us salvation.

TOTUS TUUS
will be
July 7 - 12
in Pilsen.

Your Contribution for Mar 23 & 24	\$5,546.00
<i>Weekly Operating Budget</i>	\$5,300.00
<i>Overage (Shortfall)</i>	\$246.00

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

Tues., April 2 -> Fri., April 5 - No Mass

Wed., April 3 - K of C meets, MAC 7pm

Sun., April 7 - K of C breakfast, after PL Mass

Mon., April 8 - The Annunciation of the Lord is celebrated on this day [not a holy day of obligation.]

THE EASTER PROCLAMATION

From the Easter Vigil Liturgy. Originating in the 400s.

[to listen: youtube “The Exultet (Easter Proclamation)” by Glenstal Abbey]

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven,
exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,
let the trumpet of salvation
sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!
Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,
ablaze with light from her eternal King,
let all corners of the earth be glad,
knowing an end to gloom and darkness.
Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice,
arrayed with the lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.
Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
invoke with me, I ask you,
the mercy of God almighty,
that he, who has been pleased to number me,
though unworthy, among the Levites,
may pour into me his light unshadowed,
that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.
V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
V. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.
It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.
Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.
These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.
This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.
This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.
This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace
and joining them to his holy ones.
This is the night,
when Christ broke the prison-bars of death

and rose victorious from the underworld.
Our birth would have been no gain,
had we not been redeemed.
O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!
O truly necessary sin of Adam,
destroyed completely by the Death of Christ!
O happy fault
that earned so great, so glorious a Redeemer!
O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld!
This is the night
of which it is written:
The night shall be as bright as day,
dazzling is the night for me,
and full of gladness.
The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners,
drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty.
On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants’ hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.
But now we know the praises of this pillar,
which glowing fire ignites for God's honor,
a fire into many flames divided,
yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
for it is fed by melting wax,
drawn out by mother bees
to build a torch so precious.
O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.
Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.
May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.
R. Amen.

THE PASCHAL HOMILY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM: written in the late 300s.

The Lord is risen.
He is risen indeed.
Is there anyone here who is a devout lover of God?
Let them enjoy this beautiful bright festival.
Is there anyone who is a grateful servant?
Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!
Are there any now weary with fasting?
Let them now receive their wages!
If they have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward;
If any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast!
And he that arrived after the sixth hour,
let him not doubt; for he shall have sustained no loss.
And if any have delayed until the ninth hour,
let him not hesitate; but let him come too.
And he who arrived only at the eleventh hour,
let him not be afraid by reason of his delay.
For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour,
as well as to him who toiled from the first.
To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows.
He accepts the work as he greets the endeavor.
The deed He honors and the intention He commends.
Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord!
First and last alike receive your reward;
rich and poor, rejoice together!
Sober and slothful, celebrate the day!
You that have kept the fast, and you that have not,
rejoice today for the Table is richly laden!
Feast royally on it, the calf is a fatted one.
Let no one go away hungry; partake, all, of the cup of faith.
Enjoy all the riches of His goodness!
Let no one grieve at his poverty,
for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again;
for forgiveness has risen from the grave.
Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free.
He has destroyed it by enduring it.
He destroyed Hades when he descended into it.
He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh.
Isaiah foretold this when he said,
You, O Hell, have been troubled by encountering Him below.
Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with.

It was in an uproar, because it was mocked.
It was in an uproar, for it was destroyed.
It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated.
It is in an uproar because it is now made captive.
Hell took a body, and it discovered God.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it did not see.
O death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory?
Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!
Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down!
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!
Christ is risen, and life is liberated!
Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead;
for Christ, having risen from the dead,
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.
To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen!

LAST YEAR’S NOTE FROM FR. ISAAC ON DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Going to Confession is not the only way we should prepare ourselves for Divine Mercy Sunday. As Cardinal Francis Macharski, Archbishop of Cracow, Poland, explains in a 1985 pastoral letter, we are not simply called to ask for God’s mercy with trust. We are also called to be merciful: “Our own merciful attitude is likewise a preparation. Without deeds of mercy, our devotion would not be real. For Christ does not only reveal the mercy of God, but at the same time He places before people the demand that they conduct themselves in life with love and mercy. The Holy Father states that this requirement constitutes the very heart of the Gospel ethos (Rich in Mercy, 3) — it is the commandment of love and the promise: ‘Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy’ (Mt 5:7). Let it be a mercy that is forgiving and true, and universal, with good words, deeds, and prayer for others!” Our Lord’s words to St. Faustina about this requirement to be merciful are very strong and leave no room for misinterpretation: **Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy. ... I demand from you deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to your neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to excuse or absolve yourself from it (742).** "If every one of us, every day, does a work of mercy, there will be a revolution in the world!"--Pope Francis