

## **Divine Mercy Sunday**

The Divine Mercy Image comes from the powerful messages received and written in the diary of a poor and simple nun named St. Faustina. Jesus appeared to her throughout her life and used her to transmit His message of Divine Mercy. In a 1931 vision, St. Faustina saw Jesus dressed in a white robe with two large rays, one red and the other pale emanating from His chest. Jesus told her to "Paint an image according to the pattern you see with the signature, 'Jesus, I Trust in You'". He wanted the image blessed on the first Sunday after Easter. In 2000, St. Pope John Paul II declared this Sunday the Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday. The meaning of the painting is closely linked to the Gospel on this Sunday describing the appearance of the Risen Jesus to the Apostles. Jesus told St. Faustina "The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. Through this image, I will grant many graces to souls, so let every soul have access to it." The Divine Mercy Messages and Image has sparked a great movement with a strong and significant focus on Jesus' Mercy. Today, we continue to rely on the messages of the Divine Mercy as a constant reminder to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully toward

others. Jesus told St. Faustina, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of My Mercy." In our world today, the idea of mercy seems to have been lost. Pope Francis has declared this year an Extraordinary Jubilee Year as the Year of Mercy. He is calling everyone to a deeper understanding that God's love is unlimited and available to everyone, especially the greatest sinners. Jesus told St. Faustina, "The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to My Mercy." Just a few short blocks away from St. Peter's Square is the Church of the Holy Spirit. In 1994, Saint Pope John Paul II donated a large image of the Divine Mercy to the church and designated the Church as the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Rome. The image is located in a side altar of the Church. There is also a beautiful statue of St. Faustina with her arms lifted toward heaven in prayer. The chapel across is dedicated to St. Pope John Paul II which includes a reliquary with a glass vial of his blood. During the Hour of Divine Mercy, at 3:00 pm each day, there is a daily mass and the Chaplet of Mercy is prayed. Next to the main altar is a wonderful gift shop with materials on the Divine Mercy in many languages, including English. Pope Francis Effect -- Shortly after his election, Pope Francis asked his driver to stop the car in front of the Church of the Holy Spirit to pay respect to the Divine Mercy Devotion. There was a young couple who had fallen away from the church who were walking by at the same time. When they saw the crowd around Pope Francis outside of the Church, they stopped. After Pope Francis moved on, the young couple went inside of the Church asking to change their lives and draw close again closer to God. It's not just what Pope Francis says but what he does that can be so inspiring. There is a wonderful virtual video of the Church of the Holy Spirit showing the inside of the Church. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4DJLcrVEUk> Happy Divine Mercy Sunday everyone! To read more about my travels, please visit [bonniebradybabin.com](http://bonniebradybabin.com).







