

CGS FAMILY

SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY

Volume II, Guide Number 22, April 24, 2022



**How does receiving mercy & peace
from the Lord at Mass in the Easter season
help me to know and love Jesus Christ?**

www.cgscs.church

Happy Easter



Welcome to our weekly CGS Guide that helps our parish families to grow in knowledge of the faith and deepen our relationship with Jesus as his disciples. As we encounter Jesus, we come to know him, love him, and serve him so that we can be reasonably happy in this life and happy with him forever in heaven.



This Week

Divine Mercy Sunday

From Creation, God has revealed his nature as love itself, in Sacred Scripture and most perfectly in the life, Passion, death and Resurrection of his Son, Jesus.

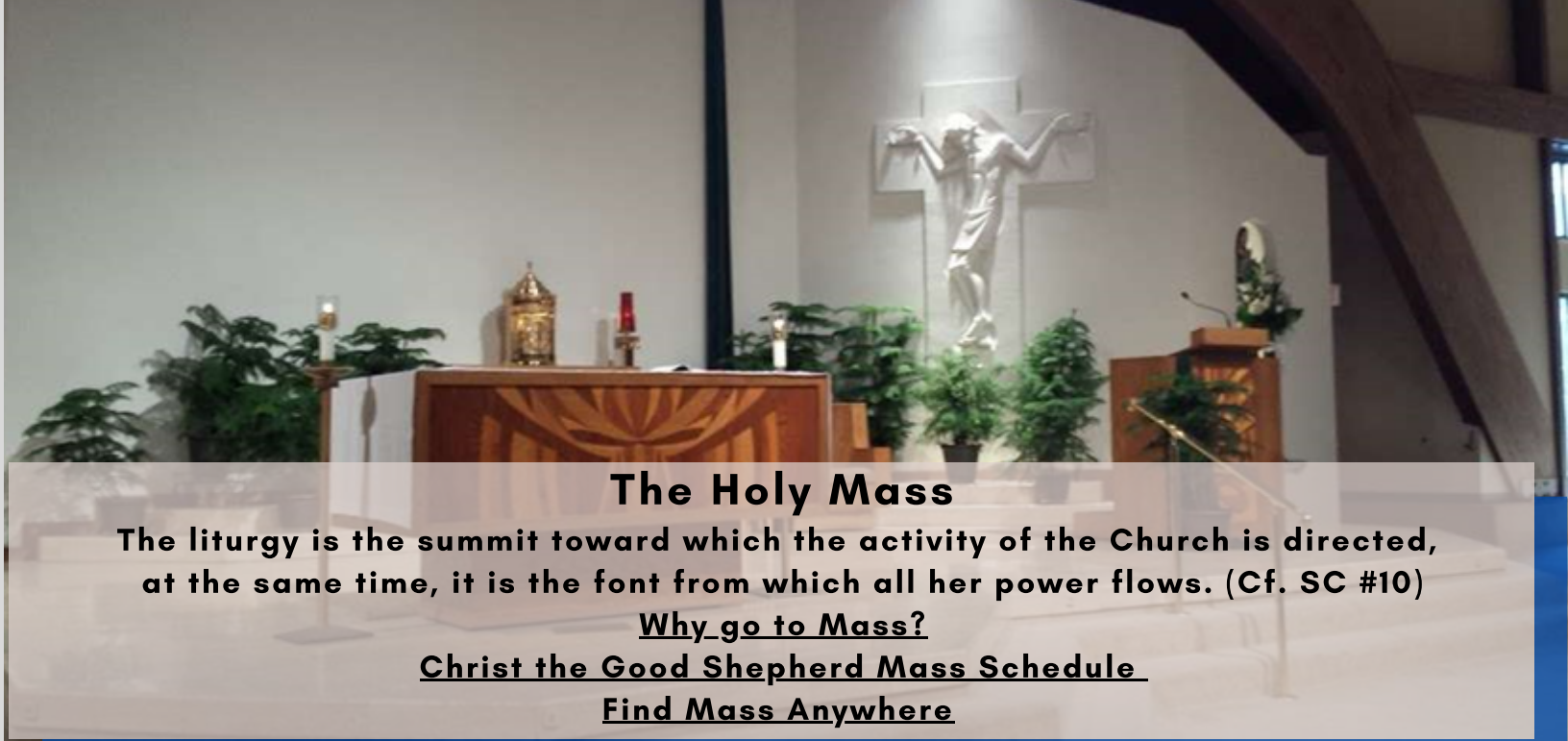
Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20th Century, when civilization began to experience an "eclipse of the sense of God" and, therefore to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life. In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish Nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary.

On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday. In his second encyclical, *Rich in Mercy*, Pope Saint John Paul II offers an extended meditation on the mystery of God's mercy, which he calls "the greatest of the attributes and perfections of God" (*Dives in misericordia*, 13). Pope Benedict XVI called St. John Paul II "a great apostle of Divine Mercy" and said that: Mercy is the central nucleus of the Gospel message; it is the very name of God, On this Guide we are going to be reflecting on God's abundant and merciful love to us.

Jose Juan Valdez

For questions, comments, and feedback, please contact us at

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH



The Holy Mass

The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed, at the same time, it is the font from which all her power flows. (Cf. SC #10)

Why go to Mass?

Christ the Good Shepherd Mass Schedule

Find Mass Anywhere

This season, we are exploring the Big Idea

How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?

Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy
readings and podcasts

from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

First Reading: Acts 5:12-16

Psalm: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Additional options for studying and discussing the Word of God:

Opening the Word by FORMED

Reflecting on the Sunday Readings

Sunday Connection by Loyola Press

Children's Liturgy of the Word by Catholic TV

WE LEARN & BECOME DISCIPLES TOGETHER

Question of the Week

How does receiving mercy & peace from the Lord at Mass in the Easter season help me to know and love Jesus Christ?

Opening Prayer

CONNECT with our GOD

- Let's start with the The Sign of Cross.
- In your own words, ask the Holy Spirit to be present as we gather so share our faith (Prayer to the Holy Spirit).
- Listen to the Lord speaking to you as someone reads out loud the Gospel for this Sunday (see previous page for links to Scripture readings for this week).
- Listen to each other as everyone shares what in the Gospel caught their attention.
- Pray the "Glory be..."

Getting
Started

How to use
this Guide.

Why are we
doing this?

Step One

CONNECT with our daily LIVES

- In this Sunday's gospel, Thomas doubted about Jesus being risen from the dead. Have you ever doubted about your faith or some aspects of it? If so, which ones and explain.
- How is mercy and forgiveness portrayed in popular culture? Is it a sign of weakness or of strength? Why do you think this is?



Using this Guide can be as simple or as "in depth" as you want. If you do only the opening prayer section, that's great! To go deeper, follow the steps as shown. For children, see "Resources," page 8.

Step Two

CONNECT with Scripture and Tradition

As a domestic church (your household) or Small Faith Group, pray and read through some of the following (you can select) Scriptures & Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) references as time permits.

In the HOLY SCRIPTURE we read:

- God is always merciful with us. Wisdom 11:24-26
- God is merciful and loving always looking out for us.. 2 Chronicles 30:9
- A beatitude for those who are merciful. Matthew 5, 7
- God's mercy is a gift. Exodus 33:19

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read:

- In the Sacrament of Reconciliation we experience God's Mercy. CCC # 1422
- Christ will is for us to be merciful to others. CCC #2100
- Mary, "Mother of Mercy". CCC #2677
- Works of mercy are necessary. CCC #1473

Discussion Questions

1. What are the "doors" in my life that I keep "closed" because of fear or sadness that Jesus wants to go through to bring me comfort and peace?
2. When I have doubts, what or who helps me regain faith and trust in my life?
3. Have I experienced the merciful love of God in my life? What was that experience like? Share it.

Step Three

Want more?
Go Deeper!

CONNECT with OTHERS...

Living the Gospel with commitment & action.

- In what ways can we bring peace, forgiveness, and freedom to members of our community who are suffering from fear and doubt?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

For related information, activities, and age-appropriate resources, turn to the *Resources for All Ages* section of this Guide. You may use as many or as few as you want to. Adapt to your situation and your household. You can even spread these activities over the span of the entire week. There is no wrong way to do this!

Practical Activities

For the Individual – **Do not be afraid to be like Thomas**

Find someone who may need to hear the story of your faith journey. Don't be afraid to identify with Thomas!

For Couples – **Share your faith story with your spouse**

Share with your spouse your very own faith story; your first experiences with Christ and how He has been taking you through moments of fear and doubt, giving you comfort and peace and showing you his Mercy. At the end do a thanksgiving prayer together.

For the Domestic Church and beyond – **Sharing our Faith Stories**

Host a gathering in your home with family, friends or acquaintances where anyone who is ready and willing, can share their faith story. Encourage those present to listen carefully and try to find some connection between what others share and their own stories of faith.

Closing Prayer

- We sign ourselves with the Sign of Cross.
- According to what we reflected on, or whatever is in my heart share a petition, at the end we all say: **Lord hear our prayer.**
- Then we can pray the Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory be...
- As we finish, let us share a sign of peace with each other.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Because of Jesus' Passion, I beg, Father, that You shower Your great mercy upon the whole world, upon the souls in purgatory, and upon my own soul.

OPENING PRAYERS:

You expired, Jesus, but the Source of Life gushed forth for souls, and the Ocean of Mercy opened for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world, and empty Yourself out upon us.

PRAY 3 TIMES:

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

PRAY: OUR FATHER, HAIL MARY, APOSTLES' CREED.

AT THE START OF EACH DECADE:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, In atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

PRAY 10 TIMES:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, Have mercy on us and on the whole world.

AFTER 5 DECADES, PRAY 3 TIMES:

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

CLOSING PRAYERS:

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.

PRAY 3 TIMES:

Jesus, I trust in You!

PRAY ONCE: St. Faustina, Pray for us!

Fill me now, O Lord, with the gift of the Holy Spirit to carry Your most Holy Word to sinners who I must help save in Your Name. Help me to cover them, through my prayers, with Your Precious Blood so that they can be drawn to Your Sacred Heart. Give me the gift of the Holy Spirit so that these poor souls can revel in Your New Paradise. Amen.

AT THE END OF THE LESSON OR END OF THE WEEK

From what you have learned, how would you now answer the Question of the Week?

How does receiving mercy & peace from the Lord at Mass in the Easter season help me to know and love Jesus Christ?

RESOURCES FOR ALL AGES

POINTS OF UNDERSTANDING

Clear statements of the Church's teachings AND where they come from and ways to use them.

1. Age-Specific Resources

Early Childhood (Ages 3-5)

"Seeds" by Pflaum Publishing.

Catholic Minute -// **Chaplet of Divine Mercy by Kids** - Video 9:13

eferna efern // **Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids** - Video 13:01

Childhood (Elementary, Grades 1-5)

Grades K-1: "**Promise**" and Grades 2,3 &4: "**Good News**" by Pflaum Publishing.

Catholic Minute -// **Chaplet of Divine Mercy by Kids** - Video 9:13

eferna efern // **Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids** - Video 13:01

Early Adolescence (Jr.High, Grades 6-8)

Grades 5 & 6: "**Venture**" by and Grades 7 & 8: "**Visions**" by Pflaum Publishing.

YouCat Pgs. 216, 283-284, 333, // #337, 450-452, 524

LifeTeen // Divine Mercy Sunday (video - 8:11)

LifeTeen // Calling on Mercy (blog)

Ascension // Pray with Us: The Chaplet of Divine Mercy (video - 7:41)

Ascension // Learning how to Love from the Bible (video - 8:53)

Adolescence (High School, Grades 9-12)

YouCat Pgs. 216, 283-284, 333, // #337, 450-452, 524

LifeTeen // Divine Mercy Sunday (video - 8:11)

Ascension // How we Participate in Divine Mercy (video - 8:53)

Montell Fish // Mercy (music video - 2:28)

HELPFUL TIPS!

Create a prayer table or space.
Faith Groups at CGS



Age-specific materials for early childhood through 9th grade are now available for your use together with this Guide. They are easy to use and the cost is \$25.00 per set, per year. Reserve and pick up your copies by contacting Jackie Coba in the parish office or by email. 346.236.6459 ex. 342 or jcoba@cgscs.church
Want samples? Need help? Just ask! Learn more at the Gospel Weeklies Website for Parents!

Adulthood

Catholic Minute - Catholic speaker Ken Yasinski // [Chaplet of Divine Mercy: 4 Promises](#) - Video 3:48
Ascension Presents // [Divine Mercy Sunday](#) - Video 3:53
Divine Mercy for America // [The Top Ten Questions about Divine Mercy Sunday...](#) - Video 32:02
Ascension Presents // [How We Participate in Divine Mercy](#) - Video 3:53
Knights of Columbus Supreme Council // St. Faustina: Prophet of Mercy

2. General Resources

The Holy Bible

[Online Bible via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#)

If you don't know much about the Bible or want to learn more: [Scripture Support](#)

Catholics use the **New American Bible Revised Edition** (NABRE) as the translation for Mass readings. There are many acceptable versions of NABRE ([learn more](#)) as well as [other approved translations](#). You may purchase from any vendor and we do have some basic editions on hand at the parish office at no charge—available upon request.



Recommended Print Bibles

These are all by St. Mary's Press: Order directly from the publisher or search online for other vendors.

[Catholic Family Connections Bible](#)
(digital version available).

[Catholic Youth Bible](#) (Adolescents & College)
["Breakthrough"](#) (Early Adolescents // Jr. High)
[Catholic Children's Bible](#)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC)

[Online Catechism](#) via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)

NEW! [Simplified version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#)

If you don't know much about the Catechism or want to learn more: [Catechism Support](#)

Formed

Our parish subscribes to a library of online resources called Formed. It is excellent and it is free for you to use. Register at www.formed.org - Need help? Watch this video.



Prayers and Praying

[Franciscan Brothers of the Renewal // Chaplet of Divine Mercy \(a simple, recited version with interesting, modern images\)](#)--video 8:49

Common Prayers and Formulas to Learn by Heart

[Familiar prayers](#) and a [chart showing at what age level they should be learned](#).

Counseling, Grief Support & Spiritual Direction

- Our parish offers [Rejoice Counseling](#) for individuals and families for a variety of issues and needs. You may use this [online form](#) to contact them directly.
- We also offer [Grief Support](#) ministry for those who have lost loved ones and [Spiritual Direction](#) for anyone interested. Follow the links or inquire through the parish office.

Music for the Easter Season

Divine Mercy in Song // May be prayed on rosary beads--video (18:22)

Another version of the Divine Mercy Chaplet is on Formed.

Sacred Art to Inspire You

All Sacred Art Currently on Formed (parish subscription free to our parishioners--register once, get access to all content) All Sacred Art - FORMED

The Divine Mercy Image is one of the most recognizable in popular Catholic piety and devotion. While it is a part of private revelation (different from public revelation--official teaching and belief), it has become a source of hope and inspiration to millions and has led people back to worship and to the reception of the sacraments. Some examples of the many versions of the Image that have been created, all so different from one another yet recognizably the same Jesus:

Divine Mercy--Guide Cover Image by Terizia Sedlakova

Divine Mercy, "Traditional" rendering

Divine Mercy by Mai Nhon

Divine Mercy by Dan Radi

Jesus Christ King of Mercy.

Divine Mercy by ti-DESIGN

Peace of Divine Mercy 2012 Stephen B. Whatley

Divine Mercy Sidewalk Art by Michelle Ryan

Divine Mercy by Rosemary Hadeed, 2018

Divine Mercy stained glass version



WE ARE THE CHURCH



What Makes us Catholic?

Divine Mercy Sunday

Devotion to Jesus as the Divine Mercy is part of popular piety and devotion among Catholics. Popular piety is a sign that the faith is spreading its roots into the heart of a people in such a way that it reaches into daily life. Popular religiosity is the first and fundamental mode of "inculturation" of the faith. While it must always take its lead and direction from the liturgy, it in turn enriches the faith by involving the heart.

Nine Things to Know about Divine Mercy Sunday

Word of the Week - MERCY

The word 'mercy' comes from the Latin *misericordia*, which comes from the two words *miseria*, meaning wretchedness, misery or affliction, and *cor*, meaning heart. Etymologically "mercy" means a heart for the misery or affliction of another; it means compassion or pity. "Mercy includes showing kindness to those who don't deserve it and forgiving those that deserve punishment." Mercy is one of the defining characteristics of God. Exodus 34:6 says: "The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness."

Saints of the Month April

More for your Domestic Church

A Domestic Church is your household of believers in Jesus Christ. View a short video on what is the Domestic Church. See also this reference in the Catechism of the Catholic Church: CCC 1655-1858 and our Glossary of Terms. There is so much at CGS for your Domestic Church! See our website, social media pages, YouTube, and this week "**FLOCKNOTE**" for all things CGS!

"Faith Groups" on our Website

Find resources for your family, including how to use this Guide, family traditions from other parishioners, FAQs, how to use the Points of Understanding, a Glossary of Terms and more. Visit cgscdogh.org/faith-groups OR scan the QR code on the right with your smart phone. Join a small Faith Group in our parish. Contact discipleship@cgscchurch.org





Our Mission as a Roman Catholic Community is to proclaim the teachings of Jesus Christ as declared in the scriptures and shown in the sacred tradition of the church. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know, love, and serve God and our neighbors.

WE WANT OUR PARISHIONERS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GUIDE!

How is this Guide working for you and your family?

Show us what your family is doing with these Guides!

Share an idea, a resource or picture/video of what you are doing in your Domestic Church.

DISCIPLESHIP@CGSCC.CHURCH

BECOMING OUR "BEST PARISH EVER!"



Text CGS to 84576 to join us on Flocknote
You will receive emails & texts from CGS



CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC COMMUNITY



@CGSYOUTH

18511 Klein Church Rd. Spring, TX 77379

(281) 376-6831

Very Reverend James Burkart, Pastor

The contents of this Guide are in accordance with the teachings of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Curriculum Framework for Lifelong Faith Formation of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston under the pastoral care of Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop.