

FAITH IN FIVE
Easter Week 2

1. **What is the name for the second Sunday of Easter?** The second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. Divine Mercy Sunday was instituted by Pope John Paul II in the year 2000, at the Canonization mass of St. Faustina Kowalska. **Who is St. Faustina?** St. Faustina was a Polish nun who had many visions of Jesus. Jesus entrusted her with spreading a devotion to His Divine Mercy. He wished everyone to know how ardently He desired everybody to receive His love and forgiveness. Jesus' Divine Mercy reaches to all, no matter how far we've strayed from our faith. **What do we do on Divine Mercy Sunday?** On Divine Mercy Sunday, many parishes will offer a time of devotions around 3 pm. Most often, The Divine Mercy image will be displayed and the Divine Mercy chaplet is recited. [You can learn more about Divine Mercy here!](#)
2. **What is the Divine Mercy Chaplet?** The Divine Mercy chaplet is a prayer both meditating on and invoking Jesus' mercy. Jesus revealed this chaplet to St. Faustina to spread great trust in mercy. It is prayed using rosary beads. On the Our Father beads we pray: *Eternal Father, I offer you the body and blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.* On the Hail Mary beads we pray: *For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.* [Here are all the prayers to the Divine Mercy chaplet.](#)
3. **What is the Divine Mercy image?**



When Jesus appeared to St. Faustina in 1931, He asked that she paint an image of the vision. His hand was raised in blessing and there were two rays coming from His heart. **What do the rays mean?** Jesus told St. Faustina “the two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter for the hand of God shall not lay hold of him” (St. Faustina’s Diary, 299). “By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls.” (St. Faustina’s Diary 742) The Divine Mercy image would be a wonderful addition to your home!

4. Read John: 19-31 together as a family. **What were the disciples doing on the evening of the first day of the week?** The disciples were behind locked doors. They were afraid of the Jews since Jesus' crucifixion. **What happened when Jesus appeared to them?** Jesus breathed on the disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit. **What did Jesus mean by "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained"?** Jesus was giving authority to the disciples. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, they would now spread Christianity, through preaching and teaching but also through the sacraments.

5. **Who else do we read about in John 19-31?** We read about Thomas of Didymus, nicknamed Doubting Thomas. He was not with the other disciples when Jesus appeared to them. He refused to believe their accounts of Jesus' appearance. **What happens when Jesus again comes to the disciples?** He wants Thomas to put his hands on the wounds and truly believe. He tells Thomas "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." You and I have not seen Jesus. Our faith is based on the rich tradition of our Catholic faith and the Word of God. In Jesus' great love, we are blessed with beautiful devotions, like the Divine Mercy, to bolster our faith and enrich our relationship with Him. We ask for the prayers of both St. Thomas and St. Faustina, our "big brothers and sisters" in faith, to pray for us- that our love and trust in Jesus would always increase!