

## FAITH IN 5

Easter: Week 2

Ages 8+

- 1. What is Divine Mercy Sunday?** Divine Mercy is the Sunday after Easter. We celebrate Jesus' mercy as revealed to us through the private revelations of Sister Maria Faustina of Poland. **What is a private revelation?** St. Faustina was visited by Jesus frequently and recorded Jesus' words in her journal. Jesus wanted everybody to know about His mercy towards us, that we would never be afraid or ashamed to approach him. **What do we do on Divine Mercy Sunday?** At many parishes a painting of Jesus will be displayed on or near the altar, an image that St. Faustina had painted to display Jesus' mercy. At 3 pm, the parish may participate in the [Divine Mercy Chaplet](#), a devotion for meditating on Jesus' mercy using rosary beads.
- 2. Did you know the Church offers a plenary indulgence on Divine Mercy Sunday?** **What is an indulgence?** The word indulgence means remission of debt, or release from punishments. An indulgence means that the temporal punishment for sins that have been forgiven, are taken away from us. When we go to confession, the eternal punishment of hell is taken away from us. Unfortunately, though forgiven, our sins have consequences and some punishments may remain. This purification process cooperates with Jesus' salvation for us. We must be pure to enter Heaven! Through the merits of Jesus and the holy saints that have gone before us, The Church has a treasure box of indulgences to share. These treasures of merit are indulgences for the just punishments of our sins. To help explain this concept, imagine that you and your brother are playing baseball in the backyard even though your parents have asked you NOT to play in the backyard in case you hit a window. Then it happens, a ball hits and breaks a window. You go into your house and tell your mom how sorry you are for breaking it and not obeying her rules. Your mom forgives you at once but says you still must pay to have the window fixed. The payment to have your window fixed is your temporal punishment even though you are forgiven. But guess what?! Your older sister, who is often really generous and thoughtful, offers to use her allowance to pay for the broken window instead. Your mom approves of her offer and you are forgiven AND you don't have a punishment! That is how indulgences work! The overflowing goodness of Jesus and the saints can cover our punishments when our mom (Holy Mother Church!) approves.
- 3. What have you noticed about the liturgical season of Easter?** The priest is wearing white vestments, just like he wore on Easter Sunday. He will wear those throughout the Easter season. **What word has re-appeared throughout mass and all our hymns?** Alleluia!! Alleluia means Praise God! **What flowers do you notice on the altar at church?** Easter Lilies are traditionally used throughout this season!

4. **What is the paschal candle?** The Paschal candle is the large beeswax candle that is prominently displayed in the ambo or by the altar during Easter. It is made of beeswax to symbolize purity. The wick symbolizes Jesus' humanity while the flame symbolizes His Divinity. **What do we use the Paschal candle for?** We use it for baptisms and funerals to pass on the light of Christ. **What is on the candle?** The year, a cross and the Greek symbols for Alpha and Omega. This means God is the beginning and the end, He is eternal.
  
5. **Do you say a morning offering?** A morning offering is a prayer in the morning for the purpose of giving your day to God. We invoke the Blessed Mother's help and promise to offer all of the good parts and the hard parts of our day to Jesus. This devotion was very common with the saints! **Family challenge!** Say a morning offering together at breakfast: *O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sins, the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of Your Bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for our Holy Father this month. Amen.*

**Review Question: What are apologetics?** Apologetics are reasons or justifications for what we believe. It is the defense and explanation of our Catholic Faith.

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