

2nd Sunday of Easter
April 27th, 2025

FATH @ HOME

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First Reading: Acts 5:12-16
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15,
22-24
Second Reading: Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13,
17-19
Gospel: John 20:19-31

[Full readings can be found here!](#)

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#).

(Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can watch a short video with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, canal LUMO, 3:13 min)

Children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#).

(YouTube, canal Saddleback Kids, 2:34 min.)

2. PRAY

Today we celebrate the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Gather with the people in your home and have someone read the following text about St. Faustina.

St. Faustina was born Helena Kowalska on August 25, 1905, to a poor Polish family in 1905. At the age of 20, Helena entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy.

There, she took the name Sr. Faustina and spent time in convents in both Poland and Lithuania. Throughout her life, Jesus appeared to Sr. Faustina and asked her to become an apostle of his mercy, by writing down his messages of Divine Mercy for the world in her diary.

Jesus also asked Sr. Faustina to have an image painted of his Divine Mercy, with red and white rays issuing from his heart, and to spread devotion to the Divine Mercy novena.

Even before her death on October 5, 1938, devotion to Divine Mercy began to spread throughout Poland.

This little nun and Jesus' message of Divine Mercy impacted Pope St. John Paul II, and he requested that the 2nd Sunday of Easter be celebrated as "Divine Mercy Sunday". (Adapted from an article from Catholic News Agency - <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/saint/st-faustina-virgin-737>)

St. Faustina is known as the "apostle of mercy" because she reminded us that God's mercy is for all people. Inspired by her message, conclude this moment of prayer by reciting together the **Litany of Mercy**.

(Adapted from <https://www.crs.org/sites/default/files/usops-resources/litany-of-mercy.pdf>)

Holy Redeemer, help me seek your mercy, for I am a sinner.

I have turned too often from my Father and scorned my sisters and brothers. Help me trust in your mercy: to know that the God whose image and likeness I bear, though I have wandered far in darkness, has prepared a place for me in his holy light.

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Help me to show mercy, for in blessing me with this holy gift, you have made me a disciple to share the message of your abundant clemency in my words, in my prayers and in my works, blessing those you have bid me to share my time with that my heart may reflect the radiant compassion of your own.

Saint Faustina has declared mercy to be the greatest attribute of God. May it too be my greatest attribute. Jesus, I trust in you. Amen.

3. TALK

In today's gospel, we read about the encounter of Jesus with his disciples after the resurrection. The disciples were gathered because they feared persecution, and the presence of Jesus gave them hope and peace. Jesus' appearance reassured them of his continued presence and that he will be with them always.

One of the disciples, Thomas, was not present with the rest and he questioned if Jesus had really appeared to them. His doubts and fears prevented him from receiving the hope and mercy of Jesus. **How do our doubts and fears prevent us from seeing Jesus in our lives?** Share your thoughts with the group.

This Sunday of "Divine Mercy" we are reminded that Jesus is reaching out to all of us. Pouring mercy and love from his heart on to us. Inviting us to encounter him every chance we get.

When we come to Mass, we meet Jesus in the Eucharist, but we need to surrender our doubts and fears to have a meaningful encounter with him. We meet Jesus in the words of Scripture that are proclaimed, and in each person who is there with us. **How can we act like Thomas, who surrendered his doubts when Jesus appeared to him?** Share your thoughts with the group.

When we encounter Christ present in others, we can't help but extend the love we have for God to others. In our mercy and compassion for others we demonstrate to others the love and mercy we have received from God. During this week, be attentive to the many ways in which you may encounter Jesus in those around you, especially in the poor, the sick, and the weak.

Optional activity: *you can download a coloring page for small children to color on this Divine Mercy Sunday, by clicking [here](#).*

