

~~March~~ April

PRAYER:

Act of Faith

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:

Mercy: caring for those who suffer

"Blessed are the merciful, they shall obtain mercy" (Matthew 5:7). Whenever we are hurting—either through our own fault or because something bad has happened to us—we want relief...we want MERCY! Jesus has told us that we must show mercy in two ways: physically (for the body) and spiritually (for the soul). When we feed someone who is hungry, we show mercy; when we forgive someone who has hurt us, we show mercy. Jesus showed us this mercy when He forgave sins (spiritual) and cured the sick (physical). As Jesus did, so we must do. Blessed are the MERCIFUL!

SAINT OF THE MONTH:



Photograph of St. Faustina

Saint Faustina (1905-1938, Poland)

Feast: October 5

Saint Faustina grew up in a big family in Poland and joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy when she was a young woman. She was always mindful of how others suffered and wanted to help them. She offered many sacrifices, sufferings, and prayers for souls who needed God's mercy. Many times she did not know the souls for whom she was suffering.

On February 22, 1931, Our Lord appeared to Saint Faustina in a vision and instructed her to paint Him as He appeared to her and include the motto, "Jesus, I trust in you." He wanted her to proclaim the message of His mercy—Divine Mercy—to the whole world, which she faithfully did until her death.

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DISCUSSION:

How did St. Faustina spread the message of God's mercy?

HOME PROJECT: Due March _____

PRAYER:

Come, Holy Spirit, open our minds and our hearts to receive God's living Word. (Read and discuss Matthew 25: 31-46.)

VIRTUE ACTIVITY:

Discuss the greatest suffering, sin. Why do we need Jesus' mercy? Pray together the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, asking God's mercy on those who suffer, especially in sin. If you want to pray the chaplet often, see if someone you know can teach you how to sing it!

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Use a five-decade rosary. Begin with an *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be,* and the *Apostles Creed.*

On each Our Father bead, pray:

*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.*

On each Hail Mary bead, pray:

*For the sake of His sorrowful Passion—
have mercy on us and on the whole world.*

After finishing the fifth decade, pray three times:

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

Closing prayer:

*O Blood and Water which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a
fountain of mercy for us, I trust in you!*


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PRAYER:

Jesus said to Saint Faustina, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first – by deed, the second – by word, the third – by prayer. In these three degrees is contained the fullness of mercy, and it is an unquestionable proof of love for Me. By this means a soul glorifies and pays reverence to My mercy." (*Diary of Saint Faustina*, 1317)

Saint Faustina, help us to practice mercy in our words, in our actions, and by our prayers. Help us to pray for sinners as you did, so that all souls may go to heaven. Pray for us, that we may have great confidence in God's merciful love for us in moments of suffering, and that we may show His mercy to others. Amen. Saint Faustina, pray for us.

SAINT ACTIVITY:

Several artists have tried to create an image of Jesus as he appeared to Saint Faustina. Draw your own image of Divine Mercy. 

- Draw Jesus standing, facing you, with His arms stretched out to you.
- He is wearing a long, white robe.
- From His heart are shining two beams of light, one red and the other white.
- Below your image, write the words: "Jesus, I Trust in You!" or write it in Polish: "Jezu, Ufam Tobie!"

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