



*Boundless*  
**MERCY**

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Wrapping the Globe in God's Unconditional Love

*April 17-19, 2020*

ARCHDIOCESE *of* MILWAUKEE

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# Boundless MERCY

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St. Faustina records Jesus' words, "I am giving you three ways of exercising mercy toward your neighbor: the first - by actions, the second - by word, the third - by prayer.

In these 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, 742)

We invite you this weekend to make concrete acts, words, and prayers of mercy.

## ACTS OF MERCY

Consider making a specific "act of mercy" throughout the weekend. Think creatively about how you can bless your neighbors around you; Offering to go to the grocery store for someone who is unable? Do a chore for someone in your house? Whatever it might be, make a "gift of yourself" by selflessly loving another through an act of mercy this weekend. See p. 4 of this handout for more ideas for acts of mercy.

## WORDS OF MERCY

Consider speaking a specific "word of mercy" to someone this weekend. During this difficult time, every person could use a word of encouragement, affirmation, or forgiveness. Whatever it might be, take an opportunity to speak mercy. Here are a few examples: Send an encouraging text message to a friend. Write a letter of affirmation to a family member. Forgive someone who has wronged you.

## PRAYERS OF MERCY

Sign up for (at least) one 10 minute time slot over the 40 hours from April 17th at 11:00 p.m. to April 19th at 3:00 p.m. to intercede for those who have been affected by COVID-19. For your time of prayer, we'd encourage you to specifically pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. This is a Catholic devotional prayer that is a simple prayer (similar to the Rosary) and only takes 10 minutes to pray. However you pray, pray for mercy. Our goal is to have at least one person praying at all times during these 40 hours.

Please also join thousands of Catholics from around the Archdiocese in prayer at 3:00 p.m., which is the hour of Divine Mercy, on Sunday, April 19th, Divine Mercy Sunday. In this time we will be united in prayer interceding for those who have been affected and for an end to the crisis at hand.

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## Weekend Schedule

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### Friday, April 17th at 8:00 p.m.

Message on Divine Mercy: Act, Word, and Prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSdIC73JYstfy3PKvp7WT1A>

### Sunday, April 19th at 3:00 p.m.

Join in the Divine Mercy Chaplet

<https://www.youtube.com/user/stcharlesschool1>

### Friday April 17th -Sunday, April 19th

Do one concrete act, word, and prayer for mercy

# How to Pray

## THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

The Chaplet of Mercy is recited using ordinary rosary beads of five decades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer.

### 1. Make the Sign of the Cross

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### 2. Optional Opening Prayers

*You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.*

(Repeat three times)

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

### 3. Our Father

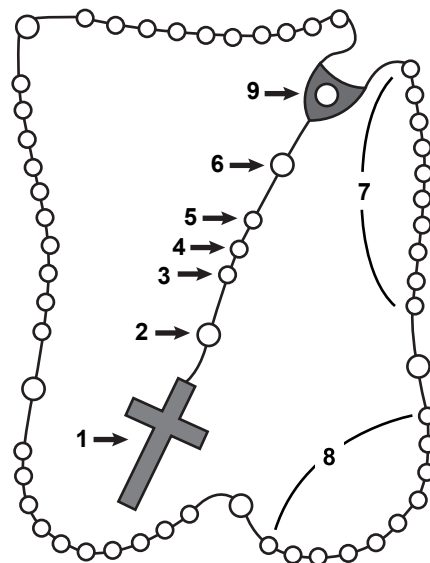
*Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.*

### 4. Hail Mary

*Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.*

### 5. The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.*



### 6. The Eternal Father

*“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.”*

### 7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

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

### 8. Repeat for the remaining decades

*Saying the “Eternal Father” (6) on the “Our Father” bead and then 10 “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion” (7) on the following “Hail Mary” beads.*

### 9. Conclude with Holy God

(Repeat three times)

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

### 10. Optional Closing Prayer

*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.*

\*How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet  
from [thedivinemercy.org](http://thedivinemercy.org)



## Other Prayers to Consider

- [Litany of Supplication from Pope Francis' Urbi et Orbi Blessing](#)
- [Prayers from the USCCB](#)



## Suggested Acts of Mercy

One way to think about how “to love your neighbor as yourself” is to consider the Corporal Works of Mercy. Of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy, three of particular importance now are feed the hungry, visit the sick, and bury the dead. We need to think creatively on how to live these out as we maintain the safety of our neighbors and ourselves. Here are some suggestions:

### Feed the Hungry

- Participate in Catholic Charities Food Drive <https://www.ccmke.org/FoodDrive>
- Check on the needs of your local food pantry: <https://www.archmil.org/ArchMil/Resources/SOLJUS/FoodPantries-2018-ArchdioceseOfMilwaukee.pdf>

### Visit the sick

- Make Facemasks: <https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/CoVID-19-Updates/Homemade-Masks.htm>
- Blood centers are open. Blood is critically needed in light of many blood drives being cancelled. Learn more on the [Versiti \(formerly Blood Center of WI\) website](#).

### Bury the dead

- Pray for those who have died, their families, and the Cemetery employees who serve and care for these families
- Learn about how the Catholic Cemeteries are adapting to this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. <http://www.cemeteries.org/Cemeteries/News-Events/New-Guidelines-for-Funerals.htm>

For more reflections on the Corporal Works of Mercy review the Year of Mercy website (<https://www.archmil.org/Our-Faith/Year-of-Mercy/ReflectingCorporalMercy.htm>)



## Papal Reflections on Mercy

From Pope Francis: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20161120\\_misericordia-et-misera.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20161120_misericordia-et-misera.html)

From Pope St. John Paul II: [http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_30111980\\_dives-in-misericordia.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia.html)



## About Divine Mercy Sunday

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/divine-mercy-sunday.cfm#Origin>

Notes of Reflection on Divine Mercy:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/prayers/divine-mercy-sunday.cfm#Origin>

