



 **BELLEVILLE DIOCESE** *flocknote* 



For the past few decades, the Second Sunday of Easter — that is this Sunday — has been celebrated as **Divine Mercy Sunday**. Based on the spiritual visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska, the celebration centers on a very simple and straight-forward theme: God is merciful, always merciful. Some parishes celebrate with major events; others celebrate less elaborately. Nonetheless, we all celebrate the mercy of God every single time we gather for Mass.

More recently, a musician by the name of Ed Bolduc created a lovely musical piece that employs the text of the 19th century hymn "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy." He added a refrain that includes this line: "So be merciful, just as our God is merciful." The song challenges us, because who could actually be as merciful as the Father who gave up His only-begotten Son so that the sinful might have life? Is there any hope at all for us to be as merciful as God is?

In fact, we just celebrated our hope this past weekend. As we remembered the institution of the Eucharist and the Priesthood, as we commemorated the divine service of feet-washing, as the Savior carried His cross and died upon it, as we struggled with the silence of Saturday with those who had believed but witnessed His death, and then as the brilliant light of the resurrection shone upon us all, first from a single flame, and then through God's grace, spread throughout the entire Church. Not only did we commemorate a set of powerful historical events. We remembered what it is, what it means to be claimed by that same Mercy Incarnate, Jesus Christ.

When we find ourselves gripped with arrogance, apathy, bigotry, suspicion, fear, anger, hostility, or doubt, let's remember: we were claimed in baptism by Mercy Incarnate, the humble

Christ. God's enfleshed Merciful One laid claim to our souls, but also to our minds and hearts and bodies. We belong to Him. And in that truth, we have the first glimmer of hope for being merciful like the Father.

As we celebrate Divine Mercy, let's be grateful again for the splendor of mercy we receive. And let us strive to be merciful like God is merciful. For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.



Pope's Intention
for the month of April

For priests in crisis

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.

**Divine Mercy
Sunday
April 12**



An Invitation from St. Clare Church in O'Fallon:

All are encouraged to come and receive the abundant grace that Jesus offers us!

**Divine Mercy Sunday Holy Hour
Sunday, April 12 from 2:30 - 3:30pm
followed by Adoration.**

Short Teaching on Divine Mercy
Blessing of Divine Mercy Image(s)
Veneration of Divine Mercy Image
Prayer Intentions Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Eucharistic Exposition & Adoration

Divine Mercy Novena and Chaplet pamphlets are available on a side table in the Gathering Space. To learn about Divine Mercy Sunday and why Jesus asks us to celebrate this great Feast Day, go to: www.thedivinemercy.org



Diocese of Belleville

**YOUNG ADULTS
PRESENTS**



HOLY HOUR HAPPY HOUR
Divine Mercy Sunday
SUNDAY, APRIL 12

2:30-3:30PM

ST CECILIA IN BARTELSO

OPEN TO
ALL AGES



Divine Mercy Sunday, established by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and rooted in the visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska, is celebrated the Sunday after Easter and offers the faithful a special opportunity to receive the Divine Mercy indulgence through confession, Communion, and trust in God's mercy.

FOLLOWING ADORATION, REFRESHMENTS IN KC HALL FOR
YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS

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