



Resources for
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
(Second Sunday of Easter)

Livestream of Divine Mercy Sunday Mass and Chaplet with Archbishop William Lori

- Sunday April 19, 2020 at 3 pm at the Baltimore Basilica (www.archbalt.org)
- Click [here](#) for Chaplet Worship Aid.

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

- From the *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* (USCCB)
<http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/year-of-faith/how-to-pray-the-chaplet-of-divine-mercy.cfm>
- Another resource for “How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet”
<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet>

Musical Setting of the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Pray along with the entire chaplet in song with this resource online:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Chaplet+of+Divine+Mercy+in+Song&&view=detail&mid=7E24F7E315FC2851F1C07E24F7E315FC2851F1C0&&FORM=VRDGA R&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DChaplet%2Bof%2BDivine%2BMercy%2Bin%2BSong%26FORM%3DMDMHS>

Intercessions for the Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

<https://www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/weeklyint/2easterb.pdf>

What can I do on Divine Mercy Sunday when I cannot attend church?

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/what-do-divine-mercy-sunday>

Understanding Divine Mercy Sunday

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/assets/pdf/jpii/UnderstandDM.pdf>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What if I cannot go to confession right now because of the pandemic?

Pope Francis addressed this issue in his remarks on March 20, 2020 “But many people today would tell me, ‘Father, where can I find a priest, a confessor, because I can’t leave the house? And I want to make peace with the Lord, I want him to embrace me, I want the Father’s embrace.’”

The pope said his response would be, “Do what the Catechism (of the Catholic Church) says. It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest to confess to, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. Say, ‘Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,’ and ask for pardon with all your heart.”

Make an act of contrition, the pope said, and promise God, “‘I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now.’ And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God.”

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, N. 1452, says: “When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called ‘perfect’ - contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.”

“As the catechism teaches,” Pope Francis said, “you can draw near to God’s forgiveness without having a priest at hand. Think about it. This is the moment.”

The Apostolic Penitentiary also addressed this issue in his March 20, 2020 note on sacramental confession. It urged priests to remind their faithful that when they find themselves with the painful impossibility of receiving sacramental absolution they can make an act of contrition directly to God in prayer. If they are sincere and promise to go to confession as soon as possible they “obtain the forgiveness of sins, even mortal sins” according to the note.

The Special Plenary Indulgence offered by the Apostolic Penitentiary

2. What is the special indulgence recently granted by the Apostolic Penitentiary for those who are sick and their caregivers during the time of the COVID-19 outbreak?

On March 20, 2020 the Apostolic Penitentiary issued a document that noted In the decree on indulgences, the Apostolic Penitentiary noted the fear, uncertainty, physical spiritual suffering people around the world are experiencing because of the pandemic.

The decree said, "This Apostolic Penitentiary, with the authority of the Supreme Pontiff, trusting in the worlds of Christ the Lord and looking with a spirit of faith at the epidemic underway, which should be lived in a tone of personal conversion, grants the gift of indulgences" to a variety of people in a variety of circumstances.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

Praying for the dying who cannot receive the sacrament of anointing, the decree said the church entrusted them to God's mercy and drew on the merits of the communion of saints to grant a plenary indulgence to Catholics on the verge of death, as long as they "habitually recited prayers during their lifetime."

If that is not possible, the decree said, they should at least recite the Creed and the Lord's Prayer and invoke the help of Mary, "offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and of charity toward others" and with a determination to go to confession, receive the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the pope as soon as possible.

"Health care workers, family members and those who, following the example of the good Samaritan, assist those sick with the coronavirus, exposing themselves to the risk of contagion," also receive the plenary indulgence, it said.

The decree also grants the indulgence to any Catholic who visits the Blessed Sacrament, "reads sacred Scripture for at least a half hour," recites the rosary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet "to implore Almighty God for an end to the epidemic, the relief of those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those the Lord has called to himself."

The faithful can claim the indulgence for themselves or offer it on behalf of someone who has died.

3. What is a plenary indulgence?

An indulgence is not a quick ticket to heaven, as St. John Paul II once said; rather, it is an aid for the real conversion that leads to eternal happiness.

Sins are forgiven through the sacrament of penance, but then there is a kind of punishment still due the sinner, the late pope explained during a general audience in 1999.

God's fatherly love "does not exclude chastisement, even though this always should be understood in the context of a merciful justice which reestablishes the order violated," he said.

The pope had said the "temporal" punishment that remains after forgiveness is a grace aimed at wiping away the "residues of sin," offering the reformed sinner the chance of complete healing through "a journey of purification" that can take place in this life or in purgatory.

4. Why is an indulgence granted by the Church?

In the words of St. John Paul II, the granting of an indulgence by the church is, "the expression of the church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when, in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints, she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace."

He went on to say that an indulgence, then, is the result of the abundance of God's mercy, which he offers to humanity through Jesus Christ and through the church.

Special indulgences have often been offered during times of great crisis from disease or other serious difficulties.

5. What should I do if I want to seek an indulgence?

By God's grace, participation in a prayer or action that has an indulgence attached to it brings about the necessary restoration and reparation without the suffering that would normally accompany it. It frees a person from the punishment their sinfulness warrants as it is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

But this gift cannot be received automatically or simply by fulfilling a few exterior requirements nor can it be approached with a superficial attitude, St. John Paul said.

The reception of an indulgence depends on "our turning away from sin and our conversion to God," he said.

That is why there are several conditions for receiving an indulgence:

- A spirit detached from sin.
- Sacramental confession as soon as possible.
- Eucharistic communion as soon as possible.
- Prayer for the Holy Father's intentions.