



# St. Mary's Parish



## Our Mission:

*“To know Christ and to make Him known.”*

### Mass Schedule:

Monday through Saturday  
9:00 AM

Saturday Vigils  
5:00 PM  
7:30 PM

Sunday  
7:30 AM  
9:30 AM Family Mass  
(C.L.O.W. Sept. – May)  
11:30 AM Sung Mass

Holy Days: Announced

### Adoration Schedule:

First Fridays from  
9:30-10:30 AM

8 Church St., Holliston, MA 01746

Website: [www.stmarysholliston.com](http://www.stmarysholliston.com)

Email Address: [St.marys1870@gmail.com](mailto:St.marys1870@gmail.com)

Rectory Phone: (508) 429 - 4427 or (508) 879 - 2322

Religious Education Phone: (508) 429 - 6076

Fax: (508) 429 - 3324

**Dear Visitors:** Welcome! We are delighted that you chose to worship with us this day. Please introduce yourself to the priest, and if you are interested in becoming a member of the parish then please call the rectory to register. Please also be aware that for generations it has been the custom at St. Mary's to kneel together for a silent Hail Mary at the end of Mass.

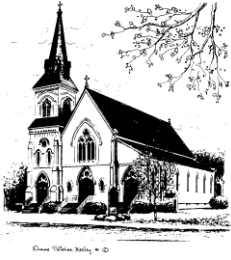
Please join in!

**Confession:** Saturdays from Noon – 12:45 PM in the church or anytime by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Any time by appointment. Please call as soon as you are aware of a serious illness or upcoming surgery.

**Baptism:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. To register for Baptism Preparation call 429-4427.

**Marriage:** Please call at least 6 months in advance of your desired wedding date.



# Saint Mary's Parish

8 Church St. ~ Holliston, MA ~ 01746 ~ (508) 429-4427

April 19, 2020  
Divine Mercy Sunday

Dear Members of the St. Mary's Parish Family,

As we all know, faith is very much a fluid and living thing. It ebbs and flows as sometimes we feel very close to God and other times He seems to recede far into the distance. Like Mary who *"reflected on these things and stored them up in her heart,"* we hold fast to the memory of the close times with God in order to get us through the distant times. Like "doubting" Thomas in today's Gospel, we may long for physical, tangible proof of the living presence of the Lord, and yet Jesus challenges us to follow Him without it. *"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."*

Doubt is not always a bad thing. Doubt provides the opportunity for faith – for following even when we do not understand. There is no Christian, anywhere, who does not struggle with at least some aspect of their faith's teaching. The first step in such moments is to study the particular teaching in question and make a sincere effort to understand it. If understanding does not come, then we pray for strength to live faithfully even that which we do not yet fully understand. As St. Paul said, we see now *"as through a glass darkly,"* but one day we shall see God face to face, and in His light experience the joy of perfect truth.

Thomas struggled with his faith; and yet he desired to believe. The proof of this was that a full week after Thomas denied the Resurrection, he was still there with the other disciples. He stayed with them not out of strong faith, but because he yearned for faith. And so it was that he was in the right place when again the Risen Lord appeared. The Church is the "right place." If you are open, there are many ways to grow in your knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus. Doubting is fine as long as it is honest – a doubting joined with the desire for faith, and Thomas' commitment to remain and seek the Lord.

It is worth noting that when Thomas finally found faith it was superior. He was the first to realize the divinity of Jesus, saying, *"My Lord and my God!"* It is not by accident that the Apostle who doubted and struggled the most to believe, possessed in the end a deeper understanding of Jesus. For this reason we should not despair because of doubt, but persevere through it. Likewise we must be patient with those who do not have faith, and with ourselves when faith is hard.

Finally, if we desire faith, then we must try to embrace holiness – especially when God's Word makes demands of us that we find onerous and do not yet understand. Sin siphons faith away, and the mental constructs we so often devise to justify behavior contrary to God's law will in the end leave us drained and desert dry. Pray for faith. Try to live with integrity the life of a child of God. Remain as Thomas did with the community of believers. And remember that even the desire for faith is pleasing to Our Father in heaven.

God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Coiro'. The signature is stylized with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rev. Mark J. Coiro  
Pastor

*"The minute we begin to think we know all the answers, we forget the questions, and we become smug like the Pharisee who listed all his considerable virtues, and thanked God that he was not like other men... Those who believe they believe in God, but without passion in the heart, without anguish of mind, without uncertainty, without doubt, and even at times without despair, believe only in the idea of God, and not in God himself."*

- Madeleine L'Engle

# WORSHIPING VIRTUALLY WITH ST. MARY'S

## PREPARING A PLACE TO PRAY:

Pick a place where you will be as free from as many distractions as you can. A TV or Radio in the background will never let you listen to the service, or God. So do your best to rearrange a spot.

Set your laptop, iPad or phone into a good position on a table. Clear everything else off.

If you have a candle, put that near you. An Icon, Cross, or Statue of Mary is great, too.

Print out and have handy the Mass Readings:  
[www.magnificat.com/free](http://www.magnificat.com/free).



When ready, have your family pray together the following prayer of preparation:

Throughout time, Almighty God has moved people to set apart places to pray, to worship, and to meet with God. Almighty God, we thank you for making us in Your image, for making Your presence known, and for calling us to know You. We set apart this time and this place for Your worship. Sanctify it all, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. May all we do here be to Your glory. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

At this time, light your candle.



**COMMUNION TIME:** If watching Mass, make an Act of Spiritual Communion at Communion time.

My Jesus,  
 I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
 I love You above all things,  
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
 Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
 come at least spiritually into my heart.  
 I embrace You as if You were already there  
 and unite myself wholly to You.  
 Never permit me to be separated from You.  
 Amen.

**SUNDAY MASS:** Every Sunday, the 11:30 AM Mass is being live-streamed from our beautiful St. Mary's Church. You may watch this Mass live on Holliston Cable Access: Verizon Fios Ch. 33 or Comcast Xfinity Ch. 96.

Or you can visit: <https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston> and scroll down. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. If you arrive "early," you may need to hit the refresh button. Welcome!

**MORNING PRAYER:** Live-cast from St. Mary's Church every weekday morning with Deacon Barry at 7:30 AM:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MusicAtStMarysHolliston/>.

*"Keep close to the Catholic Church at all times, for the Church alone can give you true peace, since she alone possesses Jesus, the true Prince of Peace, in the Blessed Sacrament."*

- St. Padre Pio

**PARISH STAFF:**

Rev. Mark J. Coiro, Pastor  
 Rev. Jim Flynn, Weekend Assistance  
 The Xaverian Fathers, Weekend Assistance  
 Deacon John D. Barry, Permanent Deacon  
 Deacon Martin Breinlinger, Senior Deacon  
 Mrs. Fran Crespi, D.R.E., Grades K-7  
 Mr. Jake Thiringer, D.R.E., Grades 8-12  
 Mr. Kevin Lyczak, Director of Music  
 Mr. Leo Racine, Director of Contemporary Music  
 Mrs. Mary Beth Harris, Parish Secretary  
 Mrs. Paula O'Brien, Religious Education Secretary  
 Ms. Mary Sanning, Business Manager  
 Mrs. Najat Whalen, Sacristan  
 Mr. Billy Hanson, Parish Facilities  
 R & R Landscaping, Cemetery Care

**FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER:**

**Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,**

**As you know, in order to make payroll and keep up with her bills, St. Mary's weekly offertory need is \$15,000 – usually achieved. Due to the Pandemic Mass shutdown, however, St. Mary's has now lost her Mass collection income entirely. This has understandably led to some significant Offertory Shortfalls:**



**April 11/12 Shortfall: \$ 941.65**  
**April 4/5 Shortfall: \$1,737.19**  
**March 28/29 Shortfall: \$3,375.53**  
**March 21/22 Shortfall: \$9,194.54**  
**March 14/15 4/5 Shortfall: \$6,323.27**

**We are very grateful to all those who have continued to give, especially in this time when many have been laid off from work. In order to assure that St. Mary's can continue to pay her staff and bills, we ask those parishioners not already using Automatic Giving or WeShare, to please sign up for one of those services as your means allow.**

**Full details on how to do so are provided on the St. Mary's Website under the HOW TO GIVE tab: <https://stmarysholliston.com/how-to-give/>.**

**We recommend setting up the WeShare option, which can be done right now on your computer by clicking here:**

**<https://stmarysholliston.weshareonline.org/>.**

**If you are unable to do Automatic Giving or WeShare, then please drop off or mail in your parish offertory support each week until you can place it in the basket at Mass again.**

**None of us knows how long the current COVID-19 Crisis, and subsequent shutting down of Masses, will continue. But we all want to make sure that St. Mary's remains strong and healthy throughout, able to pay her hardworking staff, maintain her buildings, and continue serving her people in love.**

**Thank you and God bless you!**

**Mary Sanning, Business Manager**

**P.S. Blue In Pew Catholic Appeal Envelopes may be dropped off at St. Mary's anytime and will be credited toward our St. Mary's "In Pew Count" when the new Catholic Appeal Launch Weekend is announced. Online pledges may be made at [www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org](http://www.BostonCatholicAppeal.org). Please be sure to identify St. Mary's, Holliston as your parish. Thank you for supporting this important effort!**



**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY NEEDED TO PAY OUR PARISH'S BILLS: \$15,000.**

**LAST SUNDAY'S PARISH OFFERTORY:**

Mass Collections:	\$ 0.00
Automatic Giving:	\$ 3,425.00
WeShare:	\$ 4,228.35
Offertory Envelopes dropped off or mailed to the office:	\$ 6,405.00
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 14,058.35</b>

**Offertory Shortfall Last Weekend: \$ 941.65**

**Thank you for making up  
any missed weekly parish support.**

**EASTER SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR THE  
CLERGY BENEFIT TRUST: \$5,475.00**

**GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION FOR THE  
CHURCH IN THE HOLY LAND: \$1,067.00**

Thank you for your kind support of your parish, our retired priests, and the Church in the Holy Land.

**ROSE FOR LIFE:** Is sponsored this week by a St. Mary's parishioner. Please join her in prayer for an unborn child. If you wish to sponsor the Rose in 2020 please call the Rectory at 429-4427. You may leave your message at extension 5, Mary Beth Harris.

**THE HOLLISTON PANTRY SHELF IS OPEN!** The Pantry Shelf, 73 Charles Street, is busier now than ever. They have a large box outside where people can leave food donations (photo right), and they carefully disinfect each item as they remove it from the box. Current needs include: tuna fish (5 oz. cans), Campbell Chunky soup, Progresso soups, canned peas, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese tomato soup and chicken noodle soup (10.75 ounce cans), juice boxes and kid’s snacks.



**WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS:** *“By his miraculous entry through closed doors Christ proved to his disciples that by nature he was God and also that he was none other than their former companion. By showing them his side and the marks of the nails, he convinced them beyond a doubt that he had raised the temple of his body, the very body that had hung upon the cross. He had destroyed death’s power over the flesh, for as God, he was life itself.*

*Because of the importance he attached to making his disciples believe in the resurrection of the body, and in order to prevent them from thinking that the body he now possessed was different from that in which he had suffered death upon the cross, he willed to appear to them as he had been before, even though the time had now come for his body to be clothed in a supernatural glory such as no words could possibly describe.*

*When Christ greeted his holy disciples with the words: peace be with you, by peace he meant himself, for Christ’s presence always brings tranquility of soul. This is the grace Saint Paul desired for believers when he wrote: the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds. The peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, is in fact the Spirit of Christ, who fills those who share in him with every blessing.”*

- St. Cyril of Alexandria

**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** The 11:30 AM Live-streamed Mass today will be immediately followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. You may print out a copy of the Chaplet to pray along at: <https://bit.ly/3cqCmGm>. Wonderful Divine Mercy Resources are also available at: <https://www.thedivinemercy.org/message>.



**THE DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE:** The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us – all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share His joy. The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

**A** - Ask for His Mercy. God wants us to approach Him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour His mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B** - Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us.

**C** - Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. Spend time to learn more about the mercy of God, learn to trust in Jesus, and live your life as merciful to others, as Christ is merciful to you.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:** Due to the COVID - 19 Pandemic, all Middle School Youth Group Activities scheduled for March and April are cancelled. Activities will resume as soon as safety allows. Members will be kept informed by email. All Summer Events are still a GO at this time:

Kennebec Rafting, Thursday, June 25 - Friday, June 26  
 Brownstone Quarry Park, CT, Tuesday, July 28  
 Deerfield Rafting, Friday, August 14

**ST. MARY'S EPIC – HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP:**  
 Pandemic permitting, an EPIC General Meetings will be held on  
 May 31 from 7:15 – 8:45 PM in FHH - \$5 Dues.



**BLESSED MOTHER SCHOLARSHIP:** Because of a website issue that kept teens from accessing the Scholarship Application Form (now resolved), the Scholarship Application Deadline is extended to this coming Thursday, April 23, the Feast of St. George. Scholarship Applications are now available at the Parish Website under REGISTER / PARISH FORMS: <https://stmarysholliston.com/>. This \$2,000 scholarship is granted in recognition of exceptional service to the St. Mary's Parish Family.

Applicants must meet the following criteria: Graduating from High School in the Spring of 2020; Accepted to a four-year college or university to commence classes in the Fall of 2020; Family registered at St. Mary's Parish for at least two full years; Completed Religious Education and received the Sacrament of Confirmation; Attend Mass weekly at St. Mary's and are otherwise living out their Catholic faith. The Scholarship will be presented at St. Mary's Mass for the Graduating Class of 2020, Sunday, May 17 at 11:30 AM. Applications must be received by mail to 8 Church St. no later than April 26.

**ALL FUNERAL MASSES:** Effective Monday, March 23, there are no Funeral Masses celebrated in the Archdiocese of Boston. Graveside Services with immediate family only may take place, with Memorial Masses to follow after the Pandemic subsides. This is to comply with the Governor's ban on gatherings of over 25 people.

**WINGS (Women in God's Spirit): Canceled.** However, WINGS has a facebook page and would love to have folks (not just members) access it and respond to posts. They have a new post almost daily. <https://www.facebook.com/WingsHolliston/>.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITY:** This meeting has been tentatively rescheduled to Sunday, September 27.



**KEEPING THE MISSION ALIVE/BOOK DISCUSSION:** During St. Mary's recent 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Parish Mission, Jon Leonetti provided his three books for sale. Given the response (he sold out), it seems that Mission participants are interested in continuing to think and pray about Jon's message. Please reach out to Lisa Dufault at [lisadufault@yahoo.com](mailto:lisadufault@yahoo.com) or Diane Collins at [diathome17@aol.com](mailto:diathome17@aol.com) to sign up, and we will let you know when the date will be (post-pandemic).

**ST. MARY'S 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY GALA SILENT AUCTION:** Interested in donating to the St. Mary's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Silent Auction? We are looking for donations of all kinds. Perhaps you are a season ticket holder, a business owner, someone who owns a vacation house who can offer a weekend getaway, or maybe you have a special talent or service you could donate (culinary professional, massage therapist, painter, musician, personal health instructor). This would be a great opportunity to help make St. Mary's Anniversary celebration a great success! We would love to hear from you! Please contact Paula Watt at 401-256-8341 or [Paula.Watt@ymail.com](mailto:Paula.Watt@ymail.com).

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK UPDATE:** Is time starting to hang heavy for you? Is your puzzle collection exhausted? Would you like an exciting and engaging project? I am using this time to work on the St. Mary's Video and History Book projects. I would love some parishioner stories about your experiences and remembrances of being a member of St. Mary's Parish. Perhaps you have been a parishioner for decades and you have a wealth of knowledge of St. Mary's through time. Or maybe you are somewhat new to the Parish – what drew you here? I would love to hear your anecdotes in your own words for inclusion in the history book. You can email them to me, Betty Febo, at [betty.febo@gmail.com](mailto:betty.febo@gmail.com) or send them to me by mail to 41 Holly Lane, Holliston. Stay healthy, and thank you for participating.

**CLOW- CHILDREN K-6: CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD:** CLOW has been suspended until our Sunday Masses resume.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED AND THE PARISH CENTER IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS DIRECTIVES FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF BOSTON.**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATIONS 2020-2021:** As Christ has called us to continue His Mission here on earth, St. Mary's is honored to provide religious education and faith formation to assist families with children and youth to form a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Your home is the **domestic church** where God is present in your daily life. If children are to be true disciples for Christ they need to witness your love for God and living in His will. We accomplish this path by continuing to teach our children about Jesus Christ and the beauty of the Gospels. Our Religious Education office has mailed Registrations for 2020-2021. When you receive the forms, we hope that you will answer the call to volunteer and join Christ's mission as a Teacher or Monitor. May God bless and protect you.

**FAITH FORMATION MATERIALS FOR GRADES K THROUGH 7:** Our Religious Education Office will continue to provide families with spiritual educational materials during this time through email and information from online resources that will be helpful for your family to share together. There are wonderful free children's and adult movies that will inspire your heart along with study resources offered for a trial period from the Augustine Institute on the "FORMED" website. At the end of the trial period, you may want to consider a yearly subscription for your family with wonderful Catholic programs for just \$100.00 a year.

**GRADE 2 FIRST COMMUNION MASSES:** The Archdiocese of Boston has **postponed First Communion Masses** until public Masses have resumed. Once the danger of the COVID-19 has been lifted, we will reschedule First Communion Masses when Cardinal Sean O'Malley receives the good news that groups can once again gather together in public places. Until then, our Sacred Liturgy, the Mass, will be streamed to the parishioners.

**FY2020 CORI VOLUNTEER RENEWAL ALERT:** Ministry Leaders must make sure that **all** their active volunteers (18 years and older) renew and complete a FY 2020 CORI. **PGC workshops** ~ watch the bulletin.



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2020 – JULY 20 - 24**

Get ready for “**Rocky Railway**” A program made for train loving children who dream of adventure and travel. Climb aboard for mountains of fun on this faith-filled adventure. Kids discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs.

**CONFIRMATION I AND II:** Classes are suspended. Jake will be sending out materials for the students to continue studies at home.

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2020:** The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Reed on Saturday, September 26 at the 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM Masses this year. All Mass Reflection Sheets are due to the Pastor by the end of May. No student will be recommended for Confirmation who has not turned these in / does not attend or watch Mass.

**THE EUCHARIST IN THE ECONOMY OF SALVATION - PART IV- The signs of bread and wine.** Jesus chose the time of the Passover to fulfill what He had announced at Capernaum: giving His disciples His Body and Blood. Then came the day of unleavened bread, on which the Passover meal had to be sacrificed. So Jesus sent Peter and John saying, “Go and prepare the Passover meal, that we may eat it. . . .” They went . . . and prepared the Passover. And when the hour came, He sat at table, and the apostles with Him. And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I tell you, I shall not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” . . . And he took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them saying, “This is My Body which is given for you. “Do this in remembrance of Me.” And likewise the cup after supper, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the New Covenant in My Blood.” (CCC 1339). By celebrating the Last Supper with His apostles in the course of the Passover meal, Jesus gave the Jewish Passover its definitive meaning. Jesus' passing over to His Father by His death and Resurrection, the new Passover, is anticipated in the Supper and celebrated in the Eucharist, which fulfills the Jewish Passover and anticipates the final Passover of the Church in the glory of the kingdom (CCC 1340). **“Do this in memory of Me.”** The command of Jesus to repeat His actions and words “until he comes” does not only ask us to remember Jesus and what He did. It is directed to the liturgical celebration by the apostles and their successors, of the memorial of Christ.(CCC 1341).

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** Today is known as Divine Mercy Sunday. The Sunday following Easter Sunday has been designated this by our Lord Jesus Christ to Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska. Sister Faustina's family was poor and struggling during World War I. She wanted to enter the convent at a young age and was finally accepted into the Congregation of Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Poland during the 1930's where she did simple chores in the kitchen or garden. Sister Faustina was blessed to receive extraordinary revelations – messages – from Jesus and asked her to record the messages which she compiled into notebooks. These messages today are known as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy. Today we continue to rely on the messages Jesus gave to Sister Faustina as a constant reminder of the message to trust in Jesus' endless mercy, and to live life mercifully toward others. We also turn to her in prayer and request her intercession to our merciful Savior on our behalf. At the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the following is included in the 3 o'clock prayers: *Saint Faustina - you told us that your mission would continue after your death and that you would not forget us. Our Lord also granted you a great privilege, telling you to "distribute graces as you will, to who you will, and when you will." Relying on this, we ask your intercession for the graces we need, especially for the intentions just mentioned. Help us, above all, to trust in Jesus as you did and thus to glorify His mercy every moment of our lives. Amen*

Though the Divine Mercy message is not new to the teachings of the Church, Sr. Faustina's *Diary* sparked a great movement, and a strong and significant focus on the mercy of Christ. Saint John Paul II canonized Sr. Faustina in 2000 making her the "first saint of the new millennium." Speaking of Sr. Faustina and the importance of the message contained in her *Diary*, the Pope called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time." On Sept. 1, 2015, the Marian Fathers in Stockbridge launched a petition drive requesting the Holy See to name Saint Faustina a Doctor of the Church. The Church bestows this ecclesiastical title on saints of extraordinary holiness, those whose theological writings have been declared exemplary and beneficial for the countless faithful worldwide in teaching the truth, beauty, and splendor of the faith. *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the words contained within are God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

[www.sisterfaustina.org](http://www.sisterfaustina.org)

The foundation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy is the charism which all of the sisters called to this Congregation share. United in this manner, they are to strive for a deep mutual relationship with Christ.

**DIARY MESSAGES TO PONDER ~ GIVEN BY JESUS TO SAINT FAUSTINA:** (1) *I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet, Diary 699. [Note: confession does not have to be done on the Sunday itself. Beforehand is fine].* (2) *Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My Mercy, Diary 300.* (3) *Let all mankind recognize My unfathomable mercy. It is a sign for the end times; after it will come the day of justice, Diary 848.* (4) *He who refuses to pass through the door of My mercy must pass through the door of My justice, Diary 1146.* (5) *Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation; that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore My mercy, they will perish for all eternity, Diary 965.* (6) *My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy, Diary 367.* (7) *These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him. I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy, Diary, 299.*

