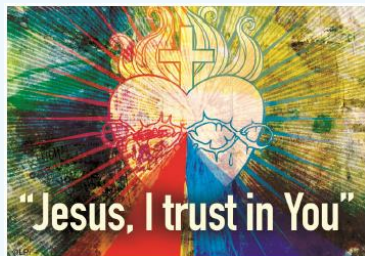




From the Desk of Father Peter

God's Mercy Endures Forever

This Sunday we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. In the opening



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prayer of today's Mass, we address God as God of Mercy, and our Scripture readings echo this theme. The Apostles acted in the name of Jesus when they showed mercy to the sick and troubled who were brought to them.

The message of Divine Mercy, as found in the writings of Saint Faustina, is a simple one:

God's love and mercy are greater than sin; we can trust Him to have mercy on us when we call out to Him; and, because we experience God's mercy in our lives, we can be merciful to others. It was through private revelations from Jesus to Saint Faustina that the Church, during the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II, declared the Sunday after Easter to be a day dedicated to the tremendous blessing of God's mercy, shown to us through Jesus. Some people would like to ignore the reality of sin in the world and believe that Jesus Christ took away all sin forever on Calvary. Indeed, we do believe that the death of Jesus made satisfaction for our sins to the Father CCC615 and by His sacrifice He pours out the graces of salvation on His Church CCC1407. However, we must remember that through God's gift of free will, we can reject the grace that Christ won for us on the Cross. Thus, we can choose to embrace a sinful way of living. It is only with God's grace and mercy that we can continue to fight against evil in the world and in our own lives.

Through Baptism, we each became a recipient of God's mercy in a special way. Sin no longer had any claim on us as we became members of the body of Christ. In the Sacraments of

Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, God continues to share His mercy and forgiveness with us. We also acknowledge our trust in God's mercy when we come together for the celebration of our Eucharistic liturgy. Think about the prayers of the penitential rite: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy. Today, think about the trust we express when we ask God for our needs in the prayers of the faithful. Today, at the Lamb of God, let us think about our plea for mercy and peace. Each day this week we can make the words of the psalmist our own, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever." Ps 118:1



*Alleluia!
God Bless,
Fr. Peter*