Second Sunday of Easter: Divine Mercy celebrated

During the Lenten season, parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford schedule special services and activities to help the faithful focus on their Lenten journey. They also have liturgies, rituals, traditions and celebrations to mark the end of Lent on Holy Thursday, commemorate the Passion and death of Jesus on Good Friday, anticipate Christ’s Resurrection at the Easter Vigil, and share the joy of Easter.

The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments decreed on May 23, 2000, that “throughout the world, the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that humankind will experience in the years to come.”

The devotion to Jesus as “the Divine Mercy” reflects the writings of St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God’s mercy. Even before her death in 1938, devotion to the Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

Pope John Paul II beatified Sister Faustina, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, in Rome on April 18, 1993, the first Sunday after Easter. She was canonized on April 30, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, as the first saint of the Jubilee year.

During his homily at the canonization, Pope John Paul II declared that the second Sunday of Easter would from then on be celebrated as Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the universal Church.

Parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Hartford are planning special devotions for Divine Mercy Sunday on May 1. Among them are the following parishes that responded to a survey:

**AVON**
- **St. Ann**, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Scripture reading and silent adoration.

**ENFIELD**
- **St. Adalbert**, 3-4 p.m., Scripture readings, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, silent adoration, Benediction.
- **St. Bernard**, 3-4 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**GUILFORD**
- **St. George**, 12:30-3:30 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following 11:30 a.m. Mass and until 3 p.m. Sung Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction.

**HARTFORD**
- **St. Augustine**, Divine Mercy Novena begins at 7 p.m. April 22 and continues to April 30. On April 30, a bilingual Holy Hour at 6 p.m. will be followed by a movie on the life of Pope John Paul II. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered after the 11:30 a.m. Spanish Mass on May 1.

**MERIDEN**
- **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**, 2-3 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, procession, Scripture reading, hymns.
- **St. Stanislaus**, 3-4 p.m. Holy Hour, exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, silent time of adoration, Scripture, hymns.

**NEW BRITAIN**
- **Sacred Heart**, 4-5 p.m. in Polish, Holy Hour, exposition, Chaplet, procession. Divine Mercy Novena begins Good Friday, April 22. April 25-29, Mass and devotions at 6:30 p.m.

**NEW HAVEN**
- **St. Mary**, 3-4 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Scripture reading, homily, rosary, Benediction.

**NEW MILFORD**
- **St. Francis Xavier**, 3-4 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition, sung Chaplet, reading from Pope John Paul II or the diary of St. Faustina, silent adoration, Benediction.

**SOUTHTON**
- **St. Thomas**, 2:30-3:30 p.m., exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, homily, meditations, sung Chaplet and veneration of relic of Saint Faustina.

**TORRINGTON**
- **The Torrington Cluster of Roman Catholic Parishes**, 2-3 p.m., exposition, recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy at St. Francis Church.

**UNIONVILLE**
- **St. Mary Star of the Sea**, 2:30-3:30 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition; Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**WALLINGFORD**
- **Most Holy Trinity, SS. Peter and Paul**, 3-4 p.m., multi-parish celebration, Exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, silent adoration, procession and Benediction of Blessed Sacrament.

**WATERBURY**
- **Shrine of St Anne**, 2-3:30 p.m., refreshments; 2:30 reconciliation and exposition of Blessed Sacrament; 3 p.m., sung Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

**WEST HAVEN**
- **St. Louis**, 3-4 p.m., eucharistic adoration, Benediction with sung Divine Mercy Chaplet, Scripture, reflections, music for worship.

**WOODBRIDGE**
- **Our Lady of the Assumption**, 3-4:30 p.m., Holy Hour with exposition, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, silent time for adoration.