

St. Anthony's Church, Northvale, NJ

St. Anthony's Connection

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church
199 Walnut Avenue
Northvale, NJ 07647
(201) 768-1177
Pastor: Rev. Jerry Hahn

Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday



St. Anthony of Padua

Dear Friends:

The glory of Easter is upon us. As Lent draws to a close, we prepare to celebrate the victory of Easter, the triumph of Christ over evil and death by his obedience in suffering death on the cross. He suffered death to conquer death. In so doing, He bestowed on us the endless abundance of God's mercy to His creatures—the greatest love story ever told.

The Bible tells us of God's love for us from Genesis to Revelations, and His desire for us to come to know Him and His mercy. Christ told us the parable of The Prodigal Son so that we could come to appreciate in our limited way the depths of the love God has for us; that in being truly sorry for our

sins and confessing them to God, He will extend boundless mercy to even the most sinful of us.

But there is another part of this love story that is not so well known. It is the story of the Sunday after Easter—Divine Mercy Sunday. It is the story of a humble, devout Polish nun and the revelations given to her by Christ in the 1930s and His urgent desire to communicate His message of mercy to the world.

Due to amazing events that transpired in her life while a member of convents in Warsaw and Plock in Poland, and Vilnius, Lithuania, Sr. Faustina Kowalska became Christ's "Messenger of Mercy"; an active participant in God's message of mercy for His children.

Tragically, she died at the young age of 33, and yet, Pope John Paul II referred to her as "...a gift of God to our time, a gift from the land of Poland to whole Church." He knew well the story of St. Faustina from his native land and worked tirelessly to bring her message of Divine Mercy to the world, a world in desperate need of God's mercy.

In so doing, Pope John Paul II fulfilled the wish of Christ, communicated through St. Faustina, that the first Sunday after Easter be set aside as a day devoted to God's mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday. Our newsletter tells how you can be a part of it.

Paul Sweeney

The **Divine Mercy Novena** starts on Good Friday, April 7th and continues through Saturday, April 14th, the day before Divine Mercy Sunday.

The prayers of the nine day Divine Mercy Novena are contained in our newsletter page 7, or just click [here](#).

The Messenger and the Message of Divine Mercy

St. Faustina Kowalska was born Helenka Kowalska in Glogowiec, Poland, August 25, 1905, just west of Lodz. Her parents were poor, and the family was large. They eked out a living from their meager farm, strapped by the conditions of life during and after World War I. She was the 3rd

of 10 children. Although she had little schooling, only three years, her spiritual life was very deep, even at a young age. She stated that she experienced her first calling to religious life at the age of seven while attending an Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and later had a profound awareness of Christ at her First



St. Faustina Kowalska



Saint Anthony of Padua

Pray the *Nine-Day Divine Mercy Novena* on Page 7. Click [here](#).

Her ordinary exterior life in the convent hid a rich, mystical interior union with God.

The **Marians of the Immaculate Conception** have a special devotion and mission to spread The Divine Mercy. You can access their home page by clicking [here](#). Their web sit contains a wealth of information about The Divine Mercy.

Divine Mercy: Messenger and Message

Holy Communion when she was 9. In 1924 at age 19, she attended a dance with her sister Natalia and said she had a powerful vision of a suffering Jesus. Overwhelmed, she rushed to a church where she began to pray and stated she was told by Jesus to leave for Warsaw immediately and join a convent. She packed a bag that night and left without the permission of her parents and not knowing a soul in Warsaw.

Her attempts at gaining entry to a convent proved futile. She was turned away again and again, even being told at one convent that they didn't accept maids. Almost penniless, it was several agonizing weeks before the Mother Superior of the Sisters of the Lady of Mercy gave her a chance as long as she could pay for her habit. She didn't know anything about the convent she was entering and joined as a lay sister, fearing that her future might consist of a lifetime of cooking, cleaning, and gardening due to her sparse education.

On April 30, 1926, she received her habit, taking the name Maria Faustina of the Blessed Sacrament. The name "Faustina" means "fortunate or blessed one" and may have been the feminine form of the name of the Christian martyr Faustinus.

Her ordinary exterior life in the convent hid a rich, mystical interior union with God. She performed her tasks zealously and observed the rule of religious life, all the while having a child-like trust in God and great mercy

for those around her.

As time went by, she began to experience extraordinary gifts, such as revelations, visions, hidden stigmata, participation in the Passion of the Lord, the gift of bilocation, the reading of human souls, the gift of prophecy, and the rare gift of mystical engagement and marriage. Her living relationship with God, the Blessed Mother, the angels, the saints, the souls in purgatory—with the entire supernatural world—was as equally real to her as was the world she perceived with her senses. But in spite of her lack of education, she indicated in her diary that these gifts do not by themselves constitute sanctity. She saw that intimate union of the soul with God is the way of perfection.

Faustina arrived in Plock in May, 1930, and in the autumn of that year, began to exhibit the first signs of what was thought to be tuberculosis. She rested for several months at a nearby farm owned by the order and returned to the convent around February, 1931.

On the night of Sunday, February, 21, 1931, while in her cell, she wrote that Jesus appeared to her as "the King of Divine Mercy" wearing a white garment, with rays of red and white emanating from near his heart, one hand raised as if in blessing. Her diary states that Jesus told her: "Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature, 'Jesus, I trust in you'. I desire that this image be venerat-

ed, first in your chapel, then throughout the world. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish." Not knowing how to paint, she approached some of the other nuns but got no help. It was not until three years later, after being assigned to Vilnius, that the image was first rendered under her direction. Her diary also recounts that on that same February night, Jesus told her He wanted the image to be "solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter; that Sunday is to be the feast of my mercy."

Shortly after her arrival in Vilnius, she met Father Michael Sopocko, the newly appointed confessor to the nuns. Faustina had prayed for a spiritual director to be her guide. During her first confession with Fr. Sopocko, Faustina revealed the weight she had been bearing and told him she had been conversing with Jesus, who had a plan for her. Fr. Sopocko continued to hear her confessions but the weight now became his, too. At





Saint Anthony of Padua

Fr. Sopocko had come to believe that there was something going on that was much bigger than human nature.

Information on the Divine Mercy can be found on the [EWTN](#) web site (Eternal Word Television Network).

Click [here](#) to go to that web page. You can also go to the EWTN home page and search for the Divine Mercy.

EWTN can also be found on most cable and satellite networks.

Divine Mercy: Messenger and Message

first, he wanted to quit. Her lengthy confessions and what he was hearing strained him to the core. He confided his plan to quit to the Mother Superior who, also aware of Faustina's claims, replied, "Well, what are we supposed to do?" Fr. Sopocko decided to have Faustina checked by a psychiatrist.

The psychiatric examination did not reveal any dysfunction and she was deemed mentally stable. Further, Fr. Sopocko discovered that she was one of the best nuns in the convent. But it was the things she told him in confession that "nobody could possibly have known—nobody". Her confessor became greatly concerned.

Even though Faustina had only three years of education, to analyze the things she was saying, Fr. Sopocko had to turn to the writing of St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Augustine and others because this simple, humble nun was shedding great light on the progress of the mystical life of the soul and was providing an unparalleled understanding into the mystery of Divine Mercy.

In the confessional, Fr. Sopocko began to realize that Faustina knew things that no one under normal circumstances could possibly have known. One Lent, Fr. Sopocko gave a talk on the radio. Faustina did not hear the talk, but the next time in confession, she told him that Jesus was very much displeased with his talk on the radio because he did not have a "pure intention". Fr.

Sopocko later wrote that she was right, that he had tried to make an impression on people on what he said and how he said it, and admitted that his intention was not pure.

On another occasion, a group of priests was having a discussion about the Holy Trinity while at the convent, but they hit a blank wall. Fr. Sopocko asked to have Sr. Faustina brought in. He posed the question to her and her response was such that all the other priests were in awe and wondered how she knew the things she knew.

But not Fr. Sopocko. He had come to believe that there was something going on that was much bigger than human nature alone. He was realizing that this nun was being touched by the Divine. In fact, it was he that found a way to have the image of the Divine Mercy painted. He found an artist, E. Kazimirowski, to paint the image. He also asked Faustina to begin recording her experiences and thoughts in a diary. She did this diligently in obedience to her confessor. By the end of her life, the diary contained some 600 pages of her writings.

When the painting of the image had been finished, and even though it was directed by Faustina, she apparently disliked the result. Her comments revealed that she did not know how it would be possible to paint an image as beautiful as the one she saw the night Jesus appeared to her.

Fr. Sopocko was undeterred. He made it his mission to carry out the requests Christ made to Faustina regarding the Divine Mercy image. He had the image displayed on the Sunday after Easter over the famous Ostra Brama gate in the city of Vilnius, and in the nearby church, he preached the message of Divine Mercy.

Meanwhile, Sr. Faustina had offered herself and her many sufferings for the souls of poor sinners in reparation for their sins against God.

And suffer she did. Her time on earth was getting short. She was being consumed by tuberculosis. And on October 5, 1938, she died in Krakow, Poland.

Following Faustina's death, and at the outbreak of World War II, Fr. Sopocko gave Divine Mercy material to Fr. Joseph Jarzebowski, MIC, a member of the Congregation of Marians of the Immaculate Conception, who was trying to escape the Nazis.





Saint Anthony of Padua

Divine Mercy: Messenger and Message

Fr. Jarzeowski doubted he would make it to the US, but Fr. Sopocko had no doubts. In firm belief he told him Fr. Jarzeowski, "When you get to the United States, spread this."

Fr. Jarzeowski eventually did make it to the US where the Marianists established a starting place from which to tell the story of the Divine Mercy to the whole world.

But Fr. Sopocko's trials did not end there. Sr. Faustina had predicted to him that he would suffer great ridicule from spreading the devotion. And this came to pass.

At one point, devotion to the Divine Mercy was banned. Fr. Sopocko's efforts to spread the message of Divine Mercy had been halted. However, he recalled that in her predictions to him before her death, she told him that, during his trials, the devotion would only *seem* to be "utterly undone". There was still cause for hope.

But sadly, Fr. Sopocko died in 1975. He did not live to see the ban lifted. It was another three years before the ban was removed, due in part to the help of the Archbishop of Krakow. It was discovered that a faulty translation of Faustina's writings led to the ban. Fr. Sopocko's zeal for the Divine Mercy was vindicated by the lifting of the ban.

In spite of the ban, efforts for the cause of canonization for Sr. Faustina had begun in Krakow in

1965. The Investigative Process continued through 1967 and in 1968 her Beatification Process was begun in Rome. Meanwhile, the young Polish cardinal who was so instrumental in resurrecting the Divine Mercy devotion, Karol Cardinal Wojtyla, was elected Pope on October 16, 1978, taking the name John Paul II. It was he who canonized St. Faustina. The Holy Father declared, "There is nothing more man needs than Divine Mercy—the love which is benevolent, which is compassionate, which raises man above his weakness to the infinite heights to the holiness of God."

Amazingly, Fr. Sopocko's story also continued after his death. A miracle attributed to the intercession of Fr. Sopocko was approved by Pope Benedict XVI on Dec. 17, 2007. The miracle has yet to be made public.

Blessed Michael Sopocko (1888-



1975) was beatified Sunday, Sept. 28, 2008 in Bialystok, Poland. This provided the world with a chance to get to know the man on the other side of the confessional, the man whom Jesus assured St. Faustina would be her "visible help ... on earth. He will help you to carry out My will on earth."

Fr. Sopocko had come to believe that there was something going on that was much bigger than human nature.

Blessed Michael Sopocko

Sr. Faustina had predicted to Fr. Sopocko that the devotion to the Divine Mercy would be suppressed for some time after her death, but would be reinstated again, but that he, Fr. Sopocko, would suffer for it. This all came to pass, but the efforts of Then Karol Cardinal Wojtyla led to a reinvestigation that ultimately reversed the ban. Fr. Sopocko died before the ban was lifted.



The image of The Divine Mercy as described by St. Faustina



Saint Anthony of Padua

Divine Mercy: Forms of Devotion

Through St. Faustina, Christ has provided us with new ways to receive His grace. Although these methods are in new forms, they are solidly linked with the timeless message of God's merciful love for His children.

These new forms include veneration of the Image of The Divine Mercy, the Feast of Mercy (Divine Mercy Sunday), the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Novena to The Divine Mercy, and the Hour of Great Mercy (prayer during the 3 o'clock hour in the afternoon).

The Feast of Mercy

The Feast of Mercy, Divine Mercy Sunday, was specifically requested by Christ to St. Faustina. He asked on numerous occasions that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy and that this feast be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. The liturgical texts of that day, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, concern the institution of the Sacrament of Penance, the Tribunal of the Divine Mercy, and are thus already suited to the request of Our Lord. As St. Faustina relates in her diary:

"On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. 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. My mercy is so

great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity."

Christ is proclaiming His desire to clothe us in His mercy. He instructs us to go to confession and then receive communion on Divine Mercy Sunday. The gift of His mercy is almost unfathomable. She continues in her diary, *"One thing alone is necessary: that the sinner set ajar the door of his heart, be it ever so little, to let in the ray of God's merciful grace, and then God will do the rest."*

On Good Friday, 1937, Jesus requested that St. Faustina make a special novena before the Feast of Mercy, from Good Friday through the following Saturday. He, Himself, dictated the intentions for each day. By means of a specific prayer she was to bring to His Heart a different group of souls each day and thus immerse them in the ocean of His mercy, begging the Father—on the strength of Jesus' Passion—for graces for them. The novena does not include personal intentions, but the Lord's own. The prayers of the novena begin



on the following page.

The Hour of Great Mercy

In His revelations to St. Faustina, Our Lord asked for a special prayer and meditation on His Passion each afternoon at the three o'clock hour, the hour that recalls His death on the cross. As she related from her writings, the Lord said: "At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy... In this hour, I will

These new forms of devotion are linked to the timeless message of God's merciful love for His children.



Blessed Michael Sopocko, confessor to St. Faustina



Saint Anthony of Padua

Divine Mercy: Messenger and Message

refuse nothing to the sinner that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion.” Our Lord added that we should try our best to make the Stations of the Cross in that hour, provided that our duties permit it. He said that if we cannot do this, we should try to step into the chapel for a moment and adore the Blessed Sacrament. And if even this is not possible, we should immerse ourselves in prayer where we happen to be, if only for a brief instant.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

In 1935, St. Faustina received a vision of an angel sent by God to chastise a certain city. She began to pray for mercy, but her prayers were powerless. Suddenly, she saw the Holy Trinity and felt the power of Jesus’ grace within her. At the same time, she found herself pleading with God for mercy with the words she hear within herself:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world; for the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

As she continued this prayer, the angel became helpless and could not carry out the deserved punishment.

The next day, she again heard this inner voice instructing her how to recite the prayer that Our Lord later called “the Chaplet”. From then on, she recited the prayer almost continuously, especially for the dying. In subsequent revelations, the Lord attached extraordinary promises to the recitation of the Chaplet:

“Encourage souls to say the Chaplet which I have given to

you... Whoever shall recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death... When they say this Chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as the just Judge, but as the Merciful Savior. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this Chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy... Through this Chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will.”

How to Recite the Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Using the beads of the rosary, say the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Apostles’ Creed.

On the large bead before each decade, recite:

“Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.”

On each of 10 small beads in the decade, recite:



“For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

After finishing the five decades, recite the following prayer three times:

“Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is simple, quick and powerful, and Our Lord asked for it.

St. Faustina, during her vision, found herself pleading to God for mercy for sinners.



Painted images of St. Faustina and Blessed Michael Sopocho

The Novena to The Divine Mercy

Beginning on Good Friday and continuing for 9 days through the following Saturday, Our Lord asked for the following novena to be said with the intentions that He requested. The intentions of Our Lord for that day precede each prayer of the novena.

First Day

"Today, bring to Me all mankind, especially all sinners, and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. In this way, you will console Me in the bitter grief into which the loss of souls plunges Me."

Most Merciful Jesus, whose very nature it is to have compassion on us and to forgive us, do not look upon our sins but upon our trust which we place in Your infinite goodness. Receive us all into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart, and never let us escape from It. We beg this of You by Your love which unites You to the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon all mankind and especially upon poor sinners, all enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion show us Your mercy, that we may praise the omnipotence of Your mercy for ever and ever. Amen.

Second Day

"Today, bring to Me the souls of priests and religious, and immerse them in My unfathomable mercy. It was they who gave Me strength to endure My bitter Passion. Through them as through channels My mercy flows out upon mankind."

Most Merciful Jesus, from whom comes all that is good, increase Your grace in men and women consecrated to Your service, that they may perform worthy works of mercy; and that all who see them may glorify the Father of Mercy who is in heaven.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the company of chosen ones in Your vineyard -- upon the souls of priests and religious; and endow them with the strength of Your blessing. For the love of the Heart of Your Son in which they are enfolded, impart to them Your power and light, that they may be able to guide others in the way of salvation and with one voice sing praise to Your boundless mercy for ages without end. Amen.

Third Day

"Today, bring to Me all devout and faithful souls, and immerse them in the ocean of my mercy. These souls brought Me consolation on the Way of the Cross. They were that drop of consolation in the midst of an ocean of bitterness."

Most Merciful Jesus, from the treasury of Your mercy, You impart Your graces in great abundance to each and all. Receive us into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart and never let us escape from It. We beg this grace of You by that most wondrous love for the heavenly Father with which Your Heart burns so fiercely.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon faithful souls, as upon the inheritance of Your Son. For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, grant them Your blessing and surround them with Your constant protection. Thus may they never fail in love or lose the

treasure of the holy faith, but rather, with all the hosts of Angels and Saints, may they glorify Your boundless mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Fourth Day

"Today, bring to Me those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know me. I was thinking of them during My bitter Passion, and their future zeal comforted My Heart. Immerse them in the ocean of My mercy."

Most compassionate Jesus, You are the Light of the whole world. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who do not believe in God and of those who as yet do not know You. Let the rays of Your grace enlighten them that they, too, together with us, may extol Your wonderful mercy; and do not let them escape from the abode which is Your Most Compassionate Heart.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who do not believe in You, and of those who as yet do not know You, but who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Draw them to the light of the Gospel. These souls do not know what great happiness it is to love You. Grant that they, too, may extol the generosity of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Fifth Day

"Today, bring to Me the souls of those who have separated themselves from My Church and immerse them in the ocean of My mercy. During My bitter Passion, they tore at My Body and Heart, that is, My Church. As they return to unity with the Church My wounds heal and in this way, they alleviate My Passion."

Most Merciful Jesus, Goodness Itself, You do not refuse light to those who seek it of You. Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Church. Draw them by Your light into the unity of the Church, and do not let them escape from the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart; but bring it about that they, too, come to glorify the generosity of Your mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls of those who have separated themselves from Your Son's Church, who have squandered Your blessings and misused Your graces by obstinately persisting in their errors. Do not look upon their errors, but upon the love of Your own Son and upon His bitter Passion, which He underwent for their sake, since they, too, are enclosed in His Most Compassionate Heart. Bring it about that they also may glorify Your great mercy for endless ages. Amen.

The Novena to The Divine Mercy

Beginning on Good Friday and continuing for 9 days through the following Saturday, Our Lord asked for the following novena to be said with the intentions that He requested. The intentions of Our Lord for that day precede each prayer of the novena.

Sixth Day

"Today bring to Me the Meek and Humble Souls and the Souls of Little Children, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls most closely resemble My Heart. They strengthened Me during My bitter agony. I saw them as earthly Angels, who will keep vigil at My altars. I pour out upon them whole torrents of grace. I favor humble souls with My confidence."

Most Merciful Jesus, You yourself have said, "Learn from Me for I am meek and humble of heart." Receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart all meek and humble souls and the souls of little children. These souls send all heaven into ecstasy and they are the heavenly Father's favorites. They are a sweet-smelling bouquet before the throne of God; God Himself takes delight in their fragrance. These souls have a permanent abode in Your Most Compassionate Heart, O Jesus, and they unceasingly sing out a hymn of love and mercy.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon meek souls, upon humble souls, and upon little children who are enfolded in the abode which is the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls bear the closest resemblance to Your Son. Their fragrance rises from the earth and reaches Your very throne. Father of mercy and of all goodness, I beg You by the love You bear these souls and by the delight You take in them: Bless the whole world, that all souls together may sing out the praises of Your mercy for endless ages. Amen.

Seventh Day

"Today bring to Me the Souls who especially venerate and glorify My Mercy, and immerse them in My mercy. These souls sorrowed most over my Passion and entered most deeply into My spirit. They are living images of My Compassionate Heart. These souls will shine with a special brightness in the next life. Not one of them will go into the fire of hell. I shall particularly defend each one of them at the hour of death."

Most Merciful Jesus, whose Heart is Love Itself, receive into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls of those who particularly extol and venerate the greatness of Your mercy. These souls are mighty with the very power of God Himself. In the midst of all afflictions and adversities they go forward, confident of Your mercy; and united to You, O Jesus, they carry all mankind on their shoulders. These souls will not be judged severely, but Your mercy will embrace them as they depart from this life.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls who glorify and venerate Your greatest attribute, that of Your fathomless mercy, and who are enclosed in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. These souls are a living Gospel; their hands are full of deeds of mercy, and their hearts, overflowing with joy, sing a canticle of mercy to You, O Most High! I beg You O God:

Show them Your mercy according to the hope and trust they have placed in You. Let there be accomplished in them the promise of Jesus, who said to them that during their life, but especially at the hour of death, the souls who will venerate this fathomless mercy of His, He, Himself, will defend as His glory. Amen.

Eighth Day

"Today bring to Me the Souls who are in the prison of Purgatory, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. Let the torrents of My Blood cool down their scorching flames. All these souls are greatly loved by Me. They are making retribution to My justice. It is in your power to bring them relief. Draw all the indulgences from the treasury of My Church and offer them on their behalf. Oh, if you only knew the torments they suffer, you would continually offer for them the alms of the spirit and pay off their debt to My justice."

Most Merciful Jesus, You Yourself have said that You desire mercy; so I bring into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart the souls in Purgatory, souls who are very dear to You, and yet, who must make retribution to Your justice. May the streams of Blood and Water which gushed forth from Your Heart put out the flames of Purgatory, that there, too, the power of Your mercy may be celebrated.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon the souls suffering in Purgatory, who are enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. I beg You, by the sorrowful Passion of Jesus Your Son, and by all the bitterness with which His most sacred Soul was flooded: Manifest Your mercy to the souls who are under Your just scrutiny. Look upon them in no other way but only through the Wounds of Jesus, Your dearly beloved Son; for we firmly believe that there is no limit to Your goodness and compassion. Amen.

Ninth Day

"Today bring to Me the Souls who have become Lukewarm, and immerse them in the abyss of My mercy. These souls wound My Heart most painfully. My soul suffered the most dreadful loathing in the Garden of Olives because of lukewarm souls. They were the reason I cried out: 'Father, take this cup away from Me, if it be Your will.' For them, the last hope of salvation is to run to My mercy."

Most compassionate Jesus, You are Compassion Itself. I bring lukewarm souls into the abode of Your Most Compassionate Heart. In this fire of Your pure love, let these tepid souls who, like corpses, filled You with such deep loathing, be once again set aflame. O Most Compassionate Jesus, exercise the omnipotence of Your mercy and draw them into the very ardor of Your love, and bestow upon them the gift of holy love, for nothing is beyond Your power.

Eternal Father, turn Your merciful gaze upon lukewarm souls who are nonetheless enfolded in the Most Compassionate Heart of Jesus. Father of Mercy, I beg You by the bitter Passion of Your Son and by His three-hour agony on the Cross: Let them, too, glorify the abyss of Your mercy. Amen.



Saint Anthony of Padua



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Celebration of the Eucharist:

Saturday Evenings: 5:30 PM
Sundays: 8:00, 10:00 AM & 12 Noon
Weekdays: Mon., Weds., Fri.: 8:00 AM
Tues., Thurs.: 5:30 PM
Holy Days: As Announced

Reconciliation:

Saturday: 11:00 AM or by appointment

Rosary:

Wednesday: 7:00 PM
Our Lady's Rosary is recited every Wednesday at 7 PM in the Church. On the first Wednesday of every month, Exposition and Veneration of the Blessed Sacrament complement the Rosary.

Holy Week Schedule:

The following schedule is for the masses and services from Holy Thursday through Easter Sunday.

- * **4/5 — Holy Thursday:** Mass at 7:30 PM to commemorate the Last Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.
- * **4/6 — Good Friday:** Stations of The Cross at 3 PM. Good Friday service with Holy Communion at 7:30 PM.
- * **4/7 — Holy Saturday:** Confessions at 11 AM. Easter Vigil mass at 7:30 PM.
- * **4/8 — Easter Sunday:** Masses at 8 AM, 10 AM, and 12 Noon.

Have a blessed and holy Easter! We hope to see you there!

Archbishop's Annual Appeal

If you have not done so already, please return your pledge directly to St. Anthony's. Thanks to those who have already given!