

*From the  
Pastor's  
Desk*



April 12, 2026

Dear People of God,

As we pause to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, I am taking a moment to comment on Pope Leo XIV's strident insistence that, for the Catholic Church, there is never a "just" war. Given the current involvement of the United States in a war and the relatively common reality of wars on just about every continent, some relatively strong opposition has surfaced to the pope's words. This inspires a look at what the Catechism of the Catholic Church has to say:

The fifth commandment forbids the intentional destruction of human life. Because of the **evils and injustices that accompany all war**, the Church insistently urges everyone to prayer and to action so that the divine Goodness may free us from the ancient bondage of war. All citizens and all governments are obliged to work for the avoidance of war. (CCC 2307-2308). Pope Francis wrote: "Wars are always unjust, since it is the people of God who pay. Our hearts cannot but weep before the children and women killed, along with all the victims of war."

Consider what the Gospels say on this subject. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus provides us with God's interpretation of the Ten Commandments, read Matthew 5:21-25. His condemnation of a literal interpretation of the Fifth Commandment ("You shall not kill") could not be stronger.

Pope Leo makes a strong connection to the line above "**the evils and injustices that accompany all war.**" If we watch the coverage of modern war, we can see that evil in the ruins of entire cities, the near starvation of innocent people who lose their property, their jobs and just about everything. We can see it in the return of flag-draped bodies at Dover Air Base. We can see it or perhaps imagine the huge profits made by those who provide the weapons used in modern warfare, companies whose identity is hidden behind government contracts that give the illusion that the government makes all of that. We can see it in the reprisals and "getting even" which occur. We can see it in the astronomical economic instability created by war and the ultimate necessity to repair the damage. Thousands of miles from "the front," all of us can see it at the gas pump, grocery store and every store in between. None of that can ever be called just; that's what Leo is talking about.

No war is without great cost to the innocent and that is truly unjust.

Msgr. Chris

# **PLAY BALL!**

Join us for our annual  
Mud Hens game!

**Historic St. Patrick Night at  
5th Third Field  
Thursday May 28th**

**Dinner @ 5:00 The Rectory**

**Game Time 6:35**

**Game tickets = \$12**

**Game ticket + Dinner @ the rectory = \$15**

**B.Y.O.B. = Beverage!**

# The Image of Divine Mercy

The Image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, is to be venerated\* on Divine Mercy Sunday. It is to be given a place of honor in our churches and homes on this Sunday. Our Lord appeared to St. Faustina and then directed her to have this appearance of Himself as the Merciful Savior painted and then venerated publicly. He told her, I want the Image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 341).

In the Image, the pale and red rays symbolize the Blood and Water that flowed from His side while He was on the Cross. But, in His appearance to St. Faustina, they had been transformed into glorious rays, a source of healing graces for sinners who will turn to Him with trust. That is why the Image bears the inscription: "Jesus, I trust in You!"

We can venerate the Image of Jesus, the Divine Mercy, by gazing upon it in prayer and adoration. As signs of our love for Jesus, we can place candles and flowers before the Image. First and foremost, as we gaze upon our Merciful Savior in prayer, we can decide to trust in Him and to perform works of mercy — responding to the call to be merciful as He has shown mercy to us.

**\* To "venerate" a sacred image simply means to perform some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect toward it because of the person whom it represents.**

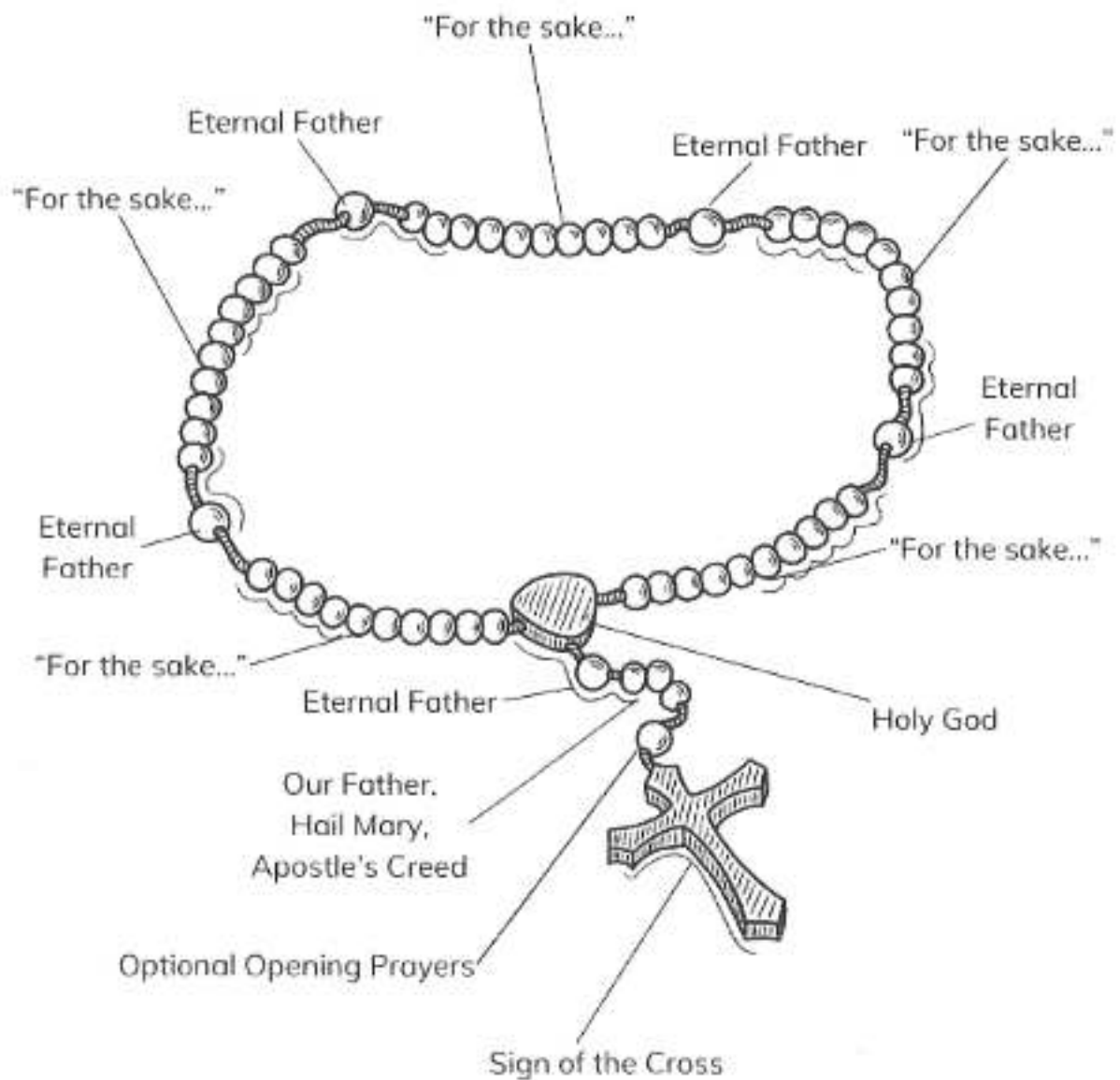


Jesus, I Trust in You

Read more about Divine Mercy at [TheDivineMercy.org](http://TheDivineMercy.org)

# HOW TO PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Below is a step-by-step guide to praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet, as well as a diagram of how to pray it using a rosary.



## OPENING PRAYERS

As with any prayer, begin with the [sign of the cross](#), and then pray the following opening prayers.

### 1. OPTIONAL OPENING PRAYERS

These two prayers are from St. Faustina's diary and are often said at the beginning of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. However, you may leave them out if you wish.

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You! *(Repeat three times)*

### 2. OUR FATHER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

### 3. HAIL MARY

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

### 4. APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

## DECADES

For each of the five decades of the Divine Mercy Chaplet, pray one Eternal Father prayer and ten "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion..."

### 1. ETERNAL FATHER

V. Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ,  
R. in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

### 2. "FOR THE SAKE..."

Repeat 10 times:

V. For the sake of his sorrowful Passion,  
R. have mercy on us and on the whole world.

## CLOSING PRAYERS

### 1. HOLY GOD

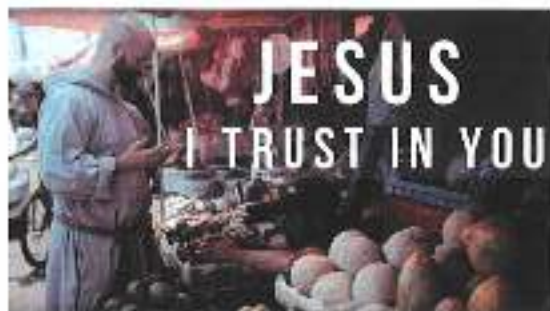
Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.  
*(Repeat 3 times)*

### 2. OPTIONAL CLOSING PRAYER

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself. Amen.

# This Week on Formed

Week of April 12, 2026



## **Divine Mercy Chaplet | Franciscan Friars of the Renewal**

Consider praying the Chaplet of Divine Mercy in a new way with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. This video on Formed includes breathtaking footage of Catholics across the world performing works of mercy and asking God to have mercy on us.



## **Pope John Paul II**

Starring Jon Voight and Cary Elwes, this epic film follows Karol Wojtyla's journey from his youth in Poland through his late days on the Chair of St. Peter.



## **Divine Mercy with Fr. Michael Gaitley**

Renowned speaker and author Fr. Michael Gaitley tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy as interwoven through the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.

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