

Second Sunday of Easter: The Divine Mercy Sunday. The Second Sunday of Easter was given the title of “Divine Mercy Sunday in the year 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II when he canonized St. Faustina Kowalska. This year Divine Mercy Sunday is observed this Sunday, April 7, 2024. The readings of the Second Sunday of Easter focus on God’s mercy. Many Catholics observe Divine Mercy Sunday by praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy, praying before Divine Mercy image, and completing a Divine Mercy novena, devotions based on St. Faustina’s private visions. **St. Cecilia Church, Wisconsin Dells** will host a Divine Mercy Sunday event. The schedule is as follows: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 2:30 pm (Confessions), and Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3:00 pm, followed by Benediction at 3:30 pm. *(There is no Mass planned at this event so be sure to fulfill your Sunday obligation if you are planning on attending).*

Appreciation: I would like to thank everyone who helped us to make this year’s Lent, Holy Week, Triduum, and Easter a wonderful spiritual event. First, we are most thankful to all our parish staff who worked tirelessly to help plan the various ceremonies. We owe them our depth of gratitude. Special thanks to everyone who helped in different roles, Cantors, Lectors, Ushers, and Servers. Our thanks to many others worked at different times to take care of the sacred linens and mass items. We are grateful to all who donated towards the Easter flowers. Special thanks to all who helped with Easter decorations. We are thankful for all that you do to make our pastorate a Christ-centered, loving, and welcoming Catholic community. Finally, I thank Fr. John, Fr. Garrett, and Fr. Luke for all their fraternal collaboration with me as Parochial Administrator of this great pastorate. I am appreciative of the different services they led during the Triduum. Thank you all for your kindness to St. John Paul II Pastorate.

Queen of Heaven!

Regina Caeli: This is one of four Marian antiphons, with following versicles and prayers, traditionally said or sung after night prayer, immediately before going to sleep. It is said throughout Eastertide. (That is, from Easter Day through Pentecost, the seventh Sunday after Easter). The *Regina Caeli* is also said in place of the Angelus during Eastertide.

Queen of Heaven

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray. O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a Blessed Easter!

Fr. Paul