

**Mark your door post with the image of the Divine Mercy: Here is how:**

- ~Use this blessed image or a Large laminated image (found in the North Entrance of Church)
- ~Dedicate your family to the protection of the Divine Mercy (Jesus I trust in You)
- ~Display the image on your doorpost or front window of your home.
- ~Remember to dedicate your family to Jesus of Divine Mercy each day at 3pm (set a phone alarm)

Why is this Image so important?

The Image represents the Lord, the Lamb sacrificed for us, from whose Heart flows Blood and Water, the streams of God's mercy upon the whole world. The Lord promises us through St. Faustina "that the soul that will venerate [honor] this image will not perish" (*Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, 48).

The Lord said, "By means of this Image I shall be granting many graces to souls; so, let every soul have access to it" (*Diary*, 570).

Saint Faustina's confessor, Blessed Michael Sopocko, recalled additional promises our Lord made through St. Faustina regarding the Image:

When chastisements for sins come upon the world and your own country will experience utter degradation, the only refuge will be trust in My mercy. I will protect the cities and homes in which The Divine Mercy Image is found; I will protect the persons who will venerate [honor] this Image. The only refuge will be trust in My Mercy.

Father Sopocko recalled that Jesus also said:

Let everyone procure for their homes this Image because there will yet come trials. And those homes, and entire families, and everyone individually who will hold this image of mercy in deep reverence, I will preserve from every sort of misfortune. The time will come when all those who do so will give witness to the miraculous efficacy and to the special protection of mercy flowing from this Image.

What does this mean for us today?

Recently, as the repercussions of the coronavirus became crystal clear, we prayed at Mass, "Let us seal the doorposts of our inner thoughts with the protective Word of God ..." This is a reference to Exodus 12, where God commanded the Israelites to "seal the doorposts" with the blood of the lamb so that the angel of death may pass over those houses that have been marked.

Jesus is the sacrificial Lamb of God. By offering Himself as atonement for our sins and those of the whole world, by the outpouring of His Blood and Water, He freed us from eternal death and sealed us for eternal life.

So please, I urge you to put the Image of the Divine Mercy with the inscription "Jesus, I trust in You" upon your doors, as many have done in times of calamity. Remember, it is Jesus whom we worship in this Image.

**Also, while this act of faith may not guarantee your family won't be physically affected by the virus, it will guarantee that, by your trust in Jesus, you will obtain His promises of love and mercy, which will surround you and remain in you forever.**

Above info from : [Seal The Doorposts! | The Divine Mercy](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/seal-doorposts) www.thedivinemercy.org/articles/seal-doorposts

What is the story of St. Faustina and the image of the Divine Mercy?



*Saint Maria  
Faustina*

In 1931, our Lord appeared to St. Faustina in a vision. She saw Jesus clothed in a white garment with His right hand raised in blessing. His left hand was touching His garment in the area of the Heart, from where two large rays came forth, one red and the other pale. She gazed intently at the Lord in silence, her soul filled with awe, but also with great joy. Jesus said to her:

**Paint an image according to the pattern you see, with the signature:**

**Jesus, I trust in You. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish. I also promise victory over [its] enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory (*Diary*, 47, 48). I am offering people a vessel with which they are to keep coming for graces to the fountain of mercy. That vessel is this image with the signature: Jesus, I trust in You (327). I desire that this image be venerated, first in your chapel, and [then] throughout the world (47).**

At the request of her spiritual director, St. Faustina asked the Lord about the meaning of the rays in the image. She heard these words in reply:

**The two rays denote Blood and Water. The pale ray stands for the Water which makes souls righteous. The red ray stands for the Blood which is the life of souls. These two rays issued forth from the depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. Happy is the one who will dwell in their shelter, for the just hand of God shall not lay hold of him (299). By means of this image I shall grant many graces to souls. It is to be a reminder of the demands of My mercy, because even the strongest faith is of no avail without works (742).**

These words indicate that the Image represents the graces of Divine Mercy poured out upon the world, especially through Baptism and the Eucharist.

<https://www.thedivinemercy.org>

# Christ's Descent into Hell is the Strangest Truth of All

All the dungeons of death have been thrown open by the Lord of Life.

By Regis Martin (from: <https://www.ncregister.com/blog/regismartin/christs-descent-into-hell-is-the-strangest-truth-of-all>)

What is the bottom line of Christian faith? Is there an essential element, the expression of which says everything? And if so, is it reasonable to expect people living today to believe it?

These were questions that a young German professor by the name of Josef Ratzinger wrestled with in the summer of 1967, laying them before his students in a series of lectures, which later became a famous book called *Introduction To Christianity*. A book so captivating that on the strength of its argument Pope Paul VI practically made him a bishop on the spot, thereupon setting in motion a series of elevations that would eventuate in *his* becoming pope — Benedict XVI.

While I cannot speak for others concerning the impact the book had on their lives, it certainly produced a great sea change in my own, turning my head in a definite theological direction, one from which I have never looked back. What particularly moved me about the book was the section in which he undertook to explain what is surely the strangest article of the Church's faith, namely, the Descent of Christ into Hell. Of the 12 articles in the creed, there is none so dark nor so deep. The fact that it is situated square in the center of the Creed, moreover, suggests that it is perhaps the most pivotal. His description of it so galvanized the attention that, once read, one could never get over it. Certainly I have not stopped wondering, or writing about it, since.

*The Mystery of Holy Saturday*, the day on which God is dead, is an event which captures, says Ratzinger, "the unparalleled experience of our age... that God is simply absent, that the grave hides him, that he no longer awakens, no longer speaks... the descent of God into muteness, into the dark silence of the absent."

How perfectly that describes this present moment, amid the silence of shuttered churches, the absence of liturgy everywhere in the public life. We witness, therefore, during these days especially, the most profound kinship between ourselves and God. Are we not enshrouded together within the silence and the loneliness of what feels to be one long Holy Saturday? Never forgetting, of course, that silence too is salvific, that God is not only, as Ratzinger puts it, "the comprehensible word that comes to us, but also the silent, inaccessible, uncomprehended and incomprehensible ground that eludes us." That there is a necessary and saving truth precisely embedded in his concealment. After all, did God not hide himself, first, in the humanity of Jesus, then in the yet greater concealment of the Eucharist? In fact, says Ratzinger, "it is only when we have experienced him as silence that we may hope to hear his speech, which proceeds out of the silence."

And to what event is that silence most dramatically joined but in the death rattle that follows upon the terrible cry of abandonment: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Here Christ our brother cries out, not for himself, but for the Father whose presence is now perceived as sheer everlasting absence. "After this," asks Ratzinger, "do we still need to ask what prayer in our hour of darkness must be? Can it be anything else but the cry from the depths in company with the Lord who 'has descended into hell' and who has established the nearness of God in the midst of abandonment by God?"

If there be a night into whose darkness no reassuring voice can reach, a door through which we are forced to go alone, then it is not the world Christ came to redeem. What the Mystery of Holy Saturday reveals is the fact that, to quote Ratzinger, "Christ (himself) strode through the gate of our final loneliness, that in his passion he went down into the abyss of our abandonment. Where no voice can reach us any longer, there he is. Hell is thereby overcome ... because there is life in the midst of death, because love dwells in it."

All the dungeons of death, including those brought on by both the fear and the fact of this global pandemic, have been thrown open by the Lord of Life, whose love is so powerful as to vanquish even Hell.

April 11, 2021

Dear Parishioner and Friend of St. Mary's,

It's that time of year when we usually begin selling *CALENDAR RAFFLE* tickets. This particular fundraiser generates approx. \$20,000.00 for St. Mary's Church and School.

We are so grateful to everyone who supported this fundraiser in the past and we appreciate you considering your first purchase of a ticket as well! We are also very grateful to our dedicated volunteers who have sold tickets over the years.

Each calendar is sold for \$25.00 with the following prizes:

- Daily prize for 302 days: \$25.00
- First day (July 1) and the last day (June 30): \$200.00 each
- Christmas: \$150.00
- Each Sunday: \$50.00
- Last day of each month: \$100.00.
- 12 bonus prizes on special days: \$25.00 (in addition to the regular daily prize)

Every ticket stub drawn is put back in the raffle drum to allow you to win more than once. The total prize money for our Calendar Raffle is \$12,000.00. A limited amount of 1,500 tickets are available to sell.

We encourage you to support this fundraiser by using the form below and returning it with payment before June 26, so it reaches us before the raffle drawing on July 1.

Thank you!

The Calendar Raffle Committee: Chris Heiderscheidt, Pat Hoffmann, Jim Fischer, Mike Helget, Matt Grausam

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Gambling board requires the entry must be 18 years or older.)

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Calendar(s):** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_ **Provide names/addresses for extras if differ.**

Patrons: If you are using this form instead of contacting your usual seller, please provide their name here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Check payable to St. Mary's Church OR with Credit Card:**

Name of cardholder: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVV code \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this to St. Mary's Parish, 636 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N, Sleepy Eye MN 56085*

**Thank you!**