

## OCIA ENTRY INTO PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

*As we enter this period of purification and enlightenment during Lent or another season, prepare for the sacraments of initiation (baptism, confirmation) and eucharist, with penitence in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Use these prayers now and throughout your preparation.*

### Divine Mercy Chaplet

The message of The Divine Mercy is simple. It is that God loves us—all of us. And, he wants us to recognize that his mercy is greater than our sins, so that we will call upon him with trust, receive his mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Thus, all will come to share his joy.

The Divine Mercy message is one we can call to mind simply by remembering ABC:

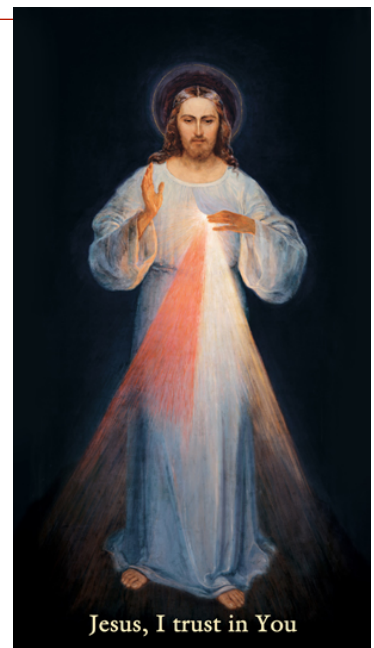
**A**—Ask for his mercy. God wants us to approach him in prayer constantly, repenting of our sins and asking him to pour his mercy out upon us and upon the whole world.

**B**—Be merciful. God wants us to receive his mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as he does to us.

**C**—Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of his mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive.

This message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of Saint Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread.

(<https://www.thedivinemercy.org/>)



### Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet

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.

(Repeat 3 times) O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in you!

#### 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.

### ***Hail Mary***

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among 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.

### ***The 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;  
on 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 will 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.

### ***For each of the five decades***

(On each "Our Father" bead of the rosary, pray)

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 the 10 "Hail Mary" beads, pray)

For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

### ***Concluding prayer (Repeat 3 times)***

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

### ***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.

**Lectio divina—John 4.5-42**

"Listen with the ear of your heart." —Rule of St. Benedict

The following guide is adapted for prayer as a group. When praying individually, read the passage each time yourself and share your thoughts with God.

Make yourself comfortable as you settle in for a time of quiet prayer. Breathe deeply to settle your body and your mind, becoming aware that you are in God's presence.

**Lectio (read)**

Listen to the first person read the passage aloud. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection on the passage. What word or phrase speaks to your heart? When the group is invited to share, speak that word or phrase aloud.

---

---

---

---

---

**Meditatio (reflect)**

Listen to the second person read the passage aloud, keeping in mind the word or phrase that first spoke to you. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection on what God may be saying to you through this word or phrase. When the group is invited to speak, share what this word or phrase means to you.

---

---

---

---

---

**Oratio (respond)**

Listen to the third person read the passage aloud. Spend a few moments in quiet reflection on how God may be calling you to act through the word or phrase that spoke to you. When the group is invited to speak, share how you feel God may be calling you to respond.

---

---

---

---

---

**Contemplatio (rest)**

Closing prayer of thanksgiving for our encounter with God's word.

## Bidding Prayers

---

As we continue our journey of purification and enlightenment, let us remember all those in need. Please feel free to remember your specific requests aloud, or to bring them to the Lord in silent prayer.

We pray for all our sisters and brothers around the world. Through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, may God renew our resolve to work with them to end poverty and injustice...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our leaders, for Pope Francis, Bishop \_\_\_\_\_, Father \_\_\_\_\_, and all those who guide us in our worship and service to Christ, his Church, and the world...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church: That she may be a sign of God's love for all people, a beacon of hope for all who are in need, and that together we may be inspired to transform the world out of love for God and one another...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for our parish community: That we may be moved by God's love to reach out to others, especially to those who are poor, so that no one may feel abandoned, forgotten or alone...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the downhearted and discouraged who rely on our kindness and encouragement...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit...

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all the catechumens who will be baptized, and for all candidates who will be received into the Catholic Church.

Lord, in your mercy...**hear our prayer.**

Lord our God, you protect those who put their trust in you, and you guide those who seek to live in faith and realize your justice and mercy in their lives and their work in the world. Hear these prayers we make in faith, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### A prayer for fasting

---

Praying together:

**God our Father, in your great mercy help us to:**

**Give up harsh words and use generous ones.**

**Give up unhappiness and take up gratitude.**

**Give up anger and take up gentleness and patience.**

**Give up pessimism and take up hope and optimism.**

**Give up worrying and take up trust in God.**

**Give up complaining and value what you have.**

**Give up stress and take up prayer.**

**Give up judging others and discover Jesus within them.**

**Give up sorrow and bitterness and fill our heart with joy.**

**Give up selfishness and take up compassion for others.**

**Give up being unforgiving and learn reconciliation.**

**Give up words and fill ourselves with silence, listening to others.**

**This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,**

**Amen.**