

FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

EASTER – LIVING THE SEASON FULLY

**GOAL(S): MAKING A LIVING-THE-EASTER-SEASON FAMILY PLAN
LEARNING ABOUT THE DIVINE MERCY**

FAMILY AT-HOME MISSION ACTIVITY

Your Family At-Home Mission is to review the resources below, make your *Living-the-Easter-Season Family Plan*, create your *Resurrection Set* for your home altar/prayer space, and watch the videos to learn about Divine Mercy!

MATERIALS

Divine Mercy Chaplet Pamphlet
Resurrection Set printed on stock paper
Crayons, watercolors or markers,
tape or glue & scissors
Cardboard toilet paper or paper towel rolls (optional)
Ingredients for Divine Mercy pancakes: pancakes,
strawberries, blueberries, whipped cream

[Families Forming Disciples Family Survey](#)

Step 1: As a family, make a *Resurrection Set* for your home altar/prayer space. Use the printed *Resurrection Set* provided by your parish to color/paint, cut out, and paste together the Easter Characters. (*Use the stand provided or use the cardboard rolls to help the paper figures stand.*) Remove your Lenten stones and replace them with your Resurrection Set on your home altar.

For more instructions and ideas go to www.catholicsprouts.com

Step 2: Use the links below to review ideas on how to celebrate the fifty days of Easter and discover ways for your family to celebrate the Easter season together. Then make your *Living-the-Easter-Season Family Plan*. Be ready to share your plan at Week 3's gathering.

- [50 Ways to Celebrate the 50 Days of Easter With Your Children](#) by Catholic Mom, Holy Cross Family Ministries
- [Easter is not just one day it's 50!](#) Adapted from a resource from a church in the UK.



Step 3: Watch: *Divine Mercy Chaplet for Kids*
(For younger children)



Or

Watch: *The Mercy Days*
(& how to make Divine Mercy pancakes!)
by LIHM Sisters (For younger children)



Or

Watch: *St. Faustina: Prophet of Mercy*
by Knights of Columbus
(For tweens & teens)



- Review Divine Mercy Chaplet Pamphlet
- Review [Divine Mercy Sunday Cheat Sheet](#) by Catholic Icing
(Great for Parents!)

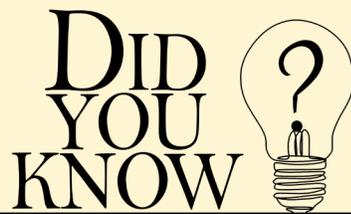
The best way to truly celebrate this devotion with your kids is to understand it yourself, so let's take a quick look at the overview of Divine Mercy Sunday.

- The image of Jesus has a red ray and a blue ray coming out of his heart. One symbolizes water, and one symbolizes blood.
- St. Faustina is the one that had the apparition of Divine Mercy Jesus, which is why she is depicted holding the image.
- St. Pope John Paul II is the pope who canonized St. Faustina and instituted Divine Mercy Sunday. So he is also associated with the day.
- When Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, he came with the message “Jesus, I Trust in You”
- St. Faustina kept a diary where she wrote a lot about Divine Mercy, and it is often referred to in reference to the image.
- The “Divine Mercy Chaplet” is a prayer that can be prayed using a rosary, but is much shorter. You can find [directions for praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet here](#).
- It is traditional to pray a Divine Mercy novena starting on Good Friday and ending on Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Many families like to attend confession the week of Divine Mercy Sunday.

Step 5: Gather around your prayer altar/space as a family. Take a moment to be silent and bring yourselves into God's presence.

Pray: Jesus, you have overcome death and conquered every fear we could imagine. Help us to live each day remembering that You are alive, that You are bigger than anything or any situation, and that Your power and mercy are real. Jesus, You are the Resurrection and the Life. You rose from the dead. Your heart is filled with mercy for us. You are our family's champion, and we are walking with You. Amen.

Step 6: Complete the [Families Forming Disciples Family Survey!](#)



The Second Sunday of Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. It is an important Feast and comes at the end of the Easter Octave. It was instituted by Pope St. John Paul II.

The Feast of the Ascension, when Jesus ascended to Heaven to return to the Father, comes forty (40) days after Easter Sunday. In the U.S., the celebration of the Ascension is often transferred to the Sunday before Pentecost Sunday, the fiftieth (50th) and last day of the Easter season.

How will you celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and Pentecost as a family?