

# family MATTERS

## THE MONTH OF APRIL

The month of April is dedicated both to devotion to the Eucharist and devotion to the Holy Spirit. This tradition has developed because Easter Sunday often falls in April, and when it does fall in March, the Easter season continues on through all of April. In essence, April is a month of Easter, and during the Easter celebration we remember the Eucharistic sacrifice Christ gave us and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which would come after Jesus's resurrection.

As we move through this beautiful Easter Season, we celebrate

### *Divine Mercy Sunday*

The Divine Mercy devotion originated with a Polish nun, St. Faustina Kowalski, who had visits from Christ in the 1930's. She wrote down her conversations with Jesus in a diary, which included a number of suggestions for devotion to Divine Mercy. These revelations had a particular impact on Pope St. John Paul II, who brought the devotions into worldwide adoption on April 30, 2000. Those devotions include, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy Image, The Divine Mercy Novena and Divine Mercy Sunday-the first Sunday after Easter.

Give your family a great spiritual gift this Easter Season.

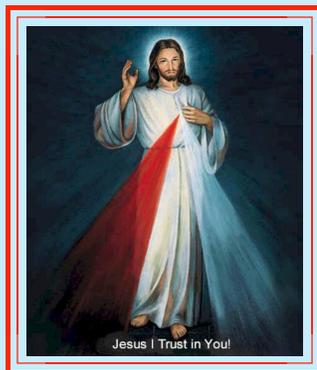
Introduce them to the Divine Mercy Image.

Reflect on these questions.

*Why do you trust in Jesus?*

*The Lord told St. Faustina that those who venerate this image would not perish. How can you pray with this image in your life?*

*If Jesus were standing there before you just like this, what would you say to him?*



Teach your family the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, which is recited using ordinary rosary beads. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Faustina and followed by a closing prayer. go to [thedivinemercy.org](http://thedivinemercy.org) for additional information

*Is your Parish celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday?  
Visit [divinemercysunday.com](http://divinemercysunday.com) for more info about this special day.*

**As we continue through the month of April, there are numerous feast days to celebrate.**

<b>St. Stanislaus (April 11)</b>	<b>St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen (April 24)</b>
<b>St. Martin I (April 13)</b>	<b>St. Mark (April 25)</b>
<b>St. Bernadette (April 16)</b>	<b>Our Lady of Good Counsel (April 26)</b>
<b>St. Anselm (April 21)</b>	<b>St. Louis Mary de Montfort and St. Peter Chanel (April 28)</b>
<b>St. George and St. Adalbert (April 23)</b>	<b>St. Pius V (April 30)</b>

**As a family choose a favorite saint to celebrate or discover a saint that is new to you. Go to Mass, read a story about them, do a craft or make a special meal.**

**How else can you prepare to live out the liturgical year with your family?**

**For more ideas, visit [catholicinspired.com](http://catholicinspired.com)**