



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle C - II Sunday of Easter, Solemnity of the Divine Mercy

Acts 2, 42-47; Psalm 118; 1Peter 1, 3-9; John 20, 19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Thomas, called Didymus, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples said to him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.

Reflection

After the crucifixion, the apostles were scared, so they hid and prayed in a room. Who did they fear? (They feared the men who had Jesus crucified.) **On the third day, Jesus resurrects and appears to them in the room. What does He say?** (Peace be with you.) **He also said, "As the Father has sent me, so I send you," and breathed on them. Why?** (To give them the Holy Spirit so they would have peace, trust, strength, wisdom and more to follow Jesus.) **But one of them was missing. Who?** (Thomas) **¿What did Jesus say when he heard they had seen Jesus?** ("Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.") **A week later Jesus appears to Thomas and invites him to see his hands and touch his side. What does Jesus say to him?** (You believe because you see. "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed." This is Faith, to believe without seeing. Like Thomas, we have all doubted at times. But God still seeks us, forgives us, and loves us..) **Today is a great day!** We celebrate the Divine Mercy of Jesus. **What is Mercy?** (To show compassion and forgiveness, even of the person doesn't deserve it. We see how He showed mercy to Thomas when he doubted.) **How is God's mercy?** (His mercy is endless because His love has no limits.) **And when we turn our backs to God?** (When we turn our backs to God, He seeks us; He wants us to reconcile and return to Him.) **How can we reconcile with God?** (Jesus left us a magnificent Sacrament called **CONFESSION**.) **When was this sacrament created?** (In this Gospel, after Jesus breathed on them, He said: "Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Jesus gave the apostles and their successors, the priests, the power to forgive sins! He only asks that we approach Him with a sorry heart, willing to not sin anymore. Thank you Jesus!)



Activity

On the following pages, fill in the blanks with Gospel words, color the scene with Jesus and Thomas, or color the Divine Mercy picture. Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and read history of the Feast of the Divine Mercy.

Prayer

My God, I believe, I adore, I trust, and I love you. I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, and do not love you. Amen.

Song: The Lord is Merciful and Compassionate <https://youtu.be/3YBlka9ngKI>

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15x2kPpfsL0nynuLVjzF-anUCbC4Y_nw/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true



Jesus empowers the apostles to forgive sins.



"_____ be with you. As the _____ has sent me, so I send ____." And when he had said this, he _____ on them and said to them, "Receive the _____. Whose _____ you forgive are _____ them, and whose sins you _____ are retained." John 20: 21-23

Fill in the blanks with the following words: HOLY, FATHER, BREATHED, YOU, PEACE, SPIRIT, SINS, FORGIVEN, RETAIN



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Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!"



St. John 20: 27-28



PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

Color the large beads in one color and the smaller beads in another.

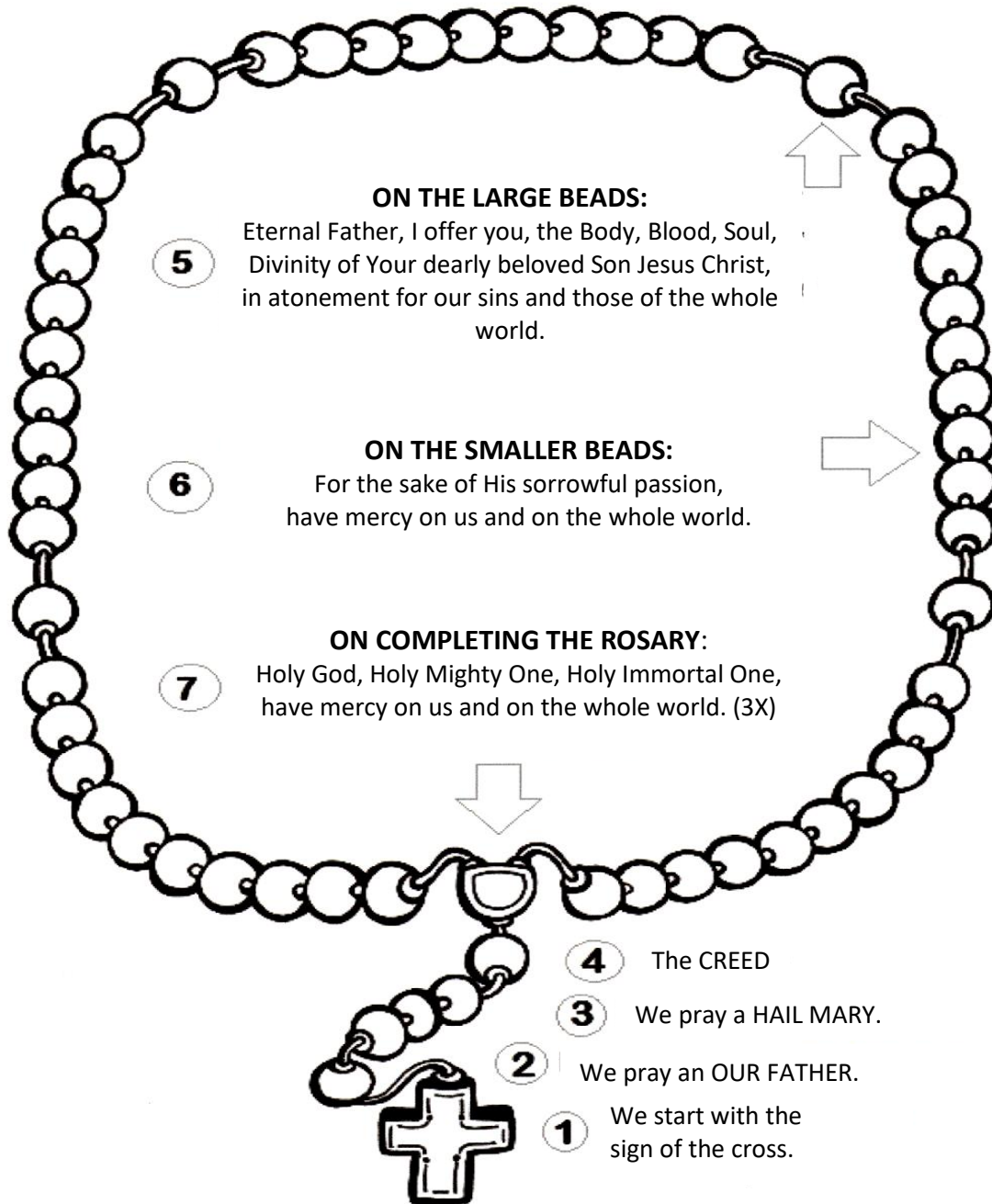
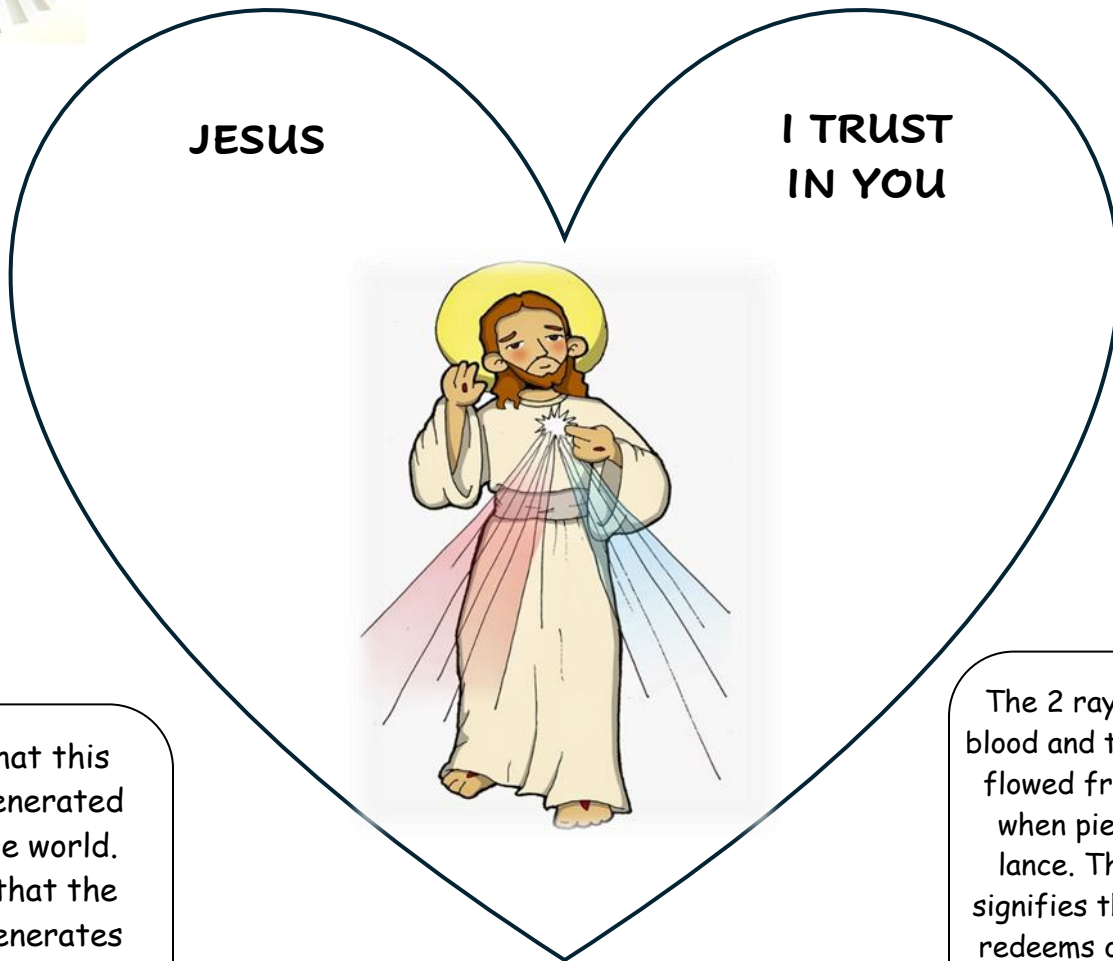




IMAGE 1



I desire that this image be venerated in the whole world. I promise that the soul that venerates this image, will not perish. (Jesus)

The 2 rays signify the blood and the water that flowed from His heart when pierced by the lance. The white ray signifies the water that redeems our souls. The red ray signifies the blood which is the life of our soul.

Instructions

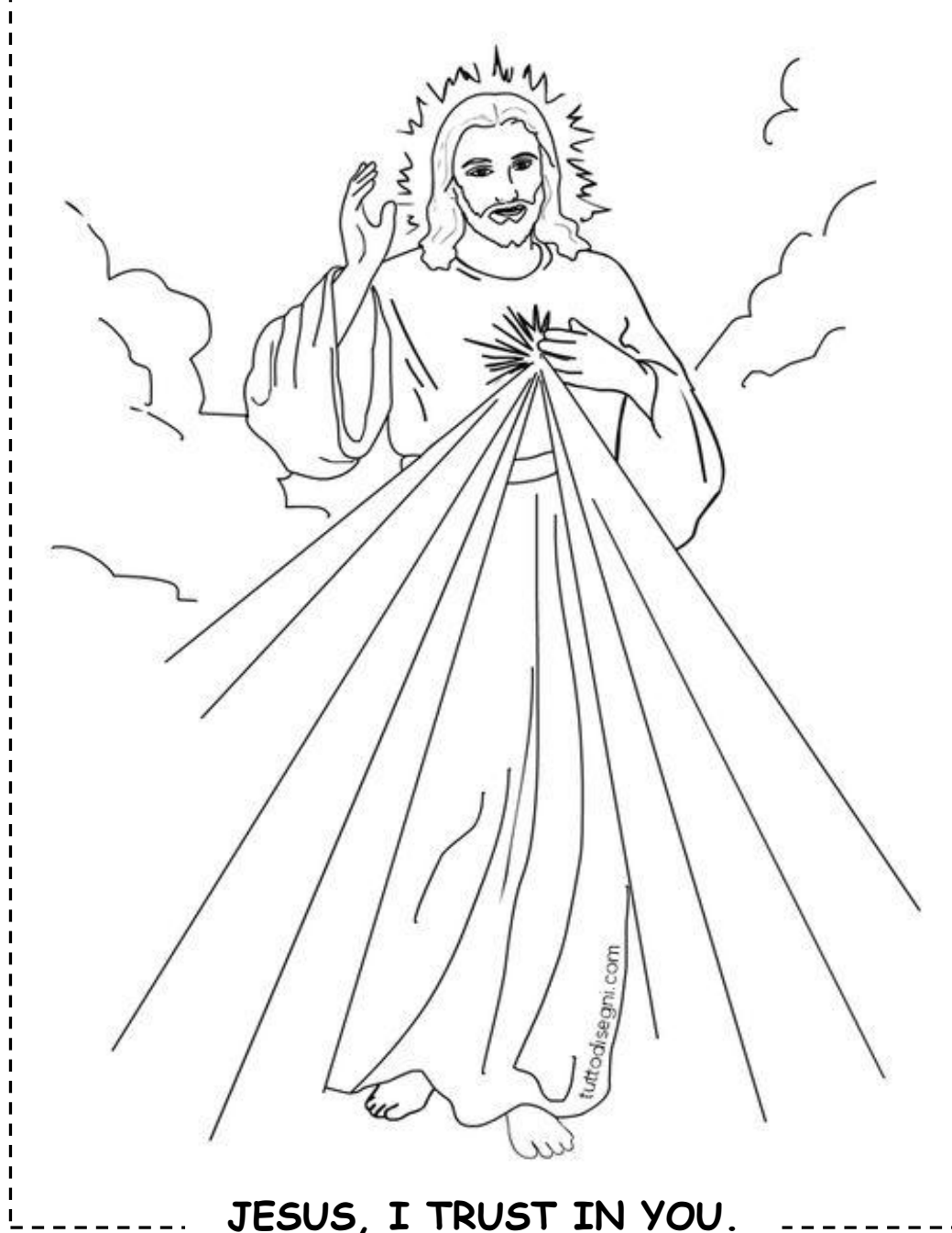
- Cut the heart and glue to a red heart slightly larger.
- Cut a piece of red and blue construction paper (4" x 4").
- Fold each paper 1/2" to one side then fold 1/2" to the other side until reaching the end and forming an accordion.
- At the top of each paper, close the accordion with a piece of tape leaving the other side open.
- Glue the red accordion on the red ray coming out of Jesus' heart and the blue accordion on the blue ray.
- Pray: Jesus, I Trust in You.
- Glue Jesus' message and the meaning of the rays behind the heart.
- Punch a hole in the top center and hang with a ribbon.



IMAGE 2

THE DIVINE MERCY OF GOD

I desire that this image be venerated in the whole world.
I promise that the soul that venerates this image, will not perish. (Jesus)



JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.

The 2 rays signify the blood and the water that flowed from His heart when the lance pierced it. The white ray signifies the water that redeems our souls. The red ray signifies the blood which is the life of our soul.



Solemnity of the Divine Mercy

Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, is the messenger of the Divine Mercy, because Jesus revealed Himself to her and showed her His heart, a source of mercy for all. He told her his desire to establish this Feast.



The goal of the *Feast of the Divine Mercy* is to communicate this message to every heart:



In this message that Jesus communicates through St. Faustina, He asks that we have complete trust in the Mercy of God, and that we always be merciful with each other in our words, our actions, and our prayers.

God is Merciful and loves us all; the bigger the sinner, the bigger is the mercy of God!



Pope John Paul II decreed the Feast of the Divine Mercy the 2nd Sunday of Easter.

The Apostles of the Divine Mercy are priests, religious, and lay people, who united promise to live the mercy with each other, make known the messages of Jesus, and pray for mercy for sinners.



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