

The Divine Mercy Chaplet

The word “*chaplet*” literally means “*a garland or wreath of flowers.*” In Catholic tradition *prayer chaplets* are a collection of prayers that are usually recited on a string of beads. Prayer chaplets have their roots in ancient days when people would use stones, sticks, notched wood, knotted ropes and beads in order to count their prayers. Today the well-known *Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary* is a particular kind of chaplet, but there are many.

The *Divine Mercy Chaplet* is a specific chaplet used by people who desire to pray for the great Mercy of God. The Chaplet is typically prayed at 3:00 P.M., the hour Jesus died on the Cross.

It is believed that, through a series of visions, Jesus gave the Divine Mercy Chaplet to an uneducated Polish sister by the name of Faustina Kowalska in the 1930s. Sister Faustina believed the Chaplet would call people to a deeper understanding of God’s love, a love that is unlimited and available to all people—especially to the greatest of sinners.

How to Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Divine Mercy Chaplet uses the regular beads of the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Although the prayers are for the most part different, it would be helpful to be familiar with how to pray the Rosary before following the instructions below.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, 1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.
2. On the “Our Father Beads” pray the following:

*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.*

3. On the ten “Hail Mary Beads” pray the following:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world

4. Repeat step two and three for all five decades.
5. Conclude by praying the following three times:

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