

Jubilee Year of Mercy Special Event

Receive a Blessing with the St. Faustina Relic

The Saint Cecilia Knights of Columbus Father Burns Council #5949 has arranged for the relic of Saint Faustina to be at Saint Cecilia on January 23 and 24.

The relic is the presence of a Saint in our midst. You will have the opportunity to come forward and receive a personal blessing with the relic at the end of Mass on Saturday and Sunday.

These are the words of the blessing:
"Through the intercession of Saint Faustina, may Jesus impart to you, mercy, health and blessings. Amen".



About Saint Faustina



Saint Faustina was born Helena Kowalska in a small village west of Lodz, Poland on August 25, 1905. She was the third of ten children. When she was almost twenty, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, whose members devote themselves to the care and education of troubled young women. The following year she received her religious habit and was given the name Sister Maria Faustina, to which she added, "of the Most Blessed Sacrament", as was permitted by her congregation's custom. In the 1930's, Sister Faustina received from the Lord a message of mercy that she was told to spread throughout the world. She was asked to become the apostle and secretary of God's mercy, a model of how to be merciful to others, and an instrument for reemphasizing God's plan of mercy for the world. It was not a glamorous prospect.

Her entire life, in imitation of Christ's, was to be a sacrifice - a life lived for others. At the Divine Lord's request, she willingly offered her personal sufferings in union with Him to atone for the sins of others; in her daily life she was to become a doer of mercy, bringing joy and peace to others, and by writing about God's mercy, she was to encourage others to trust in Him and thus prepare the world for His coming again. Her special devotion to Mary Immaculate and to the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation gave her the strength to bear all her sufferings as an

offering to God on behalf of the Church and those in special need, especially great sinners and the dying.

She wrote and suffered in secret, with only her spiritual director and some of her superiors aware that anything special was taking place in her life. After her death from tuberculosis in 1938, even her closest associates were amazed as they began to discover what great sufferings and deep mystical experiences had been given to this Sister of theirs, who had always been so cheerful and humble. She had taken deeply into her heart, God's gospel command to "be merciful even as your heavenly Father is merciful" as well as her confessor's directive that she should act in such a way that everyone who came in contact with her would go away joyful. The message of mercy that Sister Faustina received is now being spread throughout the world; her diary, *Divine Mercy in my Soul*, has become the handbook for devotion to the Divine Mercy.

Saint Faustina's
feast day is October 5.

Saint Faustina Movie

You are invited to stay after Mass to enjoy fellowship and refreshments on Saturday and a continental breakfast on Sunday in the Welcoming Area and then watch the movie, *Divine Mercy - No Escape, The Life of Saint Maria Faustina* on the big screen in the church.

In 1987, the motion picture *Divine Mercy – No Escape* premiered at Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood. The film was an act of faith in God's mercy for mankind, and a fulfillment of the Congregation of the Marians' commitment to spread the message of mercy brought to the world through a young Polish nun. In a diary which she called "Divine Mercy in My Soul," Saint Faustina recorded all that God told her. During the last four years of her life, she wrote the equivalent of 600 printed pages. This was a work of faith. *Divine Mercy – No Escape* captures the tenderness of Sister Faustina's heart toward her mission as she receives the call. But there is more to *Divine Mercy – No Escape* than the moving story of a young nun whose compassion reaches beyond her to touch all generations. It is the story of Divine Mercy unfolding today.

Movie runtime is 47 minutes.

