



+ April 17, 2020

To Priests and Parish Leaders and the People of God,

I wish you a blessed Easter Octave!

As many of you know, this coming Second Sunday of Easter was established by St. John Paul II as Divine Mercy Sunday. We celebrate the deep mercy of Christ and his revelation of it to St. Faustina Kowalsak in the 1930s.

To honor Divine Mercy Sunday, all three bishops will be joining together in a Holy Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament while praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy this Sunday from 2-3 p.m. at St. James Cathedral. We will be praying each decade of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for a different intention: First responders, medical researchers, the deceased and their loved ones, those suffering economic distress, for a deepened protection and promotion of all human life. At the end, I will carry the monstrance to the front doors of the Cathedral and bless the Archdiocese with the Blessed Sacrament.

This event will be livestreamed on the Archdiocese Vimeo channel as well as the Facebook page. We will be providing a bi-lingual worship aid so people can follow along. Please share this opportunity to join us with all your parishioners.

I also encourage and invite all the priests in our archdiocese to make this a Holy Hour in your local parish. Please pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy with us and make sure your parishioners know you're praying for them. At the end, I invite you to bring the monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament to the front doors of your parish church to join me in blessing all the communities across western Washington in unison.

This way together, we can collectively pray for our Archdiocese and the people of God. This expression of communion as we seek God's mercy for all people can be an opportunity for grace, healing and peace for all of us.

In the heart of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D. Etienne".

Most Reverend Paul D. Etienne, DD, STL
Archbishop of Seattle