

## SAMPLE TIMELINE

We have provided a sample timeline to help you prepare for the celebration of the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Because the date of the Sunday of Divine Mercy is based on the date of Easter, it can fall as early as March 29 and as late as May 2. While these steps apply most directly to a parish coordinator for Respect Life ministry, they can help you think about key planning steps in whatever capacity you serve the Church. Adapt as needed for your local circumstances.



### FEBRUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### Two months before

- ◆ Meet with your pastor, and share the significance of the Sunday of Divine Mercy for healing after abortion. Refer to this action guide’s introduction in advance if you need some ideas of what to say. Let him know what resources are available, such as homily notes and prayer intercessions. Ask him about hosting a Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing near the Feast of Divine Mercy. Ask permission for the bulletin submissions you have in mind. Also request permission to hang diocesan Project Rachel Ministry flyers with pull-off tabs containing the ministry’s contact information around the parish in the weeks leading up to, during, and after the observance of the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Most importantly, *ask what you can do to help*. Lent, Holy Week, and Easter are often the busiest times of the year for priests.
- ◆ Following your conversation with your pastor, contact your parish office to open the lines of communication. Share the results of that conversation and what you are requesting for the observance of the Sunday of Divine Mercy. Ask about bulletin submission policies. Many parishes need content several weeks in advance to be able to include it in the weekly bulletin. Inquire about deadlines and share what content you hope to have featured. This will help your parish plan for the Sunday of Divine Mercy and allot the necessary space in the bulletin. Lent, Holy Week, and Easter often require additional bulletin space for schedules and announcements. Contact your parish while there may still be space available. Again, most importantly, *ask what you can do to help*.

### Six Weeks Before

- ◆ Recruit any volunteers you may need to help in hosting a Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing. You may need lectors, musicians, or greeters. Be sure to learn and comply with all parish, diocesan, and local policies.
- ◆ Ask local and diocesan prayer networks to pray for the fruitfulness of the prayer service—specifically that the event is well-attended and that those who are in need of God’s mercy will be encouraged to seek out help. In addition to seeking God’s grace, this will also help spread the word.

## Five Weeks Before

Complete all bulletin submissions for the Sunday of Divine Mercy. This includes the bulletin announcement for the Divine Mercy Novena, information on abortion healing for the Sunday of Divine Mercy, and advertisements for the Prayer Service for Forgiveness and Healing. Make copies of the prayers for the prayer service. (These are available online). Begin advertising the event on bulletin boards, in newsletters, and on social media and parish and/or diocesan websites.

## Three Weeks Before

- ◆ Reconnect with appropriate parish staff regarding your bulletin submissions. Touch base with your pastor to offer further assistance and to confirm any plans you may have made. This is the time to tie up any loose ends, verify that all content has been received by those who need it, confirm with your volunteers, and determine if there are any follow-up tasks to be completed. Having all these tasks completed prior to Holy Week will allow you to fully enter into this special liturgical season and celebrate Christ's Resurrection at Easter!
- ◆ If you have obtained the necessary permission, hang the Project Rachel Ministry flyer in appropriate places around your parish. Tear off two or three of the tabs from each flyer before putting it up. (This makes it less intimidating for those who want to take a tab to do so.)

## Two Weeks Before

Touch base with volunteers and take care of any last-minute tasks.

## Friday Before the Sunday of Divine Mercy

Check your Project Rachel Ministry flyers located around the parish. Do any need to be replaced? Perhaps most of the pull-tabs have already been removed. Make sure any flyers that need to be refreshed are ready in advance of the Sunday of Divine Mercy.

## Monday After the Sunday of Divine Mercy

Following the Sunday of Divine Mercy, check your Project Rachel flyers located around the parish. If any are running low on pull-off tabs, hang up replacement flyers in case someone who wanted a pull-off tab didn't get a chance to take one yet.

# BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Divine Mercy Novena

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend of Palm Sunday)

The Divine Mercy Novena begins on Good Friday, [date], and concludes Saturday, [date]. In private revelations to St. Faustina, Jesus asked that the Feast of Divine Mercy be preceded by a novena praying for nine intentions with the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The novena can be accessed online at [www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena.php](http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena.php).

## Sunday of Divine Mercy

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend of the Sunday of Divine Mercy)

### ◆ Option 1

This weekend we celebrate the Sunday of Divine Mercy. God's greatest desire is to forgive us, pouring out His infinite mercy upon us so that we may be healed. Women and men alike who have been involved in an abortion may feel deep grief, guilt, anxiety, depression, broken relationships and a sense of alienation from God and the Church. They may experience anniversary reactions to the date of the abortion or what would have been the baby's due date. For anyone struggling with this, the Church cares. It is never too late to seek the Lord's mercy and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consider confidential, compassionate help from our diocesan abortion healing ministry. It is open to those of any faith or no faith, offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. **[Insert contact information for local diocesan abortion healing ministry. If, after contacting your diocese, you learn the diocese does not have one, you could include the following instead: "Visit the "Find Help" map on [HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://HopeAfterAbortion.org) to find the diocesan ministry near you."]**