

THE HOLY ABODE OF DIVINE MERCY



Jesus I Trust in You

**DIVINE MERCY SHRINE OF HOLY MARY
MARIA NAGAR, THODUPUZZHA**



**“Go ahead, we live in the era of mercy.
This is the era of mercy.”**

Message given by Pope Francis in January 11th 2015

THE HOLY ABODE OF DIVINE MERCY



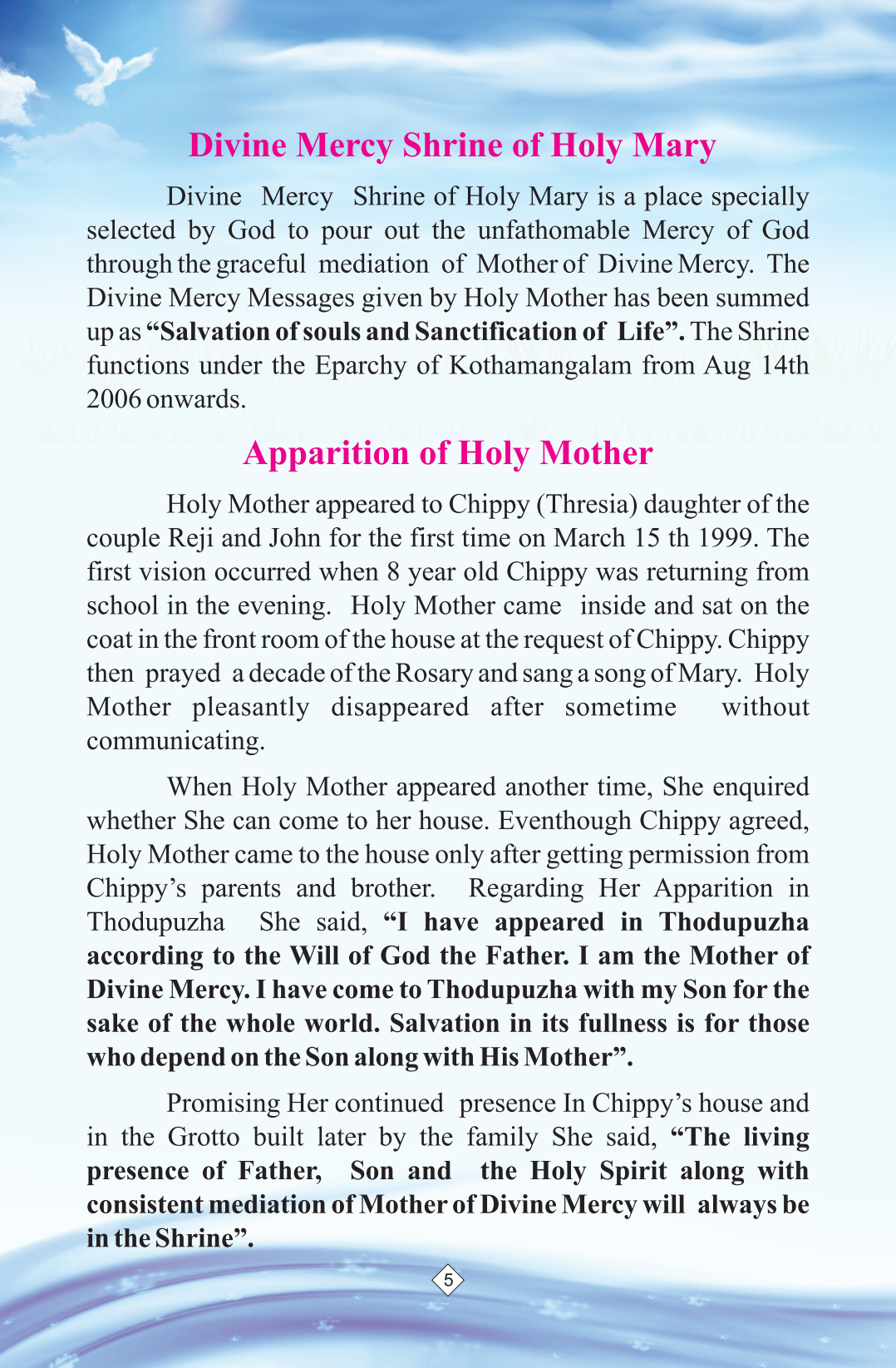
DIVINE MERCY SHRINE OF HOLY MARY
MARIA NAGAR, THODUPUZHA



Perpetual adoration : 8 am - 8 pm



Lord God, show Mercy on Your children



Divine Mercy Shrine of Holy Mary

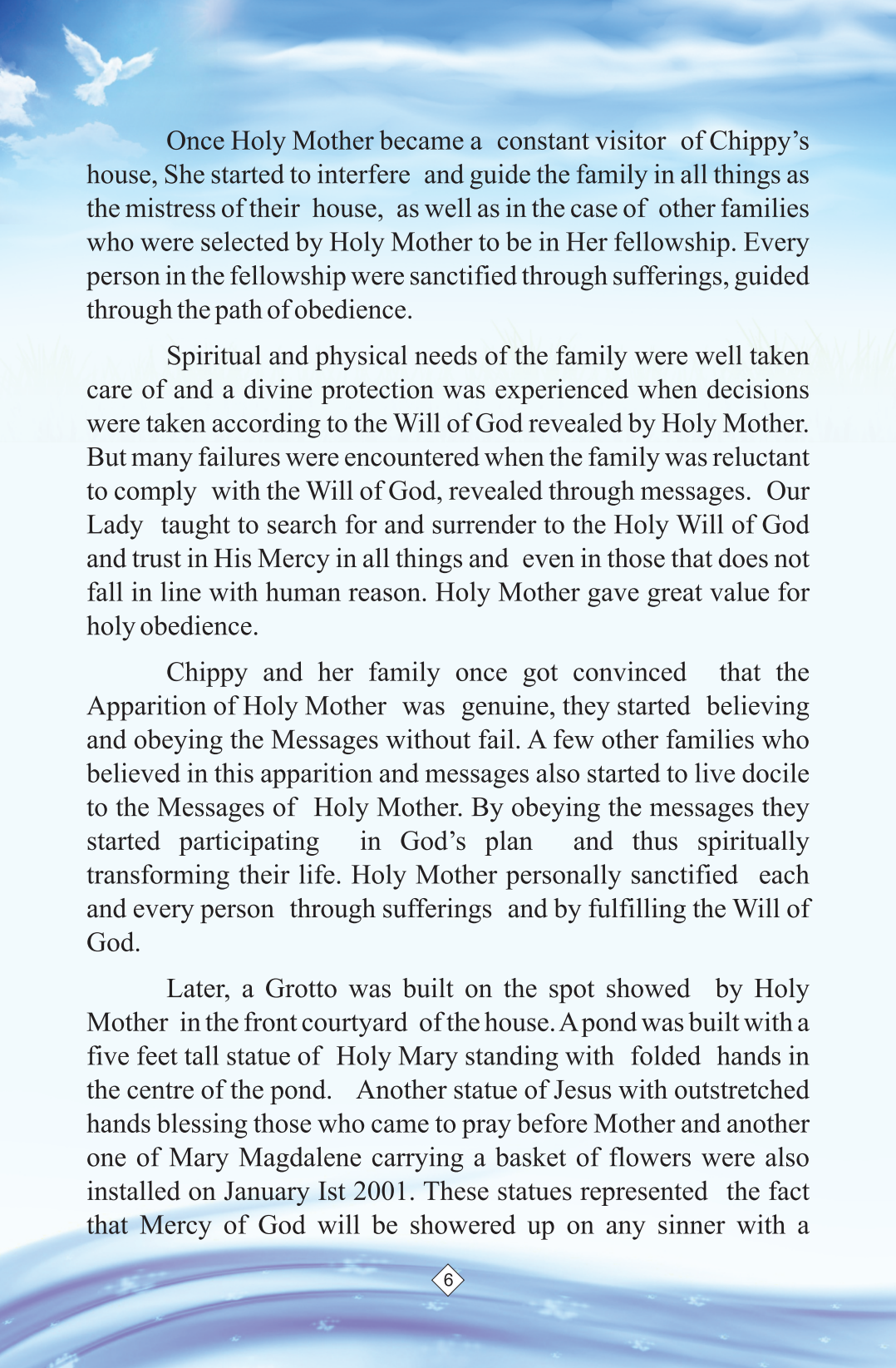
Divine Mercy Shrine of Holy Mary is a place specially selected by God to pour out the unfathomable Mercy of God through the graceful mediation of Mother of Divine Mercy. The Divine Mercy Messages given by Holy Mother has been summed up as **“Salvation of souls and Sanctification of Life”**. The Shrine functions under the Eparchy of Kothamangalam from Aug 14th 2006 onwards.

Apparition of Holy Mother

Holy Mother appeared to Chippy (Thresia) daughter of the couple Reji and John for the first time on March 15 th 1999. The first vision occurred when 8 year old Chippy was returning from school in the evening. Holy Mother came inside and sat on the coat in the front room of the house at the request of Chippy. Chippy then prayed a decade of the Rosary and sang a song of Mary. Holy Mother pleasantly disappeared after sometime without communicating.

When Holy Mother appeared another time, She enquired whether She can come to her house. Eventhough Chippy agreed, Holy Mother came to the house only after getting permission from Chippy's parents and brother. Regarding Her Apparition in Thodupuzha She said, **“I have appeared in Thodupuzha according to the Will of God the Father. I am the Mother of Divine Mercy. I have come to Thodupuzha with my Son for the sake of the whole world. Salvation in its fullness is for those who depend on the Son along with His Mother”**.

Promising Her continued presence In Chippy's house and in the Grotto built later by the family She said, **“The living presence of Father, Son and the Holy Spirit along with consistent mediation of Mother of Divine Mercy will always be in the Shrine”**.



Once Holy Mother became a constant visitor of Chippy's house, She started to interfere and guide the family in all things as the mistress of their house, as well as in the case of other families who were selected by Holy Mother to be in Her fellowship. Every person in the fellowship were sanctified through sufferings, guided through the path of obedience.

Spiritual and physical needs of the family were well taken care of and a divine protection was experienced when decisions were taken according to the Will of God revealed by Holy Mother. But many failures were encountered when the family was reluctant to comply with the Will of God, revealed through messages. Our Lady taught to search for and surrender to the Holy Will of God and trust in His Mercy in all things and even in those that does not fall in line with human reason. Holy Mother gave great value for holy obedience.

Chippy and her family once got convinced that the Apparition of Holy Mother was genuine, they started believing and obeying the Messages without fail. A few other families who believed in this apparition and messages also started to live docile to the Messages of Holy Mother. By obeying the messages they started participating in God's plan and thus spiritually transforming their life. Holy Mother personally sanctified each and every person through sufferings and by fulfilling the Will of God.

Later, a Grotto was built on the spot showed by Holy Mother in the front courtyard of the house. A pond was built with a five feet tall statue of Holy Mary standing with folded hands in the centre of the pond. Another statue of Jesus with outstretched hands blessing those who came to pray before Mother and another one of Mary Magdalene carrying a basket of flowers were also installed on January 1st 2001. These statues represented the fact that Mercy of God will be showered up on any sinner with a



repentant heart, who trusts in Divine Mercy and through the intercession of Holy Mother in the Shrine.

Messages of Holy Mother

Every Marian Apparition gives a warning or consolation to the mankind. God revealed the depth of Divine Mercy and the ways to receive it, through St. Faustina of Poland. The Messages given in Thodupuzha is the continuation of the messages of Divine Mercy and has revealed new spiritual paths to receive the Mercy of God and the obstacles that hinder the flow of Divine Mercy along with remedial ways for these obstacles. There is no sin or after effects of sin or any curse that cannot be atoned by a repentant sinner who trusts in Divine Mercy. Holy Mother said that those who seek Divine Mercy through sufferings will be sanctified seven generations forwards and backwards. When the sufferings of life are endured with prayers and trusting in Divine Mercy, they become light and bearable for that person. Thus sufferings of life of a person trusting in Divine Mercy become salvific sanctifying Graces, giving spiritual transformation for oneself and for others.

Holy Water of Divine Mercy used for Drinking and Bathing

The pond at the feet of Mother of Divine Mercy was built according to the specific instruction of Holy Mother with the intention of storing water for drinking and bathing, for those visiting Shrine. The water in the pond was allowed to be used by those visiting the Shrine, after it has been kept in the pond for one hour after filling. Chippy was shown the vision of Heavenly light illuminating the water in the pond and Precious Blood from the hands of Jesus Christ following into it. Holy Mother revealed to the family of Chippy that sprinkling the holy water in houses and institutions will give a divine protection and many people receive



this blessing by sprinkling the holy water. This channel of Divine Mercy of using the holy water for drinking and bathing is opened up with the aim of ensuring physical, mental and spiritual healings for those who have been sailing through troubled waters with different types of sufferings of life without any relief. People with many obstacles in life, have witnessed miraculous involvement of Mother of Divine Mercy, when trusting and praying in Divine Mercy Shrine.

Garlanding the Divine Mercy Picture

Garlanding the Divine Mercy Picture on every fridays started at the request of Holy Mother and has now become a popular piety in the Shrine. People offer this flower garland as a token of thanks giving for favors received and to receive blessings. Cooked sweet rice offering (Pachor Nercha) is distributed after Divine Mercy Novena on Fridays and on the two feast days of the Shrine. This piety is also continued as a thanks giving practice and for receiving blessings.

Candle Lighting

Lighting candles is one of the most important piety practiced in the Shrine. This is done mainly for surrendering the family members - living and dead - into the Divine Heart of Jesus, the Ocean of Mercy, by the merits of the atonement made by Jesus Christ for the sins of the world, in His Passion Death and Resurrection and through the mediation of the Mother of Divine Mercy. Similarly this dedication to Divine Mercy by lighting candles can be done for other needs and for matters which needs divine protection like house, household things, vehicles, jobs, land and other properties, travel and also for sickness and tribulations of life. Lighting candles in the Shrine is not just an offering to God but a prayer of entrustment of our needs and persons that intends to be dedicated to the Divine Mercy.

Holy Mother said that needs entrusted and persons surrendered to Divine Mercy by lighting candles in the Shrine are accepted before the Father in Heaven. She has promised that those who visit the Shrine and pray trusting in Divine Mercy will be wrapped up in the veil of the Mercy of God. As the prayers of a person living in sin are not received before the Throne of God, a repentant Sacramental Confession has to be made before praying for the needs and putting petitions in the Shrine by lighting candles.

This Shrine is not just a Church with the presence of the Trinitarian God in the Eucharist, but a place where the Glory of Divine Mercy and the continued intercession of Mother Divine Mercy are promised. So those who visit the Shrine are asked to bring up their pains and sufferings and their needs before the Mother of Divine Mercy, as if they are talking to another person.

Spending time in silent prayer in the Shrine is a common practice for physical, mental and spiritual healing and for getting release from diabolic bondages. The healings received from



multitude of illnesses and mental agonies along with the spiritual conversions taking place in the Shrine are strong witnesses of the active intervention of Holy Mother in the Shrine.

Wearing the Rosaries put on the hands of Mother of Divine Mercy

Holy Mother allowed visitors in the Grotto from 2003 onwards, even before the grotto was handed over to the Eparchy of Kothamangalam in 2006. In preparation for allowing the visitors to the Grotto, Chippy's family was asked to recite 1000 rosaries and when finished they were asked to get 250 rosaries, which were equivalent to 250 full rosaries recited by the family. These rosaries were put on the folded hands of the statue of Mother of Divine Mercy. Holy Mother then said to Chippy and her family **"I have come not for you alone, but for the whole world. From today onwards the Grotto shall be opened for the public"**. Thus on November 28th 2003 the Grotto was opened up for the public for praying. The rosaries put on the hands of the Holy Mother was



then given to the visitors of the Grotto, free of cost to wear on their neck. According to the instruction given by Holy Mother this practice of giving rosaries put on the hands of the statue of the Holy Mother to people visiting the Shrine is continued even now. Many people offer rosaries in the Shrine for favours received. There are very many testimonies about receiving special divine protection, as well as getting deliverance from physical, mental and diabolic torments by wearing this rosaries. This is one of the spiritual channels revealed by Mother of Divine Mercy for receiving Divine Mercy.

Walking on knees around the pond of the Mother of Divine Mercy

The piety of walking on knees around of pond of Holy Mother was started years back and this dates back to Chippy's Plus Two examination. When Chippy's father John asked Holy Mother for the favour of getting good marks for the examination, She told John to recite the Divine Mercy chaplet with this intention and walk on the knees around the pond in the Shrine. Chippy's father obeyed the message and his daughter passed the examination with good marks. Hearing this news, this practice of walking on the knees around the pond of Mother of Divine Mercy soon became popular.

Walking on the knees around the pond starts first by submitting the prayer intention in front of Mother of Divine Mercy, and going on to the right side of pond by praying the marian rosary or divine mercy rosary. The person comes on to the front of the



Holy Eucharist in the Tabernacle with adoration and further on, the person walks on to the Divine Mercy picture and submits the prayer intention. As the person move on, he bows in front of the relics of Pope John Paul II the mediator of Divine Mercy and St. Faustina the apostle of Divine Mercy placed on either side of the Crucifix, asking their intercession. Then the person goes around the statue of St. Mary Magdalene, the first witness of Divine Mercy, to pass in front of the statue of Jesus Christ with outstretched hands to get His blessings and finally comes over to the Mother of Divine Mercy who intercedes with Her Son for Her children and thus finishes one round of walking on knees around the pond.

Nine Days of Divine Mercy Novena

Holy Mother revealed that coming to the Shrine and praying once a week for nine days especially by attending the Divine Mercy Novena is a means of getting engulfed in Divine Mercy. The Novena was started in the Shrine at the request of Holy Mother. The promise of Jesus that **“by this Novena, I will grant every possible grace to souls”** (Diary 796) is experienced by each and every person who attends the Novena which is revealed through their witnesses. Divine Mercy Novena is conducted everyday morning after the Holy Mass and after the three Holy Masses on Saturdays, as well as after the seven Holy Masses celebrated on Fridays.



The Holy Abode of Divine Mercy

The Revelation of Holy Mother in Thodupuzha is said to be the continuation of the Divine Mercy Messages given by St. Faustina of Poland. According to Mother of Divine Mercy the best way to understand Her Messages is to read the Diary of St. Faustina **“Divine Mercy in My Soul”** (This is translated into malayalam and published from the Shrine with the title “എന്റെ അന്തരാത്മാവിലേക്ക് ഒഴുകിയിറങ്ങിയ ദൈവകരുൺ”). The name ‘Divine Mercy Shrine of Holy Mary’ was suggested for the Grotto by Holy Mother itself and She said that this is a place specially selected by God the Father to show His mercy. Moreover this is built at the request of the Holy Mother at the site where She appeared and revealed the Divine Mercy Messages meant for ‘Salvation of souls and Sanctification of life’ with the aim of spreading this piety and pouring out Divine Mercy through 6 spiritual channels.

The living presence of Trinitarian God and Divine Mercy, the glorified resurrected Jesus Christ; the continued heavenly mediation of Mother of Divine Mercy and the spiritual presence and divine help of St. Faustina the apostle of Divine Mercy, and St.





John Paul II the mediator of Divine Mercy and St. Mary Magdalene the first witness of Divine Mercy are promised in the Shrine by Holy Mother. People consider this place as the 'Holy abode of Divine Mercy' as all the spiritual channels of Divine Mercy revealed through St. Faustina and Mother of Divine Mercy are accessible in this Shrine. The conversions taking place and the spiritual call for growing in holiness for the people who pray trusting in Divine Mercy are the great miracles happening in this centre.

Feasts Celebrated in the Shrine

Feasts of the Shrine were started after it was handed over to the Diocese on 2006. Feasts of Divine Mercy and Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mother of Divine Mercy are the two important feasts celebrated in the Shrine. As directed by Holy Mother, feasts are celebrated in a simple way but with great devotion. On both feast days a procession is taken out around the town with lighted candles and reciting rosary and at the same time avoiding fire works, drums and bands. The candle procession is accompanied by flower decorated vehicles carrying the Divine Mercy picture and statue of Mother of Divine Mercy. Holy Mother revealed that entertainment programmes and worldly celebrations are not pleasing to God on feast days and so avoided. Feasts are wound up with sweet rice offering (Pachor Nercha) for the faithful.

Divine Mercy Feast

As celebrated all over the world, Divine Mercy Feast is celebrated on the first sunday after Easter according to the instructions given by Our Lord to Saint Foustina. Eventhough this Shrine came into existance through the Apparition of Holy Mary, She asked to celebrate the Divine Mercy Feast as the prime feast of

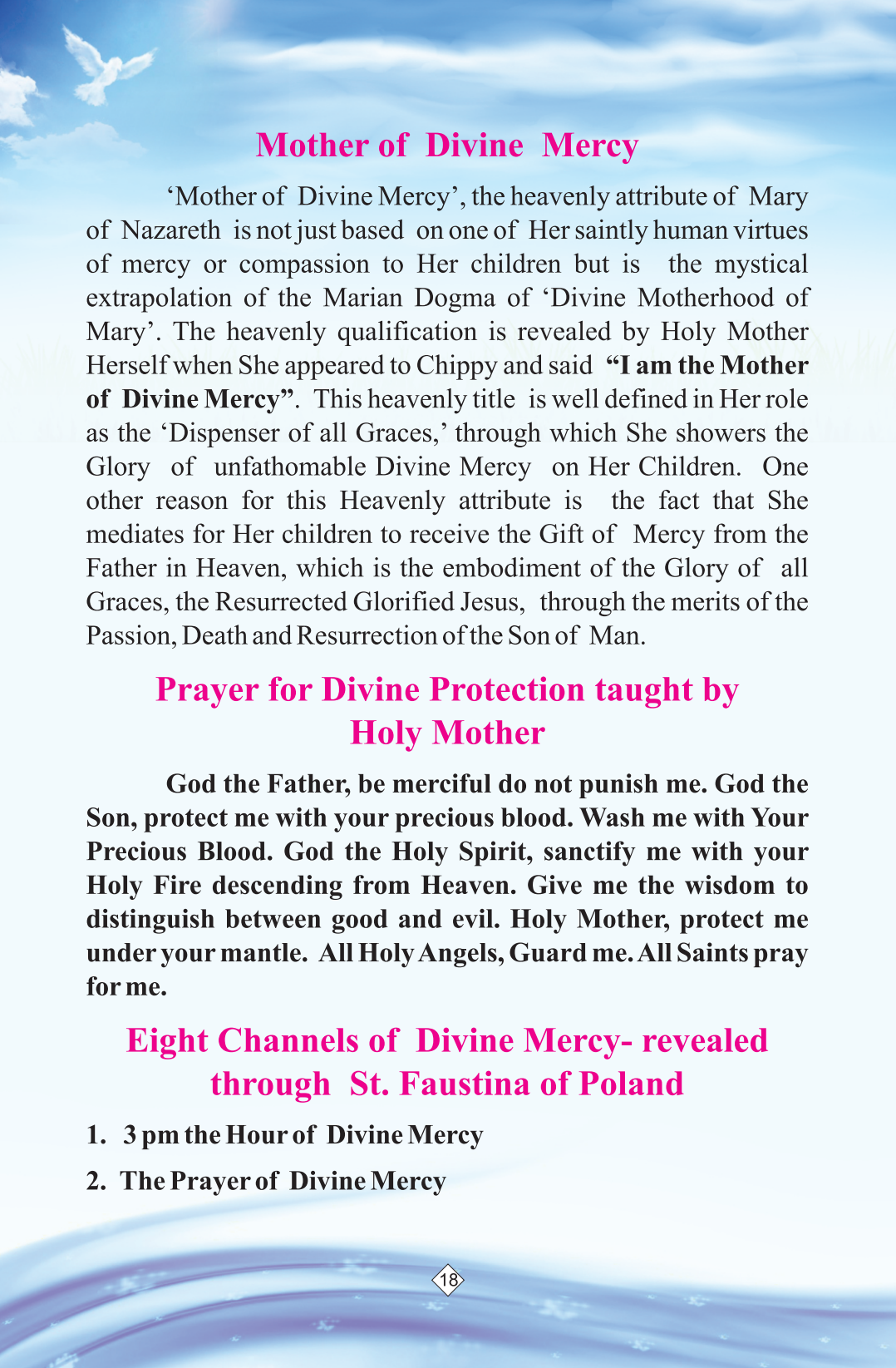


the Shrine. The Feast with plenary indulgence is celebrated with great devotion by taking out a solemn procession around the town reciting Divine Mercy Rosary with lighted candles. Prior to the Feast and in preparation for it, nine days of Divine Mercy Novena and Divine Mercy talks are conducted in the Shrine.



Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mother of Divine Mercy

The Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Mother of Divine Mercy is celebrated on December 8th and is also preceded by nine days of Divine Mercy Novena and Marian talks. The candle light procession around the town takes place with recitation of Marian Rosary.



Mother of Divine Mercy

‘Mother of Divine Mercy’, the heavenly attribute of Mary of Nazareth is not just based on one of Her saintly human virtues of mercy or compassion to Her children but is the mystical extrapolation of the Marian Dogma of ‘Divine Motherhood of Mary’. The heavenly qualification is revealed by Holy Mother Herself when She appeared to Chippy and said **“I am the Mother of Divine Mercy”**. This heavenly title is well defined in Her role as the ‘Dispenser of all Graces,’ through which She showers the Glory of unfathomable Divine Mercy on Her Children. One other reason for this Heavenly attribute is the fact that She mediates for Her children to receive the Gift of Mercy from the Father in Heaven, which is the embodiment of the Glory of all Graces, the Resurrected Glorified Jesus, through the merits of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Son of Man.

Prayer for Divine Protection taught by Holy Mother

God the Father, be merciful do not punish me. God the Son, protect me with your precious blood. Wash me with Your Precious Blood. God the Holy Spirit, sanctify me with your Holy Fire descending from Heaven. Give me the wisdom to distinguish between good and evil. Holy Mother, protect me under your mantle. All Holy Angels, Guard me. All Saints pray for me.

Eight Channels of Divine Mercy- revealed through St. Faustina of Poland

1. 3 pm the Hour of Divine Mercy
2. The Prayer of Divine Mercy

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3. **The Divine Mercy Chaplet**
 4. **The Image of Divine Mercy**
 5. **The Novena of Divine Mercy**
 6. **The Feast of Divine Mercy**
 7. **Showing Mercy to others through words, deeds and prayer.**
 8. **The Proclamation of Divine Mercy**

Six Channels of Divine Mercy- revealed through the Mother of Divine Mercy at Thodupuzha

1. **Offering the four generations of patrilineal and matrilineal ancestors and the living family members to the Divine Mercy, at least once through the mediation of Holy Mother by lighting one candle each for each person individually at the grotto.**
2. **Reciting the Divine Mercy chaplet daily and personally as taught by Mother of Divine Mercy, one each for the patrilineal and matrilineal ancestors surrendering them to Divine Mercy.**
3. **Wearing the Rosary placed on the hands of the statue of Holy Mother, round the neck to invoke the protection of Divine Mercy.**
4. **Using the holy water at the feet of the statue of Mother of Divine Mercy for bathing and drinking to get physical and spiritual healing.**
5. **By believing and obeying the 29 points given by Mother of Divine Mercy for sanctification of life which remove the impediments for trusting in and receiving Divine Mercy.**

6. Visiting and praying in the Shrine, the abode of Divine Mercy.

The relics of St. Faustina the Apostle of Divine Mercy was installed on June 27th and that of St. John Paul II the Mediator of Divine Mercy on August 15th 2015. Perpetual Adoration chapel was built on April 12th 2015 and it is open for the public from 8 am to 8 pm everyday. Shrine is open for silent prayer from 5.30 am to 9.30 pm.



Relics of St. Faustina and St. John Paul II are exposed for veneration

HOLY SERVICES IN THE SHRINE

MONDAY - THURSDAY

5.45 am Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Novena
6.00 pm Holy Rosary, Holy Mass

FRIDAY

5.30 am
7.15 am
9.15 am
11.30 am
3.00 pm
5.00 pm
7.00 pm

Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Novena

SATURDAY

5.45 am Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Novena
09.30 am Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Novena
6.00 pm Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Novena

SUNDAY

11.00 am Holy Mass
5.00 pm Holy Mass

Every day at 3.00 pm Divine Mercy Rosary

EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF MONTH

5.45 am Holy Mass, Divine Mercy Novena
4.30 pm Holy Rosary
5.00 pm Holy Mass
6.15 pm Divine Mercy Message
Eucharistic Adoration
Eucharistic Procession

**The Friday services in the
Shrine are telecasted live**

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The First Divine Mercy
Picture painted according to St. Faustina
by Ugene Kazimierowski on 1934 January - June in Vilnius



*“I am not the Queen of
Heaven alone but the Mother of Mercy
and your Mother as well”*