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ENCOUNTER DIVINE MERCY

ADVENT REFLECTIONS WITH ST. FAUSTINA

COMPILED BY CATHERINE ODELL

Saint Faustina (born Helena) Kowalska (1905–1938) is our perfect companion for Advent. Devout from early childhood, she was part of a large, poor Polish family. After receiving many visions of the Lord, she joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Warsaw at age nineteen.

On February 22, 1931, Sister Faustina received a miraculous vision. Shining and white-robed, Jesus appeared to her with rays of red and white flowing from his heart. Images of this vision, with the words “Jesus, I trust in you” across the bottom of the painting, were distributed worldwide. The image became known as “Jesus of the Divine Mercy” or the “Divine Mercy Image.”

In 1934, she began a diary to tell the story of the Divine Mercy image and devotions that developed from it. This profound and mystical work, *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska: Divine Mercy in My Soul*, provides the readings that accompany these Advent Scripture selections.

First Week of Advent

SUNDAY

Honor the Lord

Isaiah 2:2–3: “The mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest mountain.... All nations shall stream toward it; many peoples shall...say: “Come, let us climb...



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to the house of the God of Jacob, That he may instruct us in his ways.”

Diary: The image [of the Divine Mercy] was publicly honored...for the first time. For three days it was exposed and received public veneration (89).

MONDAY

God’s Compassion

Matthew 8:5–10: The centurion said...

“Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed.”...Jesus...was amazed and said “...[I]n no one in Israel have I found such faith.”

Diary: [Jesus said to me,] “Encourage the souls with whom you come in contact to trust in My infinite mercy.

Oh, how I love those souls who have complete confidence in Me” (294).

TUESDAY

The Loving Messiah

Isaiah 11:2–4a: The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him: a spirit of wisdom and of understanding, a spirit of counsel... strength...knowledge...fear of the Lord.... He shall judge the poor with justice, and decide aright for the land’s afflicted.

Diary: Jesus, Friend of a lonely heart, You are my haven,...my peace.... You know our weaknesses, and like a good physician, You comfort and heal, sparing us sufferings” (247).

WEDNESDAY

Bread From Jesus

Matthew 15:36–38: Then he took the seven loaves and the fish, gave thanks,...and gave them to the disciples, who...gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied.

Diary: From [Holy Communion] I draw my Strength; in it is all my comfort...Jesus concealed in the Host is everything to me. From the tabernacle I draw strength, power, courage and light (1037).



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THURSDAY

Becoming Disciples

Matthew 7:24–26: Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.... And everyone who listens to these words... but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

Diary: As many times as I breathe, as many times as my heart beats,...do I want to glorify Your Mercy.... Help me, O Lord, that my hands may be merciful,...that I may do only good (163).

FRIDAY

The Lord Is My Light

Psalms 27:1, 4: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom do I fear? The Lord is my life's refuge; of whom am I afraid?

Diary: Jesus...spoke these words, "My daughter, your heart is My repose; it is My delight. I find in it everything that is refused Me by so many souls" (339).

SATURDAY

Loving the Lowly

Psalms 147:1, 3–6: Praise the Lord...sing praises to our God; for he is gracious.... He heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.... The Lord lifts up the downtrodden (NRSV).

Diary: When the same poor people come...a second time, I treat them with greater gentleness.... I treat them as my Master would. Sometimes more is given when giving nothing, than when giving much in a rude manner (1282).