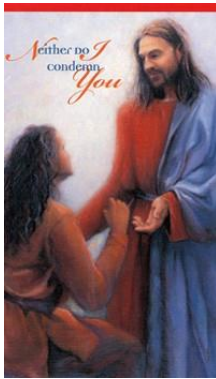


# WORD OF LIFE: APRIL 2020

*Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!*

## FEATURED THIS MONTH...

### April 19, 2020: Sunday of Divine Mercy



Each year, on the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church celebrates [Divine Mercy Sunday](#). Mankind's need for the message of Divine Mercy took on dire urgency in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when civilization again began to lose the understanding of the sanctity and inherent dignity of human life.

In the 1930s, Jesus chose a humble Polish nun, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, to receive private revelations concerning Divine Mercy that were recorded in her Diary. St. Faustina's Diary records 14 occasions when Jesus requested that a Feast of Mercy be observed. On May 5, 2000, five days after the canonization of St. Faustina, the Vatican decreed that the Second Sunday of Easter would also henceforth be known as Divine Mercy Sunday.

[Prayer](#) | [Order](#)

## Sample Bulletin Announcement

Today we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday. 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, anniversary reactions to the date of the abortion or what would have been the baby's due date, broken relationships and a sense of alienation from God and the Church. If this is you, we want you to know that your Church cares. Seek the Lord's mercy and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consider confidential, compassionate help from Project Rachel, a confidential Catholic ministry offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Select "Find Help" from the menu on [HopeAfterAbortion.org](#) to find the diocesan ministry near you.

## Related Pro-Life Resources

[Bridges of Mercy for Healing After Abortion](#)



[Healing within Marriage from an Abortion](#)



[Pray for Life: Divine Mercy](#)



[Divine Mercy in my Soul](#)

*Scared and nervous, I made the first confession in many years. The priest was gentle, trying to make it as easy as he could for me. He showed great empathy and support. At last, I was on my way home.*

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## Intercessions for Life

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**

May the sacrifice of our Lord in His Passion  
deepen our understanding  
of the value and dignity  
of every human life;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Palm Sunday of the Lord's  
Passion**

**April 12<sup>th</sup>**

For those mourning the loss of a loved one:  
May they find peace in the hope of the  
Resurrection and Christ's promise of eternal life;  
*We pray to the Lord*

**Easter Sunday  
The Resurrection of the Lord**

**April 19<sup>th</sup>**

May the infinite mercy  
of our divine Savior reach all who are  
suffering from participation in  
abortion, and transform them  
with His healing, hope and peace;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Second Sunday of Easter  
(or Sunday of Divine Mercy)**

**April 26<sup>th</sup>**

For all women considering abortion:  
May God assure them of His saving power,  
fill their hearts with peace,  
and lead them on the path of life;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

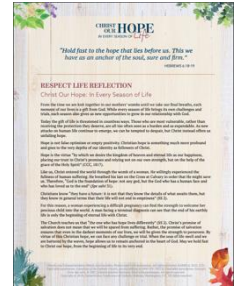
**Third Sunday of Easter**

## Bulletin Quotes

### April 5<sup>th</sup>

“Like us, Christ entered the world through the womb of a woman. He willingly experienced the fullness of human suffering. He breathed his last on the Cross at Calvary in order that He might save us. Therefore, ‘God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end’ (*Spe salvi* 31).”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
2019-2020 Respect Life Reflection (Citing Pope Benedict XVI, *Spe salvi* © 2007, Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. All rights reserved.)



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### April 12<sup>th</sup>

“Those who die in God’s grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is not an abstract idea, but a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead and everlasting life by preparing now, in hope, for our passage from this life into eternal life.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing”



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

### April 19<sup>th</sup>

If you or someone you know has had an abortion, “be assured that it is never too late to seek God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”\* Additionally, other confidential, compassionate help is also available. Select “Find Help” from the menu on [www.hopeafterabortion.org](http://www.hopeafterabortion.org) to find the diocesan Project Rachel Ministry near you.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
\*“*Bridges of Mercy for Healing after Abortion*”



[Order](#) | [Download](#)

### April 26<sup>th</sup>

“From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“*Another Look at Abortion*”



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## WORD OF LIFE – APRIL 2020

### Bulletin Art

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#### Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020



- Download Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

#### Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020



- Download Image: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

#### Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Healing within Marriage from an Abortion**  
Read the full version at [respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage](http://respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage).

When Susan's\* husband, Juan, told her about the abortion he was involved in during college, she finally understood why he was so depressed and had trouble bonding with their children. The devastation of abortion brings with it many challenges. Often, the people who have participated in an abortion are unaware of the countless ways it is affecting their lives. It is scary to tell a spouse or fiancé(é) about a past abortion. It requires great trust in that person's love and trust in God. But with the help of an abortion healing ministry, couples can successfully work through abortion-related challenges. God's grace can bring true healing to the relationships of those who trust in His infinite mercy.

**God's grace can bring true healing.**

\*Names changed for privacy. This is a summary of a USCCB Respect Life Program article by the same name and is reprinted with permission. © 2019, USCCB, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.  
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- Download Bulletin Box: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

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