



## The Eight Day (Octave), The Greatest Day, Divine Mercy Sunday!

The name “octave” has been given to the eight day period after a liturgical feast. This eighth day of the feast is considered as a recurrence of the first day. Each Sunday throughout the year is known as the “eight day” - a recurrence of the Feast of the Resurrection. The Octave day can be considered as the “greatest day” of the Feast itself. This practice of observing the octave day as the greatest day of the feast is rooted in Jewish celebration. For example the dedication of Solomon’s Temple and the annual Feast of Tabernacles. We read in the 7 chapter in Saint John’s Gospel:

**On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and cried out, “if anyone thirsts, let him come to Me; let him drink who believes in Me.” (Jn 7:37-38)**

### What is the Octave day of Easter?

Divine Mercy Sunday (Feast of Mercy), the Second Sunday of Easter “the greatest day”. We need to take the time to consider the meaning of these things and the connection that exist among them. We must enter into this Easter Sunday celebration knowing that the greatest day of this Feast is the celebration of God’s Mercy.

One of the greatest Doctors of the Church, St Gregory of Nazianzen, also supports this feast, declaring that **the Octave Day of Easter is even a greater feast than Easter** - though it takes nothing away from the greatness of the Day of Resurrection itself. Easter Sunday is the boundary between death and life (a creation). But its eighth day, the Octave, is the **Fulfillment of what Easter is all about-** perfect life in



eternity (a second creation, more admirable and more sublime than the first).

What good is it to put these days on our calendars and call them “great feasts” if their meaning is not realized in our lives? We must understand them and rejoice and celebrate what our Lord has given us through His church.

When Jesus revealed the Sacred Image of Himself as The Divine Mercy to St. Faustina on February 22, 1931, He declared:

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“I desire that there be a Feast of Mercy. I want this image, which you will paint with a brush, to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter (the eighth day, octave of the Resurrection of our Lord) that Sunday is to be the Feast of Mercy.” (Diary, 49)**

One day while St. Faustina was offering all her sufferings and prayers for the establishment of this Feast, she said to our Lord: “They tell me that there is already such a feast and so why should I talk about it?”

### *Our Lord Speaks:*

**“And who knows anything about this feast? No one! Even those who should be proclaiming My mercy and teaching people about it often do not know about it themselves. That is why I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the First Sunday after Easter, and want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it.” (Diary, 340)**