

Feast of Atonement, Divine Mercy Sunday, and the Octave of Easter

Novena of Chaplets starts on Good Friday, as per the instructions of Jesus,-----and ends on Easter Saturday

Holy Thursday start of 10 “Days of Awe”; like Jew’s High Holy Days, Institution of Communion	Good Friday Christ offered as the True Sacrificial Lamb for Atonement	Holy Saturday waiting for the Christ to arise and the Easter Vigil.	Easter Sunday (morning) Resurrection of Jesus and “Grand Opening” Solemnity	Easter Monday Just like another Sunday. Solemnity	Easter Tuesday Just like another Sunday. Solemnity	Easter Wednesday Just like another Sunday. Solemnity	Easter Thursday Just like another Sunday. Solemnity	Easter Friday Just like another Sunday. Solemnity	Easter Saturday Just like another Sunday. Solemnity	Octave Day of Easter/Divine Mercy Sunday (Gospel reading Easter evening) Institution of Confession “Grand Finale” Solemnity

Octave starts (the greatest feast in the Church, the Feast of Easter, 8 continuous days of solemnities)-----ends

Feast of Atonement starts (10 day feast, just like Old Testament) Holy Thursday to Octave Day of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy-----ends-----

Explanation of this concept

The Lord told Moses (Leviticus 16: 29-34, 23: 26-28) And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins, once a year. *“This is to be a lasting ordinance for you.... Because on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the Lord, you will be clean from all your sins.”* The people had to afflict (humble) themselves and offer a blood sacrifice.

To receive the forgiveness of sins and punishment on this, once a year feast (the Feast of Mercy/Octave of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy), we must go to Confession (humble ourselves) and receive Holy Communion (the Lord’s life-blood). This once a year feast is, for us, as it was for the Jews, an annual preparation for the Judgment. The Jews still refer, today, to the 10 days leading up to the Day of Atonement as the “High Holy Days” and as the “10 days of awe”. In the same way for us, as Catholics, the 10 day period from Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, the Day of the Resurrection and through the entire Octave of Easter, to Divine Mercy Sunday, as most definitely the “10 days of awe”.

The Church has always taught the importance of octave celebrations. Like any big feasts, festivals or carnivals, the last day of the festivities is usually the day that offers the “grand prize”. Because there is no greater feast in the world than Easter, it should offer the very greatest ‘grand prize’ of all: a straight ticket to Heaven. The Octave Day of Easter is the “grand finale” of the Easter feast, which holds, within it, the gift of Easter. It is time to end the miss-conception that Divine Mercy Sunday takes away from Easter. The opposite is true; if you don’t celebrate the Octave Day of Easter, you take away from Easter, denying everyone the Gift of Easter. Divine Mercy Sunday is the day where we receive the gifts of Easter, eternal life in Heaven.