

Divine Mercy

Theresa Sundstrom

Last year when we were unable to attend Mass and not going anywhere due to Covid, the kids and I began saying the rosary in the mornings. It was never a quiet prayer time, by any means, with then, six children. I even had to put some Nerf guns up that were brought into the living room by the youngest boys, but it was somehow peaceful. I know the Holy Family was looking down and smiling.

Now with a fairly needy newborn, we have fallen out of this routine. Isn't this how all our prayer lives go? We have our ups and our downs and it's important to give ourselves some grace. Recently, though, I woke up and was reminded of the Divine Mercy Chaplet. I always thought of it as a "short-cut" rosary as a child, but when you read about the history of St. Faustina, it becomes such a rich devotional. It also seems fitting with Lent approaching because it is often prayed during the "Hour of Great Mercy" – three o'clock each afternoon (recalling the time of Christ's death on the cross).

Check out Catholic singer Steve Angrisano on Facebook, or YouTube where he sings and prays the Divine Mercy Chaplet!

Mary's Inn Maternity Home in Dubuque: In November 2012, a group of women from the Dubuque area decided to follow an inspirational calling from God to found a maternity home for single mothers in crisis pregnancies. They knew through a variety of experiences with Dubuque County Right to Life and the Archdiocesan Gabriel Project and in conversations with community agencies that a maternity home was necessary for the community. Over time, God quietly instilled the responsibility in their hearts to found Mary's Inn, which offers vulnerable women of any age and of any (or no) faith, a safe haven where they can stay while learning the skills they need to make a better life for themselves and their babies. Mary's Inn opened their doors in June of 2015 and continues to welcome women today! To date, the Inn has provided housing and assistance to 31 women and their babies.

Our Parish tithed \$500 to Mary's Inn in December. In addition to financial assistance, Mary's Inn is asking for prayers of support. As a way to act on our Parish theme this year, please consider pledging to pray for the mission of Mary's Inn by signing up at the following URL: <https://marysinndubuque.wixsite.com/prayerintentions>.

They ask that you sign up for one of the following prayer options:

- Pray the rosary
- Attend a weekday Mass
- Pray a Mary's Inn Daily Prayer
- Spend one hour in chapel
- Other _____

Shepherds of Prayer for Mary's Inn

Rejoice Always. Pray Without Ceasing 1 Thes. 5:16-17

Submitted by Barb Pederson for the Social Justice Commission