

Divine Mercy Sunday ~ April 16, 2023



On Divine Mercy Sunday a special Mass was held at Saint Stephen the First Martyr, in Hinesville Georgia to present three relics of Polish saints associated with the Divine Mercy message and devotion. It is an honor to be permanent relic caretakers of:

- Saint Faustina Kowalska, also known as the “Secretary of Divine Mercy” patron of Divine Mercy, feast day October 5th. Saint Faustina’s relic is a second-class relic received from the Basilica of the Divine Mercy in Poland.
- Saint Pope John Paul II also known as the Great Mercy Pope; patron of Popes, World Youth Day, and families, feast day October 22nd. Saint Pope John Paul II’s relic is a first-class relic issued by the Vatican.
- Blessed Hanna Chrznowaska referred to as “Nurse of Mercy” is patron of nursing and healthcare, feast day April 28th. Blessed Hanna’s relic is a first-class relic received from the church of Saint Nicolas in Poland.

These relics will be permanently displayed in the church sanctuary for veneration by the faithful who visit our parish.

The veneration of relics is rooted in Scripture and has always been part of the Catholic faith. Some of the Scripture passages that reference relics are 2 Kings 2:13-14, 2 Kings 13:20-21, Mark 5:27-29, and Acts 19:11-12. Relics are items or materials associated with a saint and they are divided into three classes. First-class relics are very rare small physical remains of a particular saint. Second-class relics are specific items the saint frequently used such as clothing articles or other belongings. First and second-class relics are always accompanied by certification of authenticity. Third class relics are more common and are any item that touches a first or second-class relic. All relics are holy objects through which the faithful can experience the wondrous power of God.

