

St. John's Newsletter

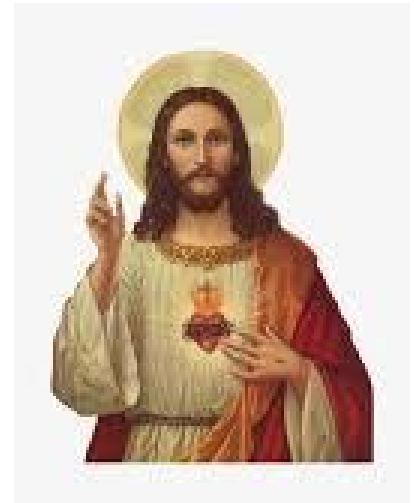


Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a special devotion to Jesus. June is traditionally a time to focus on the Sacred Heart of Jesus because the Feast is a solemnity in the liturgical calendar that falls 19 days after Pentecost, on a Friday. This year it will be June 7, 2024.

What does the heart of Jesus exemplify? According to the *Compendium of Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Jesus knew us and loved us with a human heart. His Heart, pierced for our salvation, is the symbol of that infinite love with which he loves the Father and each one of us.

Many saints have had a great love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus including St. Padre Pio, St. John Henry Neuman and St. Francis de Sales. The specific devotion dates back to the 1600's and a young French nun, Margaret Mary Alacoque.



As a child Margaret Mary had a strong faith and preferred meditation and prayer to play. She entered the convent in 1671. Margaret received several private revelations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. However, she struggled with convincing others of the validity of her apparitions, even those in her own community though they came to accept it. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was the topic of discussion long after her death in 1690 at the age of 43. People talked

about her mission and qualities, her revelations and spiritual maxims and her teachings on the Sacred Heart. On September 18, 1864, Margaret Mary was beatified by Pope Pius IX. When her tomb was opened a few years later, two immediate cures took place and her body laid incorrupt. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was officially canonized on May 13, 1920 by Pope Benedict XV and, in 1928, Pope Pius XI upheld the Church's position regarding the credibility behind her visions of Jesus Christ. He stated Jesus "manifested Himself" to Margaret and supported the Devotion to the Sacred Heart.

12 Promises of Devotion to Sacred Heart of Jesus

Jesus asked for reparation to be made for the sins of all the world which grieve His heart so much. To those who dedicate themselves to making reparation, Jesus promised:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

So how do we receive these graces?

For the first Friday of nine consecutive months, a person must:

1. Attend Holy Mass
2. Go to Confession (if we are not in a state of grace)
3. Receive Holy Communion with the intention of making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for the sins of the world