



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

Corner of E. First Avenue and Hamlet Streets

Church Address: 809 Hamlet Street

Office Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215

(Territorial Parish ~ Est. 1875)

(614) 294-5319

Fax: (614) 294-4303

www.sacredheartchurchcolumbus.org

Msgr. Frank P. Lane, Parochial Administrator

MASSES:

Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday: 11:00 a.m.

Weekdays and Holy Days:

(See Mass Schedule inside Bulletin)

PARISH OFFICE/STAFF:

Aggie Howard, Executive Assistant, ahoward@sjbitaliana.org

Victoria Scruggs, Secretary, vgammell@sjbitaliana.org

Office Hours, St. John the Baptist and Sacred Heart Church:

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Administration of both parishes is done through the office at St. John the Baptist – 168 E. Lincoln Street. Requests for copies of sacramental records, scheduling of Masses and other sacramental celebrations, hall rental and other non-emergency needs should be made during regular office hours or email info@sjbitaliana.org. Please notify the Parish Office of any changes, such as address or telephone, etc., by calling during regular hours or email info@sjbitaliana.org.

MUSIC MINISTRY:

Gina M. Bishop, Music Director

John C. Huffman, Organist

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

Announcements must be submitted in writing by Tuesday at noon.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP: We welcome you into our Parish Families. Membership in the parish consists of two parts:

Registration: Please fill out form and return to Office.

Participation: As a member of the Church, you are accepting the responsibility of weekly worship as well as supporting God's work here through giving of yourself, your time and talents, and a worthy Sunday offering to show your love for God and your gratitude for His many favors.

RECONCILIATION: Saturday: 3:00-3:45 p.m.

BAPTISM:

Preparation is required for the reception of the sacrament. Parents are encouraged to call the Rectory and set up an appointment before the birth of their child.

MATRIMONY:

Arrangements should be made at least six or more months in advance. A marriage preparation program is required.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK:

In cases of emergencies, please call anytime. Please notify the Parish Office for Communion calls to the sick, shut-ins. Due to privacy laws, if parishioners wish to be visited in the hospital, they should contact the Parish Office directly and give the information regarding the hospitalization. **If you are scheduled for surgeries or other medical procedures**, please contact the Parish Office in advance so that a priest can administer Anointing of the Sick prior to the procedure.

SACRED HEART

Dear Friends in Christ,

This coming **Friday, June 7th**, is the Feast of the **Sacred Heart**. We have permission to celebrate our feast day at **4:00 p.m. Mass** on **Saturday, June 8th**. This is the **350th Jubilee** year of the apparition of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in Paray-le-Monial, France**. We can all receive a **Plenary Indulgence** for ourselves or any of the deceased on this day.

Bishop Fernandes will be in **Paray-le-Monial** leading a pilgrimage on the **Feast Day**. He will offer prayers for us there in the Chapel of the Apparition.

Notice: It becomes more difficult to break away from **St. John's after the 9:30 Mass**, so I'm often unable to hear **Sunday morning confessions at Sacred Heart**. When I can, I will, but we can't count on that. However, there are **Confessions** every **Saturday** afternoon at **3:00 p.m.** at **Sacred Heart**.

Many Blessings!
Msgr. Frank Lane

Please contact Sacred Heart or St. John the Baptist Church if you are interested in becoming Catholic, receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or Baptism. For more information, contact the Parish Office at 614-294-5319.

For Weddings and Funerals, please contact Aggie Howard at ahoward@sjbitaliana.org or call the office at 614-294-5319.

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ADORATION: In celebration of the Jubilee 350th year of the Apparition of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Sacred Heart Church will be open from **10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.** every **Thursday** until the **Feast of the Sacred Heart on June 27, 2025**. During that time, the **Blessed Sacrament** will be exposed for **Adoration**, there will be **Mass 6:30 p.m.**, followed by **Confessions and Benediction until 7:30 p.m.** There must be someone present throughout the entire day and help is needed! Please, sign up for an hour or half-hour of **Adoration on Thursday**. There are sign-up sheets at both church entrances. **Your help is needed for this especially important mission!** In these troubled times in the country, the Church, and the world, this is a wonderful opportunity for us to seek our own personal freedom from all darkness and to help to heal all in our world that is so broken.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION 2024-25



One of the most important aspects a parish must have to survive is a strong religious education program. **St. John's** classes will begin on **September 15th** in the **Administrative Office** on the **second**

floor, regardless of the number of students who are registered. **Grandchildren of grandparents are welcome if the grandparents are registered in the parish.** Class begins immediately following the **9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass** and will last **45 minutes**. Please call **Sharon Curtin 614-563-8405**, or email sharon@mcurtin.com for information. Thank you.

LECTORS

Saturday, June 1, 2024, 4:00 p.m.	Neil Sika
Sunday, June 2, 2024, 11:00 a.m.	Mary Rykowski
Saturday, June 8, 2024, 4:00 p.m.	Joe Stefanov
Sunday, June 9, 2024, 11:00 a.m.	Justin Pieper
Saturday, June 15, 2024, 4:00 p.m.	Neil Sika
Sunday, June 16, 2024, 11:00 a.m.	Bob Padberg

If you are unable to attend Mass, please contact Bob Longstreth. Thank you!

MASSES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: June 2** **St. John the Baptist – 9:30 a.m.**
+ Antonio (Tony) Caradonna
by Jim and Mara McCoy
Sacred Heart – 11:00 a.m.
+ Dorothy K.
- Monday: June 3** **St. John's – 9:00 a.m.**
Living & Deceased Members of St. John's
- Tuesday: June 4** **St. John's – 9:00 a.m.**
+ Mauro Squadrani
by Sam & Linda McCreary
- Wednesday: June 5** **St. John's – 6:00 p.m.**
+ Karen Mikalonis
by the Heininger Family
- Thursday: June 6** **Sacred Heart – 6:30 p.m.**
Living & Deceased Members of Sacred Heart
- Friday: June 7** **No Mass**
- Saturday: June 8** **Sacred Heart – 4:00 p.m.**
Family of Mrs. Wendy Salyer
by the McCallum Family
- Sunday: June 9** **St. John's – 10:00 a.m.**
+ Tony Solazzo
by Irene Solazzo & Family
Sacred Heart – 11:00 a.m.
+ Marian K.

Confession and Adoration

- Confessions:** **St. John's – Sunday – 8:30 a.m.**
Sacred Heart – Saturday – 3:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart – Sunday – 10:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart – Thursday – 7:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Sacred Heart Thursdays, 10:00 a.m.-7:30 p.m.

YOU ARE INVITED TO PRAY FOR THE HOLY FATHER'S JUNE INTENTION *We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.*

2024 The Appeal – “Respond to His Love” The theme of **The Appeal** inspires us, as people of faith, to share joyfully the **Good News of Christ** to those who most need to feel **His** love. Works of kindness and assistance, sometimes in the smallest way, can bring about a profound change in a person’s life. Through **The Appeal**, we have an opportunity to bring about a positive change in the lives of many of **God’s** people. As of **May 27, 2024**, our **Goal** is **\$13,338.74**, **Pledged: \$14,781.74** and **Balance** is over **\$1,443.00**. We can accomplish this if, after prayerful consideration, everyone gives what they can. Any amount raised over and above our goal will be returned to our parish to be used for our needs. Thank you in advance for your prayerful generosity.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT SACRED HEART

May 26, 2024

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 13

In Env:	\$	660.00
Loose:	\$	1,439.00
Total	\$	2,099.00
Less Diocesan 8% Assessment	\$	-(167.92)
	\$	1,931.08

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)
This Week:	\$2,800.00	\$2,099.00	-\$701.00

DONATION QR CODE AND WEBSITE INFORMATION



Please help Sacred Heart maintain this beautiful 100-year-old building with a donation by using the QR code. Thank you!



SH Collection Counters – Monday, June 3, 2024
David and Gilda Cottrill

SH Collection Counters – Monday, June 10, 2024
Rita Ward and Aggie Howard

REQUESTING A MASS INTENTION:

To request a **Mass** Intention at **Sacred Heart**, please put the following information in an envelope and place it in the collection basket.

Your Name: _____

Name of the **person** for which the intention is being requested: _____

Please mark **Deceased** or **Living**: _____

Date you would prefer the **Mass** to be offered: _____

Stipend (The suggested stipend for a **Mass Intention** at **Sacred Heart** is **\$10.00**.)

AROUND US

Liturgical Calendar: The month of **June** falls within the liturgical season of **Ordinary Time**, which is represented by the liturgical color green and is dedicated to **The Sacred Heart of Jesus**.

AN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*Most sweet **Jesus**, humbly kneeling at Thy feet, we renew the consecration of our family to **Thy Divine Heart**. Be **Thou our King forever!** In Thee we have full and entire confidence. **May Thy spirit** penetrate our thoughts, our desires, our words and our deeds. Bless our undertakings, share in our joys, in our trials, and in our labors. Grant us to know **Thee** better, to love **Thee** more, to serve **Thee** without faltering. **Amen***

CATHOLIC MEN’S LUNCHEON – FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2024

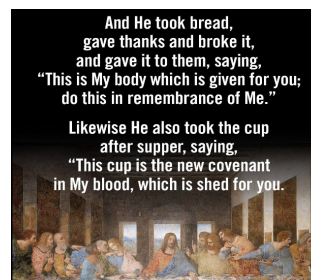
Join us **Friday, June 7** at **St. Patrick Church** in downtown **Columbus** for a luncheon featuring a talk by **Patrick Madrid**, entitled, “**Ten Recent Discoveries that Point to the Existence of God.**” If you are interested in sponsoring this or another luncheon, contact **Pat Foley** at **foleyp513@gmail.com**. **Holy Mass** (optional) begins at **11:45 a.m.**, followed by **lunch** at **12:10 p.m.** and **Mr. Madrid’s** presentation. No reservations are necessary. **\$12.00** covers lunch and the meeting. Bring a friend!

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Our **Eucharistic Lord** will be traveling coast to coast, and you can be a part of it! Thousands followed **Jesus** throughout His earthly ministry. What would it have been like to walk with Him? As part of the **NER (National Eucharistic Revival)** there will be a massive expedition/pilgrimage across our nation. The **Diocese of Columbus** is part of the **Elizabeth Ann Seton Route**. Processions will take place from **June 24-June 30, 2024**, at churches throughout the Diocese. For more information and to register, go to www.columbuscatholic.org/revival

DIOCESAN SENIOR CITIZENS CELEBRATION IS JUNE 20

Come join us and our **Bishop Earl K. Fernandes** at the **45th Annual Diocesan Senior Citizens Celebration** on **Thursday, June 20, 2024**, at **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, 3730 Broadway, Grove City**. **Bishop Fernandes** will celebrate **Mass** at **10:30 a.m.** **Mass** will be followed by a luncheon. This annual event is a great opportunity for prayer, food, and fellowship with senior citizens from the **23-county Catholic Diocese of Columbus**. Registration for the celebration is **\$20.00**. To register, please send a check to the **Office for Social Concerns, payable to Diocese of Columbus, 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215**. For more information, call **614-241-2540** or email at socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org. Online registration is at <https://dioceseofcolumbus.org/social-concerns-online-payments>. **Registrations** are requested by **June 14**.



Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ: O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of Your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever. Amen

Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

“What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?” ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“Behold this Heart, which has so loved men that It has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself, in order to testify Its love. In return, I receive from the greater part [of humanity] only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this Sacrament of Love” [Holy Communion]. It is for this reason I ask thee that the first Friday after the octave of the Blessed Sacrament, be appropriated to a special feast to honor My Heart by receiving Communion on that day, and making reparation for the indignity that It [My Heart] has received. And I promise that My Heart shall dilate to pour out abundantly the influences of My Love on all who will render It this honor or will obtain My Heart being given this honor.” +APPARITION: JESUS SPEAKING TO SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

**Monday, June 3 ~ Ninth Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Charles Lwanga, Martyr, and Companions, Martyrs**

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:1-12 Jesus began to speak to the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders in parables. “A man planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenant farmers and left on a journey. At the proper time he sent a servant to the tenants to obtain from them some of the produce of the vineyard. But they seized him, beat him, and sent him away empty-handed. Again he sent them another servant. And that one they beat over the head and treated shamefully. He sent yet another whom they killed. So, too, many others; some they beat, others they killed. He had one other to send, a beloved son. He sent him to them last of all, thinking, ‘They will respect my son.’ But those tenants said to one another, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ So they seized him and killed him, and threw him out of the vineyard. What then will the owner of the vineyard do? He will come, put the tenants to death, and give the vineyard to others. Have you not read this Scripture passage: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?*” They were seeking to arrest him, but they feared the crowd, for they realized that he had addressed the parable to them. So they left him and went away.

Meditation: This parable speaks to each of us today as well. For it conveys important truths about God and the way he deals with his people. First, it tells us of God's generosity and trust. The vineyard is well equipped with everything the tenants need. The owner went away and left the vineyard in the hands of the tenants. God likewise trusts us enough to give us freedom to run life as we choose. This parable also tells us of God's patience and justice. Not once, but many times he forgives the tenants their debts. But while the tenants take advantage of the owner's patience, his judgment and justice prevail in the end. Jesus foretold both his death and his ultimate triumph. He knew he would be rejected and be killed, but he also knew that would not be the end. After rejection would come glory – the glory of resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father. How do we share in this glory? By submitting to Jesus' kingly rule in our lives. Jesus promises that we will bear much fruit (certainly the fruit of peace, righteousness, and joy, and much more besides) if we abide in him (see John 15:1-11). The Lord also entrusts his gifts to each of us and he gives us work to do in his vineyard – the body of Christ. He promises that our labor will not be in vain if we persevere with faith to the end (ref. 1 Corinthians 15:58). We can expect trials and even persecution. But in the end we will see triumph. Do you labor for the Lord with joyful hope and with confidence in his triumph?

Prayer: O God, who have made the blood of Martyrs the seed of Christians, mercifully grant that the field which is your Church, watered by the blood shed by Saint Charles Lwanga and his companions, may be

fertile and always yield you an abundant harvest. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What does Jesus' parable about an absentee landlord and his tenants say to us? The hills of Galilee were lined with numerous vineyards, and it was quite normal for the owners to let out their estates to tenants. Many did it for the sole purpose of collecting rent. Why did Jesus' story about wicked tenants cause offense to the scribes and Pharisees? It contained both a prophetic message and a warning. Isaiah had spoken of the house of Israel as "the vineyard of the Lord" (ref. Isaiah 5:7). Jesus' listeners would likely understand this parable as referring to God's dealing with a stubborn and rebellious people.

Tuesday, June 4 ~ Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:13-17 Some Pharisees and Herodians were sent to Jesus to ensnare him in his speech. They came and said to him, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you are not concerned with anyone's opinion. You do not regard a person's status but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or should we not pay?" Knowing their hypocrisy he said to them, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius to look at." They brought one to him and he said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" They replied to him, "Caesar's." So Jesus said to them, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." They were utterly amazed at him.

Meditation: What do we owe God and what's our obligation towards others? Paul the Apostle tells us that we must give each what is their due (ref. Romans 13:6-8). The Jewish authorities sought to trap Jesus in a religious-state dispute over the issue of taxes. The Jews resented their foreign rulers and despised paying taxes to Cesar. They posed a dilemma to test Jesus to see if he would make a statement they could use against him. If Jesus answered that it was lawful to pay taxes to a pagan ruler, then he would lose credibility with the Jewish populace who would regard him as a coward and a friend of Cesar. If he said it was not lawful, then the Pharisees would have grounds to report him to the Roman authorities as a political trouble-maker and have him arrested. Jesus avoided their trap by confronting them with the image of a coin. Coinage in the ancient world had significant political power. Rulers issued coins with their own image and inscription on them. In a certain sense the coin was regarded as the personal property of the ruler. Where the coin was valid the ruler held political sway over the people. Since the Jews used the Roman currency, Jesus explained that what belonged to Caesar must be given to Caesar.

Prayer: O God, whose providence never fails in its design, keep from us, we humbly beseech you, all that might harm us and grant all that works for our good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: This passage has another deeper meaning as well. We, too, have been stamped with God's image since we are created in his own likeness (ref. Genesis 1:26-27). We rightfully belong, not to ourselves, but to God who created us and redeemed us in the precious blood of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ (ref. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Paul the Apostle says that we are to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to God (ref. Romans 12:1). Do you acknowledge that your life belongs to God and not to yourself? And do you give to God what rightfully belongs to Him?

Wednesday, June 5 ~ Ninth Week in Ordinary Time **Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr ~ the "Apostle of Germany"**

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:18-27 Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and put this question to him, saying, "Teacher, Moses wrote for us, If someone's brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first married a woman and died, leaving no descendants. So the second brother married her and died, leaving no descendants, and the third likewise. And the seven left no descendants. Last of all the woman also died. At the resurrection when they arise whose wife will she be? For all seven had been married to her." Jesus said to them, "Are you not misled because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven. As for the dead being raised, have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God told him, I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not God of the dead but of the living. You are greatly misled."

Meditation: Among the many problems of the Sadducees, they could not conceive of heaven beyond what they could see with their own eyes. Are we not often like them? We often don't recognize spiritual realities because we try to make heaven into an earthly image. The Sadducees came to Jesus with a test question to make the resurrection look ridiculous. The Sadducees, unlike the Pharisees, did not believe in immortality, nor in angels or evil spirits. Their religion was literally grounded in an earthly image of

heaven. Jesus retorts by dealing with the fact of the resurrection. The scriptures give proof of it. In Exodus 3:6, God calls himself the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. He defeats their arguments by showing that God is a living God of a living people. God was the friend of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob when they lived. That friendship could not cease with death.

Prayer: May the Martyr Saint Boniface be our advocate, O Lord, that we may firmly hold the faith he taught with his lips and sealed in his blood and confidently profess it by our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: As Psalm 73:23-24 states: "I am continually with you; you hold my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory." The Holy Spirit reveals to us the eternal truths of God's unending love and the life he desires to share with us for all eternity. Paul the Apostle, quoting from the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 64:4; 65:17) states: "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him," God has revealed to us through the Spirit (ref. 1 Corinthians 2:9-10). The promise of paradise – heavenly bliss and unending life with an all-loving God – is beyond human reckoning. We have only begun to taste the first-fruits! Do you believe the scriptures? If so, do you know the power of the Holy Spirit?

Thursday, June 6 ~ Ninth Week in Ordinary Time
Saint Norbert, Bishop
Founder of the Canons Regular of Prémontré (the Norbertines)

Holy Gospel: Mark 12:28-34 One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, *He is One and there is no other than he. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.*" And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Meditation: What is the purpose of God's law or commandments? The Pharisees prided themselves in the knowledge of the law and their ritual requirements. They made it a life-time practice to study the 613 precepts of the Old Testament along with the numerous rabbinic commentaries. They tested Jesus to see if he correctly understood the law as they did. Jesus startled them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose. What does God require of us? Simply that we love as he loves! God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. God loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbor is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love and truth the more we love what he loves and reject what is hateful and contrary to his will.

Prayer: O God, who made the Bishop Saint Norbert a servant of your Church outstanding in his prayer and pastoral zeal, grant, we ask, that by the help of his intercession, the flock of the faithful may always find shepherds after your own heart and be fed in the pastures of salvation. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: What makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. So ask yourself: Do you allow anything to keep you from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart? Paul the Apostle says: hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us (ref. Romans 5:5). Do you know the love which conquers all?

Friday, June 7 ~ Ninth Week in Ordinary Time
Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Holy Gospel: John 19:31-37 Since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was

already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: *Not a bone of it will be broken*. And again another passage says: *They will look upon him whom they have pierced*.

Meditation: True love does not count the cost, but gives everything for the beloved. Jesus withheld nothing, but gave everything he had for our sake. Saint Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD) says that "God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love." In the cross of Christ we see the love of God broken and pierced for our sake. Jesus reigns triumphant at the right hand of the Father. He has risen in glory for our sake and he intercedes for us in heaven. He stands before the throne of heaven with his marks of victory – his pierced side, hands, and feet. Who can fathom the love of God? For all eternity we will gaze upon him who was crucified and who rose for our sake. The Lord Jesus calls us to lay down our lives in sacrificial love for one another. Only a broken and contrite heart can fathom the mercy of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who glory in the Heart of your beloved Son and recall the wonders of his love for us, may be made worthy to receive an overflowing measure of grace from that fount of heavenly gifts. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

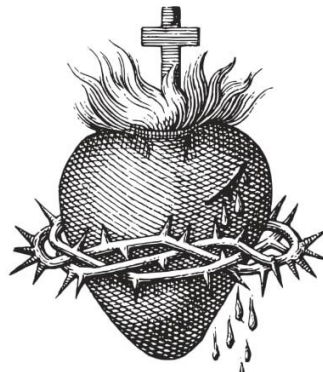
Contemplation: Do you know the heart of Jesus – a heart that was pierced for your sake and mine? Of all the Gospel accounts of Jesus' death, John mentions that the soldiers pierced his heart with a lance. This was a fulfillment of the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10: "when they look on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him". The heart of Jesus was pierced for our sake. He willingly went to the cross and laid down his life as the atoning sacrifice for our sins. If we want to understand the depth and breadth of God's love for each of us, then look upon the heart that was pierced for you and for me. That is the reason Jesus went to the cross, to redeem us from slavery to sin and death.

About the Sacred Heart of Jesus: The devotion is made known to the world when our Lord had Saint Margaret ask that a Feast in honor of His Heart be offered Him by the Church on the Friday after the Solemnity of His Body and Blood (Corpus Christi), that such homage be paid to Himself by the King of France, and that the mission of propagating this devotion was to be entrusted to the Order of the Visitation Sisters and to the priests of the Society of Jesus. After Saint Margaret made this known to her spiritual director, the future Saint Claude de la Colombiere. He consecrated himself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and began to spread the devotion. From Paray-le-Monial, her convent, this devotion spread rapidly, under the care of the Jesuits, to the entire Church. Today, just outside of Paris, France, you can visit the Basilica built as an Act of National Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which commemorates the Apparitions of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. She is buried at Paray-le-Monial, which is between Lyons and Paris, France. Her feast day is October 16.

**For Prayers, Prayer Intentions, and Mass Intentions at Paray-le-Monial,
please visit <http://www.sacrecoeur-paray.org/en/pray/>
Click on the red "At the Heart" icon for English,
though some information is available only in French.**

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops;
prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011;
information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.

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