

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

June is a wonderfully busy month here in the parish. In the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we will experience six weddings, three baptisms, a Corpus Christi Eucharistic Procession, and a Holy Hour of Hope just to name a few. While we often think of the summer months being a bit calmer we have many wonderful celebrations happening in our parish. Again, all of this happens in the month honoring the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

What comes forth from the pierced heart of Jesus is blood and water from which the Church is born. Saint Ambrose said, "Just as Eve was formed from the sleeping Adam's side, so the Church was born from the pierced heart of Christ hanging dead on the Cross". It is by Jesus' blood and life-giving water that we are saved and redeemed. A heart so full of love it is literally poured out and sprinkled upon us. I cannot help but remember the soldier who pierced Jesus' side with a lance. As soon as the blood and water were sprinkled on him, he fell to his knees and made the great profession of faith, "Truly this was the Son of God".

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began as early as the 7th Century with Pope Gregory the Great. It became much more popular in the 1600s when St. Margaret Mary joined the Daughters of the Visitation and her public devotion became well known. Between the years 1673 and 1675, Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary revealing His Divine Heart to her. In one apparition He told her, "My Divine Heart is so passionately in love with humanity, and with you in particular, that it cannot keep back the pent-up flames of its burning charity any longer. They must burst out through you". Over time the devotion grew throughout the Church and it became what it is today – a great solemnity celebrated after Pentecost.

As we pray with this devotion, maybe we can put ourselves at the foot of the cross. As our Lord's heart is pierced, what is our response? Might we fall to our knees and experience the immense love that can only come from the Lord.

A prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

O most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer You this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz
Pastor