### The Sacred Heart of Jesus



The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is celebrated nineteen days after Pentecost (see fun fact below).

While the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is raised to a Solemnity, it is not a Holy Day of Obligation. However, because it is a Solemnity, when it falls on a Friday the obligation for Friday penance (i.e. "meatless Fridays") is lifted.

Private devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus dates to at least the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. However, the most well-known devotion was from Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a 17<sup>th</sup> Century nun and mystic. She had visions of Jesus, who requested to be honored

under the figure of His Heart and asked for a feast of reparation on the Friday after the Octave of Corpus Christi. In 1856, Pope Pius IX added the feast into the general calendar of the Roman Catholic Church.

Fun Fact. The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SHofJ) falls 19 days after Pentecost. This means that it changes depending on when Pentecost falls. The earliest possible date SHofJ has fallen was May 29, 1818 (this will happen again in 2285!). The latest possible date was July 2, 1943 (which will happen again in 2038!).

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine!

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#### Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart (Iesu Dulcissime)

This prayer was prescribed to be recited on this feast by Pope Pius XI. "A *partial indulgence* is granted to the Christian faithful who devoutly recite the [below] act of reparation. This indulgence will be a *plenary* one when this Act of Reparation is publicly recited on the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus." (Handbook of Indulgences, #26) Sometimes the following is said by the faithful in between each paragraph, though it is not part of the original Latin prayer: "Praise to the heart of Jesus, our Savior and our God!"

Most sweet Jesus, whose overflowing charity for men is requited by so much forgetfulness, negligence and contempt, behold us prostrate before Thee, eager to repair by a special act of homage the cruel indifference and injuries to which Thy loving Heart is everywhere subject.

Mindful, alas! that we ourselves have had a share in such great indignities, which we now deplore from the depths of our hearts, we humbly ask Thy pardon and declare our readiness to atone by voluntary expiation, not only for our own personal offenses, but also for the sins of those, who, straying far from the path of salvation, refuse in their obstinate infidelity to follow Thee, their Shepherd and Leader, or, renouncing the promises of their baptism, have cast off the sweet yoke of Thy law.

We are now resolved to expiate each and every deplorable outrage committed against Thee; we are now determined to make amends for the manifold offenses against Christian modesty in unbecoming dress and behavior, for all the foul seductions laid to ensnare the feet of the innocent, for the frequent violations of Sundays and holydays, and the shocking blasphemies uttered against Thee and Thy Saints. We wish also to make amends for the insults to which Thy Vicar on earth and Thy priests are subjected, for the profanation, by conscious neglect or terrible acts of sacrilege, of the very crimes of nations who resist the rights and teaching authority of the Church which Thou hast founded.

Would that we were able to wash away such abominations with our blood. We now offer, in reparation for these violations of Thy divine honor, the satisfaction Thou once made to Thy Eternal Father on the cross and which Thou continuest to renew daily on our altars; we offer it in union with the acts of atonement of Thy Virgin Mother and all the Saints and of the pious faithful on earth; and we sincerely promise to make recompense, as far as we can with the help of Thy grace, for all neglect of Thy great love and for the sins we and others have committed in the past. Henceforth, we will live a life of unswerving faith, of purity of conduct, of perfect observance of the precepts of the Gospel and especially that of charity. We promise to the best of our power to prevent others from offending Thee and to bring as many as possible to follow Thee.

O loving Jesus, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mother, our model in reparation, deign to receive the voluntary offering we make of this act of expiation; and by the crowning gift of perseverance keep us faithful unto death in our duty and the allegiance we owe to Thee, so that we may all one day come to that happy home, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit Thou livest and reignest, God, forever and ever. Amen.

### E The Sacred Heart of Jesus



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In 1899, Pope Leo XIII approved the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for public use. This litany is a combination of several other litanies dating back to the 17th century. There are a total of 33 "Heart of Jesus" invocations, one for each year of life of our Lord Jesus Christ. A *partial indulgence* is attached to this litany.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit,

have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, One God,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin

Mother,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, of Infinite Majesty,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, Sacred Temple of God,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, Tabernacle of the Most High,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, House of God and Gate of Heaven,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, in whom are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fullness of divinity,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke Thee,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,

have mercy on us. Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses,

have mercy on us. Heart of Jesus, obedient to death,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, our peace and our reconciliation,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in Thee,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in Thee,

have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, delight of all the Saints,

have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,

spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,

graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us, O Lord.

V. Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

R. Make our hearts like to Thine.

Let us pray:

Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of Thy most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which He offers Thee in the name of sinners; and to those who implore Thy mercy, in Thy great goodness, grant forgiveness in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee forever and ever. Amen.