

LITANY OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven,

have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, ...

God the Holy Spirit, ...

Holy Trinity, one God, ...

Heart of Mary,

pray for us.

Heart of Mary, like unto the Heart of God, ...

Heart of Mary, united to the Heart of Jesus, ...

Heart of Mary, instrument of the Holy Ghost, ...

Heart of Mary, sanctuary of the Divine Trinity, ...

Heart of Mary, tabernacle of God Incarnate, ...

Heart of Mary, immaculate from thy creation, ...

Heart of Mary, full of grace, ...

Heart of Mary, blessed among all hearts, ...

Heart of Mary, throne of glory, ...

Heart of Mary, most humble, ...

Heart of Mary, holocaust of Divine Love, ...

Heart of Mary, fastened to the Cross with Jesus Crucified, ...

Heart of Mary, comfort of the afflicted, ...

Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners, ...

Heart of Mary, hope of the agonizing, ...

Heart of Mary, seat of mercy, ...

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,

have mercy on us, O Lord.

Christ hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

V. Immaculate Mary, meek and humble of heart,

R. *Make our hearts like unto the Heart of Jesus.*

Let us pray: O most merciful God, Who, for the salvation of sinners and the refuge of the miserable, was pleased that the Most Pure Heart of Mary should be most like in charity and pity to the Divine Heart of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we who commemorate this sweet and loving Heart may, by the merits and intercession of the same Blessed Virgin, merit to be found like to the Heart of Jesus, through the same Christ Our Lord.

R. *Amen.*

AUGUST: MONTH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus focuses mostly on His divine love for mankind and encourages our humility, gratitude, obedience, and adoration; devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary focuses on Mary's love for God and encourages us to emulate her humility, gratitude, obedience, and adoration. Mary as loving Mother of Jesus Who suffered for us; Mary as Mother of the Church; Mary as obedient daughter, Mary as our Gevirah (Queen Mother of Israel)—we ponder her interior life in each of these roles, consecrate ourselves to Jesus through her, make reparations for offending her as our Mother, ask her intercession for us with her Son, and emulate her as the model of Christian perfection.

The Feast of Candlemas, which commemorates Mary's ritual Purification and her Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, sheds special light on the nature of devotion to her Immaculate Heart. The old man, Simeon, foretold that "a sword" shall pierce Mary's heart. Meditating on the sorrows symbolized by that sword helps us understand what Our Lord went through for us. But she knew even before Simeon's words to her; when she uttered to God "Let it be done to me according to Thy will," she knew that she would give birth to the One destined to die to redeem us. She knew that she would have to offer up her Son. And she chose that suffering. Speaking of Mary's joy at Christ's birth, Pope John XXIII said,

This joy, however, is also a scarlet flower of sacrifice: the sacrifice of the Blessed Mother of Jesus, who, having spoken her timely "fiat," at the same time agreed to share in the fate of her Son, the poverty of Bethlehem, in the self-denial of a hidden life, and in the martyrdom of Calvary.

We meditate on Mary's Immaculate Heart not only on Candlemas, but on the Feast of the Seven Sorrows; during all of Passiontide (the two weeks before Easter), as we make the Stations of the Cross; during August, which is devoted to the Immaculate Heart; on August 22, especially, which is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart; during September, which is devoted to the Seven Sorrows, etc.

While, early on, of course, the Church Fathers wrote of Mary's blessedness, purity, and sorrows, and our Saints—Dominic, Gertrude, Thomas Becket, Bridget, Bernardine of Siena, Louis de Montfort—have always had deep Marian devotions, it was after the apparitions of Mary experienced by St. Catherine Labouré at Rue Du Bac, Paris in 1830 that specific devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart was formalized.

Reparations for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary (from Our Lady of Fatima, 1917):

1. Recite at least five decades of the Rosary every day.
2. Wear the Brown Scapular.
3. Offer our daily duty to God as an act of sacrifice (e.g. make the Morning Offering or see below).
Jesus, I accept and bear with submission whatever suffering God permits in my life today for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
4. Make Five First Saturdays of Reparation to her Immaculate Heart (see clarkforkcatholic.com/devotions).
5. The Pope, in union with all the bishops of the world, must consecrate Russia to her Immaculate Heart. Russia would be converted through this means, and a period of peace to be given to the world. If this is not done, Russia will "spread her errors throughout the world."

Types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception.
2. Blasphemies against her virginity.
3. Blasphemies against her divine maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize her as the Mother of men.
4. The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference to, or scorn or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother.
5. The offenses of those who outrage her directly in her holy images.