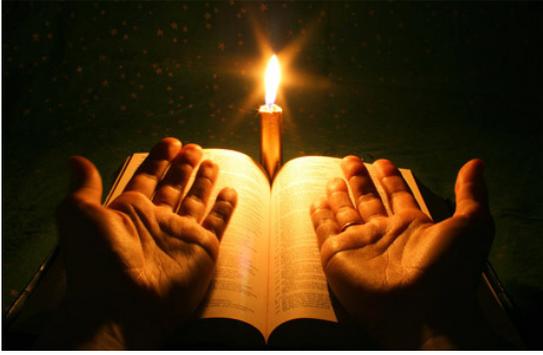


## February Theme: The Mission of Love

*Our Theme reflects the central role of the family in teaching people how to receive and give love.*



*Light a candle representing  
Christ and lay your  
intentions at the feet of the  
Holy Family*

**Reflection:** God works through us. We have a mission. We are in the world for a purpose – to receive God’s love and to show God’s love to others. God seeks to heal a broken universe. He asks us to be his witnesses and helpers in that work.

### **Scripture Reading: 1 CORINTHIANS, CHAPTER 13**

1 If I speak in human and angelic tongues, but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. 2 And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, 5 it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, 6 it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. 7 It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. 9 For we know partially and we prophesy partially, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. 11 When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. 12 At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. 13 So faith, hope, love remain, these three; **but the greatest of these is love** -- 1 Cor 13:13

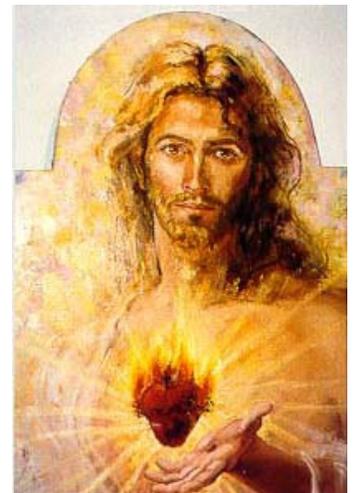
**Prayer Intention:** *Pray for the person who is the most difficult or distant to you each day. And other family needs.*

**Closing Prayer:** Family Prayer (Prayer Introduction)

Teach your family about the **Devotion to the Sacred Heart**

### **Personal Attitudes Needed for the Successful Practice of the Devotion:**

- A true love of Jesus Christ and His Sacred Heart, the source of His excessive mercy, help, graces and blessings.
- Special respect for, and veneration of, the Blessed Sacrament.
- A desire to make Reparation for the neglect, indifference and ingratitude of the majority that results in Jesus Christ being left alone, abandoned and forgotten on our altars, never visited to offer consolation for such neglect, though He has given us the miracle of His Divine Presence in the Blessed Sacrament as a supreme gift to us in His desire to be always with us.
- *He should be honored under the figure of this Heart of flesh, and its image should be exposed...*



Painting by Joseph Fanelli © 1994  
New York, New York

**Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart:** Lord Jesus, Chief Shepherd of the flock, I consecrate myself to your most Sacred Heart. From Your pierced Heart the Church was born, the church You have called me, as a member of the Shepherds of Christ Associates, to serve in a most special way. You reveal Your heart as a symbol of Your love in all its aspects, including Your most special love for me, whom You have chosen as Your companion in this most important work. Help me to always love You in return. Help me to give myself entirely to You. Help me always to pour out my life in love of God and neighbor! Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in You.

If you can, make it to First Friday Mass – See if you can make it a habit  
Visit Jesus in person during Adoration

## Visions of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred\\_Heart](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sacred_Heart)

The most significant source for the devotion to the Sacred Heart in the form it is known today was Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647–1690), a nun from the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, who claimed to have received apparitions of Jesus Christ, the first on 27 December 1673, and the final one 18 months later, revealing the form of the devotion, the chief features being reception of Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, Eucharistic adoration during a "Holy hour" on Thursdays, and the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. She said that in her vision she was instructed to spend an hour every Thursday night to meditate on Jesus' Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

- On December 27, 1673, the feast of Saint John the Evangelist, Margaret Mary reported that Jesus permitted her to rest her head upon his heart, and then disclosed to her the wonders of his love, telling her that he desired to make them known to all mankind and to diffuse the treasures of his goodness, and that he had chosen her for this work.
- In probably June or July, 1674, Sister Margaret Mary claimed that Jesus requested to be honored under the figure of his heart, also saying that, when he appeared radiant with love, he asked for a devotion of expiatory love: frequent reception of Communion, especially on the first Friday of the month, and the observance of the Holy hour.
- During the octave of Corpus Christi, 1675, probably on June 16, the vision known as the "great apparition" reportedly took place, where Jesus said, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men ... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude ...", and asked Margaret Mary for a feast of reparation of the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, bidding her consult her confessor Father Claude de la Colombière, then superior of the small Jesuit house at Paray. Solemn homage was asked on the part of the king, and the mission of propagating the new devotion was especially confided to the religious of the Visitation and to the priests of the [Society of Jesus.

A few days after the "great apparition", Sister Margaret Mary reported everything she saw to Father de la Colombière, and he, acknowledging the vision as an action of the Spirit of God, consecrated himself to the Sacred Heart and directed her to write an account of the apparition. He also circulated this account, discreetly, through France and England. After his death on February 15, 1682, his journal of spiritual retreats was found to contain a copy in his handwriting of the account that he had requested of Margaret Mary, together with a few reflections on the usefulness of the devotion. This journal, including the account; an "offering" to the Sacred Heart, in which the devotion was well explained, was published at Lyons in 1684. The little book was widely read, especially at Paray. Margaret Mary reported feeling "dreadful confusion" over the book's contents, but resolved to make the best of it, approving of the book for the spreading of her cherished devotion. Outside of the Visitandines, priests, religious, and laymen espoused the devotion, particularly the Capuchins, Margaret Mary's two brothers, and some Jesuits. The Jesuit Father Croiset wrote a book called *The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, a book which Jesus is said to have told Margaret to tell Fr. Croiset to write, and Fr. Joseph de Gallifet, also a Jesuit, promoted the devotion.

## The Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart

*Faithful Catholics consecrate to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the spirit of reparation, the First Friday of each month. Jesus Himself made these twelve promises to St. Margaret Mary in favor of those who practice and promote this devotion.*

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 shall find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy
7. Tepid 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 shall be exposed and honored
10. I will give to priest the gift of touching the most hardened hearts
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced
12. I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments. My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment