

## Homily Summary – Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (2025)

### Overview

This weekend (at our parish) we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary—our parish's great patroness and mother. We reflect on Mary's heart as the very center of her being: a heart that is immaculate, burning with love for God and others, and deeply in tune with God's will. This celebration is a beautiful opportunity to ask ourselves: Do we live our faith from the heart, like Mary did?

### Main Points

1. **The Heart as the Core of the Person**
  - The Church and Scripture often speak of the heart as the center of a person's being.
  - The Catechism describes the heart as the place of decision, truth, encounter, and covenant (CCC 2563).
  - The word *heart* in French (*cœur*) also hints at this deep connection.
2. **Mary's Immaculate Heart**
  - Protected from sin from the first moment of her existence, Mary's heart is immaculate—pure, loving, and holy.
  - Her heart is symbolized as being on fire, like Christ's Sacred Heart, with divine love.
3. **Mary as Our Mother and Model**
  - Jesus gave Mary to us as our mother from the Cross (cf. John 19:26–27).
  - Revelation 12–13 shows Mary's role as Queen and Mother of the Church.
  - She intercedes for us constantly (cf. *Hail Mary*) and teaches us to trust and love as she does.
4. **Mary Pondered in Her Heart**
  - Twice in Luke's Gospel, Mary is said to have pondered things in her heart (Luke 2:19, 2:51).
  - This tells us she engaged deeply not only with her mind, but with her heart.
  - We're called to imitate this: not just knowing *about* God, but living in deep relationship with Him.
5. **Living With Our Heart, Like Mary**
  - Do we read Scripture and live our faith only intellectually—or also personally and prayerfully?
  - Do we surrender ourselves fully to God, like Mary did?

### Scripture References (NRSVCE)

- **Luke 2:19** – *“But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.”*
- **Luke 2:51** – *“His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”*
- **Revelation 12–13** – Mary as the woman clothed with the sun, mother of all Christians.
- **John 19:26–27** – Jesus gives Mary to us as our mother.
- **Deuteronomy 6:5** – *“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.”*
- **Mark 12:30** – *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.”*

### Catechism of the Catholic Church References

- **CCC 2563** – *“The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live... The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives...”*
- **CCC 494** – Mary's “yes” to God.
- **CCC 967–970** – Mary's maternal role in the Church.
- **CCC 971** – Veneration of Mary and the *Hail Mary* prayer.
- **CCC 2617–2619** – Mary's prayer and pondering heart.
- **CCC 2674–2679** – Mary's intercession.

### Reflection Questions

1. Do I live my faith only in my mind—or also in my heart?
2. What does it mean for me to truly love God “with all my heart”?
3. When I hear Scripture or teachings of the Church, do I ponder them like Mary did?
4. Have I asked Mary, my spiritual mother, to help me grow closer to Jesus?
5. How can I better model my life after Mary's trust and openness to God?

### Rhyme Summary

My heart is my core, where truth resides, In Mary's heart, God's presence abides. Immaculate, Mary's heart is on fire, With great love for all, and she never tires. Our Immaculate Mother and Queen guides us to her Heavenly Son, And her prayers for us are never done. Like Mary, ponder in your heart, Live your life with Jesus, in every part.

## **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

## **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>