

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Sacred Heart?

As revealed in an apparition to Saint Margaret Mary, the Sacred Heart is the heart of our Lord "which has so loved men that it spared nothing, even going so far as to exhaust and consume itself, to prove to them its love." His Sacred Heart is Love embodied, exactly the kind of limitless, unconditional love we strive to imitate in our daily lives.

Q: What does it mean to enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

"Enthronement" means to place on a throne as recognition of someone's authority, in this case the authority of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, our Sovereign King.

Most of us cherish photos of loved ones that we hold dear. For many of us, these images act as special reminders of our relationships with those they represent, of the love that others have for us and the love we have for others.

The age-old Catholic tradition of Enthronement is built upon a similar premise. That is, that by giving our Lord's Sacred Heart a place of visual prominence in our homes, we are committing an act of adoration and consecrating our families to Him. As a result of this gesture, our homes and our families receive precious graces and blessings. When a home is Enthroned, the tabernacle of our parish church becomes one with our home and we express an unwavering desire to make Christ the King of our families.

Q: Why do we have the image of the Sacred Heart Enthroned?

We have the image of the Sacred Heart Enthroned to outwardly indicate that Jesus is the King of our family, who rules us through His heart, through love, and that we accept His rule of love, and consecrate our family to His Sacred Heart.

At the ceremony, each family member will be invited to sign an Enthronement Certificate to His Most Sacred Heart. Many families choose to frame the certificate and place it near the image of the Sacred Heart as a reminder of their Consecration.

Q: Where should an Enthronement take place?

The Enthronement should take place in a conspicuous place in your home, a family room, dining room, den, where your family and friends gather most frequently.

Q: How do I prepare for an Enthronement?

A member of the Enthronement Team will visit your home at least ten days before the Enthronement ceremony to bring the pilgrim statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary and explain how you will begin the nine-day preparation period with a novena. An Enthronement packet will be provided to help you prepare for the ceremony and continue the preparation phase. Choose a date for the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart when most of the family and/or friends can be present. Prepare a home "altar" or "throne" or "shrine" where the images can be enthroned. It may be decorated with a cloth, fresh flowers, and candles. If no suitable level area is available the image(s) may be Enthroned and hung on a wall.

Q: I have an image of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Can that be enthroned too?

Absolutely! Prayers are included to Our Blessed Mother during the ceremony and her image may be enthroned also.

Q: Who can do an Enthronement?

The head of the family may perform the ceremony, with the image previously blessed by a priest. Saint Andrew's has trained teams who are able to help the family perform the ceremony as their witnesses.

Q: Is there follow-up to an Enthronement?

Yes, you invite Jesus to share your everyday life as Friend, constant Companion, and King. Family prayer, especially the rosary, is the best. Also, a daily renewal of your Consecration helps "Keep your Enthronement Alive."

Q: What is the daily renewal of Consecration

It may be prayed as follows:

"Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus, we renew our pledge today of love and loyalty to You. Keep us always close to your loving Heart, and to the most pure heart of Your Mother. May we love one another more and more each day, forgiving each other's faults as You forgive our sins. Teach us to see you in the members of our family and those we meet outside the home, loving them as You love them, especially the poor and the oppressed, that we may be instrumental in bringing about justice and peace. Please help us to carry our cross daily out of love for You, and to strengthen this love by frequent Mass and Communion. Thank you Dear Jesus, King and Friend of our family, for all the blessings of this day, Protect us and all families during this day. Help us to live that we may all get to heaven. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us! Saint Joseph, pray for us! Our Guardian Angels, pray for us!"

Q: I live alone: is there another prayer that can be said, or do I have to use this one, and make changes?

You may certainly say this one with appropriate changes for your family situation. However there is another element to devotion to the Sacred Heart and this is reparation. We may offer all we think, say and do each day to His Sacred Heart in reparation for all the outrages and sacrileges with which He is daily offended. This may be prayed as follows:

"I gladly offer you today, O most Sacred Heart of Jesus, all my thoughts, words and deeds, and any trials or sufferings I may endure for the intentions of Thy most Sacred Heart, in reparation of sins and for the salvation of the world. Accept this consecration I make today of every faculty of my soul and body. I offer this all through the most holy Immaculate Heart of Mary, that she may complete these in You for the praise and Glory of Your Name and for Love of You. Amen."

Q: Do we have to say such long prayers?

No! You may say anything that comes from your heart, even brief prayers such as: "All for you, most Sacred heart of Jesus." or, "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I love you and I trust in You." or " Sacred Heart of Jesus, I give myself to you through Mary." or any other prayer you wish. He is your Friend, you may speak with Him as you wish!

Q: What else can I do to make my Enthronement effective?

In the home: Be kind and loving to others, read scripture, pray together. Keep flowers or a plant by your image, at the "shrine", with candles to be lit during prayer, if desired. Outside the Home: Be faithful to Sunday Mass. Consider participating in daily Mass and more frequent Confession, especially on First Fridays and First Saturdays. Practice the corporeal and spiritual works of mercy.

Q. Why are we doing this?

We want to strengthen the spiritual lives of the families in our parish. Praying together as a family is often a challenge. Through the Enthronement, families are bringing love into their homes and so praying together can become a reality. Our families do not need to feel powerless and discouraged. In opening our hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and through his boundless mercy and love, Jesus can bring peace, joy, healing, forgiveness, new hope and a new intimacy in all our relations.