

Liturgy Alive of IMMACULATE HEART of MARY

Note: Those who have the special Sacramentary and Lectionary of the Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary will find there other readings, special prayers and a proper Preface for this celebration.

Introduction by the Celebrant

The celebration in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is closely linked to the solemnity of the Sacred Heart, which it follows by one day. This is not by accident. When we honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus we simply celebrate our Lord's great love which he showed by dying for us and which he continues to give us day after day. Mary was close to her Son, not only because she was his Mother but because she loves everyone for whom her Son lived, died, and rose from the dead. Her heart is large enough to include us all in her love. She is with us in our sorrows and joys.

Opening Prayer

Lord our God,
we thank you for the love
with which you filled the heart of Mary,
the Mother of your Son and our mother.
In your great kindness you have given her to us
to open our hearts to your word and to your love,
so that we can seek your will in all we do.
May she also let our hearts be touched
by the needs of people with sorrows and cares.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

General Intercessions

Let us raise our hearts in prayer to God our Father, and ask him to fill our world and our communities with the warmth of his love. We say: **R/ Lord, hear your people.**

– For the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, which is a community of weak people, that the power of God's goodness may become visible in our love for one another, we pray: **R/ Lord, hear your people.**

– For our world with all its needs, that Mary may watch over it, pray for it and keep people from warring with one another and from making one another suffer, we pray: **R/ Lord, hear your people.**

– For people in lowly jobs, that they may learn from our humble Mother that God values all work done with love, we pray: **R/ Lord, hear your people.**

– For all missionaries, that like Mary, our dear Mother, we may give Christ to our world and have a heart loving all people and especially the poorest and the weakest, we pray: **R/ Lord, hear your people.**

– For all of us united here, that our faith may produce in us, as in Mary, fruits of genuine love for one another, we pray: **R/ Lord, hear your people.**

Our loving God, these are the things we ask of you today. Let Mary enrich our prayers with hers and give us every good gift through Christ Jesus our Lord. **R/ Amen.**

Prayer over the Gifts

Generous and merciful God,
we are sure you accept our prayers wholeheartedly
when there is peace among us
and when we try to the best of our ability
to be one of heart and soul.
Help us in our weak efforts
on account of the prayers of Mary.
With her we offer you all honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface: The Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICEL)

The heart of Mary is the heart of one who lives by the New Law.

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

You gave the Blessed Virgin Mary
a wise and obedient heart,
that she might perfectly carry out your will,
a new and gentle heart,
in which you were well pleased
and on which you inscribed
the law of the New Covenant.

You gave her an undivided and pure heart,
that she might be worthy
to be the Virgin Mother of your Son
and to rejoice to see you for ever.

You gave her a steadfast and watchful heart,
so that she could endure without fear the sword of sorrow
and await in faith the resurrection of her Son.

With the whole company of the angels
we sing your praises
in their canticle of joy:
Holy, holy, holy Lord...

Invitation to Communion

Good and loving Father,
in this eucharist we have enjoyed

the food of life and the drink of joy
of your Son Jesus Christ.
Fill us with his Spirit of love,
that our love, like that of Mary,
may be reliable and lasting,
that no indifference may extinguish it,
no flood of impatience nor hatred may sweep it away.
Let it be a flame warming the hearts of people
and a fire burning for you
our living God, now and for ever.

Blessing

God has been very good to us. He has given us Jesus to save us from our inability to love God and neighbor. He has given us Mary to watch over us, to care for us, to pray with us and for us. Yes, Mary cares. Could our thanksgiving not be that we too learn to care for one another and to render all the service we can? May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R/ Amen.

Let us go and, like Mary,
serve the Lord in one another. **R/ Thanks be to God.**