

From the Desk of Fr. John:

This week we celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. These are two great devotions which have their roots on the hill of Golgotha as Our Blessed Lord Jesus died for our sins and his mother stood in agony below. The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus began to take on more of its own distinct practices in the Middle Ages through the promotion and preaching of St. Gertrude the Great. At the beginning of the modern era St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received locutions from Jesus and had mystical visions of him in prayer in which he revealed his Sacred Heart, his 12 promises, and many other aspects of the devotion. Her spiritual director, St. Claude de Colombiere, asked her to write this all down. She did, and so the devotion began to take on the form it has today. The keeping of the nine first Fridays, making acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and frequenting the sacraments. The devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary took its present form at Fatima and the subsequent revelations of Our Lady to Sr. Lucia dos Santos the Fatima visionary. It involves keeping the first five Saturdays, meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, and making acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Homes and families are truly blessed when the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary are enthroned in one's home. Here is a good link to learn about the Sacred Heart: <http://www.fisheaters.com/sh.html> This is a good place to learn about devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary: <http://www.fisheaters.com/ih.html> . Living out these devotions increases our love for God, builds our faith, and is a great help towards our eternal salvation.