

Icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Vincent Raymond, 2018

Blessed Sacrament Chapel, St. Peter, Spokane



The devotion to the Sacred Heart (also known as the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Sacratissimum Cor Iesu* in Latin) is one of the most widely practiced and well-known devotions of the Catholic Christian tradition. The human heart of Jesus Christ is venerated as the representation of His divine love for humanity.

This devotion is especially concerned with what the Church deems to be the longsuffering love and compassion of the Heart of Christ for humanity. The popularization of this devotion in its modern form is derived from a Catholic

nun from France, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, who said that she learned the devotion from Jesus Himself during a series of apparitions to her between 1673 and 1675.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is often depicted in sacred art as a flaming heart shining with divine light and pierced by the wound from the soldier's lance, encircled by the crown of thorns, surmounted by a cross, and bleeding. The image is sometimes shown shining within the bosom of Christ with His wounded hands pointing at the heart. The wounds and crown of thorns all allude to the manner of His death, and the fire represents the transformative power of divine love.

The iconographer Vincent Raymond was commissioned to write this icon by Rev. Jeffrey R. Lewis for St. Peter parish in 2018 for the purpose of consecrating the parish to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and enthroning the Sacred Heart in the Blessed Sacrament chapel, where the Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist, is adored in Exposition and celebrated in the weekday Mass.

Sacred Heart of Jesus...have mercy on us!



ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH
DIOCESE OF SPOKANE