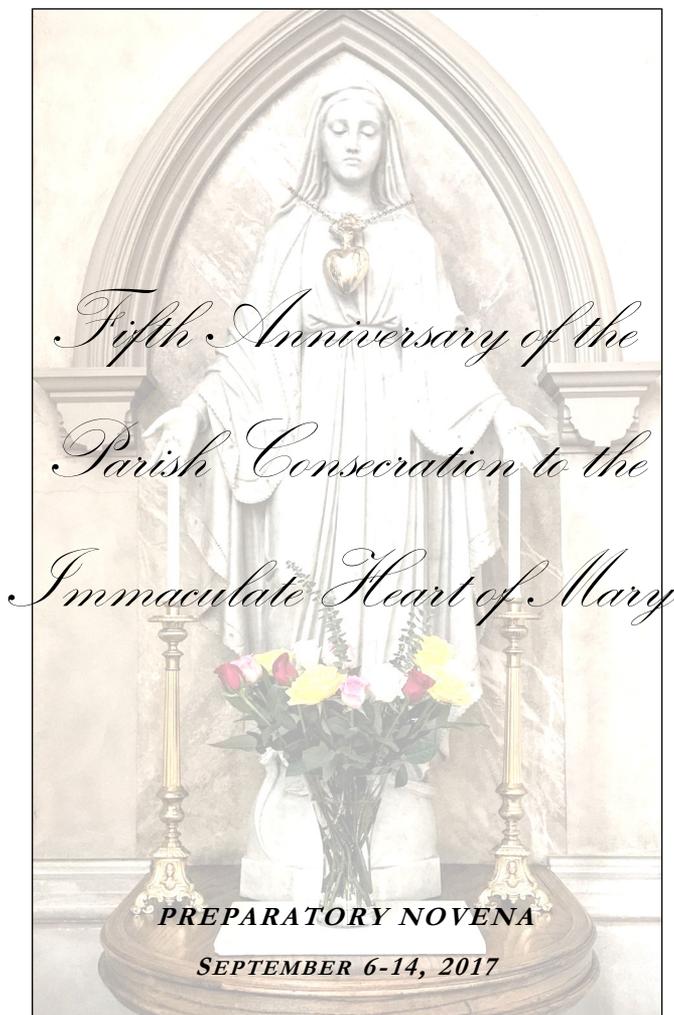


# The Cathedral of Saint Paul



**MASS WITH RENEWAL OF CONSECRATION**

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 AT 6:30PM**

**— THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS —**

## *About Marian Consecration*

To consecrate a person is to set him or her apart for a holy purpose and place his or her life on a new trajectory – to heaven. We were first consecrated at our baptism. On that day the life of God, which we call grace, was poured into our souls; we were washed clean of Original Sin (and any Actual Sin we may have committed, if baptized after the age of reason); we became sons and daughters of God; we were dedicated to his service in his holy Church. But because of our ongoing struggle with concupiscence—the tendency toward sin—and also because of our lack of resolve at different times in our lives in following the Lord’s way, it behooves us occasionally to renew our consecration. We do this principally and liturgically at Easter, when we renew our baptismal vows, rejecting Satan and professing faith in the Triune God. Many Christians have found other acts of consecration helpful to their spirituality as well. Marian consecration is one such special act.

When we consecrate ourselves to Jesus through Mary, we pledge to follow her example of a Christian life perfectly lived. Our Blessed Mother was full of grace from the first moment of her existence and was always pleasing to God. She always made the best choices and never once wavered in her resolve. While those qualities might make her seem so distant from us, in fact we have always found her to be very close. She has never hesitated to condescend and enter into our struggles to help us, just as she did not hesitate to stand at the foot of the Cross as her Son hung there dying. Marian consecration is a means of renewing our resolve to live out our baptismal vows, taking the Blessed Virgin Mary as our model and guide.

## *Marian Consecration at St. Paul’s*

On September 15, 2012, the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows, Father Kevin Bazzel, former Rector, led a consecration of the parish to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Parishioners prepared for this great event by praying a novena and receiving the Sacrament of Confession. As part of the ceremony, Father Bazzel placed a votive heart on our statue of the Blessed Mother, containing a hand-written scroll with the names of all parishioners on it. Almost immediately upon undertaking this consecration, many in the parish noticed great blessings resulting from it. It is our privilege and duty on this fifth anniversary of that felicitous event in the history of our parish to prepare ourselves and renew our consecration, with gratitude to our dear Blessed Mother.

## *How to Prepare for the Renewal*

All are invited to renew (or make for the first time!) the parish consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and share in the benefits thereof. Follow these steps to do so:

1. Think about what special graces you wish to ask of God through the consecration and pray for them daily in the novena (see next step).
2. Pray the novena prayer (back page) daily from September 6 to 14. If you miss a day by mistake, do not get discouraged, but resume the novena immediately with a spirit of trust in our Blessed Mother's care and intercession.
3. Make a good sacramental confession — especially if you have not been recently (in the last month) or if you currently need to go. Extra confession times are listed below. Regular confession is a sure means of spiritual progress and of effectively living out our baptism.
4. Come to the Mass at 6:30pm on Friday, September 15, and join in praying the consecration prayer at its conclusion.
5. Strive each day thereafter to live out your consecration as a son or daughter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose only goal is to lead us into a deeper relationship with her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
6. Wait and see how God chooses to answer your prayers (step 1) and what unexpected graces he will give to you and your family—and to our parish!
7. Remember the consecration day and celebrate it each year with thanksgiving to God and our Blessed Mother.

## *Extra Confession Times*

In addition to the regularly-scheduled parish confession times (M-F 11:30am-12:00pm, Saturday 3:00-4:00pm), the following special times will be available leading up to the consecration renewal:

Tuesday, September 5:	5:00-6:30pm
Friday, September 8:	4:30-6:00pm
Saturday, September 9:	2:30-4:30pm (instead of 3:00-4:00pm)
Monday, September 11:	5:00-6:30pm
Tuesday, September 12:	5:00-6:30pm
Thursday, September 14:	5:00-6:30pm
Friday, September 15:	12:40-1:45pm (i.e., after 12:10pm Mass)

Take advantage of this great opportunity!

## *Novena Prayer*

O Most Blessed Mother,  
heart of love, heart of mercy,  
ever listening, caring, consoling;  
hear my prayer.  
As your child,  
I beg your intercession with Christ, your Son.  
Receive with understanding and compassion  
the petitions I place before you today,  
especially for your maternal care  
upon all of our parishioners  
and all of our parish endeavors, and ...

**(State your own special intentions here...)**

I am comforted in knowing  
that your heart is ever open  
to those who ask for your prayer.  
I entrust to your gentle care and intercession  
those whom I love  
and those who are sick, lonely, or hurting.  
Help all of us, Holy Mother,  
to bear our burdens in this life  
until we may share eternal life and peace  
with God for ever. Amen.

## *The Magnificat*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior:  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant, Israel,  
for he remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children forever.

— Luke 1:46-55