



Novena to the SACRED HEART OF JESUS in preparation for our Parish Celebration of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart & the CONSECRATION OF THE NATION • Pray from June 5 to 13, 2026
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PAUL

A novena is a traditional devotion that involves praying daily for nine days for special intentions. The first novena was effectively the time of prayer that led to Pentecost, for the scriptures tell us (Acts 1:4-14) that following the Ascension of the Lord, the Apostles gathered with the Blessed Virgin Mary in prayer in the Upper Room while awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit – the time between the Ascension and Pentecost is nine days. This concept carried over into our Catholic spiritual tradition, and there are of course many popular novenas recited by the faithful leading up to significant feast days.

This year, as we prepare to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence – our nation’s “semiquincentennial” – the bishops of the United States of America have determined to consecrate the nation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Traditionally, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart is observed on the second Friday after Pentecost. However, to provide an opportunity for the entire diocese to share in this consecration and plead special graces from the Lord, Bishop Raica has decreed that the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart will be celebrated on Sunday, June 14 this year. Therefore, following the traditional format of novenas, which conclude on the Vigil of the Feast Day to which they lead up, this novena will be prayed from June 5 to 13, 2026. Then, at Cathedral Masses on Saturday evening, June 13 and Sunday morning, June 14, an act of consecration (included at the end of this leaflet) will be prayed by all gathered before the final blessing.

COMMUNAL NOVENA INTENTIONS

This novena is a great opportunity to pray for important personal intentions. But we also unite as a parish to pray it. The following are suggested communal intentions.

Please be sure to pray during each of the nine days for:

- ◆ *A spiritual renewal in the United States of America;*
- ◆ *All our city/state/federal leaders & elected officials;*
- ◆ *Our Holy Father, Leo XIV, the first pope from our land;*
- ◆ *All bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, religious, and lay faithful of the Diocese of Birmingham in Ala.;*
- ◆ *Vocations to the priesthood and religious life from our parish and within our diocese;*
- ◆ *Holy marriages and blessings on all families;*
- ◆ *Growth of and blessings on the Cathedral Parish;*
- ◆ *Relief for all who are suffering in any way.*

You may record your own intentions in the space provided in the next column.

PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD INTENTIONS

You may wish to record your personal or household intentions here, so you don’t lose track of them:

DAILY NOVENA PRAYER

Check off the days as you complete them:

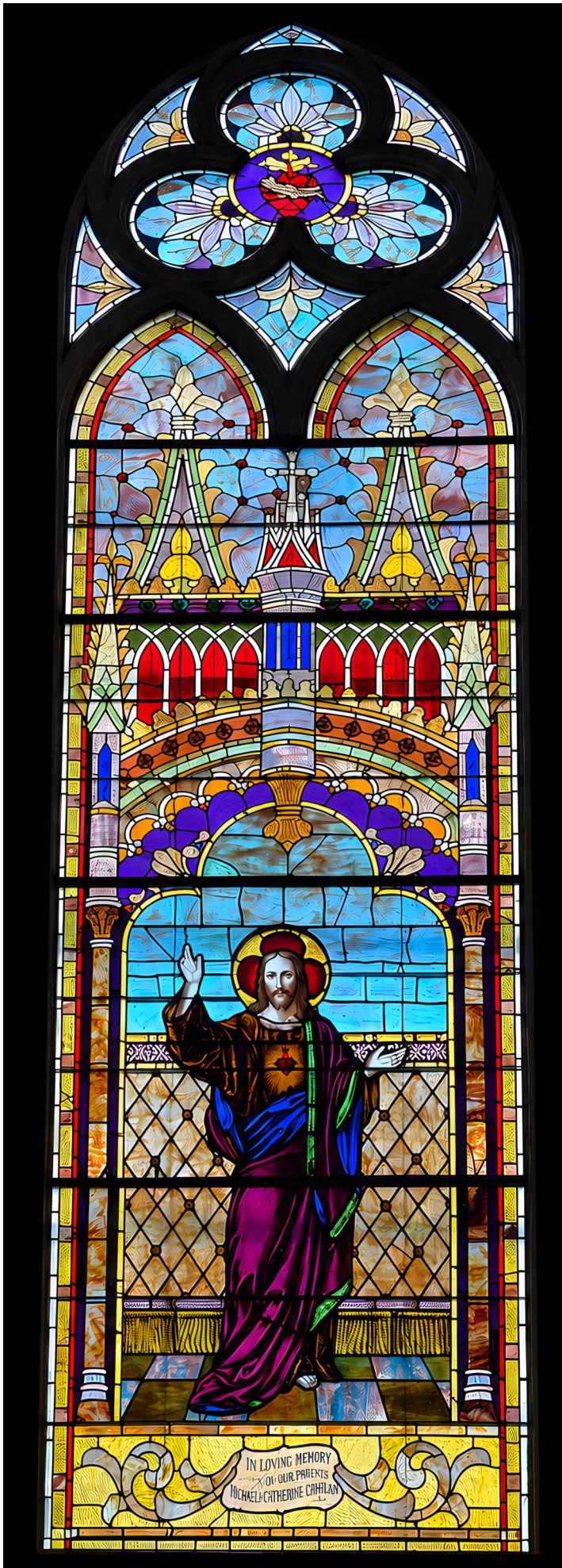
- DAY 1 – JUNE 5, 2026
- DAY 2 – JUNE 6, 2026
- DAY 3 – JUNE 7, 2026
- DAY 4 – JUNE 8, 2026
- DAY 5 – JUNE 9, 2026
- DAY 6 – JUNE 10, 2026
- DAY 7 – JUNE 11, 2026
- DAY 8 – JUNE 12, 2026
- DAY 9 – JUNE 13, 2026

Sign of the Cross.

Call to mind the communal and personal/household intentions for which you are praying. Then recite the daily novena prayer:

O most Sacred Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore You, I love You, and with a lively sorrow for my sins, I offer You this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus, that I may live in You and for You. Protect me in the midst of danger; comfort me in my afflictions; give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, Your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Within Your Heart I place my every care. In every need let me come to You with humble trust, saying, “Heart of Jesus, help me!” **AMEN.**

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be. Sign of the Cross.



CONCLUSION:

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The bishops of the United States of America will consecrate the nation to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus at their June meeting, using the following prayer. It is fitting for us to pray it too. Individuals and families may do so on the final day of the novena, or on the “10th day” – that is, Sunday, June 14, when we will observe the Solemnity in our diocese. Those who assist at Cathedral Masses on Saturday evening, June 13 or Sunday morning, June 14 will also have the opportunity to recite it together before the final blessing.

Whether you make this prayer alone, or in the context of your family/household, or at Holy Mass with everyone else, or all of the above, be sure to keep in mind the intentions on the opposite side of the page. *Let us pray.*

O MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS:

You know the longings of our hearts,
and You desire that we enjoy friendship with You.

From Your pierced side,
You have poured out the wellspring of life,
for which we thirst.

Your heart burns with a love for all people to return
to a right relationship with You.

We celebrate the abundant gifts
You have given this nation,
founded on the self-evident truths
that our Creator has endowed all people
with the right to life, liberty,
and the pursuit of happiness.

We make reparation for the offenses
against You and against human dignity
that have taken place in this nation.

May our hearts be united to Yours,
so that our families and communities
enjoy peace and happiness;
may broken relationships be reconciled,
injustices repaired,
and the wounds of our land be healed.

May Your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign,
pointing all people to Your infinite love.

O Desire of Nations and Center of History,
we ask You to bless these United States of America.

Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

AMEN.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!
