

**HEARTS ON FIRE
SACRED HEART VALUES REFLECTION
NOVEMBER: SACRAMENTS**

The person or group who will share this reflection should gather in a quiet place and begin with a moment of silence (and perhaps light a candle or some other way of being mindful of prayer).

*All make the sign of the cross together:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son...*

One person reads the Scripture passage: Matthew 3:1-6, 11

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

In those days John the Baptist appeared, preaching in the desert of Judea [and] saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: “A voice of one crying out in the desert, ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.’” John wore clothing made of camel’s hair and had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. At that time Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the Jordan River as they acknowledged their sins. [He said to them,] “I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

The Word of the Lord.

All read the Parish Mission Statement together:

Sacred Heart Parish is a welcoming Catholic community which inspires faith in God through prayer, sacraments and service while living Gospel values as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

One person reads the definition of Sacraments:

Sacraments mean celebrating our daily encounters with God.

Spend a few moments in silence answering the following questions (you can write your answers if you like):

1. What does this value say to you?

2. How do you experience this value at Sacred Heart?

3. How could this value be enhanced at Sacred Heart?

Spend a few moments sharing your answers to the three questions. If the group has more than four members, share your answers with one other person.

Finish this reflection by praying the Hearts on Fire prayer together:

Let us pray.

**Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
set our hearts on fire for love of you
and help our parish to know how to best serve you.**

**Help our parish to
Follow you,
Invite participation,
Renew community, and
Explore our future**

by discerning together how we can be your faithful disciples.

**You have been our inspiration for many years;
may we continue to trust in you
and place you above all else in our lives.**

**We make this prayer in your holy name,
for you live and reign in unity
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**