

## Immaculate Heart of Mary

Our Lady offering Her Immaculate and Maternal Heart to us: In Fatima she said to Sr. Lucía, "Do not be sad or afraid, my Heart will be your refuge and the sure path that will lead you to God." With these words, Our Mother was teaching us that her Maternal Heart is a sacred place where we can find refuge in all the struggles of our lives, but also, in all the battles we face with the forces of the enemy. But most importantly, with these words, she invited us to consecrate ourselves to Her Heart, which is the sure path to Christ, to be in total communion of love with His Heart and be in the School that will teach us to become like Christ.

**Rosary:** Our Lady invites us to pray the rosary as a powerful prayer to obtain peace and miracles for our family, country, and the world. "The Holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results" (St. Josemaria Escriva).

**Scapular:** Our Lady also offers us a brown scapular, like in the apparition of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (<u>Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (piercedhearts.org</u>). The scapular is a sign of Our Lady's love and maternal protection for us. May we always long and seek to live beneath the mantle of Our Lady.

Sword: Although Our Lady's Heart was not physically pierced by the sword, Simeon prophesized that her heart would be pierced. "And you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk2:35). In particular, the Church remembers seven piercings of Our Lady's Heart (Seven Sorrows of Our Lady (piercedhearts.org). These piercings were out of love for Her Son and for us. Our Lady allowed the piercings for many to have life.

**Roses:** The roses are a sign of Our Lady's purity and freedom from sin.

