



THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

Do you remember that in the July 13, 1917, apparition to the children of Fatima, Our Lady said that God wanted to establish worldwide devotion to her Immaculate Heart, in order to save many souls and to bring peace? She told the children that she would return at a future time to ask for the “Communion of Reparation on the First Saturdays.”

Several years later, Our Lady did return, but by that time Francisco and Jacinta had died. She visited Lucia in her convent on Dec 10, 1925 – and she appeared holding her Immaculate Heart in her hand, with the Child Jesus standing beside her in a cloud of light!

Jesus said, “Have compassion on the Heart of your most holy mother, covered with thorns, with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to make an act of reparation to remove them.”

Then, the Blessed Virgin Mary explained a way for people to make reparation and to remove those painful thorns from around her heart!

This way is called the “Five First Saturdays Devotion.”

The Blessed Virgin Mary said she would “assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation,” all those who fulfilled the Five First Saturdays Devotion.

There are 4 things you must do – and you must do each of them on the First Saturday of 5 months in a row:

1. Go to Confession
2. Receive Holy Communion
3. Pray 5 Decades of the rosary
4. “Keep her company” for 15 minutes by meditating on the mysteries of the rosary with the intention of offering reparation to her. This is a separate prayer time from praying the rosary, though.

What does this mean?

Well, even Lucia had some questions, so guess whom she asked to answer those questions? Jesus Himself, who visited her in the convent several times afterwards!

First, Lucia said told Jesus that sometimes it’s hard to get to Confession right on that particular Saturday, so she asked if Confession needed to be exactly on that Saturday. She asked if it would count if someone went to Confession within 8 days of the First Saturday, either before or after it.

Jesus told Lucia, “Yes, and it could be longer still, provided that, when they receive Me [in Holy Communion], they are in a state of grace and have the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Of course, we know that we should ALWAYS be in a state of grace with no mortal sins on our souls when we receive Communion, right?

Second, Lucia wondered why He chose 5 Saturdays. During her holy hour from 11 pm to midnight on May 29 -30, 1930, she asked Jesus to explain to her.

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Jesus answered, “My daughter, the reason is simple. Against the Immaculate Heart of Mary, five kinds of offenses and blasphemies are committed.” So, we go for one Saturday per kind of offense against His mother.

Here are the five types of offenses which Our Lord listed:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception,
2. Blasphemies against her Perpetual Virginity,
3. Blasphemies against her Divine Maternity, refusing at the same time to accept her as the Mother of all mankind,
4. Blasphemies of those who try publicly to implant in the children's hearts indifference, contempt, and even hatred against this Immaculate Mother, and
5. The offenses of those who insult her directly in her sacred images.

Finally, Jesus reminded Lucia that having the intention of reparation for the offenses against Mary’s Immaculate Heart is important when we do these 4 things for the 1st Saturday devotion. You don’t have to tell anybody, though: just offer this intention in your heart when you go to Confession, to receive Communion, and to pray.

The Five First Saturdays are a good practice for families to do together. And you can do the Five 1st Saturdays more than once – in fact, Our Lord likes it if you do it over and over!

For example, your whole family could go to Confession and Mass together, then pray the rosary together, too. You could all meditate quietly at the same time for 15 minutes to keep Our Lady company, but, of course, your conversation with her should be quietly in your head and heart!

One good idea we’ve heard is meditating and talking to Our Lady about a different mystery of the rosary every 1st Saturday – and that would give you something to talk to her about for more than just 5 Saturdays!