

The Five First Saturday's devotion is one of the principal points of the Fatima message. It centers on the urgent need for mankind to offer reparation and atone for the many injuries that the Immaculate Heart of Mary suffers from the hands of those who are irreverent and indifferent.

**On the First Saturday during 5 Consecutive Months, the Devotion consists of:**

1. Going to Confession,
2. Receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion,
3. Saying five decades of the Rosary,
4. Meditating for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary.

**Why Five Saturdays?**

The reasons Our Lord gave to Sister Lucia (one of the three shepherd children to whom Our Lady appeared in Fatima) were as follows: *The five first Saturdays correspond to the five kinds of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They are:*

- a. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception
- b. Blasphemies against her virginity
- c. Blasphemies against her divine maternity, at the same time the refusal to accept her as the Mother of all men
- d. Instilling indifference, scorn and even hatred towards this Immaculate Mother in the hearts of children
- e. Direct insults against Her sacred images

The First Five Saturday's devotion stimulates the spirit of reparation; it instills a tender love for the Holy Sacraments of Confession and the Blessed Eucharist. It nurtures a holy affection for the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Rosary. Above all, it is an excellent means to maintain one in the state of grace while immersed in the daily spiritual battles and living in a cultural of vice and sin. Our Lady's words to Lucia regarding the faithful who practice the devotion, "I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their souls."

**A life-long devotion, not merely five First Saturdays**

The promise associated with the practice of the devotion on five consecutive First Saturdays has been mistakenly construed by many to mean that, once one has completed a series of five, they have accomplished the devotion and are finished. This was not Our Lady's intention in making the promise and has resulted in far fewer people practicing the devotion. Our regular practice of the First Saturdays is a sign of our devotion to the Immaculate Heart and a desire on our part to make reparation for the blasphemies against her. To that end this will be an on-going monthly practice.

Please join us on the first Saturday of every month beginning December 5<sup>th</sup>. We will begin immediately following the Saturday 8:30 am mass. For questions, please contact Bonnie Ramirez 630-723-4289.