

Everyone is welcome to attend First Saturday Devotions held at St. John the Evangelist Parish. Parishioner's from St. Joseph Parish, St. Paul Parish and St. John the Evangelist Parish come together on the First Saturday of every month to participate in this devotion. Mass begins at 8 a.m. followed by reciting the Rosary with a meditation for each decade. Fr. Larry offers the sacrament of Reconciliation following Mass until 9:15 a.m.

For centuries, in the spiritual life of the Church, Saturdays have been a special day to honor the Mother of God.

When Our Lady of Fatima requested the First Saturday devotion, in choosing this day, Our Mother was simply respecting what was already a tradition in the Church. Invoking the Mother of God by honoring her and invoking her protection in a special way on First Saturday predates Fatima.

Our Lady used these words regarding the First Saturday: "I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation of all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months:

- go to Confession
- receive Holy Communion
- recite five decades of the Rosary and
- keep me company by meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for 15 minutes

while doing all with the intention of making reparation to me."

We are encouraging everyone to go to Confession on first Saturday at their parish, however, if one cannot get to Confession exactly on First Saturday - that so long as one is in the state of grace when Holy Communion is received and has the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it suffices to go to Confession within eight days or even more time if necessary.

Five reparations for the five Reasons for Five Saturdays – there are five ways in which people offend, and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- For those who blasphemates against her Immaculate Conception
- For those who blaspheme against her perpetual virginity

- For those who blaspheme against her divine Motherhood of God and all mankind
- For those who alienate children from devotion to Mary
- For those who dishonor Our Lady in her sacred images

Our Lady did not restrict her request to “five” First Saturdays. Also they do not concern only the promise to intercede for our personal desire to die in the state of grace. The request for First Saturday acts of reparation has as its ultimate purpose reparation concerns for the whole Church. Each First Saturday concerns the spiritual welfare of the entire Church and the world. In a spirit of evangelization we should strive then to make First Saturdays habitually throughout the year for the good of the whole Church in reparation to Mary’s Immaculate Heart.

Our Lady attached the promise of intercession for eternal life for each individual who sincerely made at least five consecutive First Saturdays.

Our Lady in her First Saturday requests was calling Catholics back to frequent Confession, a minimum of once monthly.

The Fatima message calls us to union with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, to repentance through Sacramental Reconciliation and meditation on the chief mysteries of our salvation, which comprise the Joyful, Sorrowful, Luminous, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

Making the First Saturdays strengthens all the members of the universal Church, not simply oneself.

Here we have Holy Communion of reparations, the kind requested for First Saturdays. We are to have our souls in the state of sanctifying grace and receive our divine Lord with great dispositions of faith, hope, love, adoration, and a sense of consoling God. We are thus to make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, that is, to both the Head and Mother of the Church, for the conversion of sinners who have outraged them by sin.