

THE DEVOTION OF THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS

Our Lady appeared to Sister Lucy (who at that time was the last remaining visionary of Fatima, Portugal) on December 10, 1925 to continue to ask for reparation to Her Immaculate Heart. Showing Her Heart, the Blessed Virgin said: ***“Look, My daughter, at My Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce Me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console Me and announce in My name that***

I promise to assist, at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, with the intention of making reparation to Me:

- ***go to confession,***
- ***receive Holy Communion,***
- ***recite five decades of the Rosary,***
- ***and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary.”***

The purpose of this devotion, then, is to give Our Blessed Mother comfort, consolation, and reparation for the overwhelming offenses that pierce Her Immaculate Heart. One should make the intention of making reparation to Her Immaculate Heart before carrying out Our Lady’s requests. A renewal of the actual intention at the time is best. However, if such an intention is made now, it will fulfill the requirements if, for instance, the actual intention is forgotten at the time of confession.

WHAT TO DO TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS DEVOTION

Our Lady told us that we must: **“...on the First Saturday of five consecutive months”:**

1. **“Go to Confession”**– This confession can be made during the eight days *before* the First Saturday or *afterward*. What is necessary is that the Holy Communion **must** be received in a state of grace. This means that if the person has reason to believe that their soul might be in mortal sin they **must** go to confession **before** Holy Communion. If they cannot get to Confession, and therefore are not able to receive Holy Communion on the appointed day, then they must start over and fulfill the conditions on five new consecutive First Saturdays. It is good to note that no one should **ever** receive Holy Communion if they are conscious of being in a state of mortal sin. To actually receive Holy Communion in this state is, itself, a sacrilege and a mortal sin. Should one forget to form the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it may be formed at the next Confession.
2. **“Receive Holy Communion”**– Before receiving Holy Communion on the First Saturday of the month, it is necessary to offer it in reparation to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart and to be in a state of grace.
3. **“Recite five decades of the Rosary”**– On each of the five consecutive first Saturdays, the five decades of the Rosary can be prayed anywhere and at any time.
4. **“Keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary”**– This is in **addition** to the recitation of the Rosary. Mediations made during the Rosary, which we are always encouraged to do, would not count. The fifteen minute meditations must be done on each of the five consecutive First Saturdays. They can take place anywhere and at any time that day. The focus is on one or more of the mysteries, according to personal desire. It is not required to meditate on all fifteen mysteries. To meditate on one or two is sufficient. This meditation must be very dear to Our Lady because She promised to be present when She said “...those who keep Me company...”. For helpful tips on how to meditate, visit Br. Michael Joseph at www.catholickingdom.com.
5. **“...with the intention of making reparation to Me”** - All of these four acts must be done with the desire or intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Without this general intention, without this will of love which desires to make reparation to Our Lady, to console Her, all these external practices alone are not sufficient to make reparation and receive the Promise. This is very important.

If one cannot fulfill all the conditions on a Saturday can it be done on Sunday? Our Lord told Sister Lucy that: ***“The practice of this devotion will be equally acceptable on the Sunday following the First Saturday***

when My Priests, for a just cause, allow it to souls.” In order to be able to “move” the First Saturday devotions to Sunday, one must obtain permission from a priest. So, if work, school, sickness, or another just reason prevents the devotion of reparation on a First Saturday then, with the priest’s permission, it may be done the following Sunday.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO COMPLETE THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

1. **The salvation of our own soul** – Mary promises, *“To all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months ... fulfill all the conditions requested, I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their soul.”* This little devotion practiced with a good heart, is enough to obtain for us the grace of final perseverance - of eternal salvation! And this promise is without any exclusion, limitation, or restriction. “To all who I promise.” This means that our Blessed Mother will actually be present at the hour of our death with all of the graces we need to save our soul. Heaven will be the reward for all eternity to those who faithfully follow Our Lady’s requests for the Five First Saturdays.
2. **The salvation of sinners** – *“So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against Me that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.”* (Our Lady to Sr. Lucy at Tuy, June 13, 1929.) “In consideration of this little devotion, They (Jesus and Mary) wish to give the grace of pardon to souls who have had the misfortune of offending the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” – Sr. Lucy, May, 1930.
3. **Peace in the World** – **“Whether the world has war or peace depends on the practice of this devotion,** along with the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is why I desire its propagation so ardently, especially because this is also the will of our dear Mother in Heaven.” – Sr. Lucy, March 19, 1939. For more information on the crucial role of Our Lady of Fatima for true peace in the world, see “Devotions that can Save Your Soul #3 - Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

WHY FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS?

Saturday has always been given to honor the Blessed Virgin because of Her constant faith in Jesus on that first Holy Saturday after His death and before His Resurrection. Why did Our Lady ask for five first Saturdays of reparation, instead of some other number? Our Lord, Himself, answered this when He appeared to Sr. Lucy on May 29, 1930. He explained: *“My daughter, the reason is simple. There are five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:*

1. **Blasphemies against Her Immaculate Conception;**
2. **Blasphemies against Her Perpetual Virginity;**
3. **Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, or in refusing to recognize Her as the Mother of all mankind;**
4. **The blasphemies of those who seek to sow in the hearts of children, indifference or contempt or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother;**
5. **The offenses of those who outrage Her directly by scorning Her holy images. This is done by: simple rejection, showing a lack of proper respect, intentionally criticizing or insulting Her Images, or, God forbid, by specifically desecrating, disfiguring or blaspheming Our Lady’s holy images.”**

After completing the Five First Saturdays, continuing the devotion simply to console the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady is greatly encouraged. A tender love of our Blessed Mother will lead us to do all we can to make reparation and atonement for the sins that constantly torment Her Immaculate Heart and provoke the most just anger and wrath of Almighty God.

Making reparation for sins against the Mother of God is Heaven’s greatest desire in these modern times. If we do not choose to obtain God’s mercy, then we condemn the world to suffer His justice. And the great benefit to those who practice this devotion, is that countless Saints confirm for us that a true, loving devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a sure sign that we will be saved.

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