



**ST. PETER CANISIUS INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH
JAKARTA, INDONESIA**

HAPPY PENTECOST

**Celebrating the birthday of the UNIVERSAL - One, Holy, Catholic & Apostolic - CHURCH
& celebrating the 3rd anniversary of our parish ONLINE PRAYER COMMUNITY
on May 22nd 2023**

Cordially inviting everyone as one parish family to pray:

Five First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**Jun 3rd,
Jul 8th,
Aug 5th,
Sep 2nd &
Oct 7th 2023**

What to do?

1. A confession made within days before or after each first Saturday
2. Receive Holy Communion & have intention of offering reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
3. Recite 5 decades of the Holy Rosary
4. Take 20 minutes meditating on the 20 mysteries of the Holy Rosary

ONLINE First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**Jun 3rd, Jul 8th, Aug 5th, Sep 2nd & Oct 7th 2023
9:00PM (Jkt time) on Zoom**

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Saturday October 14th 2023 at St. Theresia Church 2:30PM.

"Continue to pray the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war."

"Sacrifice yourselves for sinners and say many times, especially when you make some sacrifice: O Jesus, it is for your love, for the conversion of sinners and in reparation for the sins committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary."

(Our Lady to Lucia on July 13, 1917)



FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

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On December 10, 1925, when Lucy an 18 year-old Postulant in Pontevedra, Our Lady and Child Jesus appeared to her. Our Lord 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 Our Blessed Mother said to Lucy:

"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, shall confess, 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, with the intention of making Reparation to Me."

Why Five Saturdays, and not nine or seven in honor of the Sorrows of Our Lady?

- In reparation to the 5 types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception;
2. Blasphemies against Her Perpetual Virginity;
3. Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of Men;
4. The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or scorn or even hatred of this Immaculate Mother;
5. The offences of those who outrage Her directly in Her Holy Images.

A confession made within many days before or after the first Saturday is acceptable provided they are in the state of grace when they receive Holy Communion and have the intention of offering reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

teaching and practice. They especially taught children to dishonor Our Lady. Reparation is also needed for those parents who from their own personal prejudices do not allow their children to learn about God or Our Lady or to practice any religious devotion. We must pray not only for such parents, but also for the children who have been deprived of opportunity to grow close to God.

5. **Blasphemies by Those Who Insult Our Lady in Her Sacred Images**

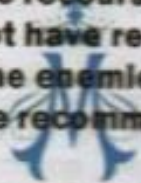
One of the ways people show their hatred toward God is to destroy or disfigure sacred places or images, especially those of Our Lady. During periods of fierce persecution of Catholics, and even now in our own country, Marian statues have been destroyed on church property. Immodest images have been made of Mary, and her likeness has been made out of reviling materials, which would not be tolerated for images of people in public office. Her images are used in neo-pagan religious practices and sold in shops that encourage idolatry, witchcraft and deviant behavior. These are signs of a bitter hatred against God by people who may be deeply disturbed psychologically or involved in satanic cults. Such people will surely be subject to the judgment of God if they do not repent; therefore, we must pray for their conversion and make reparation for their sins. Our Lady herself requested that we do so, showing her compassionate love for even the most wayward of her children.

CONCLUSION

As a mother, Our Lady wants none of her children to be lost, but all to be saved. So, let us faithfully and generously carry out her wishes in this great devotion of the Five First Saturdays. Sister Lucia has assured us that prayer and penance are absolutely necessary for the peace of the world through the conversion of sinners. The Five First Saturdays devotion, with its unique combination of confession, communion and the Rosary, holds a special place in our Lady's plan.

The Most

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you and for all who do not have recourse to you especially for the enemies of the Holy Church and those recommended to you.



(Extracted from the book *FATIMA FOR TODAY* by Fr. Andrew Apostol, C.F.R.)

SHARE THIS TO YOUR FRIENDS!

THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS EXPLAINED

OUR LADY'S SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAM

We may say that Our Lady has given Her spiritual sons and daughters, through a private revelation to the Fatima visionary Sister Lucia, a formation program to help them to be faithful in loving and serving her Divine Son and doing the heavenly Father's will. This formation program is the **Five First Saturday's devotion**. We will look at the four actions Our Lady asked us to do on five consecutive first Saturdays and see how they help us grow spiritually: **go to confession, receive Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep our Blessed Mother company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary.**

I. GO TO CONFESSION

Going to the Sacrament of Penance assures us that we will be prepared to receive Jesus worthily in Holy Communion, especially if we need to have any mortal sins removed from our souls. Today we are experiencing a kind of crisis in the Church regarding confession; so few Catholics seem to be receiving this sacrament. Even seemingly good Catholics, who live in the state of grace and attend Mass daily, may go for a year or more without confessing their sins. How many graces are they failing to gain by neglecting this sacrament? Pope John Paul II commented that it was good to see so many people going to Holy Communion, but where were these same people when it came to confession? He said that we have lost a "sense of sin". Unfortunately, many people no longer

recognize that they offend God by the wrongs they do. There are many reasons for this blindness: a wide-spread decline in faith; the rejection of Church teaching, especially regarding morality; the fact that many ways of acting that were clearly seen as sinful years ago, are now accepted as legal and therefore considered as moral, for example, abortion, homosexual acts and euthanasia.

Jesus said that in the end times evil will increase so much that the love of most will grow cold (Mt 24:12). To prevent this coldness from entering our hearts, Our Lady is asking us to receive the Sacrament of Penance at least once every month. This frequency is important for so many reasons. We have seen clearly in the words of Our Lady that sin offends God. At the same time, sinning endangers our salvation and makes us run the risk of being separated from God for all eternity. Finally, sin is the primary obstacle to our spiritual growth. So by getting us to go to confession on a regular monthly basis, Our Lady will help us remain in the state of grace. This means that God will always live in us.

Let us look at the benefits of a good confession. What are they? First, it helps us make a good examination of conscience. Many people neglect examining their behavior and therefore are unaware of the sins they commit each day. But since we have to tell our sins in confession to someone else, namely the priest, we have to know what to tell him. Examination of conscience before confession is one of the best ways to see how we are doing in our relationship with God. Second, by the absolution that the priest gives us in the confessional, our sins are taken away. So many people experience their sins as a great oppression which even a psychiatrist cannot relieve. Through the power Christ has given the priest to forgive sins, our sins are taken away and our soul receives a great peace. This is the peace of mind and heart that only Christ can give; the peace which Saint Paul said goes beyond all human understanding. Third, confession gives us sacramental grace. This is the special help that God gives us to avoid sin in the future. We all need this grace. Fourth, confession gives us the opportunity to make a good resolution to amend our lives. Perhaps, we will resolve to avoid committing certain sins or to practice certain virtues. Fifth, by going to confession, we may also receive the added benefit of good advice and encouragement from a kind priest.

During the February 15, 1926 revelation from Jesus at Pontevedra, Spain, Sister Lucia asked the Lord a question about confession: Since some people have difficulty going to confession on Saturday, would it be valid for the fulfillment of the Five First Saturdays

devotion for them to confess within eight days of the first Saturday? Jesus answered: "Yes, and it could be longer still, provided that, when they receive Me [in Holy Communion], they are in the state of grace and have the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary". She then asked: "My Jesus, what about those who forget to make this intention?" Jesus replied: "They can do so at their next confession, taking advantage of the first opportunity to go to confession."

II. RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

The next requirement of the devotion is to receive Holy Communion on five first Saturdays. No doubt, many practicing Catholics were already receiving Holy Communion on Sundays, and for some who lived near the Church, often during the week. Unfortunately, however, there was a widespread negative influence from the heresy of Jansenism, which caused many people to put off going to Holy Communion for long periods of time. Jansenism held we are so corrupted that we are not worthy to receive Jesus in Holy Communion. (It was because of such thinking that the Church had to institute her precept that Catholics must confess their mortal sins and receive Holy Communion at least once a year.) As a result of such distorted thinking, people were spiritually starving because they were not regularly receiving Jesus in the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. We need the strength that Jesus gives us through our reception of Him as our daily Bread to practice the virtues, to perform the works of mercy, to endure suffering and persecution, to conquer sin and resist temptations. Our Lady's concern was that we receive Jesus, her Divine Son, at least one extra time a month, so that we may have the strength we need.

III. RECITE FIVE DECADES OF THE ROSARY

The third element of the devotion is reciting five decades of the Rosary. We have seen throughout Our Lady's apparitions her constant requests that we pray the Rosary, which involves five decades, every day. We have seen how pleasing the Rosary is to God and to our Lady and how powerful are its effects in terms of converting sinners and spreading peace in the world. But I think we can see an ever deeper underlying reason why our Lady wants us to pray the Rosary. In the home it is usually the mother who teaches her children how to pray. We may say that Mary gave us the Rosary to teach us, her children, how to pray! After all, for centuries Catholics have learned how to pray through the recitation of

the Rosary. In the beginning of the spiritual life, there are three primary steps of prayer that we must learn. In the Eastern Church, these three steps are called the prayer of the lips, the prayer of the mind, and the prayer of the heart. What do they mean by these?

- **Prayer of the lips**- is what we call formal prayer. This is when we use words and prayers of others and make them our own. In the Gospel of Luke (11:1-4), Jesus was praying one day and his disciples were watching him. When he finished, one of them requested: "Lord, teach us also to pray." He then taught them the Our Father, also known as the Lord's Prayer. By reciting the words Jesus taught us, we are praying a formal prayer. In the Rosary, we have many formal prayers: the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Apostles Creed, and the Decade Prayer, taught to the Fatima visionaries by our Lady. All through our lives, we will be praying formal prayers such as these, using the words of others and making them our own because we do not always know how to speak to God in our own words.

- **Prayer of the mind**-is what we call meditation. As we pray the Rosary, we are asked to meditate or reflect on various episodes in the lives of Jesus and Mary. These are the mysteries of the Rosary. When we reflect on them, we try to understand them more deeply and apply the virtues they signify to our own lives. Meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary is really simple.

- **Prayer of the heart**- is a conversation- like prayer that comes spontaneously from the heart in one's own words. Praying the Rosary naturally stirs up affections in our hearts that we want to express to God and to Our Lady. These affections may be of love, faith, trust, contrition, thanksgiving, praise and petition. The prayer of the heart is generally, but not necessarily, a deeper level of prayer than that of the lips and of the mind. It tends to be more personal because it comes from the heart. It is like speaking heart-to-heart with a friend! It is a wonderful fruit of praying the Rosary.

IV. KEEP OUR LADY COMPANY WHILE MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Our Lady expressed to Sister Lucia this fourth element of the devotion in these words: "Keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me." This part of the devotion is connected with the above prayers of the mind and of the heart. Our Lady wants us to begin by meditating (reflecting) on the various mysteries of the Rosary, but then end in a kind of heart-to-heart talk with Her about what we reflect on in order to make reparation to Her for the blasphemy and indifference that She suffers. This kind of prayer truly deepens our personal relationship with the Lord and His Blessed Mother.

We can gain much from meditating on the mysteries. The joyful mysteries help us to learn the meaning, the virtues and the trials of the family life. The luminous mysteries help us to see how we must carry out our Christian mission in the world. The sorrowful mysteries teach us how to deal with the trials and sufferings in life. The glorious mysteries help us to focus on the goal for which God made us, namely, eternal life in heaven. Knowing the reward God is preparing for us, will help us to have joy and perseverance through the difficulties of life. As we reflect on these sacred mysteries, the Holy Spirit will enlighten us to offer our thoughts and prayers to Our Lady in the spirit of reparation for the sins by which She, and ultimately Jesus, are offended.

THE BLASPHEMIES AGAINST OUR LADY'S IMMACULATE HEART-WHAT ARE THEY?

In his revelation to Sister Lucia, our Lord mentioned that there are five blasphemies by which people offend the Immaculate Heart of His mother. Let us look briefly at each of them so that we understand more clearly why we need to make reparation for them.

1. Blasphemies against Mary's Immaculate Conception

We can only imagine how much Satan must hate Mary's privilege of her Immaculate Conception! Why? Because it made Her the first and only human person over whom he did not have any control or influence, not even for a second. God told the serpent in the garden after the Fall of our first parents that he would put "enmity" between him (Satan, the serpent) and the Woman. This

enmity was such a bitter hatred and revulsion that one could not get near the other. Mary was so filled with grace that Satan would neither desire nor dare to come close to Her. (The only reason he came close to Jesus to tempt him was because Jesus permitted him to do so.) Mary's Immaculate Conception was the beginning, therefore, of the destruction of Satan's kingdom. For this reason, he inspires those who follow him to blaspheme Mary's Immaculate Conception, some by denying it, others by ridiculing it and still others by scorning it. Our Lady wants reparation made for these outrages as well as intercession to convert those who do these things against her, for they are at risk of losing their souls.

2. Blasphemies against Mary's Perpetual Virginity

It is Catholic belief that Mary was a perpetual virgin. The Old Testament prophet Isaiah had said that "a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel" (Is 7:14). Mary's perpetual virginity means three things. (1) Mary was a virgin before the birth of Jesus because She did not have sexual relations with St. Joseph before their marriage, as can be seen when she tells the archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation, "How can this be since I have no husband?" (Lk 1:34). The angel answers that the Child Jesus would be conceived in her womb by the Holy Spirit; (2) Mary was a virgin during the birth of Jesus, because he miraculously passed from her womb into the world outside without destroying the physical integrity of her body; and, (3) In her reflection on the virginal motherhood of Mary, the church has been inspired to profess that Mary remained a virgin throughout her life. According to the catechism of the Catholic Church, Mary's perpetual virginity reveals that "with Her whole being She is 'the Handmaid of the Lord' (Lk 1:38).

The devil hates the special purity of Our Lady because it stands as a rebuke to the sexual excesses, distortions and sins of our age. Remember Our Lady told little Jacinta that more souls go to hell over sins of impurity than for any other sins! Mary's perpetual virginity reminds each one of us to be chaste according to our vocation in life: single life, consecrated celibacy and marriage. The devil has stirred great hatred in the hearts of many of his followers against the Virgin Mary. Let us make reparation for these hateful outrages against Our Lady.

3. Blasphemies against Our Lady's Motherhood

When the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity took flesh and blood from the Virgin Mary at the Annunciation, God became man. This mystery we call the Incarnation. It is difficult to understand that Jesus has two natures (divine and human) but it is only one Person (divine). He is the Divine Son, who, sharing in the divine nature of the Father and the Holy Spirit, assumed a human nature from Mary. Thus Jesus shared our humanity with us without losing his divinity. While on earth, the Divine Son acted as a divine person through a human nature—walking, talking, eating, sleeping, and even dying just as we do. Now since a mother is always the mother of a person (for example, John's mother; Teresa's mother), and the only person in Jesus is God, the Second Divine Person, then Mary is rightly called the Mother of God. Those who refuse to accept Mary as the Mother of God are actually denying, though they might not realize it, that the Second Person really became man in Jesus Christ. To deny that Mary is the Mother of God is to deny the Incarnation. So we must make reparation for those who deny or show contempt for this great truth of our Catholic faith.

At the same time, since Mary is the mother of Jesus, the Head of his Mystical Body, then she is also spiritual mother of all His members, the Mother of the Church. Since Christ died to save all, Mary is also the Mother of Mankind. We see this truth when Jesus gave his Mother Mary to all of us as He hung upon the Cross. He said to her: "Woman, behold your son!" Then he said to "the disciple whom he loved"; Saint John, who represented all of us at the foot of the Cross, "Behold your Mother!" (Jn 19:26-27). So let us make reparation for all those who reject and ridicule the wonderful truth of Mary's motherhood.

4. Reparation for Those Who Keep Children from Mary

Our expressly asked reparation "for those who try publicly to implant in the hearts of children an indifference, contempt and even hatred against this Immaculate Mother." We have just seen how Mary is Mother of us all. A mother has a right to the love and affection of all her children, while all her children have a right to her love and care. Reparation is needed whenever this relationship is deliberately harmed. For example, atheistic and/or bitterly anti Catholic governments systematically indoctrinated the young with atheistic or anti-Catholic beliefs and forbade them from Catholic