

What are the Five First Saturdays?

Our Lady explained those Five First Saturdays to Sr. Lucia dos Santos, one of the Fatima visionaries, on Dec. 10, 1925, in the following way:

“See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the ... mysteries of the Rosary.”



Why *five* First Saturdays in particular? Jesus explained this to Sr. Lucia on May 29-30, 1930, saying:

*Daughter, the motive is simple: There are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies spoken against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. **First:** blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception. **Second:** against her Virginity. **Third:** against the Divine Maternity, refusing, at the same time, to receive her as the Mother of mankind. **Fourth:** those who seek publicly to implant, in the hearts of children, indifference, disrespect, and even hate for this Immaculate Mother. **Fifth:** those who revile her directly in her sacred images. Here, dear daughter, is the motive that led the Immaculate Heart of Mary to petition Me to ask for this small act of reparation. And, out of regard for her, to move My mercy to pardon those souls who have had the misfortune to offend her. As for you, seek endlessly, with your prayers and sacrifices, to move Me to mercy in regard to these poor souls.*

Do they still matter?

Now, a lot of people have forgotten about the Five First Saturdays devotion, but it's still relevant today - wars are still going on! We still haven't seen the fulfillment of Our Lady's promise that "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph. The Holy Father will consecrate Russia to me, and she will be converted, and a period of peace will be granted to the world." According to Sr. Lucia, St. John Paul II consecrated Russia to Mary's Immaculate Heart on March 25, 1984. The USSR fell shortly afterwards. And yet there's still not peace in the world. Why? Ask yourself: Have most of us been faithful to her requests, especially the First Saturdays of Reparation?

So I call on everyone to start making the Five First Saturdays a regular part of their prayer life!

In order to encourage devotion to the "missing ingredient" of Our Lady of Fatima's request, St. Gianna's will be offering the necessary elements:

8:00 a.m.: Recitation of the Rosary — 8:30 a.m.: Mass — 9:05 – 9:20 a.m.: Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary — 3:00 p.m.: Confessions

Each month we will dedicate our prayers to reparation of a particular blasphemy against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Four left (**August 5th, September 2nd, October 7th, and November 4th**). You can finish on your own. Worship aid provided. Please put these dates on your calendar and join us! Any questions, feel free to email cw.gianna@comcast.net