

What did Our Lady of the Rosary at Fatima say God wants?

“You have seen hell where the souls of poor sinners go. In order to save them, God wishes to **establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart**. If you do what I tell you, **many souls will be saved**, there will be **peace**.... I shall come to ask for the consecration of Russia to my Immaculate Heart, and the **Communion of reparation on the first Saturdays**. If my **requests** are fulfilled, Russia will be converted and there will be peace” (July 13, 1917, emphasis ours).

What has been done?

The consecration of Russia and the world was fulfilled on March 25, 1984 by St. John Paul II and the bishops of the world.

-This opened the way for the end of the persecution in Russia as Jesus promised Sr. Lucia in 1930, and also for the return of religious freedom in Russia. Many other countries in Eastern Europe have shared in these blessings as well.

-This was the 1st of 2 phases toward Russia’s conversion, which is yet to come.

Very few have fulfilled our Lady’s second and most important request for the Communion of reparation on the *First Saturdays*.

-The fulfillment of this second and most important request will help bring about the conversion of the world and a period of peace.

Pope Benedict XVI’s Words at Fatima

“We would be mistaken to think that Fatima’s prophetic mission is complete...” (May 13, 2010).

What is the Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays? (also known as the First Saturdays or First Saturdays devotion)

On December 10, 1925, Jesus and Mary came to Lucia. Jesus said, “Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother covered with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an

act of reparation.” Mary then said, “My daughter, look at My Heart surrounded with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me, and say that **I promise to assist at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for salvation all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, go to Confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me**” (emphasis ours).

What are the two promises made by Our Lady in regard to the First Saturdays?

The **1st promise** in regard to the *First Saturdays* was made on July 13, 1917. Our Lady promised the salvation of souls and a period of peace, together with the conversion of Russia, if we fulfill her two special requests. One request remains to be fulfilled, the *First Saturdays*. The first promise requires that we persevere in making the *First Saturdays* and is not limited to making 5 consecutive *First Saturdays*. This first promise also requires that a large number of people fulfill the *First Saturdays*. In this way, we may try to help repair the sins of the world, and in particular, those against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In this way also, we can remove what prohibits an outpouring of graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Thus, in the ongoing practice of the *First Saturdays*, we can greatly benefit our neighbor as well as ourselves.

On December 10, 1925, Our Lady made a **2nd promise** of salvation for each one who makes the five *First Saturdays* (See the bold print in the previous question). This 2nd promise presupposes that we are already aware of the 1st promise. In time we should come to realize that the love of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary is our greatest motivation for practicing this devotion.

Why are there 5 First Saturdays?

There are 5 *First Saturdays* because, as Jesus told Sr. Lucia, there are 5 kinds of offenses and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

1. Against the Immaculate Conception of Mary
2. Against Mary’s Virginity
3. Against Mary’s Divine Maternity and her Motherhood of all mankind
4. Turning children against Mary as their heavenly Mother
5. Against Mary’s Sacred Images

Why is it important to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

Reparation to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary is an act of mercy and an act of justice, which helps repair the harm done by sin. As mentioned above, the Child Jesus said, “Have compassion on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother covered with the thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation.” We can try to remove these thorns of sin with acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, not only for our own sins, but also for the sins of others. Also, this reparation can help remove obstacles to the grace and mercy poured out by the Holy Spirit.

Also, because Jesus proclaimed Mary to be our Mother from the Cross when He said, “Behold your Mother!” (Jn. 19:27), we can therefore recognize that she is a Gift to us of His love represented by His Sacred Heart. When Jesus’ Gift of Mary is offended, His Heart is offended. Thus, our reparation for the sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary is essential to a more complete reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Pius XI wrote of the importance of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, “And truly the spirit of expiation or reparation has always had the first and foremost place in the worship given to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus” (*Miserentissimus Redemptor*).

What if I start the First Saturdays devotion one month and cannot complete it the next month?

You would need to restart in order to make five consecutive *First Saturdays*. However, even though the one month would not count toward the fulfillment of the five consecutive *First Saturdays*, it can still be of great value, and can benefit one’s self and one’s neighbor.

What if I forget to do one of the practices of the five First Saturdays?

All the practices are necessary to complete each First Saturday. This includes the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by each of the four practices. If you forget one practice, you should start again for 5 consecutive *First Saturdays*. Further, hopefully, the faithful will continue to make the *First Saturdays*, beyond five, for peace and the salvation of souls.

How do I keep Our Lady company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart?

You can fulfill Our Lady’s request for this meditation any time on the *First Saturdays*. If possible, a special time to do this is immediately after Holy Mass in which we can receive Jesus in Holy Communion. One might read and ponder the Scriptures or some other reading about the mysteries of the Rosary while keeping Our Blessed Mother company.

Is it all right to meditate on any of the mysteries of the Rosary that one wishes?

There are no requirements as to which mysteries one chooses to meditate on in fulfilling the *First Saturdays*. It would be helpful to plan on covering all of the mysteries over a period of time.

What if I cannot go to Confession on the First Saturday?

One can go to Confession anytime as long as there is one Confession for each First Saturday (within about 20 days before or after), and as Jesus said, “as long as they receive Me in the state of grace and have the intention of making reparation to the Im-

maculate Heart of Mary” (Jesus to Sr. Lucia, 1926).

Remember

In order to fulfill the *First Saturdays* devotion, on five consecutive *First Saturdays* and on a continuing basis, the following 4 separate actions must be completed:

1. Go to **Confession** *with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*
2. Receive **Holy Communion** *with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*
3. Pray the **Rosary** (5 decades) *with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*
4. **Keep Our Lady company** for an additional 15 minutes while **meditating** on the mysteries of the Rosary *with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

Power in Prayer Together

“Clearly the most efficacious kind of prayer for gaining the divine protection is prayer that is offered publicly by the whole community; for Our Redeemer said: ‘Where two or three are gathered...’”(St. John XXIII, *Paenitentiam Agere*, n. 23; cf. also Mt. 18:19-20)

Thus, communal prayer can have a greater power to obtain an answer from God and can have a greater reparatory value. The *Communal First Saturdays* provides these benefits for us.

The *Communal First Saturdays* is a parish or community celebration of the *First Saturdays* in which all the conditions of the *First Saturdays* are fulfilled while **joining together** with others in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The *Communal First Saturdays* helps a person fulfill all the conditions of the *First Saturdays* by participating in the parish service on those days. The **Sacrament of Penance** is made available before the service begins. Some helpful prayers related to the Fatima message are said to begin the service fol-

lowed by the communal recitation of the **Rosary**. The Rosary is prayed before the Holy Mass. The Rosary helps to prepare the faithful for the Holy Mass and the **Communion of reparation**. As St. Paul VI said, the Rosary can be “an excellent preparation” for the Liturgy and “a continuing echo thereof” (*Marialis Cultus*). After the Holy Mass, the faithful keep Our Lord and Our Lady company while making the **15 minute meditation** on Scriptures for two or more mysteries of the Rosary. This is a more special time for the meditation since the faithful would have just received Jesus in Holy Communion.

Also, this meditation is made in a communal form of *lectio divina*. The leader begins the first step of the *lectio divina* by reading a verse or more of Scripture at a time and then pauses so the faithful can reflect. The result is that this meditation on the mysteries of the Rosary becomes a “continuing echo” of the Liturgy. It follows that the *Communal First Saturdays* helps us to “Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of [our] daily lives.” (St. John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 43, brackets are ours).

Further, Jesus and Mary made it clear that the *First Saturdays* can only be fulfilled if each of the above practices is **done with the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**.

This communal celebration of the *First Saturdays* offers an **easier way** for people to fulfill the conditions of the *First Saturdays*. Also, the communal celebration offers a service in which a much **larger number of people** are able to practice the *First Saturdays*, not only for five *First Saturdays*, but on a continual basis. Because of its communal form, the *Communal First Saturdays* gives visible witness that the *First Saturdays* devotion is being practiced. Otherwise, without a communal form, when the time comes, it will be very difficult to connect the *First Saturdays* with the fulfillment of Our Lady’s promise of peace. Also, through the *Communal*

First Saturdays, we can make reparation and obtain the graces of conversion for ourselves and others in greater measure, and so can help bring about a period of peace and the salvation of souls.

It is also important to note that the *Communal First Saturdays* is the first canonically approved public *First Saturdays* devotion accompanying the Liturgy in a standardized written form that can be established in any parish. Therefore, we encourage you to use the associated devotional materials available through the Communal First Saturdays Apostolate (contact information included below).

Of special mention, the *Communal First Saturdays Devotional* is a book that makes it easier for the faithful to fulfill each practice of the *First Saturdays* from beginning to end. This book includes preselected Scripture Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary for each month of the year to make it easier for the parish and leaders to provide the meditation. Parishes can order enough copies to be passed out every First Saturday for the faithful to use and then be collected.

Please go to our website listed below to order the books and any other materials to help you start or learn more about the *Communal First Saturdays*. For those residing in countries other than the United States wishing to place orders, please contact us at info@communalfirstsaturdays.org.



Communal First Saturdays Apostolate
www.CommunalFirstSaturdays.org
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First Saturdays Devotion



“If you do what I tell you, many souls will be saved, there will be peace.”

Our Lady of the Rosary at Fatima, July 13, 1917

“Christ will conquer through [Mary], because He wants the Church’s victories now and in the future to be linked to her.”

St. John Paul II