

Immaculate Heart of Mary.

24. invokes St. Joseph and the saints to help us fulfill the First Saturdays.
25. provides an opportunity to receive the Brown Scapular as a sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
26. reminds the faithful of the value of gaining indulgences for themselves and for the souls in Purgatory. This can be a great act of mercy toward others.
27. provides a monthly parish retreat by which one can be spiritually renewed.
28. connects the Holy Eucharist in the church with the domestic church in the home through the Pilgrim Virgin Statue Church to Home Visitation. During this visitation, Our Lady's mission is to establish the reign of Jesus in the home by the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and then, after the week-long visit, to return the faithful to her Son in the Holy Eucharist.
29. helps the faithful to better evangelize others and also provide for those in nursing homes and in the womb.

Please also see the pamphlet *Why make the First Saturdays? 22 Reasons*.

The reasons given in this pamphlet, *Why the Communal First Saturdays? 29 Reasons*, together with the other reasons given in the pamphlet, *Why Make the First Saturdays? 22 Reasons*, provide a total of 51 reasons for making the *Communal First Saturdays*!

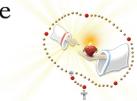
The Holy Eucharist must always be the priority of any parish. Nothing else in the parish should appear more important than the Holy Eucharist, because the Holy Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our lives.

Since the *Communal First Saturdays* is centered on the Holy Eucharist in the Mass and for all reasons given, it could be the most important event in the parish for everyone after the Sunday Masses and holy days of obligation. Also, participation in the *Communal First Saturdays* could then be our first step toward going beyond our minimum obligation to the Holy Eucharist.

For detailed explanations and additional information regarding the content of this pamphlet, please see the book, *The Communal First Saturdays*, available through the Communal First Saturdays Apostolate website. Please see below.

For more information, questions, or orders, please contact:

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# Why

The  
**Communal  
First  
Saturdays?**

## 29 Reasons

“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)

At Fatima, Our Lady told us that if we do what she tells us many souls will be saved and there will be peace. Our Lady first announced two special requests (July 13, 1917) to help bring this about. St. John Paul II and the bishops of the world fulfilled the first of these two special requests. However, the second and most important special request still remains to be fulfilled, namely, the First Saturdays. While the pope and bishops did their part, we the faithful need to do our part by fulfilling the four practices of the First Saturdays in reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

## The Communal First Saturdays

Our Lady requested that, on the first Saturday of the month, we go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say the Rosary, and in addition, keep her company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary. Each of these practices are to be done with the intention of making reparation to her Immaculate Heart. The *Communal First Saturdays* simply makes it possible for the faithful to fulfill all four practices, each for this intention, together at a scheduled parish devotion.

## Why the Communal First Saturdays?

### The Communal First Saturdays:

1. provides the complete communal form of the First Saturdays, which often makes it easier for each person to fulfill the First Saturdays by simply participating in the scheduled devotion and the Holy Mass. The *Communal First Saturdays* also can enable one to practice the entire Fatima message.
2. makes it possible for a larger number of people to participate due to increased awareness by the parishioners.
3. as public prayer, can enable our prayer to have greater power and greater reparatory value. "Where two or three are gathered in

my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt. 18:20).

4. has the only officially Church approved standardized text for the public and complete communal form of practicing the First Saturdays. *The Communal First Saturdays* book can be used easily and with confidence in any parish.
5. can give visible witness to the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary due to the help of the First Saturdays.
6. provides a public fulfillment of the First Saturdays as the Pope and bishops provided a public fulfillment of the consecration of Russia and the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1984.
7. helps to foster the "Great Prayer" throughout the world called for by St. John Paul II.
8. gives visible witness that reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is needed, especially in these times.
9. gives visible witness that it is important to make use of the Sacrament of Penance as a more efficacious preparation for receiving Holy Communion.
10. gives visible witness that devotions should be ordered to the Liturgy, especially to the Eucharist.
11. gives visible witness that Our Lady wishes to lead us to her Son in a Communion of reparation.
12. gives witness and encouragement to parishioners to say the Rosary and the Fatima prayers.
13. encourages the faithful to meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary.
14. employs the Rosary as "an excellent

preparation for...the liturgical action and... a continuing echo thereof" (St. Paul VI, *Marialis Cultus*). In the *Communal First Saturdays*, the practices requested by Our Lady are arranged in an order that reflects these words and can make us more disposed to receive the grace of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

15. teaches us to use Scripture when meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, as recommended by St. John Paul II.
16. could be the greatest way to promote the Rosary.
17. includes the *lectio divina* as one of its unique contributions.
18. conducts the requested meditation communally with Scripture in the form of *lectio divina*, which is highly recommended by the Church in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and *Verbum Domini*.
19. provides more time after Mass to be with Jesus in the Holy Eucharist during the communal meditation. In this way, one can continue to benefit from the sacramental grace that Jesus imparts.
20. provides a reminder of Jesus and Mary's actual words concerning the First Saturdays.
21. acts as a reminder to make the First Saturdays and to fulfill all of the practices requested, each with the intention of trying to make reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
22. provides many helpful aids for making a good Confession.
23. provides an opportunity to renew one's consecration to and offer reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the