

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish

Invitation to make the First Five Saturdays Devotion

I have often mentioned in the past how we have been blessed as “a Marian Parish” under the title of **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** in so many ways. Perhaps at this time of “**spiritual crisis**” engulfing the world, nation, and families and even the Church, it would truly be beneficial spiritually for us to embark on “**a spiritual crusade - renewal**” of our Catholic Faith.

In the light of that, what great opportunity is open for all to start first with the **First Five Saturday Devotions** as sought by our Lord and our Blessed Mother.

Though already it has started this First Saturday, July 3rd, you can still start your **Five First Saturdays**, starting next **Month of August 7th, 2021**, everyone is invited to embark - try to do the **First Five Saturdays**. The steps to do so are listed below and are made easy to understand and follow.

Our **Parish Confessions** are on **Saturdays, 2:30pm to 3:15pm** in the **sacristy room**. **Confessional divider is provided** and you may enter in to the “**confessional – Sacristy**” from the church through the sanctuary.

Saturdays: **St. Ann's** 4:00pm -, **St. John Vianney** (Enchanted Lake) 8:30am – 9:00am, **St. Anthony of Padua** (Kailua) presently by appointment only, **St. George** (Waimanalo) 5:15pm – 5:45pm, **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** 2:30pm – 3:15pm and **Sunday, St. Roch** (*Kahuku*) 6:45am – 7:15am.

MAKING the FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS - DEVOTIONS

Below are listed in steps what and how to fulfill our First Five Saturdays.

The History of the First Five Saturdays of the Month.

On the **13th May 1917**, Our Lady first mention devotion to her Immaculate Heart to the children of Fatima saying “**You have seen hell, where souls of poor sinners go. To save them God wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart. If what I say to you is done, many souls shall be saved and there will be peace.**”

On the **10th of December 1925**, Our Lady appeared to Sr. Lucia detailing how devotion to her Immaculate Heart was to be practiced.

These are from Sr. Lucia's own account: “***...by her side, elevated on a luminous cloud, was a child. The most holy Virgin rested her hand on her shoulder, and as she did so she showed her a heart encircled by thorns, which she was holding in her other hand.***”

A Child 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 the most holy Virgin said: *“Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me 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 the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of the five consecutive months, shall confess, received Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditation on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”*

How to Practice the Five First Saturday’s Devotion

- 1) **Confession:** Make a good confession during the 8 days prior to the first Saturday with the intention of offering reparation for the offenses against Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart.
- 2) **Holy Communion:** You should attend Holy Mass and receive Holy Communion with the intention of offering reparation for the offences against Our lady’s Immaculate Heart.
- 3) **The Holy Communion** should be received on the first Saturday of the month.
- 4) **The Confession** must be repeated for 5 consecutive months, without interruption, other- wise you must recommence from the beginning.
- 5) **Recite 5 decade of the Holy Rosary** with the intention of making reparation to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart.
- 6) **15 minutes meditation on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary.**
Accompany Our Lady by meditating on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary. This is can be done by reading the biblical texts of the mysteries of the Holy Rosary slowly thinking of their content. You could meditate on the one mystery for 15 minutes at the end of the prayer as Sr. Lucia did. This meditation is in addition to the recitation of the Rosary.
- 7) **Say the prayer to the Immaculate Heart of Mary** to conclude the devotion.

Why five Saturdays?

Our Lady told Sr. Lucia that Five Saturdays represent the offences against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

“My daughter, the reason is simple. There are five types of offences and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

1. **Blasphemies** against the Immaculate Conception.
2. **Blasphemies** against Her Virginity.
3. **Blasphemies** against Her Divine Maternity, in refusing at the same time to recognize Her as the Mother of men, (humankind);
4. The **blasphemies** of the those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference, or scorn or even hatred of this Immaculate Heart.
5. The **offense of those who outrage Her directly in Her holy images**, Here, my daughter, is the reason why the Immaculate Heart of Mary inspired Me to ask this little act of reparation. (May 29, 1930).

Confession

Sr. Lucia clarified what should be done if confession cannot be made on the first Saturday of the month.

“My Jesus! Many souls find it difficult to confess on Saturday. Will You allow a confession with eight days to be valid?...He replied:

“Yes. It can even be made later on, provided that the souls are in the state of grace when they receive Me on the First Saturday and that they had the intention of making reparation to the Sacred Heart of Mary.”

And those who forget to form this intention?

“They can form it at the next confession, taking advantage of their first opportunity to go to confession.” (February 15, 1926).

Holy Communion

During the revelation by Our Lord on the 29th May 1930, Sr. Lucia clarified what one should do if all the conditions for the devotion, like the receiving of Holy Communion could not be fulfilled on the first Saturday.

Our Lord said, ***“The practice of this devotion will be equally accepted on the Sunday following the first Saturday, when, for just reasons, My priests will allow it.”***

Spiritual Attitude toward the devotion.

Our Lady promised that She would ***“assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation”*** the souls who make the first five Saturdays. However, it is important that the desire to console Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart by making reparation and growing in holiness is the main motivation for the practice.

To underline this fact, Our Lord told Sr. Lucia:

“It is true, my daughter, that many souls begin the First Saturdays, but few finished them, and those who do complete them do so in order to receive the graces that are promised thereby.

It would please me more if they did Five first Saturdays with fervor and with the intention of making reparation to the Heart of your heavenly Mother, than if they did Fifteen, in a tepid and indifferent manner...” (15th February 1926).

It’s worth our efforts and time while we have them!

Coming Dates: 1). Saturday, July 3rd, **2).** Saturday, August 7th, **3).** Saturday, September 4th, **4).** Saturday, October 2nd & **5)** Saturday, November 6th

Need to go to Confession beside here in our parish? All these **Confession times** at Windward Vicariate Parishes are on **Saturdays except St. Roch on Sunday**:**

Saturdays: St. Ann’s (Kaneohe) 4:00pm - , **St. John Vianney** (Enchanted Lake) 8:30am – 9:00am, **St. Anthony of Padua** (Kailua) Presently by appointment only, **St. George** (Waimanalo) 5:15pm – 5:45pm, **Our Lady of Mt. Carmel** 2:30pm – 3:15pm, **Sundays: St. Roch** (Kahuku) 6:45am – 7:15am.

This invitation and explanation of the **First Saturday & Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary** is included with **“calendar”** to keep up date of our First Saturdays.

Do not get discourage when having to **“restart”** again to fulfill the Five consecutive First Saturdays.

Let us once at least in our life-time try to fulfil this wonderful devotion to Mary, knowing that Our Blessed Mother promised to assist us at the hour of our death, with graces necessary for our salvation.

Mahalo nui loa and God bless you all,

Fr. Paulo ofm cap.