

Good afternoon and welcome to the World Apostolate of Fatima First Saturday. I would like to thank Deacon Roger Pasioneck and the parish of Holy Family in Saginaw for allowing us to use this, the most beautiful building in all of mid-Michigan. This month marks our twenty-second month of consecutive First Saturdays here in Saginaw.

There are four elements of the First Saturday Devotion.

The first is to go to confession and to receive Holy Communion.

Hopefully you've had an opportunity to go to confession in the hour before Mass, and during Mass you will have the opportunity to receive Holy Communion.

The second element is to recite the Rosary. Again, if you were here at 11:30, you had the opportunity to do this as well.

The third element is to meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the Rosary. This is a quarter of an hour spent contemplating any one ... or one minute contemplating each of the traditional 15 mysteries ... or 45 seconds meditating on each of the 20 mysteries of the Rosary as handed down by St. John Paul II.

And the final element is to do all of this with the intention of making reparation.

97 years ago this month, the three children of Fatima were 'kidnapped' by a public official who held them in jail for two days - in both an effort to keep them from going to the appointed site for the apparition of Our Lady, as well as to force them to reveal the 'secret' entrusted to them by Our Lady.

This indicates the extent that the enemies of the Faith ... the enemies of Our Lord ... the enemies of Our Lady ... will go to in order to attempt to thwart God's plan.

For ourselves, I cannot stress the importance of making your personal consecration to Our Lady using either the 33 Day St. Louis de Montfort program; or by merely praying any of the prayers of consecration.

Our Lady is a powerful intercessor ... our advocate and mediatrix ... and who among us couldn't use the spiritual assistance of the Blessed Mother?

As we approach this altar to receive the sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us - in a spirit of reparation - offer ourselves to Jesus through Mary.

May we experience in our hearts ... in our homes ... and in our world - the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.