

Good afternoon and welcome to the World Apostolate of Fatima First Saturday Devotions.

Our Lady requested Sister Lucia to spread the First Saturday devotions by asking people, for five First Saturdays of five months, to receive Sacramental Confession, to receive Holy Communion, to pray 5 decades of the Rosary, and to meditate for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary. All of this is to be done in a spirit of reparation for the blasphemies committed against our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

And so, all of those activities have been provided over the past two hours with the additional grace of being able to assist at Mass. The only ingredient you need to provide is your desire to offer these actions in a spirit of reparation.

Next Saturday is June 13, and is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This feast is celebrated on the Saturday twenty days after Pentecost. Because the date of Pentecost is dependent on the date of Easter, and Easter is not a fixed date, it is at least interesting that the happy coincidence of Our Lady's feast day falling on the 13th of June.

You will recall that the apparitions of Our Lady to the children in Fatima occurred on the 13th of the months of June through October.

Culminating with the Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917.

In the apparition, Our Lady was simply attired. The only adornment of note was a star on the hem of her dress above her feet.

There is a unique connection between the 13th of the month, and this star.

In the Book of Esther, the Israelites are in captivity. Esther is a young lady who is taken into the court of the King. The name Esther means "star," and the star on Mary's dress has been referred to as the "star of Esther."

Through the course of the story, Esther's people are singled out for destruction by the government for not abandoning their religious practices.

If only they would abandon their traditions, the government would let them live.

The vizier sets as date for the execution of the exiles as the 13th of the second month.

Interestingly as well, Sister Lucia died on February 13 in 2005.

Scripture often tells stories that are both prophetic but also allegorical. Our Lord fulfills those prophecies, but also is shown to fulfill the allegories in His own person.

The young girl named Esther, taken into the court of the King, who saves her people from certain death for not following the dictates of an irreligious government through her intercession with the King ... can also be seen as an allegory of Our Lady.

At the very least, all of the women of the Old Testament are imaged – not only in Our Lady, but also in the Church ... the Bride of Christ.

I encourage you to continue to pray the Rosary ... in reparation for the sins and indifference committed against God ... as well as to beg the powerful intercession of Our Lady ... for the conversion of sinners.

Immaculate Heart of Mary ... pray for us.

Our Lady of Fatima ... pray for us.

Our Lady of the Rosary ... pray for us.