

Good afternoon, and welcome to our First Saturday Devotions, sponsored by the Saginaw Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima, and hosted here at Holy Family Church – the most beautiful church in the entire Diocese of Saginaw.

The First Saturday Devotions were proposed to Sister Lucia by Our Lady and later by Our Lord as a means of reparation for blasphemies and neglects against the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady. The requirements are: (1) Sacramental confession, (2) Five decades of the Rosary, (3) Meditation for 15 minutes on the Mysteries of the Rosary, (4) Holy Communion, and (5) all of this done in a spirit of reparation.

Indeed, in our time when many people – even pastors – deny the ancient doctrines and dogmas taught by the Church since the earliest centuries ... we are called upon not only to be silent observers, but also evangelizers teaching the truth about the “two pillars” which Saint John Bosco saw as the entry into the safe haven for the Church ... namely Our Lady and the Eucharist. There are many free resources out there on the internet and by mail that can be obtained and distributed. Pray for guidance, and take up this task.

Today is the optional memorial of the Holy Name of Jesus.

This feast was suppressed in 1969, and reinstated in 2002.

Prior to its suppression, it was said to unite all the feasts of Our Lord ... focusing them as a lens focuses the rays of the sun to a single point. In 1969, it was removed as it was then considered as “redundant.”

The Holy Name of Jesus is recounted in the Annunciation to Our Lady, in the dream of St. Joseph. We are told that He is called “Jesus” because He will save His people from their sins. And indeed, Jesus – in Hebrew Yeshua – means “God saves.”

St. John tells us that Jesus told the disciples, anything you ask in My name God will give you.

St. Paul says that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and elsewhere that those who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

Miracles are wrought at the mention of Jesus' name both in the Gospels and in the Acts of the Apostles.

Hermits have long been in the habit of repeating the name of Jesus over and over, or in the eastern Church the so-called Jesus Prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, the sinner." is repeated.

Indeed, the name of Our Lord is in contemporary culture belittled and mocked.

It would seem that for every blasphemy of His name, we could say it with love 100 times in reparation.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for true reverence of His Holy Name. May the name of Jesus be on our lips at all times – spoken with love ... and reverence.

And may the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady triumph in our hearts, our homes, our parishes, our diocese, and in the world.