



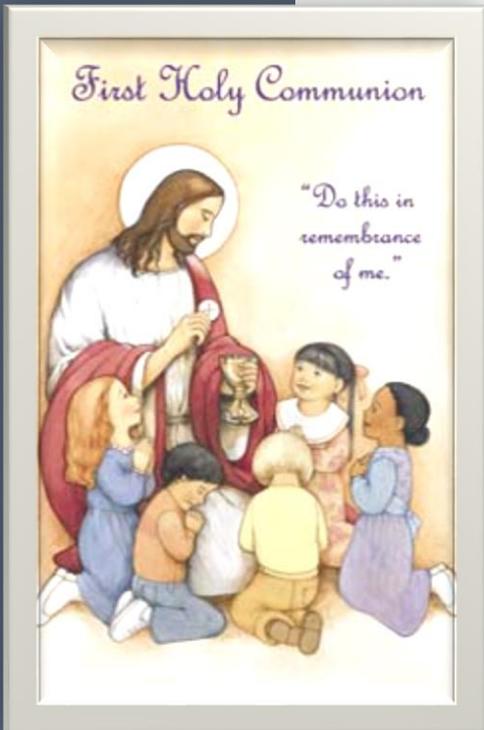
## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for May

### Christians in Africa

That Christians in Africa, in imitation of the Merciful Jesus, may give prophetic witness to reconciliation, justice, and peace.



The HTS Passion Play was very well done! Congrats to all students, staff, and parents for their hard work.



### PREP Level 3 students share their feelings about receiving First Holy Communion

Julia - "I am nervous because there will be a lot of people in church but I am excited. I think I will do great."

Jaden - "I feel excited and ready to receive my First Communion. I've listened in class how to receive my Communion and I feel close to Jesus because I'm receiving His body."

Dominic - "I feel a little bit nervous but excited. It should be fun and I can't wait to taste the bread. And I know I'm getting closer to Jesus"

Alexander - "I feel good and confident because I am going to get blessed by Jesus."

Wes - "I feel very happy because I am eating Jesus' body and I will be closer to God."

Ilyana - "I am happy and nervous. I'm happy because I get to taste and receive the body of Christ. I'm nervous because I don't know what it's going to be like and I don't want to mess up."

Ethan - "I will be relaxed because I worked so hard and I'm very excited to finally be at my First Communion."

Holly - "I am happy and excited because I have been working on this since I was little. From now on every Sunday at Church, I will be closer to my family and to Jesus."

Jacob - "I am happy because we learned about Communion all year at PREP and I am ready to participate in this part of Church [the Mass]."

**Congratulations to all the children in our parish who celebrated this Sacrament!**



## The Children of Fatima ~ Contributed by Hanna Tracy, Catholic Identity Committee member

In 1916 the Angel of Peace appeared dressed in white to three children near Fatima, Portugal. These three visits prepared them for the six Marian apparitions the following year. He taught them several prayers including this one: "My God, I believe, I adore You, I hope, and I love you. I ask forgiveness for those who do not believe, nor hope, nor adore, nor love You." (say 3x) On his last visit, he gave the children Holy Communion.

In 1917 Mary appeared six times to the children from May 13 – October 13 at the "Cove of Peace". She asked the children to pray the rosary every day for peace to end the war. In June Lucia was told to learn to read and write and that the Blessed Mother wanted to start a world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as a way of leading people to God. Mary told them that in October Jesus and Joseph would also appear and there would be a miracle. 70,000 people gathered near the Cove of Peace on a rainy October 13. The sun started spinning and grew larger. It looked like it was going to fall to the earth. Believers and unbelievers saw this and were afraid. Then they noticed that their clothes were dry although they had been standing in the rain for some time. While the people were looking at the miracle of the sun, the three children witnessed a series of apparitions. They saw Joseph and the Christ Child appearing to bless the world. The Blessed Mother was seen robed in white with a blue mantle. She revealed her identity as "Our Lady of the Rosary". She asked them to continue to pray the rosary and to have a chapel built at the place where she appeared to them. Today there is a Chapel of the Apparitions of Fatima there. In 1953, a Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary was built there.

The three children were Lucia dos Santos, age 10, and her cousins Francisco Marto, 9, and Jacinta Marto, 7. They were very poor shepherd children from a small village outside of Fatima, who could not read or write. They were not able to go to the cove on August 13<sup>th</sup> because they were put in prison for refusing to deny the apparitions. Finally they were released on August 15<sup>th</sup>, the feast of Our Lady of the Assumption. That month Mary visited them on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Jacinta dedicated herself to praying for the conversion of sinners as she suffered tremendously with influenza, pneumonia, and tuberculosis. During this time, the Blessed Mother appeared to her three more times. She died at age 9 and was beatified along with her brother on May 13, 2000 by Pope St. John Paul II.

Francisco could see the Blessed Mother during the visions but could not hear what she said. Lucia described him as musically gifted, pensive and easygoing. He chose to console Jesus for the sins of the world in private prayer. During the influenza outbreak, he also became ill and died just a year after the apparitions.

Lucia was the youngest of seven children. At age 14 she was sent to the Sisters of St. Dorothy to become a sister. Later she entered the convent of the Carmelite Sisters. She died at age 97 in 2005. During her long life she continued to have visions, prayed, and worked with four popes to share the promises and devotions Mary requested for the conversion of sinners.

This beautiful story of Fatima is an example of how the Blessed Mother helps children believe in the power of their prayer and suffering to bring themselves and others closer to her Son, Jesus.

References: Our Sunday Visitor, January 1-7, 2017 and February 19-25, 2017



St. Lucia



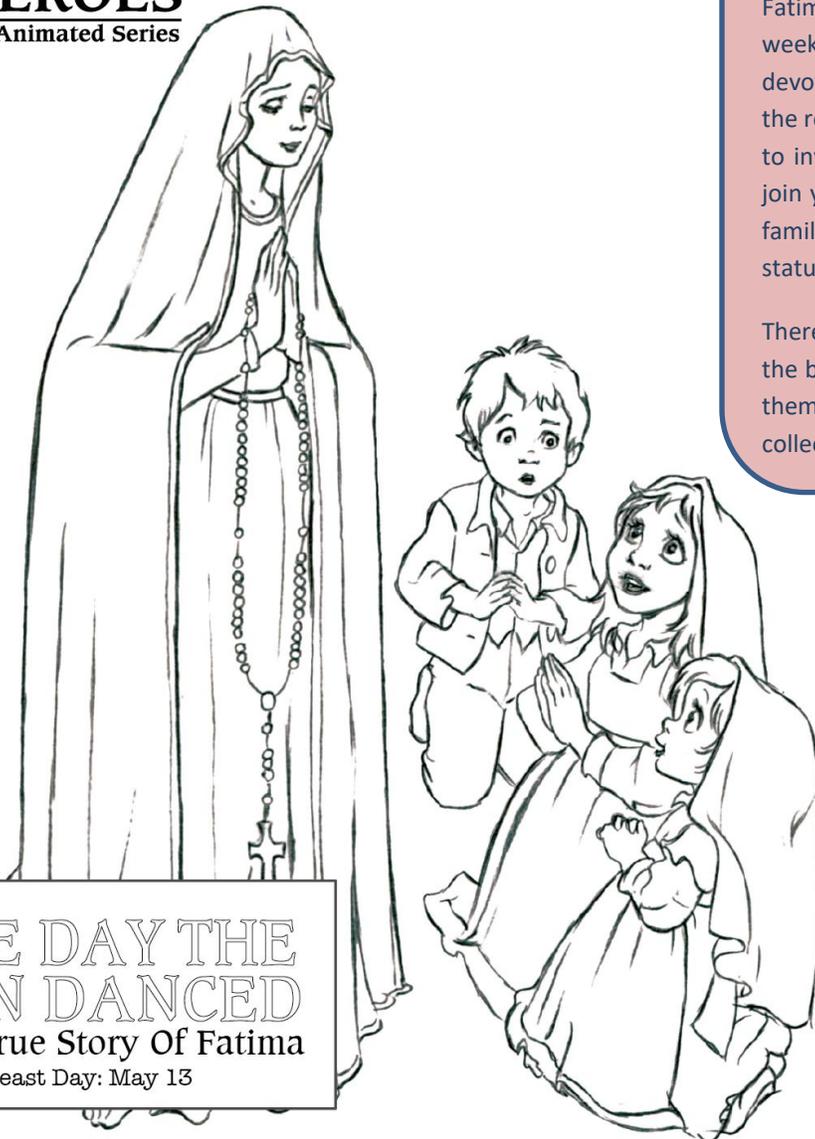
### First Saturdays Promise

On December 10, 1925 the Blessed Mother appeared to Sister Lucia. She promised “to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation for all those who on the first Saturday of 5 consecutive months:

1. Confess their sins
2. Receive Holy Communion
3. Recite 5 decades of the rosary
4. Keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the 15 mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

## 1 SAINTS AND HEROES

An Animated Series



THE DAY THE  
SUN DANCED  
The True Story Of Fatima

Feast Day: May 13

### Traveling Statue at Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity has a statue of Our Lady of Fatima that can visit your home for a week. During her visit plan a daily devotional with your family including the rosary. It is also a good opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to join you in prayer. This may be a good family summer activity when the school statues aren't in circulation.

There are request forms on the table in the back vestibule of the church. Take them to the rectory or put them in the collection basket.