On October 13, 1917, just before the miracle of the sun, Lucia asked for the healing and conversion of several people whose families had turned to her for help. Our Lady told her that she would help some, but not others because there had to be the intention to repent, to change one’s life, and pursue holiness. The “Lady of the Rosary” added with a sad look:

“Do not offend the Lord our God anymore because He is already so much offended.”

Then Our Lady pointed to the sun; and Lucia, imitating the gesture, pointed and said, “Look at the sun!” Lucia later described the sun as a brilliant white host, pulsating and emitting rays of light – rainbow colors – over the multitude of approximately 70,000 people. The Miracle of the sun was a Eucharistic miracle! “Look at the sun” could very well have a double meaning. Our Lady of the Rosary, pointing to the sun, said, “Look at the Son!” The Fatima message evokes memories of Cana of Galilee when our Lady initiates the public ministry of Jesus when she says to the wine stewards, “Do whatever He tells you.”

The miracle of the sun at Fatima refers to the daily miracle of the Son of God in the eucharistic Sacrifice of the Mass. As we leave the Fatima Centennial Year, we take to heart the heart of the Fatima message: “Look at the Son” and His daily miracle in the Holy Mass; and stop offending the Lord our God Who is already too much offended.”

Again, I repeat, the best way to live the Fatima message is to practice the devotion of the Five First Saturdays. Herein lies the humble repentance of sin with a firm purpose of amendment; and the Holy Communion of reparation for sins against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In the “Last Vision” of Fatima on June 13, 1929 in the Chapel of St. Dorothy’s Convent in Tui, Spain, we see the union of devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary with the Eucharistic Sacrifice of the Son profoundly revealed to Sister Lucia.

“Suddenly the whole Chapel was illumined by a
supernatural light, and above the altar appeared a Cross of light, reaching to the ceiling. In a brighter light on the upper part of the Cross, could be seen the face of a man and his body as far as the waist; upon his breast was a dove of light; nailed to the Cross was the body of another man. A little below the waist, I could see a chalice and a large host suspended in the air, on to which drops of blood were falling from the face of Jesus Crucified and from the wound in His side. These drops ran down on to the host and fell into the chalice. Beneath the right arm of the Cross was Our Lady and in her hand, was her Immaculate Heart. (It was Our Lady of Fatima, with her Immaculate Heart in her left hand, without sword or roses but with a crown of thorns and flames.) Under the left arm of the Cross, large letters, as if of crystal clear water which ran down upon the altar, formed these words: ‘Grace and Mercy.’ I understood that it was the Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity which was shown to me, and I received lights about this mystery which I am not permitted to reveal.”

When the vision vanished, Our Lady told Lucia: “There are so many souls whom the Justice of God condemns for sins committed against me, that I have come to ask reparation: sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.”

Jesus would speak to Sister Lucia: “My daughter…. There are five ways in which people offend and blaspheme against the Immaculate Heart of Mary: 1) Blasphemies against the Immaculate Conception; 2) Blasphemies against her Perpetual Virginity; 3) Blasphemies against her Divine Maternity and at the same time the refusal to recognize her as the Mother of all mankind; 4) Blasphemies of those who seek openly to foster in the hearts of children indifference or contempt and even hatred for this Immaculate Mother; 5) The offenses of those who directly outrage her in her holy images.”

Jesus here discloses that sins against His Mother offended God Himself most gravely. Yet Mary was solicitous about the salvation of these sinners, requesting acts of reparation to save them from hell. Christ also asked Lucia to pray and to make sacrifices for mercy for these sinners. He added that if the faithful could not participate in the First Saturdays devotion, they could practice it on First Sundays.

How generous Jesus is to us!

And how accommodating! If we can’t make the first Saturdays, we can make the first Sundays!

Advent and Christmas especially call to mind the mysteries of the Immaculate Conception, the Perpetual Virginity of Mary and her Divine Motherhood. In silence and prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, and in the Holy Mass, we can offer sentiments of love for the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

With the Divine Infant Jesus and St. Joseph we can offer Acts of love and reparation to our Beloved Mother. We can call on all the holy Angels to join us in this profound veneration of Mary particularly when we pray the holy rosary and meditate on the mysteries.

The Advent and Christmas season are times of silence, prayer and reflection on the joyful mysteries of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and the holy Angels.

We can enter into the spirit of the Holy Family at Nazareth. It was on December 10, 1925, that the Child Jesus came with Mary to Sr. Lucia to ask for the First Saturday devotion. December 1st is the feast of the Holy House of Loreto where all the sacred mysteries of the hidden life of Jesus took place.

Let us enter in spirit into this holy House during Advent and Christmas. Blessed Paul VI, visited Nazareth on January 5, 1964, where the Holy House had once stood and where the Great Mystery of the Incarnation took place. On that visit he said: “Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ’s life was like and even to understand his Gospel…..

First, we learn from its silence: If only we could once again appreciate it’s great value. We need this wonderful state of mind, beset as we are by the cacophony of strident protests and conflicting claims so characteristic of these turbulent times. The silence of Nazareth should teach us how to meditate in peace and quiet, to reflect on the deeply spiritual, and to be open to the voice of God: inner wisdom and the counsel of true teachers. Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.”

May God grant all of you His abundant mercy and grace for a fruitful Advent and a holy and Blessed Christmas, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace!
Wow!

All I can say is that it’s been an amazing year of celebrations for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady’s apparitions at Fatima.

We began on May 13th with Archbishop Vigneron celebrating Mass at Old St. Mary’s in Greektown. He also re-consecrated the city of Detroit and all of Southeast Michigan to Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart then led over 1,300 faithful in a procession through the streets of Greektown as a true witness to our faith and love of Our Lady.

We had many extraordinary events during the spring and summer, closing the year on Oct 13th as Bishop Battersby was the main celebrant at Mass along with our Spiritual Director Fr. John Hedges at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

Bishop Battersby joined Fr. Hedges after Mass and blessed the overflowing crowd with the relics of the bloody bandages of Padre Pio.
I'm grateful that we were able to touch so many hearts and pray for the conversion of souls during this special grace filled year!

Thank you to our small but dedicated group of volunteers, who worked so hard to make the 100th year celebration special for all those who participated.

Thank you to Fr. John Hedges for his on-going spiritual support.

Thank you to Our Lady of Fatima for blessing us all so richly!

Congratulations to the raffle winners of our three beautiful statues of Our Lady of Fatima.
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Lemanski
Shirley Rochowiak
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Roberts

As we move forward from this special year, I’m energized and filled with joy and ready to serve Our Lady more deeply. If you feel the same way, we could use your help; join our small but happy band of volunteers by calling me at (313) 320-7887.

Finally, thank you to anyone who gave a word of encouragement, a word of thanks or prayed for me during this busy year. I want to apologize to anyone whom I may have offended in my efforts to make everything special. Please accept my sincere apology.

May Our Lady of Fatima continue to bless us all!
Current Resident or:

Pray the Rosary · Wear the Scapular

**The Holy Mass Schedule**

**November**

November 3rd, First Friday, 7:00 P.M.

November 4th, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

**December**

December 1st, First Friday, - Mass 7:00 P.M.

December 2nd, First Saturday Mass 8:00 A.M.

Confessions are heard 1/2 hour before First Friday and First Saturday Masses

Virtus Men’s Prayer Group

Virtus Men’s Prayer Group has regular meetings:

9:00 AM-10:30 in the Chapel on 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

St. Joseph Bookstore hours

Before and after all Masses

Wednesdays 11:00 A.M.— 4:00 P.M.

Saturdays 11:00 A.M.— 4:00 P.M.

All work at The Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima is done by volunteers. We have no paid staff. Please feel free to call us at: 734-281-1445

Stop in for all your gift needs:

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We accept credit cards!

E-mail us at: bluearmy18637@gmail.com
Leonard St. Pierre at: (313) 320-7887.

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