

## **What to Expect When You're Expecting the Pilgrim Virgin**

Hosting the Pilgrim Virgin statue is a beautiful way to honor Jesus and Our Lady, to invite God's blessings into your home, and to unite your family in prayer! But is your family ready for the commitment? Is there room for the Pilgrim Virgin in the mess of everyday life? Is your home "Catholic" enough? The answer to all of these questions is a resounding YES!!!

### **Step One: Sign Up**

First, choose an open date on the sign up genius page, and sign up! Someone will email you to confirm all the details.

### **Step Two: Prepare a place of honor**

Before the Pilgrim Virgin statue arrives, spend some time preparing a special place where she can be beautifully and reverently displayed all week long. My family has a home altar set up on top of a small book shelf, and to host the Pilgrim Virgin Statue we put down a blue tablecloth, a rosary, and a few special candles. Flowers are also a great idea, or anything that you think will set the stage for your special guest!

### **Step Three: Receive the statue**

When the big day arrives, 2 members of the Legion of Mary at SFdS will bring the Pilgrim Virgin to your home. They will help you set her up in the place you have prepared, and then they will guide you through a welcome prayer ceremony that takes about 20 minutes. Most of the prayers are read straight from a booklet. The only “unscripted” part of the ceremony is a group recitation of the rosary, which the legion members will ask you as the hosts to lead. Don’t worry if you get nervous or forget something! **THIS IS NOT A TEST.** Our legion team is always helpful and ready to help you feel comfortable and successful. After the welcome prayers, the Legion members will head out and you’ll be all set for a beautiful week with Mary!

**Step Four:** What now?

So, what do you do all week while the Pilgrim Virgin statue is in your home? The simple answer is this: spend time with your honored guest! Pray the rosary each day together as a family! In our home we say our rosary each night before bed, and I can promise you it is never perfect! Don’t be discouraged by distracted and cranky children (or adults). Just **PRAY** the rosary each day. And don’t stop there! Pause throughout your day as you pass by the statue, and just say “hello.” Offer a silent Hail Mary; ask Mary to help you or to pray for a special intention. She’s a **GREAT** listener, and she **LOVES** to rain down God’s graces on those who ask!

### **Step Five: Farewell**

At the end of the week, our Legion team will return to your home. There is a brief closing prayer ceremony in the booklet (no rosary this time), and then you'll pack up the Pilgrim Virgin so that she's all set for her next home visit! A priest will also come to the pick-up for a special home blessing (HUGE added bonus!).

I just KNOW that you will be so blessed by your time with the Pilgrim Virgin statue! The statue is a beautiful tangible reminder of the unseen spiritual beauty available to all who turn to Jesus and Mary in faith. Don't let this incredible opportunity pass you by...you're just 5 simple steps away!