

# Faith Formation Closing Mass and Brown Scapular Investiture

Wednesday, May 5th, 2021: 7:00pm Mass

Immediately following Mass, the Brown Scapular Investiture Rite will take place for any students 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade and family members who have never been enrolled. (2<sup>nd</sup> graders will be enrolled on 1<sup>st</sup> Communion weekend.) Additionally, teachers will hand out end-of-the-year gifts as students leave after the Enrollment. Scapulars will be provided for everyone!



## The Holy Scapular Promise

“Whosoever dies in this garment shall not suffer eternal fire.”

- Promise of Our Lady to St. Simon Stock

**History:** In the year 1251, in the town of Aylesford in England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite. She handed him a brown woolen scapular and said, “This shall be a privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal fire. It is a sign of salvation, a sure safeguard in danger, a pledge of peace and of my special protection until the end of the ages.” In time, the Church extended this magnificent promise to all the laity willing to be invested in the Brown Scapular of the Carmelites and who perpetually wear it.



## FAQs about the Brown Scapular:

### What are the conditions requisite for gaining Our Lady’s promise of the Brown Scapular?

1. To be enrolled in the Scapular by a priest.
2. To observe exactly what has been prescribed regarding material, color, and shape of the Scapular.
3. To wear it continually.

Please note that there are no special prayers or good works that are necessary to receive the promise. However, we must keep in mind that the scapular is not a lucky charm like a rabbit’s foot, horseshoe, etc.,. Rather it becomes a sign of our salvation if we draw close to the Mother of God, open our hearts to the special heavenly graces that she offers and give ourselves to her protection from earthly sin and temptation.

**Who may be invested in the Brown Scapular?** All the Catholic faithful should be enrolled. It is customary for children to be enrolled at the time of their First Holy Communion.

**Why should I enroll myself and my children?** Wearing the scapular is a silent prayer that shows one’s complete consecration and dedication to our spiritual mother, Mary. It is similar to the wearing of a wedding ring, which is a sign of commitment and dedication in the case of a married couple. The Scapular is a devotion whereby we honor Mary, love Her, and trust in Her protection, specifically regarding our eternal welfare. We tell Her these things at every moment by simply wearing the Scapular. Mary in turn gives us her protection & love.

**How do I enroll in the Brown Scapular?** Any priest can enroll or invest you in the Brown Scapular. It was once customary that only the Carmelite Fathers were permitted to enroll the lay faithful, and special permission was needed for any other priest to perform the ceremony. However, this devotion has spread

so far and wide throughout the Catholic world that now the Church has given permission to all priests to invest the faithful in the Brown Scapular.

**What is the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular?** Once invested or enrolled in the Scapular, *a person automatically becomes a member of the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular.* What is meant by the Confraternity is that, having been enrolled in the Scapular, you belong to a spiritual family whereby you have the privilege of being affiliated with the Carmelite Order, participating in the merits of the Carmelite Fathers and Religious in life and in death, as well as receiving the promises of Our Lady through the Scapular. Although at one time it was customary to inscribe one's name in the Confraternity Register (the parish priest would do this for all those he enrolled by sending the names to a Carmelite convent where the Confraternity was canonically erected), it is no longer the practice to do so. Part of the reason for this is that the Scapular has become, thanks be to God, such a universal sacramental and devotion that the Church has taken away this obligation. It is sufficient to be invested in the Scapular to be a member of the Confraternity.

**How must I wear the Scapular in order to receive its benefits?** You must wear it over the shoulders so that one part hangs over your chest and the other side hangs over the back. Both parts cannot be carried/pinned in the front or the back or placed in a pocket.

**May I use a chain instead of a cord for my Scapular?** Yes, as long as the scapular itself is 100% wool.

**What shape does the Scapular have to be?** It must be oblong or square.

**May the Scapular have any other images on it?** It is permitted to ornament the Scapular with images or pictures, such as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel or the Carmelite shield. However, the wool brown color of the Scapular must predominate.

**Does the Scapular have to touch the skin?** No, it may be worn over or under any part of the clothing.

**Must I always wear the Scapular or may I take it off?** In order to receive the promise, the Scapular must always be worn, although it may be taken off for bathing. We must understand that by wearing the Scapular we show our consecration and devotion to the Blessed Virgin. Our Blessed Mother would not be honored by anyone who out of vanity or fear takes it off whenever it is not convenient to wear it. By wearing it we make an open profession of our faith, confidence, and love of Her.

**If I need a new Scapular, do I need to be re-invested?** No. If your Scapular has worn out or has broken, you only need to get another one and put it on. The blessing and investiture is still valid for the new Scapular, since the blessing is predominately given to the person who is invested in the Scapular.

**What is the Sabbatine Privilege?** It is the promise that the Blessed Virgin Mary gave to Pope John XXII in a vision, that She will deliver Her faithful children who have worn the Scapular devoutly from purgatory soon after their death, notably the first Saturday after death. "As a tender Mother, I will descend into purgatory on the Saturday after their death, and will deliver them into the heavenly mansions of life everlasting." This Sabbatine Privilege was promulgated and taught through the famous Bull *Sacratissimo Uti Culmine* of Pope John XXII in 1322 and given definitive ratification in 1908 by the Holy See.

**What are the requirements for obtaining the Sabbatine Privilege?**

1. To wear the Brown Scapular continuously.
2. To observe chastity according to one's state in life (Married/single).
3. The daily recitation of the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary OR Observe the fasts of the Church together with abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Saturdays OR With permission of a priest, say five decades of Our Lady's Most Holy Rosary OR With permission of a priest, substitute some other good work.