

Let Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament speak to your hearts. It is he who is the true answer of life that you seek. He stays here with us: he is God with us. Seek him without tiring, welcome him without reserve, love him without interruption: today, tomorrow, forever. -St. John Paul II-

## WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION and WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE?

Eucharistic Adoration is when we come to adore Jesus Christ, truly present under the appearance of bread in the Holy Eucharist. Adoration is an extension of the Mass, when the priest elevates the host and says, "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." It also stems from Jesus's invitation to His apostles that they keep watch with him in prayer the night before He died.

Each adorer commits to being a critical link in an unbroken chain of love offered to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament whereby the parish enthrones Him King by giving Him the honor and glory due His name through perpetual Eucharistic adoration. By means of perpetual adoration the community gives great honor and glory to the Lord because, "worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory and blessing (Rev. 5:12) and to be incessantly adored for all that he has done for our salvation." (cf Rev. 5:9) Each adorer is individually called to take part in perpetual Eucharistic adoration, freely responding to the first commandment, "The Lord your God is the one to whom you must adore, him alone you must serve." (Mt 4:10) Besides, for each adorer, "the act of adoration outside of Mass prolongs and intensifies all that takes place during the liturgical celebration itself." (Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, #66) Thus, the chapel of perpetual adoration becomes an oasis of peace where people go to gain new strength according to the call, "Come to me all you who labor and are overburdened and I will give you rest" (Mt. 11:28), and to open a temporary gap in the daily hustle and bustle of life to be in the Lord's Divine Presence. "Be still and know I am God." (Ps 46:11)

During your holy hour, "you are presenting to Christ all those who do not know Him or are far from Him. You keep watch in His Presence on their behalf," bringing down upon these souls in most need of God's mercy the Precious Blood of the Lamb to obtain their conversion so they go to Heaven to be with God for all eternity. (Eucharist: Sacrament to Be Adored, by John Paul II, *L'Osservatore Romano* 26 June 1996)

## IN THE CHAPEL

- Upon coming in to the chapel, it is important that you **reverence our Lord** by kneeling, genuflecting, or bowing before the monstrance.
- Be mindful of **keeping silence** in the chapel. This is a reverent prayer space where there should not be talking, noise from devices, music, etc. We do not want anything to detract from the presence of Jesus for other adorers. Phones should be set to silent.
- You may **help yourself to books** from the lending library shelf just outside of the chapel to use for aid in prayer and meditation. Books must be returned when your time is done.
- Time can be spent reading the Bible, saying the rosary, writing in a journal, reading a book of spirituality, just having still quiet time, sharing your anxieties, giving thanks, asking for forgiveness, praying for others, and just being in His presence.
- **Please know that the Blessed Sacrament cannot be left unattended.** There must always be someone in the chapel. (Please see "Logistics" for more information.)
- **Only clergy should go up to the altar;** do not go up and touch the altar or the monstrance. Likewise, nothing should be left on the altar.
- There **should not be any food or drinks** in the chapel (including gum or candy).
- Please be dressed in attire that is modest and appropriate for solemn occasions.
- We welcome families and parents with small children in the chapel. Please remember to teach your children well to observe practices of reverence and prayer. Also be mindful to not feed them snacks in the chapel.

## LOGISTICS CONTINUED

### HOURS OF ADORATION

**The Blessed Sacrament will be reposed from 4pm on Saturday until 11:30am Sunday morning, meaning Eucharistic Adoration is not available during that time.** Other than these hours, adoration is available twenty-four hours a day.

### CHAPEL LOCATION & PARKING

To enter the chapel, park in the lot east of the church (by the rectory), where the St. Patrick Office sign is located. Enter through the double doors and the chapel is the second door on your right. Parking is available for handicap and nighttime adorers along the sidewalk, just to the left and to the right of the awning.

### ARRIVAL

Please come about 5 minutes early to show courtesy to those adorers signed up before you.

### SIGN IN

Outside of the chapel is a shelf with a binder for signing in, writing petitions, and sharing testimonies. We ask that if you are a regularly scheduled adorer that you sign in next to your name. If you are substituting for someone, please sign in indicating that you are a sub. We also invite visitors from other parishes to sign in on the visitor page. If you are a St. Patrick parishioner and you come by for an unscheduled visit, there is no need for you to sign in.

### IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS AN ADORER

It must be assumed that scheduled adorers will not personally know the individual assigned to the hour after them so they know when they are free to go. Therefore, there must be a way for regularly scheduled adorers to identify themselves. There will be fabric available at the sign in table for those who are regularly scheduled adorers. When you sign in, **please take one and drape it over the chair next to you** to indicate to the previous adorer that the next scheduled person has arrived. Please return the fabric to the sign in table when you have completed your hour. Substitute adorers should do likewise. This will help to differentiate regularly scheduled adorers and those just stopping in a for a visit.

### WHEN YOU CAN'T BE THERE

You are considered the guardian of the Eucharist for your assigned hour. **It is your responsibility to find a substitute to cover your hour when you cannot be there.** This ministry will be treated like other ministries at St. Patrick Church. If you are a regularly scheduled adorer, you are automatically a substitute option for people to contact. Therefore, a list of regular adorers' contact information will be given to you so you can contact people when you need a sub. Additionally, we have a list of people who are not regular adorers but that are willing to be called to substitute. This list will also be provided to you.

**TIPS FOR GETTING A SUB** You may consider looking at the schedule to see who covers the same hour you do, but on a different day. Then you can possibly just switch days. You could also ask the person before you AND the person after you to stay for an extra 30 minutes. You can also ask family or friends to cover your hour for you. This is a great way to invite others to experience Adoration. \*Individuals do not have to be Catholic to adore, they simply should adhere to the same expectations that other adorers do.

## **NO SHOWS**

Should your hour be over and the next adorer has not arrived, please try to stay over a few extra minutes. If other visitors are there but they are not scheduled, quietly and reverently approach them to see how long they might be able to stay. Hopefully they can cover the hour. If neither of you can stay, and if no one comes, someone must lock the monstrance in the housing box on the altar. Coordinate this task with whoever may be in the chapel at the time. The key hangs from a hook on the underside of the altar on the right-hand side (John Paul statue side). Take the key from under the altar, lock the housing unit on the altar with the monstrance in it, and then replace the key back under the altar.

If you should arrive to adoration and the Blessed Sacrament is not exposed, simply get the key from under the altar, unlock the doors of the housing unit, open the doors wide, and return the key to the underside of the altar.

## **EMERGENCIES**

There is a phone located in the back of the chapel behind the door. This phone makes outgoing calls only. Use it as needed in case of emergency to call for assistance. Should you need to leave in an emergency, you can exit the way you came, or you can exit to the right, going through the two sets of double doors of the church. In the case of a fire, please pull the alarm as you exit if possible. The alarm is located in the hallway across from the women's restroom.

## **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Adorers should not put themselves at risk on the roads in bad weather circumstances. Please try to secure a sub, as someone who lives close may be able to make it. In extenuating circumstances, the pastor will decide to repose the Blessed Sacrament and temporarily close the chapel. Notification will be sent first and foremost through the MyParish App, then also on the website, and on the St. Patrick Facebook page. Should St. Mary School be closed for inclement weather, the chapel will also close. But please monitor the above-mentioned places to watch for when the chapel will re-open.

## **LOCKED DOORS & SECURITY**

Exterior doors will be locked from 3:30pm (the close of office hours) until 7:00am. A code will be available for adorers scheduled during that time to let themselves in. The code to unlock doors will be available by calling the parish office or the Chapel Coordinators. It is crucial that doors never be propped open, and do not open the door to those whom you may have concerns about. Access to restrooms are still available. The code will change quarterly or as needed. It is fine to share the code with those you know and trust. Also please know that we also have security cameras in place as an added safety precaution.

## **TO SIGN UP OR CHANGE YOUR HOUR**

If you are interested in committing to a weekly holy hour or being on the substitute adorer list, please contact one of our Adoration Coordinators. Also please reach out to them if you can no longer fulfill your current commitment or need to change times.

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Your faith will help you realize that it is Jesus Himself who is present in the Blessed Sacrament, waiting for you and calling you to spend one special specific hour with Him each week.

-St. John Paul II-