



Pastor's Column

The Importance of Eucharistic Adoration

November 12, 2017

The devotion of the Christian faithful of adoring the Risen Lord in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar, the Eucharist, is many centuries old – at least since the time of St. Thomas Aquinas in the early 13th Century. The importance of this devotion is the fact that Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs at every Mass: “Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him Who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of Lamb.” Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the Sacrifice of the Mass and services to deepen our spiritual hunger and thirst for Communion with Christ and the rest of His Bride, the Church.

This devotion of Eucharistic Adoration is commonly known also as the Holy Hour. The Holy Hour devotion actually draws its spiritual and theological basis from the Garden of Gethsemane on the night when Our Lord was betrayed. Our Lord saw Peter, James, and John asleep, and He asked them, “Could you not keep watch with Me for even one hour?” Archbishop Fulton Sheen has written volumes about this one question that Our Lord asked *them* and asks *us*, as well.

And so, Holy Hours are a Catholic devotional tradition of praying to and with Our Lord for one hour in Eucharistic Adoration, holding vigil for one hour as Our Lord asks of us in His presence, the Real Presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Here at St. Peter, we have a thriving culture of Eucharistic Adoration: Tuesdays each week from noon until 6 PM; Fridays 6 PM to 7 PM (during which confessions are heard); First-Saturdays from 10 AM to 11 AM. In addition, many other opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration will be offered. The first such opportunity will be seven days of 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration to help us prepare for the Season of Advent. This Advent-preparation opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration will begin at noon on Sunday, November 26 (Solemnity of Christ the King), and will conclude at 11 AM on Saturday, December 2. A table and sign-up sheets to select your hour for holding vigil will be in the narthex of St. Peter church, and everyone is encouraged to sign up for the hour that they will have each day of that week. And because St. Peter has such a strong culture of Eucharistic Adoration, the other South Hill parishes, the Cathedral, St. Aloysius, and St. Anne (all of them nearby parishes) will be invited to sign up at the St. Peter parish office. Please invite other people whom you know at other parishes to participate with us. For more information, please contact the parish office. Thank you all very much, and may the Eucharistic Lord bless us always in all that we strive to say and do in His most holy Name.

~ Fr. Lewis