

What is Perpetual Adoration?

Archbishop Tobin, soon to be Cardinal Tobin, has granted us permission to open a Perpetual Adoration Chapel here at All Saints. This is a great gift- so what is this gift? Well, let's break it down. "Perpetual" means: on-going, never ending, forever. The chapel that we have permission to open will be open "perpetually." It will be a place of prayer that is always open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To be accurate, it is closed from the Mass of the Lords Supper on Holy Thursday until the end of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday each year, but besides those three days and anytime that we might need to close it for a snow emergency, the chapel will be open- all day and all night.

It is a "perpetual" (open 24/7) and it is a chapel of "Adoration." I know a protestant community that started a perpetual chapel of prayer and reading. The chapel was open 24/7, but in the chapel (a small room) there was just a table with a bible and some chairs for sitting and reading. Do not get me wrong, it was awesome; it was a place of refuge and many people found the Lord there in silence and in reading the bible- no doubt. A Perpetual Adoration Chapel is different in the fact that it has Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament taking place 24/7.

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament is the spending time with Jesus. In "Adoration" it is the presence of Jesus Christ- Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. An extra host (bread) is consecrated at Holy Mass and is then placed in the chapel in a receptacle called a monstrance that displays the host so

all can see our Lord, hidden under the appearance of bread. Thus, the chapel becomes a real tabernacle, a dwelling place of God.

In order for our Lord to be exposed in a monstrance and present in this way, there must always be two people in the Adoration Chapel. Why two people? Two people are present to pray with our Lord (to adore, thank, ask, read, study, meditate, etc.), but they are also there to guard the Blessed Sacrament. There could be just one person, but what if that person got sick, had to go the bathroom or had an emergency. Two people is ideal, it is the buddy system and fulfills scripture that God sent them out in pairs. There can be more than 2, but 2 is the ideal minimum.

If you do some math: 24 hours x 2 people per hour is 168 people. 168 people for 1 day x 7 is 336 people per week, that is what is needed to make on an effort like this happen. We should be thrilled that Archbishop Tobin, has this faith in us and in our Love of the Lord.

What is Perpetual Adoration? It is an opportunity for the vast majority of our parishioners to have a weekly scheduled time to be with the Lord in silent prayer. It is an opportunity for our parish to offer to anyone who lives in our area or is passing through, a place of prayer that is always open and always accessible. This chapel will increase our prayer and encourage others to join us. That is a gift!

More next week! →

More Questions about Perpetual Adoration

What are some good reasons for establishing Perpetual Adoration?

The reasons are endless...to provide an easy, attractive, and practical way of giving God adoration which is His due as our Creator/Savior/Sanctifier. To give God thanks for our redemption, to petition God for constant help and to show our gratitude to our Lord for remaining among us in our tabernacles, and to make at least some atonement for the many sacrileges, indifferences, and ingratitude which He receives in His Sacrament of Love. A great reason is to create a place of silence. Also, to grow in our knowledge of our Lord and His church through reading holy and pious materials. Lastly, to foster community and union among parishioners.

Who is responsible for organizing a Perpetual Adoration program?

Vatican Council II had emphasized the importance of lay involvement in the Church's mission. It is the team principle of laity doing the foot work, but always keeping the pastor informed that makes an adoration program work. It is important that from its very inception that pastors and parish clergy be assured that it does not mean their taking on extra work in an already busy schedule. The pastor is key, but the laity are the real "workers" of this ministry.

How is Perpetual Adoration organized in a parish?

The parish is divided into twenty-four groups or teams corresponding to the twenty-four hours of the day. Each member in a particular group is scheduled for a different day of the week. A captain or coordinator or contact person is chosen from each of the groups to make sure that each hour is covered throughout the

week. If someone needs a substitute, they call their coordinator who calls someone else in the group who would be able to switch days with the person who needs the substitute. Some parishes have divided the responsibility of filling hours to seven day and seven night captains, the men taking the night hours and the women the day. Regardless of how this responsibility is filled, responsible group leaders are vital for a successful program.

What is the best location for Perpetual Adoration?

The best location for Perpetual Adoration is a small chapel. A chapel can be kept warm economically in the winter. It creates a greater atmosphere for quiet intimacy with the Lord, and people generally feel more secure in a smaller place. Any small room can be converted into a space like this- we are actively looking at All Saints to find the best location.

How does one spend an hour before Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament?

This hour Jesus wants you to spend with Him is spent any way you want. You may bring your own prayer books, use the books in the chapel, read the Bible, pray the rosary, or just sit and relax and enjoy the sweet peace that comes from simply being in the Presence of God. You may feel that you can't pray well. Don't let this discourage you. The mere fact that you take time out at a specific time each week to spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament pleases Him very much and is in itself a prayer of great faith. Please remember that Perpetual Adoration is a parish, it is not just for a day, a week, a month, or a year. Rather, it is for always. It is not temporary, but ongoing, lasting, permanent. ☺☺

What have some of the popes said about perpetual adoration?

We will be starting a perpetual Adoration Chapel. We do so with the permission of the Archbishop, but also the encouragement of the past several popes. Recently Pope Francis has been encouraging and promoting silent Eucharistic Adoration. Just a few weeks ago he said, "One cannot know the Lord without being in the habit of adoring, of adoring in silence," the pope said in his homily. Yet, he lamented, "I believe, if I am not mistaken, that this prayer of adoration is the least known among us; it is the one we engage in the least." "To waste time — if I may say it — before the Lord, before the mystery of Jesus Christ. To adore, there in the silence, in the silence of adoration. He is the Lord, and I adore Him."

At another time he mentioned, "Let us ask ourselves this evening, adoring the Christ truly present in the Eucharist: do I let myself be transformed by Him? Do I let the Lord who gives Himself to me, guide me to come out more and more from my little fence, to get out and be not afraid to give, to share, to love Him and others?"

One of my favorite quotes of Pope Francis is this, "What I really prefer is adoration in the evening, even when I get distracted and think of other things, or even fall asleep praying. In the evening then, between seven and eight o'clock, I stay in front of the Blessed Sacrament for an hour in adoration."

Pope Benedict the 16th had a great devotion to our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament. He said this to a group of young people, "Go to the encounter with Him in the Blessed Eucharist, go to adore Him in the churches, kneeling before the Tabernacle: Jesus will fill you with His love and will reveal to you the thoughts of His Heart. If you listen to Him, you will feel ever more deeply the joy of belonging to His Mystical Body, the Church, which is the family of his disciples held close by the bond of unity and love."

Concerning perpetual adoration Pope Benedict the 16th stated, "Perpetual Adoration is a neurological point of the life of faith..." I only wish to thank God...that Perpetual Adoration has been reborn everywhere in the Church. "Adoration is to enter into profound heartfelt communion with the Lord, who makes Himself bodily

present in the Eucharist. In the monstrance, He always entrusts Himself to us and asks us to be united with His Presence, with his risen Body."

St. Pope John Paul II was a tremendous promoter of perpetual adoration. In fact, he started Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Vatican in 1981, a couple of years after he became Pope. He always had an hour or two of adoration each day even with his busy schedule throughout his life. In fact he would spend long periods in the Presence of our beloved Lord, often prostrate before the Eucharist, particularly before any missionary trip he would undertake. It is said he made all his major decisions on his knees before the Blessed Sacrament and, both as Bishop and as Pope, he would write much of his work while in Eucharistic adoration.

Here are a few quotes from St. John Paul II:

"I...encourage Christians regularly to visit Christ present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar, for we are all called to abide in the presence of God, thanks to him who is with us until the end of time. In contemplation, Christians will perceive ever more profoundly that the paschal mystery is at the heart of all Christian life. This practice leads them to join more intensely in the paschal mystery..."

"I urge priests, religious and lay people to continue and redouble their efforts to teach the younger generations the meaning and value of Eucharistic adoration and devotion. How will young people be able to know the Lord if they are not introduced to the mystery of his presence?"

"Hours spent in Eucharistic Adoration are not hours spent in idleness, but these are moments, hours, when we undertake something that constitutes the deepest meaning of all of our work. For no matter how numerous our activities, our ministries, however numerous our concerns, our exertions - if there is no love, everything becomes meaningless. When we devote our time to ponder the mystery of love, to allow it to radiate in our hearts, we are preparing ourselves in the best possible way for any kind of service, for any activity, for any charitable work."