



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

August 15, 2017

Dear Parishioners:

Among the various assets of our new church that I have found most inspiring is the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. Most churches don't have a special room dedicated to the Holy Eucharist for the purpose of adoration. Instead the tabernacle is behind the altar. Our church follows the pattern of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. There the main altar is directly under the dome and over the spot where St. Peter was martyred. However, to the right is a Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament where the Eucharist is reserved for adoration. I have gone there to pray and found it an oasis of peace. In our church, the Chapel is to the left of the altar. Just outside the door of the chapel is a candle lamp inside a red globe beckoning you to come in and worship. Once you go inside, there is a second lamp next to the tabernacle. It is called the sanctuary lamp and reminds us that the Eucharist is reserved. Placed next to the window, it is visible from the outside.

One of the devotional practices offered here in our Chapel is adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist is exposed after the 8:00 Mass, Monday through Friday, until 9:00 p.m. Many of your fellow parishioners commit themselves to one hour each week in front of the Blessed Sacrament. We often call that a Holy Hour. On the First Friday of the month they commit themselves for one hour throughout the night. Just before the 8:00 Saturday morning Mass the priest puts the Blessed Sacrament back into the tabernacle. Whenever you enter or leave the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament, you are expected to genuflect as a sign of respect for the real presence of Christ in the tabernacle. You will notice that when the priest and ministers process into the church before Mass and recess after Mass, their gesture is a bow to the altar. This is out of reverence to the altar upon which Christ is offered to the Father in sacrifice. We only genuflect in the church if the Blessed Sacrament is exposed.

Even if you have not signed up for adoration, I encourage you to come to the Chapel and make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament. You will find it a place of peace and tranquility. Perhaps you will consider committing yourself to a Holy Hour as one of our regular Eucharistic Adorers. For more information on this ministry, please contact the parish office.

May you continue to have a blessed, restful summer.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor