



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

August 15, 2018

Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Dear Parishioners:

Those who visit St. Peter's Basilica in Rome may notice that there is no tabernacle by the main altar. Why not? The altar is for the celebration of Mass. Does that mean that there is no tabernacle in St. Peter's? No. The tabernacle containing the hosts that had been consecrated at Mass is located in a special chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. This chapel is available for private adoration. It is a quiet refuge amid all the noise of the tourists.

Similarly, when you come into our church, you will not find the tabernacle by the altar. Like St. Peter's Basilica, the tabernacle in our church is located in a special chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. This chapel provides a quiet refuge for silent prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. From the end of the 8:00 am Mass until 8:00 in the evening, your fellow parishioners have committed themselves to one hour of adoration, so that our Lord is never alone. There are ordinarily at least two persons praying at their dedicated hour. We call that the ministry of Eucharistic Adoration. On the First Friday of the month, they spend an hour of prayer throughout the night until the 8:00 am Mass on Saturday.

As you come in to church and look to your left, you will notice that there is a candle suspended from the ceiling outside a door. This door gives you access to our Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. Once you go into the chapel, you will notice another candle, the sanctuary light, next to the tabernacle. This reminds us that Jesus is really present in that tabernacle. Out of respect for his Eucharistic presence, we should genuflect whenever we enter and leave the chapel. It is not necessary to genuflect in the main part of our church because the Blessed Sacrament is not present there. You will notice that when the priest and ministers come into the church and leave the church, they are bowing, not genuflecting. As you enter and leave church, you should make a profound bow toward the altar where Mass is celebrated.

I encourage you to utilize our Chapel for a period of silent prayer. You may even consider being committed to an hour of prayer each week. For as the first diamond in front of our Church reminds us, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." (Isaiah 56:7)

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor