



SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

January 15, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

In our church two chapels are available for private devotions outside of Mass.

As you walk into your church and look to your left, you will see a lamp hanging from the ceiling. It is next to the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament. When you open that door you will see another lamp in the window next to the tabernacle. It indicates that the Blessed Sacrament is present in the tabernacle. Whenever we enter and leave that chapel, we are to genuflect out of reverence to Christ's presence. This chapel is reserved for individual silent prayer. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed throughout the day, and adorers are present all day until the evening. You are welcome to come any time for silent prayer.

As you walk into the church and look to your right, you will see another chapel, the Chapel of the Blessed Mother. It is used for communal prayer. The Liturgy of the Hours, the official prayer of the church, is recited weekdays at 7:45 a.m. The rosary is recited several times during the day. You are welcome to come any time for any vocal prayers.

Most recently we installed stained glass windows in the Chapel of the Blessed Mother. Under the leadership of the chair, Grant Hungerford, a committee commissioned an artist, Mark Schoem, to create these windows. One of the committee members, Alma Smith, gave a beautiful explanation of the meaning of these windows:

We all agreed that the principal color in the chapel should be blue since it's a color that is so associated with our Blessed Mother. We also wanted to integrate into the composition of the design certain facets of our local environment: the proximity to the ocean and the verdant greens of our beautiful and bountiful California. We needed the tonalities of our region and surrounding area, so that the chapel would meld seamlessly into our beautiful church design. I kept hearing in my head the words, "De Profundis," and spoke to Mark Schoem how when in the depths of the ocean the deeper blues begin to lighten as you ascend to the surface that is warmed by the sun's light, and he translated it beautifully in his design patterns...how we as humans many times rise from depths of sorrow or despair to the comfort of light and warmth...It also needed just a touch of red to signify our understanding of our Blessed Mother's heart at beholding her dying son on the cross.

That's what the chapel is supposed to mean and remind us of: the cocoon of love with which our Blessed Mother holds and understands us when we come to her for her prayers and comfort.

I suggest you come to the Chapel of the Blessed Mother and see for yourself.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork
Pastor