

Mar. 11, 2018: Eucharistic Adoration Program, and Preparing for Holy Week

Dear Parishioners,

This past Monday we had the meeting for those who participate in our adoration program and those who are interested in starting. I was amazed and overwhelmed at the turnout. We had over 50 people come to the meeting. We went around the room and asked everyone to introduce themselves and share about how long they have been doing adoration. There were some who have been doing adoration since it first began here at Holy Rosary over 30 years ago.

Apparently Fr. McEnnis started the adoration program here at Holy Rosary when he was the pastor here. When it started it was a 24/7 program often done in pairs with the intention that there always a parishioner in front of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. The program went strong for over a decade and has been going ever since, though it has diminished over the years. It is my intention to make it strong again. The Eucharist is the center of our Catholic faith and making a commitment to adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament can only bring good fruit in the personal lives of our parishioners and renew our parish as a whole.

It was so encouraging for everyone to see so many of the adorers together. It was good see how many adorers there are as a group, and for those starting out to hear the experiences of those who have been doing it for a long time. We discovered that there were many different approaches on how to spend the hour with our Lord. Many use a combination of Scripture, the Rosary, Spiritual reading, *Lectio Divina*, the Liturgy of the Hours, Meditation, silence, the saints, praise and prayers of gratitude. Some even mentioned how spending this weekly hour with Our Lord has changed their lives – for the better. Some couples do the hour together and one couple does it as part of a date night.

I did a little teaching on prayer and began with a quote from St. Therese of Lisieux: “For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.” Time before Our Lord in the Eucharist is an exercise in love and relationship before someone who we know loves us and with whom we can enter into relationship. Christian prayer and adoration is that unique activity whereby, through Christ, we enter into the relationship of the Trinity. Please consider being an adorer and deepening your relationship with our Lord. He is waiting for you. Please contact Maria de los Reyes, our adoration coordinator, at 206-452-8932 if you wish to sign up for an hour.

Lent is more than half over and we are nearing Holy Week. Please take advantage of the things the parish offers for Lent. The bread and soup night is on Wednesdays, followed by the teaching on how to pray with Scripture. On Fridays we have the ancient practice of the Stations of the Cross with Exposition and the Rosary. Please take a look at a beautiful talk on FORMED entitled “The Mystery of Christ’s Passion and Death.” Monsignor James Shea guides us along the Stations of the Cross, teaching us how to open our hearts more to the suffering and loneliness of Jesus on His way to Calvary. Weaving together the insights of keen believers like Father Richard Neuhaus, Caryll Houselander, Archbishop Fulton Sheen, and Dr. James Edwards, these powerful meditations take us into the depths of Christ's agony and back out again into the joy of what His sacrifice means for us.

In Christ,

Fr. Vincent