

From the Desk of Fr. Gary

One of the things I became aware of when I arrived in the Southern Deanery was the existence of Perpetual Adoration at St. Thomas Aquinas. As you may know, Perpetual Adoration began at St. Thomas in 2006 with the support of Fr. Lappe, many parishioners, and the necessary special permission of the Archbishop of Seattle. This has been a tremendous blessing to the parish, to the wider community, and to those who were able to personally participate in this devotion.

However, as you are already aware, we have not been able to realize truly *Perpetual* (i.e., 24/7) Adoration at St. Thomas. We have just not been able to recruit enough adorers to fill in all the hours on the schedule, despite many years of effort. Most recently, this effort included a visit by the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist during our Advent Mission. These two priests, who have devoted their ministry to spreading adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, studied our efforts and concluded that our parish does not have the necessary support to sustain Perpetual Adoration at this time.

The most obvious symptom of this reality is that what began as a temporary technique of shrouding the exposed Blessed Sacrament when an adorer was unavailable has become a routine practice. As you are probably aware, this is unacceptable and a violation of the permission given to us for this devotion by the Archbishop. For this reason, we need to reset our approach to Adoration so we can meet basic standards of respect due to the Sacrament as well as specific liturgical laws.

The recommendation of the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist is to reset our period of Eucharistic Adoration so that it can be continuous within a shorter period of time. This approach has been endorsed by our parish leadership and recommended to me as the best way forward.

Accordingly, as soon as sufficient adorers are identified, a period of continuous Eucharistic Adoration will begin each week immediately following the Tuesday evening Mass and conclude immediately prior to the Saturday morning Mass.

In addition to this reset of Eucharistic Adoration, on the Tuesday after Easter, we will begin our refurbishing of our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. I am grateful to a wonderful committee of parishioners who have worked on this project and have put forth a plan that will include new carpet and repainting, as well as a beautiful new cabinet for our monstrance.

Since this refurbishing will begin the Tuesday following Easter, we will not have access to the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel from then until the refurbishing is completed. We anticipate this project to take several weeks. During that time, we will not be able to expose the Blessed Sacrament, but you are encouraged to visit the church and pray before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle.

Our hope is that when our Adoration Chapel reopens we will have sufficient adorers to begin adoration each week following the Tuesday evening Mass, and concluding prior to the Saturday morning Mass.

One final note. If you are unable, because of your schedule, to sign up for a time between Tuesday evening and Saturday morning, you are encouraged to continue praying before the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, at whatever time fits your schedule.

We give thanks for the opportunities for Adoration at Our Lady Star of the Sea on Wednesdays (6:30pm - 7:30pm), and on First Fridays (9:00am - 4:00pm); and at St. Joseph on Thursdays (8:30am - 9:00pm).

As we move into this Fifth Week of Lent, may the Lord continue to guide and strengthen us through his presence in the most Blessed Sacrament.

God Bless,
Fr. Gary Lazzeroni