

After my ordination, Fr. Longenecker requested that I oversee the ministry for Eucharistic Adoration. This ministry had been going on at our parish for many years, and I was truly honored to be called to serve in this capacity. Spending time in quiet reflection with Our Lord in the Most Blessed Sacrament has a special intimacy. It is like a husband and wife spending quiet, quality time together, simply being with one another. They talk about their day, their joys and sorrows, their hopes and dreams. Jesus is always ready to spend time with us, to listen to our prayers and petitions, to draw closer to each of our hearts so we can know him better and love him more. It fosters a deeper relationship with Our Lord.

We have Adoration on Wednesdays, Thursday evenings, and on the First Friday of the month. While the doors are open to anyone to come in and adore the Blessed Sacrament, the Adoration Ministry has a list of parish members who have dedicated time in their weekly schedule to spend an hour with Our Lord. Anyone can be signed up on the list. If you feel you have a call to dedicate time in adoration, please contact me so your name can be added to the schedule.

I am most grateful for those members of our parish who help me with the logistics of the scheduling. We make sure that designated times for Adoration are covered on Wednesdays and First Fridays, particularly with the recently added all night Adoration vigils. I also make sure that Thursday evening Adoration is available, that the Lower Church is set up, and Our Lord is properly exposed and reposed. Thursday evenings have various ministry groups that sponsor the Adoration time. When a fifth Thursday occurs in the month, that evening will be Solemn Adoration with opening prayers and closing Benediction.

At OLR we should be most grateful for the enthusiasm of our students who have requested adoration times during the school year. One of the teachers is always available to expose and repose the Blessed Sacrament during those times. There are other times when youth groups want to have a time for Adoration in the church, coordinating with their activities. I will make myself available to assist with that when called upon.

Adoration time is a beautiful, spiritual devotion because as an adorer you can pray, read scripture, or just meditate upon Our Savior. Jesus wants to spend more time with you than just the time at Mass. Spending more time with him in our daily lives will strengthen each one of us with his abundant grace.

Deacon Eric