



From the Pastor
11th Sunday in
Ordinary Time - A
June 18, 2023

DO YOU REGULARLY VISIT THE BLESSED SACRAMENT?

In Part 29 of my years-long series on the **2022-2025 National Eucharistic**

Revival, we look, once again, at **Eucharistic Adoration**. As I mentioned last week, the **Blessed Sacrament** is reserved in most **Catholic churches** and other places; the 'sign' or 'signal' that the **Lord Jesus' Real Presence** is in the **Tabernacle** is a **Sanctuary Lamp** or **Candle** burning nearby. There, He waits for us to stop by, to spend even just a few moments in prayer, so He can refresh, renew and restore us. However, there are times when we must make more time for Him ...

'SETON SUNDAY.' By **Parish** custom, we conduct formal **Eucharistic Adoration** and **Evening Prayer with Benediction** on our **Feast Day** weekend. We call the **last Sunday in October 'Seton Sunday'** marking: our **Parish incorporation date: 10/30/1984**; the **Solemn Dedication of our Church/Altar: 11/03/1990**; and our **Patroness, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton**, who died on **01/04/1821**, which is her **Feast Day**, but it falls during **Christmastime**. So, on **'Seton Sunday'**, we begin **Solemn Eucharistic Adoration** at the end of the **11:30 AM Mass** and conclude at **4:30 PM** with **Evening Prayer with Benediction**, a **special Blessing** given with the **Blessed Sacrament**. Between **holy Mass** and **Evening Prayer**, **Parish Groups** and our **RF Children** 'keep watch' and conduct brief **Midday Prayer Services**.

FIRST FRIDAYS. On the **First Friday** of each month, unless it is a holy day of obligation or solemn day [*i.e.*: **All Saints Day** or **All Souls Day**], we conduct a **Holy Hour** before the exposed **Blessed Sacrament**. All are invited to spend time before the **Eucharist** in this **Holy Hour**, which includes prayers and music; when an **Ordained Minister** is present, it is revered with incense, and we receive the **Benediction Blessing**.

HOLY THURSDAY/GOOD FRIDAY. From the end of **Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper** until the start of **Good Friday's Celebration of Lord's Passion and Death**, we also 'Keep Watch' with the **Blessed Sacrament**, though *without* solemnity, as prescribed, at the **Place of Repose**

in the **Parish Hall**. The **Tabernacle** is left empty from before **Holy Thursday's Mass** until the end of the **Easter Vigil Mass**. Our **Respect Life Ministry** and others join in silence, music and special prayers on this most sacred night; some spend the whole night!

RELIGIOUS FORMATION [RF] SESSIONS. To give our **RF Children** and **Catechists** a brief 'taste' of **Benediction**, we devote one session each year to a brief **Eucharistic Adoration Service**. Ideally led by an **Ordained Minister**, during our **after-school RF Program** and **special summer RF**, we spend some time in prayer before the **Blessed Sacrament**. All are invited ... especially parents!

DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC ADORATION. Our **Bishop** invites all to **Eucharistic Adoration** at our **Diocesan Center** in Piscataway, off I-287, Exit 5, about 25 minutes with no traffic, Monday through Friday in the **Center's Chapel** from 9 AM to 11:45 AM. To be a **regular Adorer**, contact Angela Marshall: adoration@diometuchen.org or 732-562-1990 x 1543 or go to <https://diometuchen.org/eucharisticrevival>

FUTURE ADORATION AT SEAS? Over the summer, we will consider other opportunities for **EA: Eucharistic Adoration**. In summer of 2024, during the **Cycle 'B'** series of readings, 5 weeks [*the 17th to the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time*] are devoted to the **'Bread of Life Discourse'** from **Saint John's Gospel, Chapter 6**. [In **Cycle 'B'** we read from **Saint Mark's Gospel**, which is the shortest **Gospel**, so we are treated to a chapter of **Saint John's Gospel** which inspired the beloved hymn, **'I Am the Bread of Life'** by Suzanne Toolan, RSM. We offer 4 versions of **EA**: 1] in the large **Ciborium** in which the reserved **Sacrament** is usually kept, with a **traditional** chant; 2] the same, with a **modern Eucharistic** hymn and incense; 3] in a **Monstrance** with a **simple** hymn; 4] the same, with the **Solemn Benediction**, or **Blessing, incense**, venerable **Latin chant, 'Tantum Ergo,'** during which the **Priest** wears the festive **humeral veil**, similar to a **Jewish Prayer Shawl**.

Happy Father's Day; may our **Adoration** of the **Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar** bring us all closer to the **Lord** and to His **Church**.

In His holy Name,

Rev. Thomas J. Serafin, KCHS