



Shrine Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament

Rectory: Clairvaux House, 52 West Somerset Street, Raritan, New Jersey 08869

Tel: 908-722-1489 Email: BlessedSacramentShrine@BlessedSacramentShrine.org

Website: BlessedSacramentShrine.com

December 1, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are grateful for the many dedicated adorers and volunteers who have helped to make our Shrine a spiritual beacon in the center of our diocese for over 35 years. The presence of the Shrine and the opportunity to worship the Lord Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament have been a comfort and an inspiration to thousands of people over the years. We are blessed to be entrusted with this treasure and to continue this rich tradition.

In recent years, the hours for Eucharistic Adoration at the Shrine were gradually expanded to broaden the opportunity for prayer before the Lord exposed in the monstrance. However, with a decrease in the number of committed adorers, it has become more difficult to ensure that the Lord is not left alone while exposed, which should never be allowed to happen. The current schedule has also prevented us from using the full rites for Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament as intended by the Church.

Therefore, it has become apparent that an adjustment to our approach is necessary. Beginning on **Monday, January 13, 2025**, there will be a change to our Adoration schedule. The Shrine will still be open for prayer from **6 am - 6 pm Monday to Friday**, but the period of Exposition in the monstrance for Adoration will be reduced to **10 am – 4 pm Monday to Friday**. **Exposition and Reposition will now make fuller use of the *Rite of Exposition and Benediction*, including prayers, chant, and the use of incense.** The break for **Mass at 12:15pm** will remain the same. **Confession** will continue to be offered on Fridays from 11 am to 12 noon, and the weekend schedule at the Shrine will remain unchanged.

We believe that focusing the hours of Adoration and employing the proper signs of solemnity will help to foster devotion to Our Lord's True Presence in the Eucharist and ensure consistent coverage so Our Lord is never left alone. We hope to expand the hours for Adoration again in the future, but for now, we must focus on building a stable base of committed adorers. **Therefore, we ask you to prayerfully consider committing yourself to a weekly hour of Adoration at the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament.** Invite family and friends to share this commitment, too. Multiple adorers will be scheduled for each hour to allow flexibility for occasional absences. Details on the new accountability process will be provided to those who sign up, along with the spiritual benefits available to those who join the **Diocesan Eucharistic League**.

Please use the QR code on the flyer (reverse side of this letter), or contact the Shrine Office to register your commitment or for more information or questions. May God bless you abundantly for your devotion to Our Eucharistic Lord!

In Christ & St. Philip Neri,

Very Rev. Jeffrey M. Calia, CO
Rector

Rev. Steven J. Bolton, CO
Vice Rector