

40 HOURS DEVOTION

11:30 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 21 THROUGH 8:00 PM TUESDAY, APRIL 23



Sunday, April 21

11:30 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament begins
(following 10:30am Mass)

5:00 pm Evening Prayer with Eucharistic Talk by Father Ryan Timossi

5:30 pm Confessions
(Exposition continues until 9 am Mass)

Monday, April 22

9:00 am Mass

9:30 am Divine Mercy Chaplet
(Exposition resumes)

7:00 pm Evening Prayer with Eucharistic Talk by Father Mark Gurtner

7:30 pm Confessions
(Exposition continues until 9 am Mass)

Tuesday, April 23

9:00 am Mass

9:30 am Holy Rosary
(Exposition resumes until 6:45 pm)

6:45 pm Benediction and Repose of Blessed Sacrament

7:00 pm Closing Mass with Father Paolo Degasperi, celebrant and homilist

8:00 pm Reception in Gym

What is the 40 Hours Devotion and What does it Mean?

The 40 Hours Devotion represents the time that Jesus spent in the tomb; from His burial after His death around 3pm Good Friday, until His resurrection around 7am Easter Sunday is 40 hours. 40 is a significant number in the Bible, as seen in many trials and/or suffering: 40 years the Israelites wandered in the desert, and Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the desert before the beginning of His public ministry.

Who started the 40 Hours Devotion?

Saint Anthony Mary Zaccaria of Milan and Vicenza, introduced the practice as early as 1527, and the devotion was spread by Saint Ignatius and the Jesuits.

In the United States, the bishop Saint John Neumann was the first to practice the devotion in 1844 in Philadelphia, during a time of anti-Catholic protests which included burning down two churches, known as the Know-Nothing Riots. The practice was expanded and approved for all American dioceses in 1866.

How did Eucharistic Adoration of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament begin? What is a Monstrance?

In the Middle Ages, Eucharistic Adoration of the Exposed Blessed Sacrament began when receiving Holy Communion was very rare. Many of the lay faithful felt unworthy to receive Holy Communion, so at the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215 it was mandated that all Catholics were to receive Holy Communion at least once per year at Easter time.

A monstrance (*monstrare*—Latin “to show”) is a brass/gold sculptured vessel with a crystal or glass center where the Host is exposed to our vision and where we can receive the Lord’s blessing at Benediction.