

Revival of the Diocese of Erie *Calendar of Devotions*

Eucharistic adoration holds a prominent place in the lives of Catholics. The Code of Canon Law states:

Can. 937 Unless there is a grave reason to the contrary, the church in which the Most Holy Eucharist is reserved is to be open to the faithful for at least some hours every day so that they can pray before the Most Blessed Sacrament.

And this is reinforced in the Ceremonial of Bishops¹:

No one who enters a church should fail to adore the Blessed Sacrament, either by visiting the Blessed Sacrament, or at least by genuflecting. (71)

Therefore, Eucharistic devotion should be a part of the liturgical life of every Catholic. This emphasis on the Eucharistic devotion has not been changed. The Code of Canon Law states²:

Can. 942 It is recommended that in these same churches and oratories an annual solemn exposition of the Most Holy Sacrament be held during a suitable period of time, even if not continuous, so that the local community may meditate and may adore the Eucharistic Mystery more profoundly; but this kind of exposition is to be held only if a suitable gathering of the faithful is foreseen and the established norms are observed.

Affirming our belief in the real presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, the Vatican Council II taught that the Holy Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life" ("Lumen Gentium," No. 11). While the Mass is the central act of worship for Catholics, an act which participates in the eternal reality of our Lord's passion, death and resurrection, Vatican Council II upheld and encouraged the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass. Such devotion should derive from the sacrifice of the Mass and move the faithful to both sacramental and spiritual communion with our Lord³ ("Eucharisticum Mysterium," No. 50). Pope Saint John Paul II, had repeatedly "highly recommended" public and private devotion of the Blessed Sacrament, including processions on the feast of Corpus Christi and the 40 Hours Devotion (cf. "Dominicae Caeae," No. 3, "Inaestimabile Donum," No. 20-22, and "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," No. 25)

In the United States, St. John Neumann (1811-60), the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was a strong promoter of the Forty Hours Devotion. While the practice had already existed in individual churches throughout the city (as well as in other places in the country), no organized, cohesive diocesan schedule for it had ever before been attempted.⁴

¹ Miller, Jennifer Gregory, Forty Hours' Devotion, Catholic Culture, Nov 09, 2021, <https://www.catholicculture.org/commentary/forty-hours-devotion/>

² Ibid

³ Saunders, Fr. William, 40 Hours with Jesus Christ, Catholic Education Resource Center, 2003, <https://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/40-hours-with-jesus-christ.html>

⁴ Ibid

With all the above in mind, Bishop Persico wishes to return to the former practice in the Diocese of Erie of having an organized calendar of devotion. The “parish year” of the current Eucharistic Revival effort spurred on by the USCCB provides a wonderful opportunity for the spiritual growth of each person each parish and the diocese as a whole. While the goal is to encourage 40 Hours Devotion or a day of Solemn Eucharistic Adoration, other devotions will suffice such as novenas, parish missions, and even parish service projects provided there is an explicit connection made between the Eucharist and the service project.

Diocese of Erie Calendar of Devotions 2023-2024

What follows is a **revised draft** schedule of dates between July 2023-July 2024 on which parishes would be responsible for holding a devotion. Pastors are asked to inform the Office for Divine Worship what their parish(es) will be doing. At this time changes and suggestions may be made to the Office for Divine Worship before **MAY 30, 2023**. The intent is that each Parish Church would have its own devotion. However, pastors of multiple parishes may combine their devotions provided each parish is involved in the celebration. The goal is to have at least one parish covering most weeks. Exceptions are noted.

July 2023

- 2 *Independence Day Weekend*
- 9 Beloved Disciple, Grove City
Our Lady of Peace, Erie
- 16 Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie
Saint Bonaventure, Grampian
- 23 Saint Boniface, Kersey
- 30 Saint Columbkille, Stoneboro
Saint Eusebius, East Brady

August 2023

- 6 Saint Bernard, Falls Creek
Saint Lawrence, Albion
- 13 Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sykesville
Saint Hippolyte, Frenchtown
Saint Stephen of Hungary, Erie
- 20 Queen of the World, St. Marys
Saint Bernard, Bradford
- 27 Saint Bartholomew, Sharpsville

September 2023

- 3 *Labor Day Weekend*
- 10 Holy Cross, Fairview
Our Mother of Sorrows, Erie
- 17 Mount Calvary, Erie
Saint Michael the Archangel, Emlenton
Saint Michael the Archangel, Dubois
- 24 Our Lady of Mercy, Harborcreek
Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Punxsutawney
Saint Michael, Fryburg

October 2023

- 1 Saint Francis of Assisi, Bradford
Saint Patrick, Franklin
- 8 Holy Rosary, Erie
Holy Rosary, Johnsonburg
Our Lady of Fatima, Farrell
- 15 Saint Tobias, Brockway
The Epiphany of the Lord, Meadville
Saint Luke, Erie
- 22 Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro
Saint Callistus, Kane
- 29 All Saints, Waterford
Saint Jude, Erie

November 2023

- 5 Saint Charles, New Bethlehem
- 12 Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, Smethport
Saint Leo Magnus, Ridgway
- 19 Saint Bibiana, Galeton
Saint Gabriel the Archangel, Port Allegany
Saint Gregory Thaumaturgus, North East
- 26 Saint James, Erie
Christ the King, Houtzdale
Saint Mark the Evangelist, Erie

December 2023

- 3 Immaculate Conception, Clarion
Immaculate Conception, Brookville
- 10 Immaculate Conception, Osceola Mills
Our Lady, Queen of the Americas, Conneaut Lake
- 17 Saint Andrew, Erie
- 24 *Christmas*
- 31 *New Year*

January 2024

- 7 Epiphany
- 14 Saint Eulalia, Coudersport
- 21 Saint Agnes, Morrisdale
Saint Raphael, Eldred
- 28 Saint Joseph, Oil City
Saint Paul, Erie

February 2024

- 4 Saint Mary, Reynoldsville
- 11 Saint Mary, Crown
Saint Thomas the Apostle, Corry
- 18 Saint Mary, Saint Marys
Saint Peter, Conneautville

25 Saint Joseph, Warren
Saint Michael, Greenville
Saint Titus, Titusville

March 2024

3 Saint John, Tidioute
Saint Mary of the Assumption, Frenchville
10 Saint Francis of Assisi Parish, Clearfield
Saint Theresa of Avila, Union City
17 Saint Joseph, Sharon
Saint Joseph, Erie
Saint Patrick, Erie
24 *Holy Week*
31 *Easter*

April 2024

7 *Divine Mercy*
14 Holy Redeemer, Warren
St. Basil the Great, Coalport
Saint Stanislaus, Erie
21 Church of the Good Shepherd, West Middlesex
Saint George, Erie
Saint Mark, Emporium
28 Saint Catherine of Sienna, Dubois
Saint John the Evangelist, Girard

May 2024

5 Saint Joseph, Force
Saint Joseph, Lucinda
12 Notre Dame, Hermitage
Saint Philip, Linesville
19 Saint Francis Xavier, McKean
Holy Trinity, Erie
Saint Julia, Erie
26 *Memorial Day*

June 2024

2 Blessed Sacrament, Erie
Sacred Heart, St. Marys
9 Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mercer
Sacred Heart, Erie
17 *Emmaus*
23 Saint Anthony, Cambridge Springs
Saint Anthony, Sharon
Saint John the Baptist, Erie
30 Saint Boniface, Erie
Saint Peter Cathedral. Erie

