

Embrace The Grace

Pope John Paul II Eucharistic Adoration Chapel
Naperville, IL 60565



“So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help.”

Hebrews 4:16



Our chapel library

Email you're your suggestions for additions to our chapel library or send in comments on a book that really touched you. We'd like to share these comments in upcoming newsletters.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.sesnaperville.org/ador



email
chapel@sesnaperville.org
630-416-3325

February – The greatest of these is love !!

A Valentine Gift of Love

From an adorer

I try to join my wife in the chapel on Fridays for her hour of adoration. While there last week my thoughts wandered a bit to the past holidays, and how nice it was to have family near and to celebrate together. I looked over at my wife and really felt good about having our beautiful chapel right here, and how it has given us the opportunity to pray together on a regular basis. We haven't always been so together in our faith life, but in the last few years we are blessed to have grown together as faith filled and prayerful people. We prayed and worshiped, but hadn't really prayed present, together much over the years until our adoration chapel opened. Adoration of God present in a special way in the Holy Eucharist is such a wonderful thing to share.

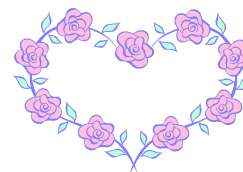
It seems that holidays have taken on a special significance for the two of us over the last year or so...lately we find that we are pulled toward going to the chapel for a while, at most holidays, when something important has happened or when we need to take special time to consider or pray over a

particular event or the blessings we have received.

With February coming and the approach of the Lenten season I think about Valentine's Day as another holiday opportunity to re-focus, celebrate, and be thankful. An excellent opportunity to thank God for the gift of love we have been given. Maybe we should all take advantage of Valentine's Day to focus on the gift of God's love reflected in how we love each other.

We should invite all couples to make a "Valentine Gift" to each other...to visit the adoration chapel together in February to thank God for the gift of spousal love, to pray for God's continued grace as our love grows, and be thankful for the gift of spiritual companionship in life. During this Valentine Gift to God, we should also pray for those who are not feeling loved, do not have a faith companion, are lonely or feeling alone...that God may bless them with peace and happiness. As Lent approaches, we can also use this time to prepare ourselves to enter this period of prayer preparation and introspection together with the support of each other's love.

But I have trusted in Your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me. Ps. 13:5-6



Catholic Calendar

Our Catholic Calendar is rich with wonderful feasts. Please get to know the Catholic Calendar. When you're in the chapel, ask the saint whose feast day it is to pray with you.

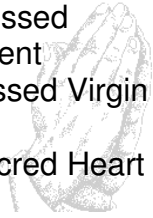
February

- 1 St. Brigid of Ireland
- 2 Presentation of the Lord
- 3 St. Blase
- 5 St. Agatha
- 6 St. Paul Miki
- 10 St. Scholastica
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes
- 14 St. Cyril / St. Methodius
- 17 Seven Founders of the Servite Order
- 18 St. Bernadette
- 21 St. Peter Damian
- 22 Chair of St. Peter
- 23 St. Polycarp
- 25 St. Caesarius of Nazianzen
- 27 St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Monthly Devotion

Special Months of Prayer

Jan – Holy Name of Jesus	July – The Precious Blood
Feb – The Holy Family	Aug – The Immaculate Heart of Mary
Mar – St. Joseph	Sept – Our Lady of Sorrows or Holy Guardian Angels
April –The Blessed Sacrament	Oct – The Holy Rosary
May – The Blessed Virgin Mary	Nov – The Holy Souls in Purgatory
June – The Sacred Heart	Dec – The Immaculate Conception



"When the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the chapel ... it seems to me that it is Heaven I am entering, and it really is just that in reality, since the One I adore in faith is the same One the glorified contemplate face to face!"

(Bl. Elizabeth of the Trinity, *Letters*, p. 67)

CHAPEL BOOK REVIEW



POEMS FOR MEDITATION

I often bring a book of poems with me to the John Paul II Eucharistic Adoration Chapel--religious poems that serve to trigger meditation and conversation with God. I like to think that God himself is in a profound way a poet. He certainly reveals himself to us in an often poetic way. Religious poets throughout the Judeo-Christian history have shared their poetic visions with us and the amazing thing about poetry is that we can share in the poetic vision as we read, internalize the poem by relating it to our own experience, and thereby in a very personal way we finish the poem.

Dr. Regis Martin, Professor of Theology at Franciscan University at Steubenville Ohio, spoke about just such experience as

he talked on EWTN Catholic television about his book *Images of Grace: 33 Christian Poems*. He recommended that it would be a great companion to those praying in a Perpetual Adoration Chapel. The book has some famous Christian poems like John Donne's "A Hymn to God the Father," and some lesser known poems. My favorite is John Henry Cardinal Newman's poem "The Pillar of the Cloud" which begins:

Lead, kindly Light, through the encircling gloom;

Lead Thou me on!

You will find Dr. Martin's book of poems in the library of the Adoration Chapel. It is a small book about the size of your hand with a mostly green cover.



Notes from the Adoration team

As we approach our 2nd anniversary (April) of perpetual adoration at St. Elizabeth Seton parish, we begin to reflect on the blessing that our chapel is to our parish and to each parishioner. Do you know that this group of prayerful adorers is the largest ministry in our parish outside of the Religious Education program? Our dear Lord graciously receives and blesses literally hundreds of visitors to His chapel weekly! Thank you all for being a part of this ministry!

How has a weekly holy hour changed your life and the lives of your family? If you feel called to share, please do so (of course, anonymously) via our chapel email or call your hourly coordinator. Or write in the Book of Answered Prayer in the chapel.

We are also asking you to consider getting more involved in this ministry – there are tasks that are ongoing and we need new people to assist. There are 24 hourly coordinators for the adorers during a specific hour of the day. Other opportunities to assist include: Martha Ministry (weekly cleaning), librarian, Sign Up Sunday committee, updating our substitute list, etc. More about ways to help, next month... Please pray about how you can use your God given gifts in His service.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR ALL ADORERS & VISITORS

Here are a few gentle reminders to help us all to be considerate of our fellow adorers and parish staff members who share use of the building where the chapel is located:

- be sure all doors are latched tightly when you enter; DO NOT leave door ajar for next adorer
- the back parish office door is for restroom access only; use front door for parish business
- parish office is closed for business from noon to 1 pm daily
- if you are obtaining a sub during evening/early morning hours, be sure to give the sub the security code so they can get in
- park away from the area directly in front of the chapel, which is reserved for parish office visitors during regular business hours

Thanks for your cooperation in keeping our chapel the beautiful, safe haven it was meant to be! (And thanks for keeping the walk clear during all of these snowy, winter days!)

God be with you!