

Adoration Committee Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2024

Members present: Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Dan Kirscht, Tonya Marthaler (ICC), Lori Mayer-Perowitz, Sue McCulloch, Tim McCulloch, Randy Meyer, and Mike Savageau. Absent: Veronica Haavig (St. Nicks), Fr. Matthew Kuhn, Francie Peterson, Michelle Schroeder (MP Volunteer), and Luke VanOverbeke.

We opened at 6:15 with prayer. The September 22 meeting minutes were passed.

We discussed the 40 Hour Devotion held at St. Nick's on Sunday, September 29, beginning after 10:30 am Mass and ending on Tuesday, October 1, following 8:30 am Mass. The following were positive and negative comments:

Positive – 40 Hours

- Fr. Derek's talk on Sunday and Monday both impressed upon the importance of the Eucharist. He noted the importance of Eucharistic Adoration and taking the time to be with Jesus in the chapel. He mentioned the Eucharistic miracles and how these are TRUE and not just some story. He did an excellent job.
- Fr. Derek was personable with the 3rd and 6th Graders from St. Mary's on Monday from 9-10 am, causing the kids to be well behaved and interested. He led the kids in prayer and did guided meditation. He started in the basement with the history and then mentioned the importance of reverence with the Blessed Sacrament. The kids really enjoyed seeing the sun peeking through the stained-glass windows. The kids asked good questions and Fr. Derek had good responses. There were 4 teachers and some aids present, as well as Troy.
- Fr. Dan was the presider for the Mass on Sunday at 10:30 am. He did an excellent job with going from Mass right into the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament causing parishioners to stay and adore. Fr. Dan lined up servers and ordered appropriate candles for the candelabra. It was a beautiful sight.
- Fr. Dan created new and shortened pamphlets for the Exposition and Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament and they were made available near the welcome table.
- The welcome table was well presented with books, Adoration pamphlets, and devotional material.
- Dennis Hillmer presented the history of St. Nick's on Monday between 9-10 am to the 3rd and 6th graders. He did a good job.
- The St. Ann's Women's Group from St. Nick's provided 10-15 different soups for the Sunday evening supper, along with ham sandwiches. There also was a variety of bars and cookies for dessert. Everything was very good.

- Veronica did an excellent job passing on to parishioners that there were a few open Adoration times that needed filling about 1 week before the 40 Hours began, and they got filled by some St. Nick's parishioners and some from St. Mary's.
- Most Holy Hours were filled online through the use of advertising the 40 Hours through the email blast, bulletin, poster boards, pulpit, flyers in pews, ministry moment speakers, and personal invitation by email to bible study groups and current Adorers. The process to sign up online was very straight-forward and easy.
- Candles were lit along the road the entire duration of the 40 Hours that led to the parking lot of St. Nick's so the road was more visible when turning into the parking lot. Both day and night Adorers appreciated this very much. It was quite beautiful.
- Mike Sponsler led the rosary on Sunday and Monday and did a nice job. There were about 5-10 people in attendance on each day.
- The Divine Mercy Chaplet on Sunday and Monday brought in about 10-15 people on each day.
- Sue had put a note on the entrance to the church that stated if you do not have the code to reach out to her. She did receive a few calls.
- Offering Confession was much appreciated.
- Advertising for the 40 Hours was well done, but not as effective as we were hoping.

Negatives – 40 Hours

- Having an 8:30 am Mass and a 10:30 am Mass at St. Nick's on the day of the 40 Hours didn't go well. The majority of St. Nick's parishioners attended the 8:30 am Mass, not the 10:30 am Mass. There were approximately 50-65 in attendance for the 10:30 am Mass. It was scheduled to have 8:30 am at ICC and 10:30 am at St. Nick's, but it got changed because ICC was installing new carpet and painting the church so it was in agreement to have both Masses at St. Nick's. The devotion itself was not enough to draw people.
- The new code was sent to all Adorers from 9 pm to 7 am (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday). Some Adorers still were not aware of the new code and had to wait for the previous Adorer to leave and let them in the church or call Sue for the code. Fortunately, the weather was beautiful both day and night.
- Sue received the following information through a text about the Children's Holy Hour from Tabatha: If the Children's Holy Hour is considered next year, to not have it on Sunday, but a different day, separate from the time when Mass will be held. The kids were just too antsy to pack in a Holy Hour, supper, and Mass.
- There was for sure 1 noted "no show," so the previous Adorer stayed for 2 Holy Hours.

We discussed our goals for 2025.

- To have 24/5 Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary's Church, and to continue to offer after the First Friday Mass at ICC and after the First Saturday at St. Nick's the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration for at least 1 hour.
- To offer the 40 Hour Devotion at St. Mary's Church in 2025 to give all parishes an opportunity to host.
- In order to fill the night times that are open at St. Mary's, there will need to be a call to action from the pulpit and/or a personal invitation
- Creativity should be used when inviting new parishioners to Adoration
- Ministry Moments at St. Mary's are not very effective because they start way too soon before Mass begins. Half the people don't hear what was said. Ministry Moments at St. Nick's and ICC are more effective because the speaker begins when Mass begins, not 10 minutes before.
- Lori stated at her old parish they had a "push" to encourage new Adorers every January (a good way to start the new year).
- The year 2025 theme for Catholics is "Pilgrims of Hope." We should implement this theme when advertising for the 40 Hours and encouraging new people to sign up for a Holy Hour.
- Fr. Dan stated in 2025, Bishop Neary is instituting an indulgence just for visiting a new church that you have never visited before...something to ponder for the 40 Hour devotion.
- Dan suggested having the Adorers visible and he suggested inviting a friend with when you attend your Holy Hour to encourage sign ups. He also suggested that the online list should reveal the open times better.
- It was suggested if the open times for Adoration could be circulated to parishioners in the same fashion that an open time on Ministry Pro is circulated to all Liturgical Ministries.
- Lori suggested to have Kathy link whatever is online to Sue, so if someone would want to sign up for a weekly time that they see online, it would send an email to Sue so she could call them and make personal contact with them.
- We should create a Formal Plan of how to invite people to Adoration.
- Find out, perhaps during Advent or Lent, who would be open to changing their Holy Hour by taking an evening or night time.

First Step

We ended our meeting with a plan to discuss with Fr. Matthew his thoughts about St. Mary's Church having the next 40 Hour Devotion, what month would be appropriate, and what weekend would be his choice. Sue will approach Fr. Matthew before he goes on his sabbatical from January through April.

Our meeting ended at 7:30 pm with prayer.

Next meeting – A Monday in January, 2025, in Parish Office. Day and time forthcoming.