

An Adorer's Experience

I found out about adoration while going through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) class. Our class leaders took us behind the “blue wall” in the Parish Hall (where the old adoration chapel was) to explain that someone was back there praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament, Jesus Christ himself, every hour of every day, 363-ish days a year (the chapel is always closed Good Friday through Holy Saturday). That blew my mind! What joy that must bring to our Lord!!! It was also very powerful to think that someone is praying every SECOND of the day! This happens year, after year, after year! And St. Patrick's is only one parish in one diocese that GETS to have and benefit from Perpetual Adoration.

Learning about the Catholic faith as an adult was a huge blessing. The catechesis (religious instruction) I received through RCIA was second to none. However, the RCIA process is only nine months long. I no longer had a priest or class leader teaching me truths of the faith. It was all on me now! Signing up for an adoration hour provided one avenue for me to grow in my new Catholic faith through study and prayer. I have found that I am a book person—I need a “book guided” adoration hour. And that is totally okay! I believe it was St. Teresa of Avila who would not pray without a good book in her hands! There are plenty of books in the chapel to choose from or ask a friend for a good Catholic prayer book to get you started. St. Teresa of Avila also struggled with prayer (and she was a cloistered, Carmelite nun!) and describes her own struggles with prayer: “For many years I kept wishing the time would be over. I had more in mind the clock striking twelve than other good things.” If it happened for the saints, it's surely okay when it happens to us!

Developing friendships with fellow parishioners is one added benefit to my adoration hours. I recently ran into a friend at Walmart who I met solely through adoration. We visited for a few minutes and both commented that it was strange not seeing each other every week (I've since changed hours). Even though our conversations were mainly a smile, a good morning, and a goodbye, after seven years of seeing each other weekly, a bond was formed. I look forward to seeing each friend before and after my hours. Thank God for this opportunity to grow closer to You and my parish family!

“Prayer is not a question of what you say or feel, but of love. And you love when you try hard to say something to the Lord, even though you might not actually say anything.” -St. Teresa of Avila

Signed, Another humble adorer